

Minutes

Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Joint Committee

Microsoft Teams

10.00am, Friday 3 September 2021

Present:

City of Edinburgh Council – Councillor Adam McVey

East Lothian Council – Councillor Norman Hampshire

West Lothian Council – Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick

Fife Council – Councillor David Alexander and Councillor David Ross

Midlothian Council – Councillor Russell Imrie

Scottish Borders Council – Councillor Simon Mountford (substituting for Councillor Shona Haslam)

Higher/Further Education Consortium – Professor Peter Mathieson

Regional Enterprise Council – Garry Clark and Claire Pattullo

In attendance:

Steve Grimmond, Chief Executive, Fife Council

Dr Grace Vickers, Chief Executive, Midlothian Council

Monica Patterson, Chief Executive, East Lothian Council

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

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

Paul Lawrence, Executive Director of Place, City of Edinburgh Council

Adam Dunkerley, Opportunities Fife Partnership Manager, Fife Council

David Baxter, Senior Programme Officer, City of Edinburgh Council

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

Lisa Howden, Trainee Accountant, City of Edinburgh Council

Jamie Robertson, Strategic Transport Manager, City of Edinburgh Council

Jamie Macrae, Committee Services, City of Edinburgh Council
Kristin Marsh, Project Manager, Strategic Growth & City Deals, Fife Council
Alice Mitchell, Economic Development and Regeneration Manager, West Lothian Council
Derek Oliver, Chief Officer, Place, Midlothian Council
Jenni Craig, Service Director Customer & Communities, Scottish Borders Council
Amy Phillips, Transport Scotland
Mokshda Bheem Singh, Transport Scotland

1. Minutes

Decision

To approve the minute of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Joint Committee 4 June 2021 as a correct record.

2. Work Programme

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

Decision

To note the planned dates for future business for the City Region Deal Joint Committee.

(Reference – Work Programme, submitted.)

3. City Region Deal Progress Report

The Joint Committee considered a report that advised of progress across the City Region Deal Programme.

A RAG (Red, Amber, Green) scale was assigned to programmes and projects by the Partnership Management Office (PMO), as well as scores for inclusive growth and partnership working. In this update, the overall status was assigned as 'Green' and there were no actions for the Joint Committee.

Decision

To note the progress across the City Region Deal Programme.

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

5. ESESCR Bus Partnership Fund Award: Funding Announcement and Next Steps

As agreed by the Joint Committee on 5 March 2021, the Transport Appraisal Board had prepared a collective South East of Scotland regional bid for submission to Transport Scotland's Bus Partnership Fund (BPF), subject to agreement by the six individual Councils. The bid preparation was led by City of Edinburgh Council officers, supported by the consultants Jacobs, in collaboration with the constituent authorities of the City Region, Clackmannanshire and Falkirk, with input from SEStran and key bus operators. The £204m BPF bid was submitted on 16 April. On 22 June, ESESCR Deal were informed that it had been awarded £3.03m.

Details were provided on both BPF and BSIPs and recommendations were submitted on the next stages for the advancement of the BPF and BSIP arrangements. These recommendations would then require ratification by the constituent local councils, and subsequent agreement will be required with other partners such as SEStran and bus operators.

Decision

- 1) To note the recent Bus Partnership Fund award of £3.03 million to ESESCR Deal from Transport Scotland.
- 2) To recognise the efforts of the constituent authorities, SEStran, key bus operators and the consultants in contributing to the development and submission of the funding bid, all within a tight time-scale and during Covid-19 pandemic restrictions.
- 3) To note that a short life BPF / BSIP sub-group would be established to support the Transport Advisory Board with the associated work-streams moving forward. In addition to local authority / SEStran representatives this sub-group would seek as far as possible direct participation from public transport operators. The purpose of the subgroup would be to recommend governance arrangements for a stand-alone partnership of councils, SEStran, bus operators and bus users that best aligned with the Government's proposals for formal Bus Service Improvement Partnerships as they developed, learning from best practice elsewhere.
- 4) To approve the recruitment of a dedicated Bus Partnership Fund Programme Officer to lead on the next phase of the BPF development and implementation work and to agree that the recruitment process be led by the City Region Deal Project Management Office. To bridge the gap between now and the formal appointment of the programme officer, which may take up to four to six months, it was intended to arrange a temporary resource.
- 5) Following any required procurement exercises, to approve the appointment of consultants to undertake the Strategic Appraisal.

