

# The City of Edinburgh Council

10.00am, Thursday, 9 February 2023

## Regional Prosperity Framework Delivery Plan – referral from the Policy and Sustainability Committee

Executive/routine  
Wards  
Council Commitments

### 1. For Decision/Action

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- 1.1 The City of Edinburgh Council is asked to approve the decision taken by the Policy and Sustainability Committee.

**Richard Carr**

Interim Executive Director of Corporate Services

Contact: Louise Williamson, Committee Services, Legal and Assurance Division

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# Referral Report

## Regional Prosperity Framework Delivery Plan – referral from the Policy and Sustainability Committee

### 2. Terms of Referral

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2.1 On 17 January 2023, the Policy and Sustainability Committee considered a report by the Executive Director of Place which presented the Regional Prosperity Framework Delivery Plan for approval, prior to being considered by the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region (ESESCR) Joint Committee.

#### 2.2 Motion

- 1) To approve the Regional Prosperity Framework Delivery Plan.
- 2) To note the Delivery Plan would be considered by the other five constituent Local Authorities in the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region (ESESCR) ahead of the ESESCR Joint Committee meeting on 3 March 2023.

- moved by Councillor Day, seconded by Councillor Meagher

#### Amendment 1

- 1) To approve the Regional Prosperity Framework Delivery Plan, with the removal of all mentions relating to the Forth Green Port. To further agree that work on the Green Freeport is separated and contained separately to this plan to better enable scrutiny, transparency and accountability of the Green Freeports impacts to the City and region.
- 2) To note that the Delivery Plan would be considered by the other five constituent Local Authorities in the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region (ESESCR) ahead of the ESESCR Joint Committee meeting on 3 March 2023.

- moved by Councillor McVey, seconded by Councillor Campbell

#### Amendment 2

- 1) To approve the Regional Prosperity Framework Delivery Plan.
- 2) To note the Delivery Plan would be considered by the other five constituent Local Authorities in the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region

(ESESCR) ahead of the ESESCR Joint Committee meeting on 3 March 2023.

- 3) To further note with regret the lack of diversity on the Edinburgh and South East Scotland Joint Committee and instructs Edinburgh's Council Leader to raise this point at their next meeting and report back to members of the Policy and Sustainability Committee via the Business Bulletin any actions that arise from this discussion.

- moved by Councillor Mumford, seconded by Councillor Staniforth

### **Amendment 3**

- 1) To approve the Regional Prosperity Framework Delivery Plan.
- 2) To note the Delivery Plan would be considered by the other five constituent Local Authorities in the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region (ESESCR) ahead of the ESESCR Joint Committee meeting on 3 March 2023.
- 3) To note that the Forth Port freeport bid has now been selected by the Scottish Government and will be going ahead, and duly instructs CEC's representatives on the Joint Committee to ensure that the priorities passed by Council in December 2022 - around fair work, unionisation, community benefits, job and employability opportunities, affordable local housing allocation, and health & safety and environmental protection - are reflected in all future discussions about the freeport in relation to the Regional Prosperity Framework, with updates provided in the Business Bulletin.
- 4) To further note with regret the lack of diversity on the Edinburgh and South East Scotland Joint Committee and instructs Edinburgh's Council Leader to raise this point at their next meeting and report back to members of the Policy and Sustainability Committee via the Business Bulletin any actions that arise from this discussion.

- moved by Councillor Lang, seconded by Councillor Beal

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12) Amendment 3 was adjusted and accepted as an addendum to the Motion.

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12) Paragraph 3 of Amendment 2 was accepted as an addendum to Amendment 1.

### **Voting**

The voting was as follows:

For the motion (as adjusted) - 9 votes  
For Amendment 1 (as adjusted) - 8 votes

(For the motion (as adjusted): Councillors Beal, Day, Dijkstra-Downie, Doggart, Griffiths, Lang, Meagher, Walker and Whyte.

For Amendment 1 (as adjusted): Councillors Aston, Biagi, Campbell, Macinnes, McVey, Mumford, Parker and Staniforth.)

## **Decision**

- 1) To approve the Regional Prosperity Framework Delivery Plan.
- 2) To note the Delivery Plan would be considered by the other five constituent Local Authorities in the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region (ESESCR) ahead of the ESESCR Joint Committee meeting on 3 March 2023.
- 3) To note that the Forth Port freeport bid had now been selected by the UK and Scottish Governments and would be going ahead, and duly instruct CEC's representatives on the Joint Committee to ensure that the priorities passed by Council in December 2022 - around fair work, unionisation, community benefits, job and employability opportunities, affordable local housing allocation, and health & safety and environmental protection - were reflected in all future discussions about the freeport in relation to the Regional Prosperity Framework, with updates provided in the Business Bulletin.
- 4) To further note with regret the lack of diversity on the Edinburgh and South East Scotland Joint Committee and instruct Edinburgh's Council Leader to raise this point at their next meeting and report back to members of the Policy and Sustainability Committee via the Business Bulletin any actions that arose from this discussion.

2.3 In accordance with Standing Order 30.1, the decision was referred to Council for approval.

## **3. Background Reading/ External References**

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Minute of the Policy and Sustainability Committee of 17 January 2023.

## **4. Appendices**

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Appendix 1 – Report by the Executive Director of Place

# Policy and Sustainability Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 17 January 2023

## Regional Prosperity Framework Delivery Plan

Executive/routine Wards Council Commitments	Executive All
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### 1. Recommendations

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- 1.1 Policy and Sustainability Committee is asked to:
  - 1.1.1 Approve the Regional Prosperity Framework Delivery Plan; and
  - 1.1.2 Note that the Delivery Plan will be considered by the other five constituent Local Authorities in the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region (ESESCR) ahead of the ESESCR Joint Committee meeting on 3 March 2023.

**Paul Lawrence**

Executive Director of Place

Contact: Andy Nichol, Programme Manager (PMO) Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal

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# Report

## Regional Prosperity Framework Delivery Plan

### 2. Executive Summary

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- 2.1 The Regional Prosperity Framework Delivery Plan (Appendix 1) is submitted to Committee for approval, prior to being considered by the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region (ESES CR) Joint Committee.

