

Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Joint Committee

2pm, Friday 2 September 2022

Regional Prosperity Delivery Framework Update

Item number 5.5

Executive Summary

This update paper outlines progress that has been made on the Regional Prosperity Delivery Framework.

Regional partners are seeking an extension to the programme timeline to the 2 December 2022 Joint Committee meeting to enable partners to develop the regional approach to delivery and resourcing and ensure that it aligns closely to the emerging National Strategy for Economic Transformation (NSET) delivery plans, recommendations from the Scottish Government's Regional Economic Policy Review and Local Authority UK Shared Prosperity Fund - Local Investment Plan submissions.

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Regional Prosperity Delivery Framework

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 Note the content of update report; and
- 1.2 Agree for the programme timeline to be extend to 2 December 2022.

2. Background

- 2.1 Through the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal, the Scottish and UK Governments committed to embarking on a new relationship. The Deal has demonstrated that partners can collaborate effectively to deliver cross-regional projects, create future regional infrastructure and strategically co-ordinate transport, housing and economic development.
- 2.2 The decision to prepare a 'Regional Growth Framework' was taken in [September 2019](#), prior to COVID-19, the United Kingdom's exit from the European Union, the War in Ukraine and current escalating Cost of Living Crisis. Ambitions and action on climate change have also intensified and come more to the fore. In a very short period of time there has been significant change in the world that has impacted, and will continue to impact, our regional economy and our way of life in an unprecedented way.
- 2.3 The Regional Prosperity Framework (RPF) was approved for consultation by the Joint Committee on Friday 4 June 2021. The consultation period ran from Monday 14 June until Monday 26 July (6 weeks) and included a number of ways for respondents to contribute their views.
- 2.4 The [Regional Prosperity Framework – Final Version](#) was approved by Joint Committee on Friday 2 September 2021.

3. Main report

- 3.1 The RPF is the next phase of the development of Edinburgh and South East Scotland's regional economy, building upon the City Region Deal and the strength of the regional partnership. It is designed to be a single document that helps to shape where public and private investment, including Levelling Up monies, could make the best contribution to drive the region forward in a sustainable and inclusive manner.

- 3.2 The ambitious 20-year economic framework has a vision *to become the data capital of Europe. We will ensure the social and economic benefits of this capability extend to all. All sections of the community will have the opportunity to develop the key skills that will help to end inequalities in our society. We will protect our environment and make best use of our extraordinary built and natural assets, ensuring that the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region delivers a just transition to a net zero economy. Our institutions, ancient and modern, will deliver positive outcomes that enhance our local, national, and international reputation.*
- 3.3 Following publication partners have worked to ensure the RPF vision and ambition is delivered. Partners are currently finalising a framework for delivery that outlines how the region will deliver on the key themes of Resilience, Innovative and Flourishing, which were approved in the RPF. This approach has created 8 critical Delivery Programmes with a clear programme of activities which will help us to realise the RPF vision. The 8 Delivery Programmes are captured in the list below:
1. Regenerating our Waterfront and Coastal sites
 2. Upskilling and reskilling our workforce
 3. Outstanding and inclusive innovation ecosystems
 4. City and town centre recovery
 5. Sustainable transport and infrastructure
 6. Digital connectivity and data gathering and deployment
 7. Visitor economy
 8. Maximising the role of our anchor institutions
- 3.4 The Programme is entering the final phase of the programme timeline and work has been progressing towards the 2 September Joint Committee for the Delivery Framework to be finalised with most of this work completed.
- 3.5 However, at the City Region Deal Directors Group on 4 August 2022; Elected Member Oversight Committee meeting on 5 August 2022; and Executive Group meeting on 18 August 2022, it was agreed that it would be helpful to delay the consideration of the RPF Delivery Framework to the December Joint Committee.
- 3.6 This is to allow time to fully develop our regional approach to delivery and resourcing. There is also currently a lot of activity and change in this policy area such as the National Strategy for Economic Transformation (NSET) delivery plans, Scottish Government's Regional Economic Policy Review and the proposed establishment of a Regional Economic Partnership Network of Scotland's eight regional economic partnerships. It is worth taking stock of these strategies and initiatives to ensure that they align in a complementary manner and to determine what resources are available and required to deliver both national and regional ambitions.
- 3.7 The extended timeline would also provide time for the region to understand the content of each of the six Local Authority UK Shared Prosperity Fund - Local Investment Plan submissions and determine what these collectively mean for regional priorities in the next three years.
- 3.8 Bringing the Regional Prosperity Delivery Framework to December's Joint Committee meeting would allow for discussions with both Scottish and UK

Government to reflect the above in developing the approach to delivery and resourcing.

Next Steps

- 3.9 Engagement with both UK and Scottish Government to discuss a regional approach to delivery and resource that aligns and compliments UK and Scottish economic priorities.
- 3.10 Regional partners will establish a clear process for delivery of the projects in the Framework with resource requirements outlined for delivering them. This process will help to determine and identify the best resource options for delivery.
- 3.11 To minimise delay, the RPF Delivery Framework will be considered by each of the constituent Councils ahead of the December Joint Committee meeting.

4. Financial impact

- 4.1 Work has been undertaken to date by a Officer Working Group that meets weekly and comprises membership from the six Local Authorities, University of Edinburgh, Scottish Enterprise and SEStran.
- 4.2 Consultancy support has been in place and paid for by monies received from Scottish Government, SESplan rebate and Scottish Enterprise.

5. Alignment with Sustainable, Inclusive Growth Ambitions

- 5.1 The Regional Prosperity Framework builds on the City Region Deal ambitions of delivering inclusive growth and seeks to deliver a holistic economic framework that will provide the basis for economic recovery post-pandemic and future direction for major projects and investment that support inclusive growth and transition to a net zero economy over the next 20 years.

6. Background reading/external references

- 6.1 [Regional Prosperity Framework – Final Version](#) – Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Joint Committee, Friday 3 September 2021.

7. Appendices

- 7.1 None.