

# Minutes

## Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Joint Committee

### Microsoft Teams

**10.00am, Friday 4 December 2020**

#### Present:

**City of Edinburgh Council** – Councillor Adam McVey)

**East Lothian Council** – Councillor Norman Hampshire (In the Chair)

**Fife Council** – Councillor David Alexander, Councillor David Ross

**Midlothian Council** – Councillor Russell Imrie

**Scottish Borders Council** – Councillor Shona Haslam

**Higher/Further Education Consortium** – Professor Peter Mathieson

**Regional Enterprise Council** – Claire Pattullo

#### In attendance:

Andrew Kerr, Chief Executive, City of Edinburgh Council

Steve Grimmond, Chief Executive, Fife Council

Monica Patterson, Chief Executive, East Lothian Council

Dr Grace Vickers, Chief Executive, Midlothian Council

Andy Nichol, City Region Deal Programme Manager, City of Edinburgh Council

Graeme Rigg, City Region Deal PMO, City of Edinburgh Council

Rob Dickson, Executive Director, Scottish Borders Council

Adam Dunkerley, Opportunities Fife Partnership Manager, Fife Council

Steve Grimmond,

David Hanna, City Region Deal PMO, City of Edinburgh Council

Lisa Howden, Trainee Accountant, City of Edinburgh Council

Veronica MacMillan, Committee Services, City of Edinburgh Council

Morag Millar, Strategic Growth and City Deals Programme Manager, Fife Council

Alice Mitchell, Economic Development and Regeneration Manager, West Lothian Council

Craig McCorriston, Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration,  
West Lothian Council  
Derek Oliver, Chief Officer, Place, Midlothian Council

Alison Irvine, Director of Transport Strategy and Analysis, Transport Scotland  
Amy Phillips, Head of ITS Operations, Transport Scotland  
Jarmo Eskelinen, Executive Director, Data Driven Innovation Programme  
Ritchie Somerville, Head of Strategy, Data Driven Innovation Programme

## **1. Minutes**

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### **Decision**

To approve the minute of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Joint Committee 4 September 2020 as a correct record.

## **2. Work Programme**

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The Work Programme was presented and detailed the planned dates for the City Region Deal business case approvals by Joint Committee.

### **Decision**

- 1) To note the Work Programme.
- 2) To note that an additional Joint Committee could be required to approve the Easter Bush and the Edinburgh Innovation Park (Queen Margaret University) business cases either in February 2021 or later in March 2021.

(Reference – Work Programme, submitted.)

## **3. Sheriffhall Update**

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A verbal update was provided by Alison Irvine from Transport Scotland on the progress that had been made with the Sheriffhall project.

The public transport and active travel review was now being finalised following the workshop that was held with partners. The review would be made available on the Transport Scotland website. Further feedback was expected from City of Edinburgh Council.

The project team were working on objection responses with a view to issuing them early in 2021. Transport Scotland offered to provide an update on this at a future meeting of the Joint Committee. Given the scale and the nature of the objections, Transport Scotland advised that it was unlikely that all of the objections would be able to be resolved. Transport Scotland would take a view for starting a public local

enquiry in the Spring of 2021 after all the objection responses had been received. A public local enquiry may be possible late in 2021.

## **Decision**

To note the update.

(Reference – verbal update by Transport Scotland, submitted.)

## **4. City Region Deal Progress Report**

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Andy Nichol began by paying tribute to Henna Khatoon Accountant for the City Deal's Accountable Body function, who had sadly passed away. Mr Nichol recognised the valuable role and the central contribution that Henna had made to the City Region Deal. Henna was dedicated, insightful, tenacious and brave and it was a privilege to have worked with her. She was a valued member of the Programme Management Office and had established strong relationships with the project leads throughout the Deal and that in turn had helped to ensure that the Deal's financial management had been recognised and appreciated by Scottish Government and UK Government colleagues.

Details were provided on progress across all aspects of the City Region Deal. The progress report was updated and shared with Government on a weekly basis and taken to all Board meetings.

A RAG (Red, Amber, Green) scale was assigned to programmes and projects by the Programme Management Office (PMO), as well as scores for inclusive growth and partnership working.

## **Decision**

- 1) To note the sad passing of Henna Khatoon, Accountant for the City Deal's Accountable Body and to recognise the valuable role and the central contribution that Henna had made to the City Region Deal.
- 2) To note the progress across the City Region Deal Programme.
- 3) To note that Lisa Howden had joined the Programme Management Office to provide accountancy support to the City Region Deal.