### 3. Background

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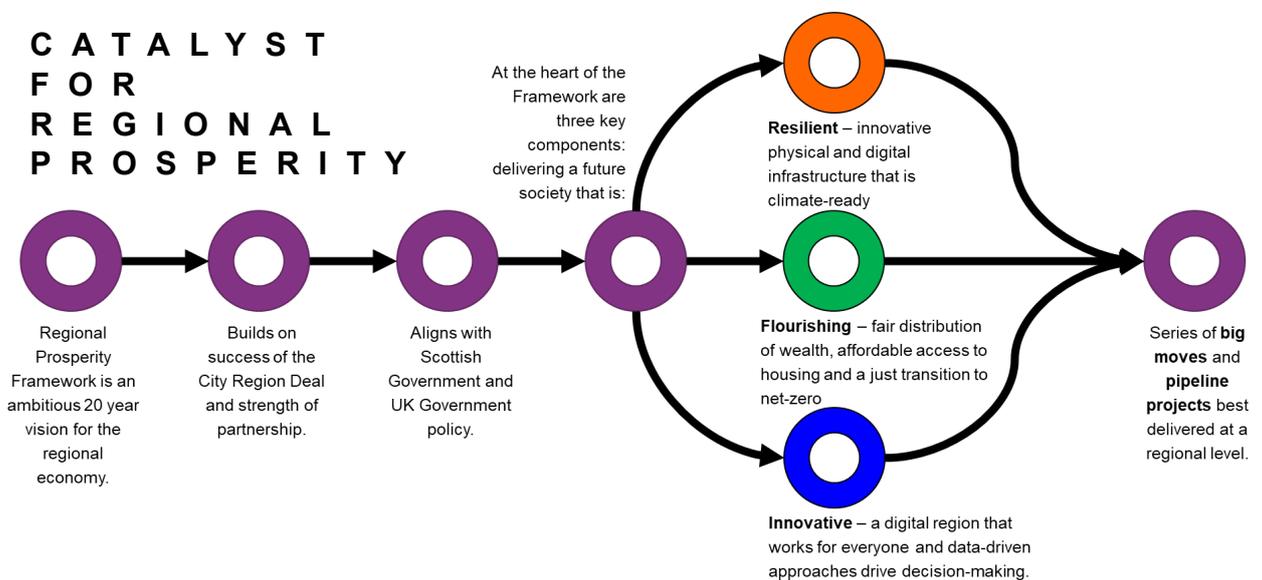
- 3.1 The maturity of the regional partnership with UK and Scottish Governments has seen the City Region Deal partners develop an ambitious Regional Prosperity Framework (RPF) (formerly Growth Framework), approved in [September 2021](#) before being ratified individually by each of the six Local Authorities and the University of Edinburgh Court. Committee ratified the Regional Prosperity Framework [5 October 2021](#).
- 3.2 The Framework is the articulation of the next phase of the development of the regional economy, building upon the successes of the City Region Deal both in terms of the programmes and also the regional collaboration. It provides a blueprint for regional economic recovery post-pandemic; resilience through the ongoing cost of living crisis; and provides future direction for major projects and investment.
- 3.3 Since the publication of the RPF, regional partners have been developing the Delivery Plan appended to this report. This period has covered the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing cost-of-living crisis. Partners have tried to develop a Delivery Plan that responds to these crises and recognises that the cost-of-living crisis disproportionately impacted the most economically disadvantaged members of the community, with the cost of basic necessities e.g., food and fuel far exceeding any increases to wages.

### 4. Main report

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- 4.1 The RPF provides a blueprint for regional economic recovery post-pandemic; resilience through the ongoing cost-of-living crisis; and provides future direction for major projects and investment that support inclusive growth and the transition to a net zero economy over the next 20 years.

- 4.2 The RPF and its Delivery Plan align closely with Scotland’s National Strategy for Economic Transformation (NSET), Scotland’s Regional Economic Policy Review Recommendations, and the UK Government’s Levelling Up White Paper with its funding allocations, and the additional funding allocations available through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. All three of these present major opportunities for our region to truly capitalise on additional funding.
- 4.3 The RPF vision is 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”*.
- 4.4 The regional partners are committed to this vision and to use it to guide and integrate public, private, and third-sector decisions, actions, collaborations, strategies, policies, and investments across areas such as sustainability, climate change, energy, transport, planning, housing, infrastructure, education, digital, services, inequalities, well-being, economic development, procurement, and delivery.
- 4.5 Regional Priorities have been developed around three core themes which support an economy that is **resilient; innovative and flourishing** (see diagram 1 below).



**Diagram 1 - Regional Prosperity Framework Delivery Process**

- 4.6 All actions under the RPF are framed to support:
- **People** – to access fair work, to learn and develop new skills and to live happy and healthy lives;

- **Places** – that are sustainable, and attractive to live and work in and where enterprise thrives;
- **Planet** – meeting our needs in a way that will allow future generations to meet theirs, with a focus on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions

4.7 As recovery from COVID-19 continues, it is a different economic world than the one before. Subsequent global events, such as the war in Ukraine, inflation, and emerging financial and political uncertainties, mean that there is a need to develop a different strategic approach if the shared ambition for the region is to be achieved and to deliver a resilient economy that can meet the needs of its citizens and businesses.

4.8 To be able to reflect current and future economic shocks, the Delivery Plan has been developed as a living document, with the immediate priorities for the region set out over a one to three-year horizon, but in the context of the longer-term ambitions for the region. Regional priorities will be reviewed annually and refreshed, with programmes and projects added or subtracted to ensure a continued focus on the ambitions of the Plan and to reflect what is happening at the local, regional, national, and macro level of the economy.

4.9 The Delivery Plan establishes a clear process for delivery of the projects and sets out an ambitious prospectus for investment.

4.10 Four key programme areas have emerged as the priority for the next 12 months:

- Green Forth;
- Infrastructure for Recovery;
- Visitor Economy and Culture; and
- Data-Driven Innovation Economy.

4.11 A summary of each programme is outlined below with further detail provided in Appendix 1.

### **Green Forth**

4.12 From Eyemouth to Grangemouth, the Forth Economic Corridor has the potential to drive transformational economic and climate adaptation through major waterfront regeneration including Granton Waterfront, Blindwells and Cockenzie; reuse and modernising of existing assets, sites, and operations to create strategic net zero employment opportunities; support innovative manufacturing and shipbuilding; and proposals for a Green Freeport which aim to underpin and enhance the area's future economic success including the creation of the nation's largest offshore renewable energy hub.

4.13 Cross partner support will be required to establish a Forth Estuary Collaboration Network. Enabling closer collaboration between neighbouring authorities to deliver their national and regional priorities for the Forth, and to promote the reputation of the Forth economic corridor domestically and internationally.

- 4.14 Key to the future success of the Forth and of the region is the development of future green skills to meet the needs of businesses today and in the future economy whilst creating new high value jobs. The creation of a Net Zero Accelerator Hub can help to address the demand and supply side barriers that exist, helping key sectors begin or accelerate the transition to net zero.