- 6) To note that each roads authority would be responsible for the organisation of the quick wins measure in their area and would determine their own preferred route to delivery. This approach worked well during the delivery of the Bus Priority Rapid Deployment Fund measures; of which the quick-wins measures were almost entirely based on.

(Reference – report by the Chair, ESESCR Deal Transport Appraisal Board, submitted).

6. A720 Sheriffhall Roundabout

An update was provided by Transport Scotland on the progress that had been made with the Sherriffhall Roundabout.

At its meeting on 4 June 2021, the Joint Committee had asked the Transport Appraisal Board (TAB) to review technical information in relation to the A720 Sheriffhall Roundabout Scheme and to report back regarding outstanding issues that may require to be addressed. In response, a special meeting of TAB was convened on 23 June 2021. Key issues discussed at the meeting were presented to the Joint Committee along with the TAB recommendations for consideration.

Decision

- 1) To note the high-quality active travel facilities associated with the Sheriffhall design which would address severance challenges and deliver a step change in accessibility for walking and cycling.
- 2) To note the scheme would significantly enhance community connectivity.
- 3) To note that the scheme would improve road safety.
- 4) To note that the scheme would facilitate development, relieve significant congestion as well as improve journey times and journey time reliability for all road users.
- 5) To note that partners, including SEStran and Transport Scotland, were committed to monitoring the impacts of the proposed scheme and to work together to address any unforeseen impacts on the local road network that could specifically be attributed to the Sheriffhall scheme.
- 6) To note that partners would work together to seek to address cross-boundary issues, including on this key route in the region, in line with the NTS2 sustainable travel and investment hierarchies. Partners would do so through the emerging Regional Transport Strategy, STPR2 (including progressing the Phase 1 recommendation on Edinburgh Mass Transit), the Bus Partnership Fund, West Edinburgh sustainable transport improvements and other mechanisms as appropriate.

- 7) To note that the scheme would provide opportunities for greater levels of movement by public transport, complemented by wider proposals being progressed by partners through the emerging Bus Service Improvement Partnership for the region and work to be progressed through the Scottish Government's Bus Partnership Funding award to the region.
- 8) To note that the scheme provided additional ducting to facilitate future full signalisation and enable the future deployment of bus priority signal systems.
- 9) To agree, following the further technical information provided and scrutiny of the A720 Sheriffhall scheme by the Transport Appraisal Board (TAB), to ratify its support for the scheme as published in advance of progressing to any necessary Public Local Inquiry stage.

(Reference – report by the Chair, ESESCR Deal Transport Appraisal Board, and the Director of Transport Strategy and Analysis, submitted).

7. Regional Prosperity Framework – Final Version

An update was provided on the Regional Prosperity Framework consultation process, key feedback received from the consultation, and the proposed final version of the Framework. Details were provided of the expected timetable for developing the action and implementation plan. The final version of the Regional Prosperity Framework would be subject to formal endorsement by Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal partners.

Decision

- 1) To note the overall number of responses and the major themes that had emerged from the public consultation (both formal submissions and interactive online sessions).
- 2) To approve the full final version of the Regional Prosperity Framework as provided at Appendix 1 of the report by the Executive Director of Place, City of Edinburgh Council.
- 3) To note that each City Region Deal partner would seek formal endorsement and support for the Framework.
- 4) To agree the following next steps:
 - preparation of implementation and action plan to support delivery
 - preparation of a prospectus version of the Regional Prosperity Framework to showcase the region as a location for investment.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director of Place, City of Edinburgh Council, submitted.)

8. City Region Deal Annual Report 2020/21

The City Region Deal Programme Management Office was required to produce an annual report to assess how well the City Region Deal was aligning towards the overall vision and inclusive growth outcomes for the city region.

The Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Annual report summarised progress of the Programme for the third year since the signing of the 15-year programme (August 2020 to July 2021). This contained a City Region Deal overview, Financial Statement (for the financial year 2019-20), a short summary of progress on each project and programme and expected milestones to be achieved in the next year. Case studies were included across the report.

The report demonstrated significant progress across the 24 projects and programmes within the City Region Deal. While COVID-19 affected the delivery of some of the projects, all were considered to be within acceptable time and budget parameters.

Decision

To note the annual report.

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