(Reference – report by the Chief Officer, Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal, submitted.)

## **5. Integrated Regional Employability and Skills (IRES) Update - Presentation**

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The Joint Committee considered a presentation by Adam Dunkerley that provided an update on Integrated Regional Employability and Skills.

The IRES programme was working towards five pillars to make the project happen:

- Pillar 1 - Regional Leadership and Improvement Capacity
- Pillar 2 – Understanding Need and Opportunity
- Pillar 3 – Building Strong Employer and Citizen Relationships
- Pillar 4 – Targeted Skills Development
- Pillar 5 – Active Opportunity Matching

The Employability pipeline was an enhanced skills pipeline and aimed to encourage inclusive growth and movement into higher paid, higher skilled jobs. In terms of performance, the IRES was strongest in terms of the governance structure and strategic direction, and in the collaboration with colleagues and partners, especially within the Higher Education and Further Education sector.

The IRES team had developed and commenced all business cases that were part of the programme, especially during such a disruptive year due to Covid-19. The project had given the opportunity to look at projects beyond our reach such as the Health and Social Skills Gateway. The project was in a good position to support economic recovery and help businesses to bounce back. Tourism and Hospitality would be looked at specifically when restrictions started to be lifted. The impacts of Brexit and Covid-19 would be looked at going forward.

A spend was currently projected of £2.98m which was an underspend of the allocated £3m. Colleagues were currently working with project leads to see how they could get the spend back up to £3m. The delays were due to Covid-19 and having to revise the activity to make it adaptable so that something could be delivered within this financial year.

The Inclusive Reach and Early Growth project was designed to promote career opportunities and jobs to young people. New Trades and Short Courses were being promoted within the construction industry. Various other programmes were underway.

Various activities were underway as part of Integrated Employer engagement.

### **Decision**

To note the Integrated Employability and Skills update presentation.

(Reference – presentation, Integrated Employability and Skills, submitted.)

## **6. Data Driven Innovation Programme Update - Presentation**

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Professor Peter Mathieson provided an update on the Data Driven Innovation Programme.

Professor Mathieson paid tribute to Henna Khatoon, Accountant to the Accountable Body for the City Region Deal who had sadly passed away.

There were concerns about the affordability of the Easter Bush business case but there was work going on to address these concerns.

The DDI Programme was delivering ahead of schedule and delivering targets. The outcome measures that the DDI project were looking to report against the key elements of the project were jobs created or sustained, inclusive growth and regional investment. There had been nearly £160m of capital investment to date and £97m of that had already been drawn down. So far, there had been £82m of programme investment which was 26% ahead of the target.

Construction was significantly impacted by Covid-19 and construction work had to be suspended and the slowed down after resumption. Despite that there had been major progress on the work on buildings.

There were various data sharing agreements in development with people involved in programme initiatives. The programme was able to adapt to the online environment created as a result of Covid-19.

DDI research activities had attracted £238m of funding which was positive for the programme.

### **Decision**

To note the presentation.

(Reference – presentation by the Data Driven Innovation Programme, submitted).

## **7. City Region Deal Benefits Realisation Plan – Approach Towards Developing an Implementation Plan**

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The City Region Deal Benefits Realisation Plan was approved by the Joint Committee on 4 September 2020 and set out the overarching approach to reviewing and evaluating benefits.

The Joint Committee considered a report that set out an approach towards developing an implementation plan and sought views from the Joint Committee as part of a wide consultation. The finalised implementation plan would be submitted to the Joint Committee for approval in March 2021.

### **Decision**

- 1) To note the proposed approach towards developing an Implementation Plan for the Benefits Realisation Plan.
- 2) To agree that any comments would be fed back to the City Region Deal Programme Management Office (PMO).

(Reference – report by the Chief Officer, Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal, submitted.)

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## **8. Regional Growth Framework Update**

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An update was provided on the development of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland Regional Growth Framework (RGF) that included a general update since progress was last reported to the Joint Committee; initial proposals in terms of the focus on the of the RGF; and the proposed timescale to produce the RGF.

### **Decision**

- 1) To note the progress to date on the development of the Regional Growth Framework.
- 2) To endorse the proposed vision and themes which would guide the focus of the RGF.
- 3) To note the proposed timescale to produce the RGF, including the timeframe for wider consultation.

(Reference – report by the Chief Officer, Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal, submitted.)