### **Infrastructure for Recovery**

- 4.15 The most productive regions are the best connected and the most sustainable. Much of Scotland's future population and household growth is set to take place in the region, with available capacity to grow in parts of the region. The scale and nature of the consequential impact on the region's infrastructure is substantial and is crucial to the success of the regional and national economy.
- 4.16 The housing need and demand in the city region is the greatest in Scotland, with nearly 60% of the total annual affordable homes requirement for Scotland needed in our city region. This region delivers more homes than any other part of Scotland and continues to drive construction innovation. Resources are required to sustain and accelerate this activity.
- 4.17 The Edinburgh and South East Home Demonstrator Project is a new business model for the delivery of Net Zero affordable homes at scale. There are currently 75 homes under construction at Granton Waterfront with support required to secure a delivery partner and to scale up a regional pipeline of sites.
- 4.18 The region needs financial support to both deliver the Energy Efficiency Standards for Social Housing 2 (EESH2) programme of retrofitting existing homes and continue to build new affordable homes.
- 4.19 Accelerating delivery of the City Region Deal strategic sites can deliver 35,000 homes, transforming vacant and derelict land to deliver net zero carbon homes.
- 4.20 It is essential that regional transport priorities are co-ordinated to deliver the aspirations of the: Regional Transport Strategy; Strategic Transport Projects Review 2; and National Strategy for Economic Transformation. This will best ensure that we can: Effect Modal Shift; Promote Mass Transit; Decarbonise Transport (support transition to net zero); and Tackle Transport poverty.
- 4.21 To deliver on these strategic ambitions, including fairer and more equal economic prosperity, requires a skilled population. This must ensure that everyone has the opportunity to participate fully in the labour market. The transition to net zero and the data revolution, in particular, will necessitate a new supply of skills. Housing, transport and skills are essential for removing barriers faced by some in participating and progressing in the labour market and in ensuring that employers have the supply of skills they need. A Net Zero Accelerator Hub proposal is being developed by regional partners.

### **Visitor Economy and Culture**

- 4.22 The renewal of a world class cultural and visitor offer is key to the regional economy and can be realised through establishing a Regional Visitor Economy Partnership to

create and deliver a regional visitor economy development plan will allow for collaborative public sector investment and delivery in the visitor economy.

- 4.23 A Data Driven Innovation led approach to tourism destinations can help to position the region as a global leader in regional data-driven decision-making for strategic tourism investments, aligning and contributing towards the regional ambition of being the Data Capital of Europe.

### **Data-Driven Innovation Economy**

- 4.24 Embedding and extending the impact of the City Region Deal Data-Driven Innovation investment in the regional and national economy to ensure the region provides the skills, support network, data and transport infrastructure needed to grow data-led organisations is essential. Cross partner support is needed to promote the aspiration for the Region to be a Data Capital, and its linkages to delivering Scottish and UK Government Digital and Data Strategies.
- 4.25 Partners will work to support the operational growth of the TechScaler Network, funded by Scottish Government, and support the ongoing recognition of the Region as a World Leading Centre for Informatics and High-Performance Computing Academic Excellence.
- 4.26 The delivery programmes above are critical to the region's future economic success, providing clarity for future investment and collaboration to ensure this region has a prosperous net zero future. These programmes will be monitored and reviewed every 12 months to ensure they are still relevant to local, regional, and national partners.

## **5. Next Steps**

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- 5.1 Each of the five other constituent Local Authorities will also consider a report on the RPF Delivery Programme before the City Region Deal Joint committee meets on 3 March 2023.
- 5.2 Subject to the necessary approvals at the above committees, regional partners will ask both Scottish and UK Government for the following support:
- **Financial Support for Programmes**
    - We ask for our Action Plan to be achieved through a medium to long term, integrated, place-based funding allocation based on shared outcomes
  - **New forms of Partnering**
    - Support to develop a new Regional delivery capability to support the Regional Prosperity Framework
    - Align national strategies & policies to support regional aspirations
    - We ask both the Scottish and UK Governments to commit to continue to work in tripartite (UKG/SG/ESES) partnership.

- Recognise the region is closely aligned and uniquely positioned to progress the recommendations made in the Scottish Government's Regional Economic Policy Review.
- **Enablement**
  - New powers and new delivery tools to deliver the Framework, through a “live” Action Plans.
- **National Strength Recognition**
  - There are a basket of regional economic assets that are a vital part of the national economy, but which have been buffeted by recent economic upheavals. We want to work the Governments to secure these for the long term.

## 6. Financial impact

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- 6.1 The work on the RPF has been overseen by the City Region Deal Directors Group which includes representation from both Scottish and UK Government; the Regional Enterprise Council; and the Elected Member Oversight Committee. Paul Lawrence, Executive Director of Place, is Senior Responsible Officer within the City of Edinburgh Council for this activity.
- 6.2 An officer working group with membership from across each of the six local authorities, the University of Edinburgh, and Scottish Enterprise, supported by the Programme Management Office has developed the RPF Delivery Plan.
- 6.3 Over the lifetime of the project, consultancy support was secured to assist with development work. This was paid for by monies received from Scottish Government, Scottish Enterprise and a £30,000 SESplan rebate.
- 6.4 Approval of the RPF Delivery Plan does not commit resources from the City of Edinburgh Council or the other five constituent Local Authorities.
- 6.5 Delivery will be achieved through existing resources and additional public and private sector investment. As external funds are secured programmes and projects will be progressed on a case by case basis, based on the development of individual business cases.
- 6.6 City Region Partners want the Delivery Plan to be supported through a medium to long term, integrated, place-based funding allocation based on shared outcomes. Officers are developing the case for this funding approach, which should cover the whole-life costs of delivery and will present this to UK and Scottish Government in advance of the UK Government budget next year. Partners will continue to work with Scottish Government to ensure that the RPF Delivery Plan aligns to programmes and spend on NSET, STPR2, infrastructure and other relevant areas.

## **7. Stakeholder/Community Impact**

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- 7.1 The work on the RPF has been overseen by the City Region Deal Directors Group including representation from both Scottish and UK Government; the Regional Enterprise Council; and the Elected Member Oversight Committee.
- 7.2 Each of the six constituent local authorities are considering the RPF Delivery Plan ahead of the City Region Deal Joint Committee meeting on 3 March 2023 to ensure that any final local contributions are reflected in the final version of the Plan.
- 7.3 The RPF was approved for public consultation by the City Region Deal Joint Committee on 4 June 2021. The RPF was agreed by the ESESCR Joint Committee in [September 2021](#) and ratified by Policy and Sustainability Committee in October 2021.
- 7.4 Delivery of the programmes and projects in the RPF Delivery Plan can deliver on the city Regions ambitions to become the data capital of Europe; support inclusive growth; and a just transition to a net zero economy over the next 20 years.

## **8. Background reading/external references**

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- 8.1 Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Annual Report 2021/22, Policy and Sustainability Committee - [1 November 2022](#).

## **9. Appendices**

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- 9.1 Appendix 1 - Regional Prosperity Framework Delivery Plan



# REGIONAL PROSPERITY FRAMEWORK

DELIVERY PLAN & PROSPECTUS

2023 / 24

# Edinburgh and South East Scotland Joint Committee



**Councillor Cammy Day**  
Leader, The City of Edinburgh Council



**Professor Peter Mathieson**  
*Chair, Higher & Further Education Consortium and Principal, University of Edinburgh*



**Councillor Norman Hampshire**  
Leader, East Lothian Council



**Claire Pattullo**  
*Chair of Regional Enterprise Council and Chief Executive Officer at Edinburgh Social Enterprise*



**Councillor David Ross**  
Leader, Fife Council



**Garry Clark**  
*Vice-Chair of Regional Enterprise and Council Development Manager (East of Scotland) at Federation of Small Businesses*



**Councillor Russell Imrie**  
Councillor, Midlothian Council  
Chair, Joint Committee 2022



**Councillor Euan Jardine**  
Leader, Scottish Borders Council  
Chair, Joint Committee 2023



**Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick**  
Leader, West Lothian Council  
Vice Chair, Joint Committee 2023

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## Foreword

The City Region Deal brings together six local authorities, four universities, six colleges and the Regional Enterprise Council with representatives from the business, social enterprise and third sectors. The partnership is now in the fifth year of the delivery of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal programme, and we continue to make excellent progress.

Building on the successful delivery of the City Region Partners have developed an ambitious Regional Prosperity Framework (RPF) that articulates the next phase of activity to develop the regional economy, building upon the successes of the City Region Deal. The RPF sets out a blueprint for regional economic recovery post-pandemic; resilience through the cost-of-living crisis and transition to net zero.

Our RPF Delivery Plan is both an action plan – focused on more immediate interventions that can currently be resourced – and a prospectus; setting out collective future ambition and opportunities. A “living” document, the Delivery Plan sets out an ambitious and dynamic series of four key programmes to deliver the region’s ambitions:

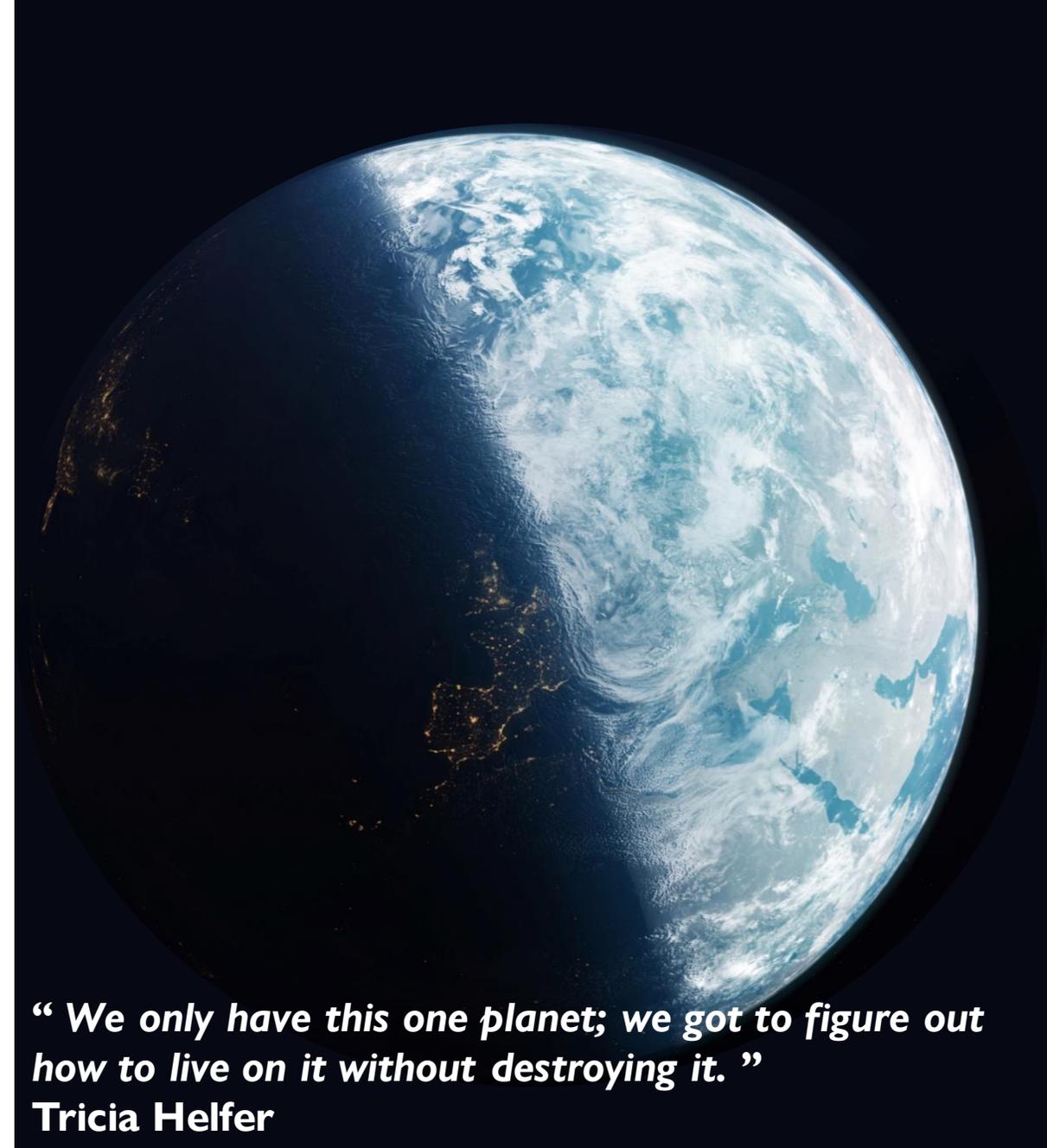
- Green Regeneration
- Infrastructure for Recovery & Prosperity
- Visitor Economy and Culture, and
- Data Driven Innovation (DDI) Economy

These programmes will enable the city region to maintain and enhance its global reputation and become the data capital of Europe, delivering sustainable and inclusive growth.

Our Delivery plan aligns with Scotland’s National Strategy for Economic Transformation (NSET), Scotland’s Regional Economic Policy Review recommendations, and UK Government’s Levelling Up priorities, as well as the 2022 Autumn Statement.

We ask the Scottish and UK Governments to continue to commit to work in tripartite partnership to deliver our Blueprint through a long term, integrated, place-based funding allocation to deliver shared outcomes.

**Chair of the Edinburgh & South East of Scotland Joint Committee**



***“ We only have this one planet; we got to figure out how to live on it without destroying it. ”***  
**Tricia Helfer**

# Executive Summary

Over the last five years the regional partnership behind the South East Scotland City Region Deal has flourished, resulting in the publication of the Regional Prosperity Framework (RPF) in September 2021.

A range of acute external pressures have strained the REP, and this living Delivery Plan is our remedy. The Plan targets three goals: reduced economic exclusion; increased regional competitiveness; and, accelerated transition to Net Zero.

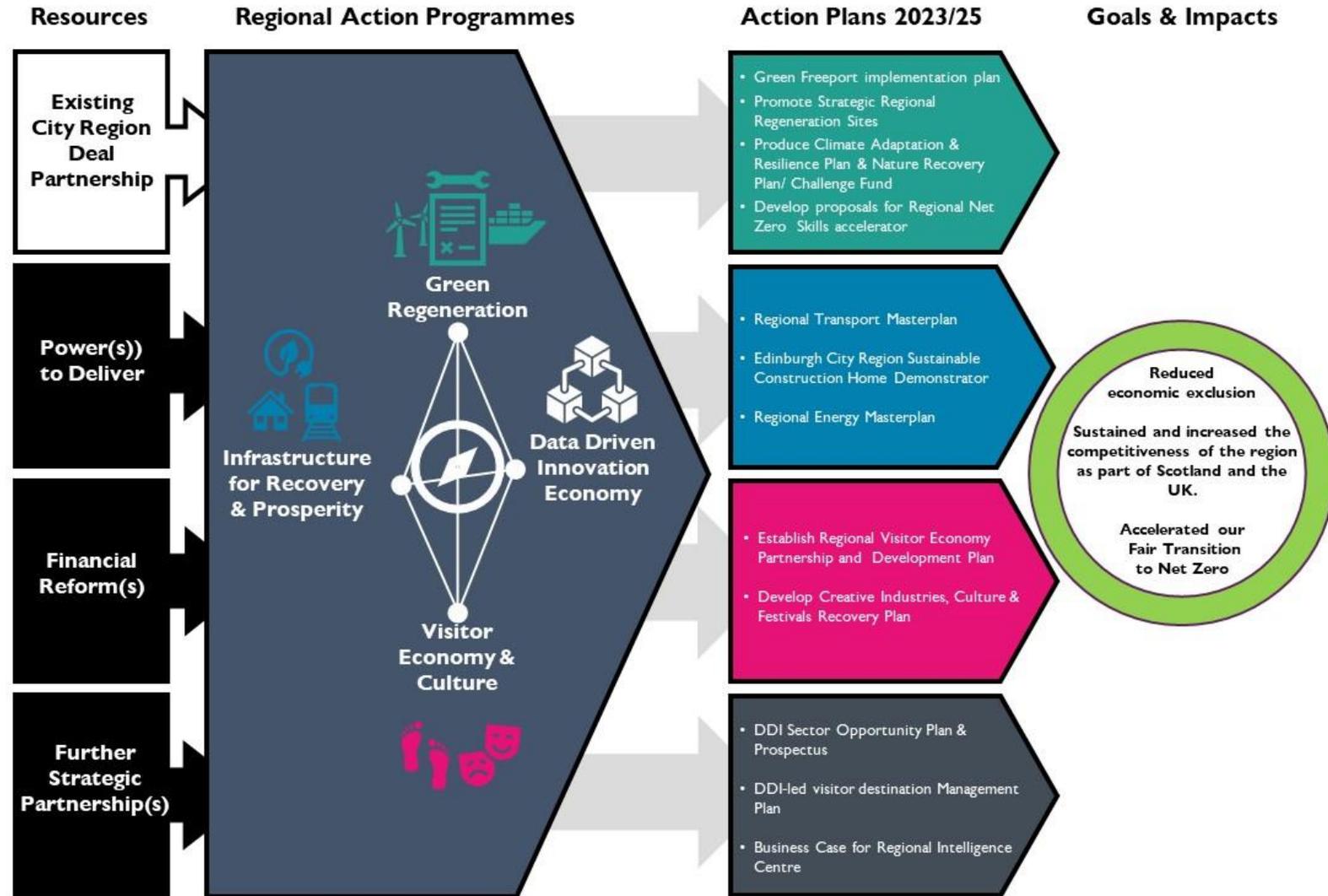
The Delivery Plan comprises four key programmes and associated regional action plans. The action plans will deliver immediate benefits whilst providing a longer-term platform for future activities that deliver our goals.

Early momentum is key to consolidating the Regional Partnership, as a more formal Regional Economic Partnership, and is core to our actions plans. Our Call to Action comprises four priority initiatives:

- Infrastructure for Recovery & Prosperity by co-developing with the Governments a place-based capital and revenue funding model for delivery of regional ambitions;
- Develop Green Regeneration (*focused on the Forth*) investment prospectus;
- Secure a sustainable visitor economy and promotion of our cultural assets; and,
- Promote the transition to a data driven innovation (DDI) enabled economy in the region.

These initiatives will provide further evidence of the positive impact of our Partnership; build further confidence in our ability to collaborate and deliver and demonstrate the positive outcomes that investment in our region will deliver.

The Regional Partners now seek to co-create the delivery and resourcing approach for this Delivery Plan with government partners and other stakeholders.





A region that is committed to new ways of working to grow an innovative and diverse Economy

CodeBase fully supports Edinburgh's ambition to become the Data Capital of Europe. That is why we are excited about plans to embed, and broaden the impact of, Data-Driven Innovation investment in the regional and national economy.

In order to become Europe's Data Capital, it is essential that Edinburgh and South East Scotland continue to provide the skills, support network, data and transport infrastructure that will facilitate the continued growth of data-led organisations - companies old and new - in the region.. **Steven Drost, CSO CodeBase**

## Introduction

**Our Delivery Plan has been developed through our Regional Economic Partnership (REP) in collaboration with the governments and their agencies. The Plan sets out our opportunities for regional action and investment that better deliver regional inclusive economic growth through regional collaboration.**

### The Delivery Plan Builds Upon our shared Strategic Framework

The Regional Prosperity Framework (RPF) articulates the long-term aspirational goals for Edinburgh and South East Scotland city region. It guides the future direction of regional economic and wider policy by setting out an ambitious vision for the regional economy to 2041. All actions under the RPF are framed to support:

**People:** expand access fair work, learn and develop new skills and to live happy and healthy lives

**Places:** develop communities that are sustainable, attractive to live and work in and where enterprise thrives

**Planet:** meet our needs whilst enabling future generations to meet theirs, with a focus on climate action through emissions reduction and adaptation.

### Our Vision for the Region is Challenging but Achievable...

We will ensure the social and economic benefits of future growth extend to all. All sections of the community will have the opportunity to develop & enhance 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 our 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. Our aim is to become the data capital of Europe.

### ....by Remaining Responsive to Change

Global events, such as global pandemic recovery, the war in Ukraine, inflation and emerging financial and political uncertainties, demand an agile strategic response if our shared regional ambitions are to be achieved. As a result, the Delivery Plan focuses on the immediate **1 to 3-year horizon**, but in the context of our longer-term regional ambitions. It will be **reviewed annually**, adding or subtracting Programmes and projects to ensure continued focus on our ambitions and enable dynamic responses to any challenges as they emerge.

### Our Plan Builds Upon the Unique Attributes of the Region

The Delivery Plan describes:

- **The Region's Diverse Economy**, identifying the unique strengths and assets of our regional economy.
- **Opportunities and Challenges**, assessing our regional growth levers and the barriers we must overcome.
- **Delivering together**, describing the aims and priorities for our Plan including the pathway that we can follow if we are going to positively impact the regional economy.



# A RESILIENT REGIONAL ECONOMY

## Our Diverse Region

### Edinburgh

- Key driver of Scottish economy with diverse global business base, quality retail core, and world heritage cityscape.
- Global strengths in professional services, finance, insurance, education, science, health and data.
- Thriving retail, hospitality and leisure sector.
- Forth Bridge world heritage site frames key green growth and regeneration opportunities along the Forth.
- Continued strong demand in housing and commercial property markets.
- Regional actions underway to distribute economic opportunity, address commuting travel patterns, improve affordable housing supply and enhance strategic local infrastructure.

### West Lothian

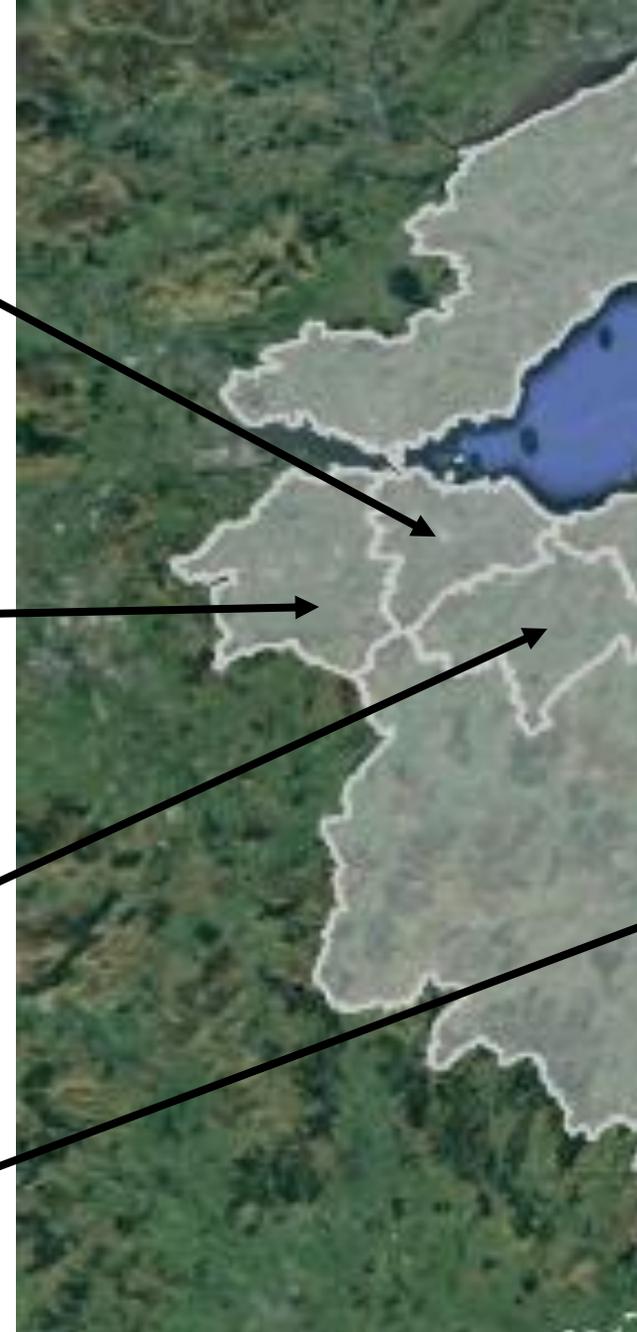
- Broad and extensive business base is supported by a skilled workforce
- Key strengths in life sciences, engineering, construction, food & drink, aerospace, retail, software development, renewables, advanced manufacturing, health, communications, support services and logistics.
- Heartlands offers 2,000 homes and 1.5 million square feet of employment space with easy motorway access.
- Winchburgh is delivering thousands of new homes and 40 acres of employment and retail space, with easy motorway access and potential for a new rail station.

### Midlothian

- High quality clusters of professional, education, health and scientific developments such as Easter Bush.
- At the forefront of world leading research and development programmes in biomedicine and agritech.
- Data Driven Innovation (DDI) Skills Gateway established at Newbattle High School Centre of Excellence.
- Destination Hillend is a strategic proposal for multi-activity leisure tourism with business opportunities at Hillend Snowsports Centre.
- Strengths in wholesale retail and trade, construction and manufacturing, and agriculture.

### Scottish Borders

- Strong cultural heritage, high quality environment and communities with a good quality of life.
- Strengths in agriculture, energy, tourism, food & drink, manufacturing, forestry and construction
- Well connected to Central Scotland and the Cities of the North of England.
- Borders Rail has catalysed regional opportunities.
- Future extension of railway to Carlisle and planned 4G/5G investments will sustain economic opportunities.
- Scottish Borders Mountain Bike Innovation Centre will cement the region's international cycling reputation.
- Inspire Learning Centre - Tweedbank. Delivering a world class digital learning environment in partnership with Apple





### The Firth of Forth and Coast

- Economic renaissance of the Forth estuary is driven by green growth, net zero energy innovation and sustainable infrastructure, new fuel production and nature based solutions.
- Strengths in life sciences, engineering, construction, agriculture, food and drink, distribution, aerospace, retail, software development and renewables, advanced manufacturing health, information, communications, support services and logistics.
- Three regeneration and renewal zones along its length:
  1. South Zone: Hound Point (deep water facilities), Edinburgh Waterfront and East Lothian's Climate Evolution Zone (including the former Cockenzie Power Station), Blindwells new settlement (with potential for expansion), and Eyemouth as a hub for off-shore renewables;
  2. North Zone: former Longannet Power Station site (with rail link), Rosyth International Port, Braefoot Bay Oil and Gas Terminal (deep water facilities), Mossmorran fuel and distribution hub, the Fife Renewables Innovation Centre and ORE Demonstrator at Levenmouth; and
  3. West Zone: the Forth provides links to the Falkirk and Grangemouth Investment Zone with its green fuel production, biotechnology and skills development, and Scotland's National Environment Centre and National Aquiculture Technology and Innovation Hub.

### Fife

- Strengths include advanced manufacturing, financial and business services and food and drink.
- Outstanding coastline and strategic travel routes provide opportunities for inclusive, sustainable growth.
- Dunfermline awarded city status and offers large housing development area including shared learning campus for Fife College.
- Rosyth International Port and Arrol Gibb Campus complement local strengths in freight and logistics.
- Centre of Excellence in Low Carbon and Renewable Energy innovation being created at Guardbridge.
- Number of transformative investments are already underway (e.g. reopening of the Levenmouth Rail Link).
- Outstanding natural and cultural assets (the Forth Bridges, 48 golf courses, the Fife Coastal Path, and the Pilgrim Way)

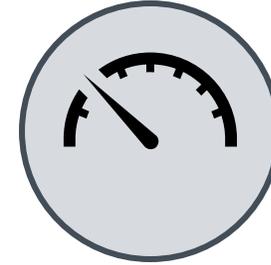
### East Lothian

- Celebrated for its attractive market towns, prime countryside and coast, and golf and leisure tourism.
- Green growth opportunities in emerging **Climate Evolution Zone**, including **Cockenzie Power Station site** and potential expansion of **Blindwells new settlement**,
- Potential investments in strategic sustainable infrastructure, including the **High Speed Rail**,
- Internationally significant scientific, biomedical and education activities, including **Edinburgh Innovation Hub** and **Edinburgh Innovation Park**,
- The future use of Torness Nuclear Power Station site is a significant longer term opportunity.

## Our Economy and Goals

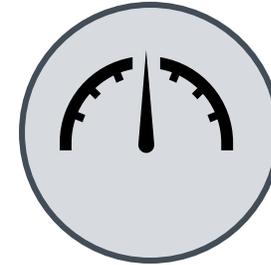
- **65%** of 1.4m residents are of working age. The Region's dependency ratio is projected to increase from **54%** in 2018 to **57%** by 2043, compared to Scotland's **60%** (number of dependents over the number of people working).
- This is the fastest growing region in Scotland and one of fastest in UK. Forecast change in population 2018 – 2043 is **9.1%** (Scotland **2.5%**/UK **9%**).
- In 2022, **20.7%** of residents aged 16-64 were economically inactive, **2.2%** lower than Scotland. This ranges from **16.3%** to **26.9%** in the Local Authorities. It is a decrease from pre-pandemic levels. Reasons for inactivity include long term sickness. Unemployment rates by disabled status range from **15.6%** to **33.7%**.
- By 2032, there will be a need to replace **264,100** people who have left the labour market in the Region. (RSA Nov 22)
- Productivity, calculated by dividing total regional GVA by total regional employment (measured by jobs), in 2022, was forecast to be **£59,700**, higher any other region and than the Scottish average **of £54,100**.
- Over the long-term (2025-2032) productivity is expected to grow by **1.1%** on average each year, broadly similar to Scotland as a whole.
- **4.6** tonnes of CO2 emissions per head in 2020, *matching* the UK and Scottish national positions.

## Our Goals



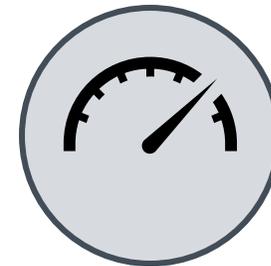
### Reduce Economic Exclusion

- Reduce levels of economically inactivity.
- Reduce unemployment levels by disabled status.
- Reduce the number of people suffering the greatest levels of deprivation
- Minimise the impact of an increasing dependency ratio (e.g., *those not in work who depend on those in work*) in the region



### Sustained and Increased Competitiveness

- Increase productivity per capita by increasing adoption of data driven innovation and business start-ups.



### Accelerate Fair Transition to Net Zero

- Reduce per capita end-user greenhouse gas emissions for the region and by sector
- Better achieve net zero by 2045, 90% by 2040 and 75% by 2030.

# Opportunities & Challenges

## Opportunities

Devise circular investment opportunities where benefits from investments are retained and magnified within the region.

Link supply and demand at a regional level so that regional needs can be better met locally in a sustainable fashion.

Develop a “*pack mentality*” in the REP to seek and deliver regional opportunities which transects all sectors and builds on the success of the City Region Deal.

Building on the progress in the digitisation of the regional economy, further drive adoption of this innovation into all sectors

Improve food and resource security at a regional level, and develop sustainable forms of tourism, culture and heritage

Deliver interventions that are collaborative, multi-faceted and diffused to address local needs across the region

Embed community wealth building in anchor institutions to increase focus on a wellbeing economy

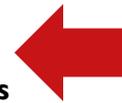
Develop new partnerships with industry and the governments and secure funding through a “one region” approach that complements local action within communities

Mobilise a whole societal ‘one region’ approach to Net Zero, involving communities, businesses and governments

## Goals



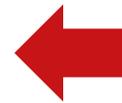
**Sustained and Increased Competitiveness**



**Reduced Economic Exclusion**



**Accelerated Fair Transition to Net Zero**



## Challenges

Place based capital and revenue funding allocations, recognising the delivery of regional ambition, need to be designed and delivered

Significant fiscal uncertainty exists for the governments and the public sector. Maintaining core key services is the priority for all regional partners in the short term

The scale and complexity of our external challenges requires a response that is equal to it, and **collective action at scale is vital** to meet them with the necessary capability and capacity

Change in national policies and approaches is needed if regional opportunities are to be realised

Quality of life shocks are having a real and sustained impact on the quality of life across the region, reinforcing regional inequalities

Whilst unprecedented transformative change is essential the cost of delivering a **just transition**, in the short term, is beyond the means of local government **alone**.



# OUR ACTION PLAN PRIORITIES

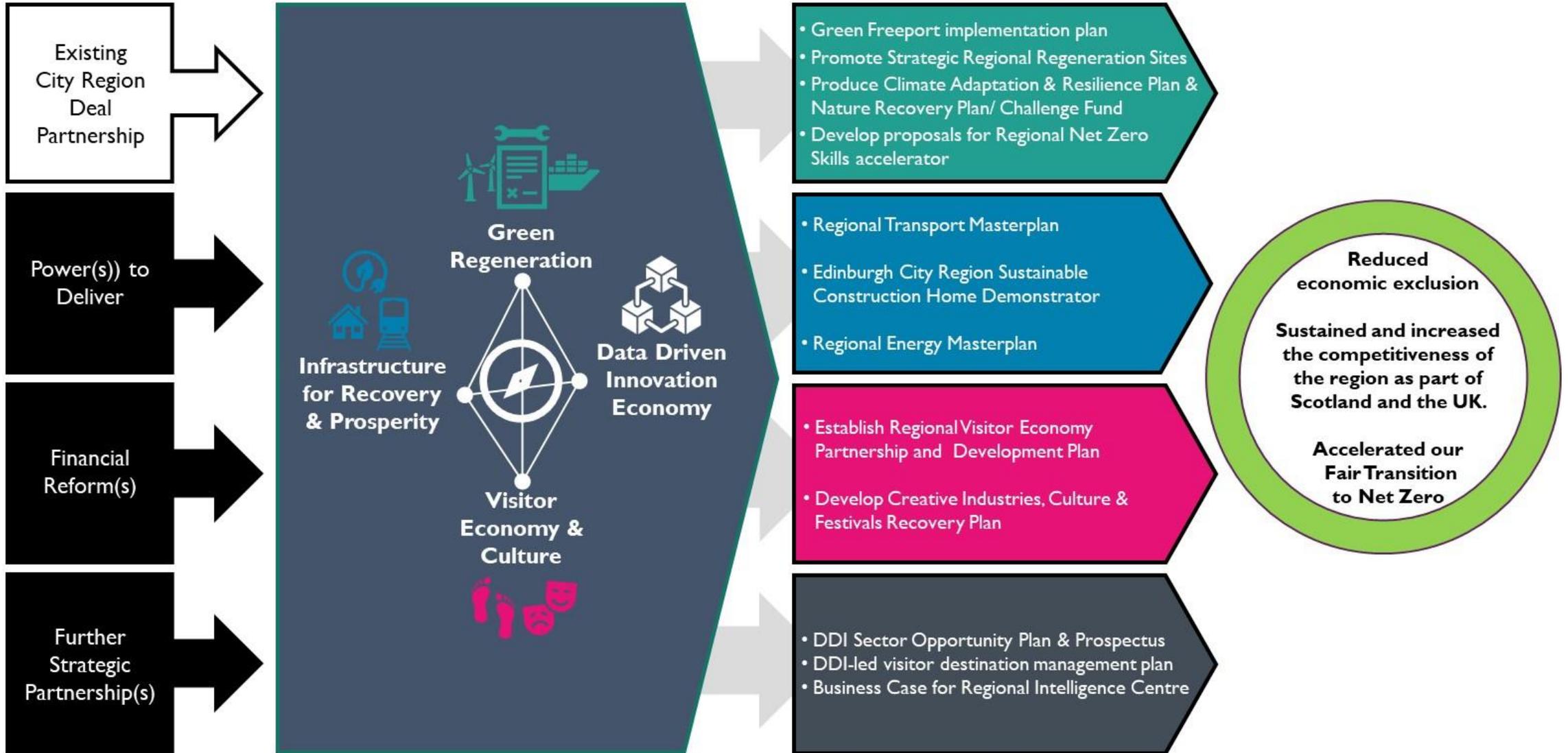
2023 - 2025

## Resources

## Regional Action Programmes

## Action Plans 2023/25

## Goals & Impacts



# Green Regeneration



- **Await decision on Forth Green Freeport Bid & Cockenzie Power Station Site Levelling Up Bid:**
  - *Develop, define and deliver business cases for longer term projects and programmes*
- **Establish Forth Collaboration Network to oversee successful Forth transformation, including ambition to deliver:**
  - *Leith Renewables Hub and wider Edinburgh Waterfront*
  - *Climate Evolution Zone with net zero infrastructure and employment at former Cockenzie Power Station site (with rail link) and Blindwells New Settlement (with potential for expansion), as well as Eyemouth off-shore renewables service and operations hub, and in the longer term future opportunities at Torness Nuclear Power Station site*
  - *Rosyth International Port, including Green & Blue Innovation Economy Opportunities, reuse of former Longannet Power Station site (with rail link), and Energy Park Fife ;*
- **Define and Develop a Regional Climate Adaptation & Resilience Plan:**
  - *Build on Adaptation Scotland's Regional Climate Risk Assessment to develop a regional adaptation and mitigation strategy*
- **Establish Nature Recovery Plan and Project Fund:**
  - *Use regional and local plans and strategies, including coastal management programmes and practices, and project planning to define and deliver cross border Other Area Based Conservation Measures and net benefits for biodiversity, linked to potential developer contribution protocols*
- **Regional Net Zero Accelerator:**
  - *Finalise Business Case for Regional Net Zero Skills Accelerator Hub to deliver programmes that enable key sectors to accelerate transition to net zero by meeting demand for green skills*

# Infrastructure for Recovery & Prosperity



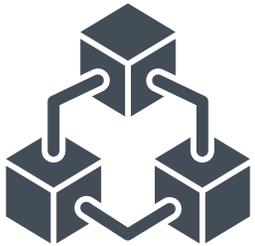
- **Regional Transport Masterplan**
  - *Collaboratively develop a brief for the South East Scotland Regional Transport Masterplan, Funding & Delivery Programme.*
  - The Master Plan will complement the Strategic Transport Projects Review 2, while providing influence and regional clarity on expectations.
  - The Masterplan will build upon the Regional Transport Strategy by reviewing and identifying cross boundary infrastructure and services improvements beyond the remit of SPTR2.
- **Edinburgh City Region Sustainable Construction Home Demonstrator**
  - *New business model for delivering net zero affordable homes*
  - *Phase 1 in delivery and scale up programme with Regional Pipeline defined*
  - *Identify funding and delivery partner and potentially suitable sites for off-site manufacturing facilities – e.g. for infrastructure and / or housing*
- **Regional Energy Masterplan**
  - *Phase 1 funding secured and develop Phase 2 proposition and demonstrators*

# Visitor Economy & Culture

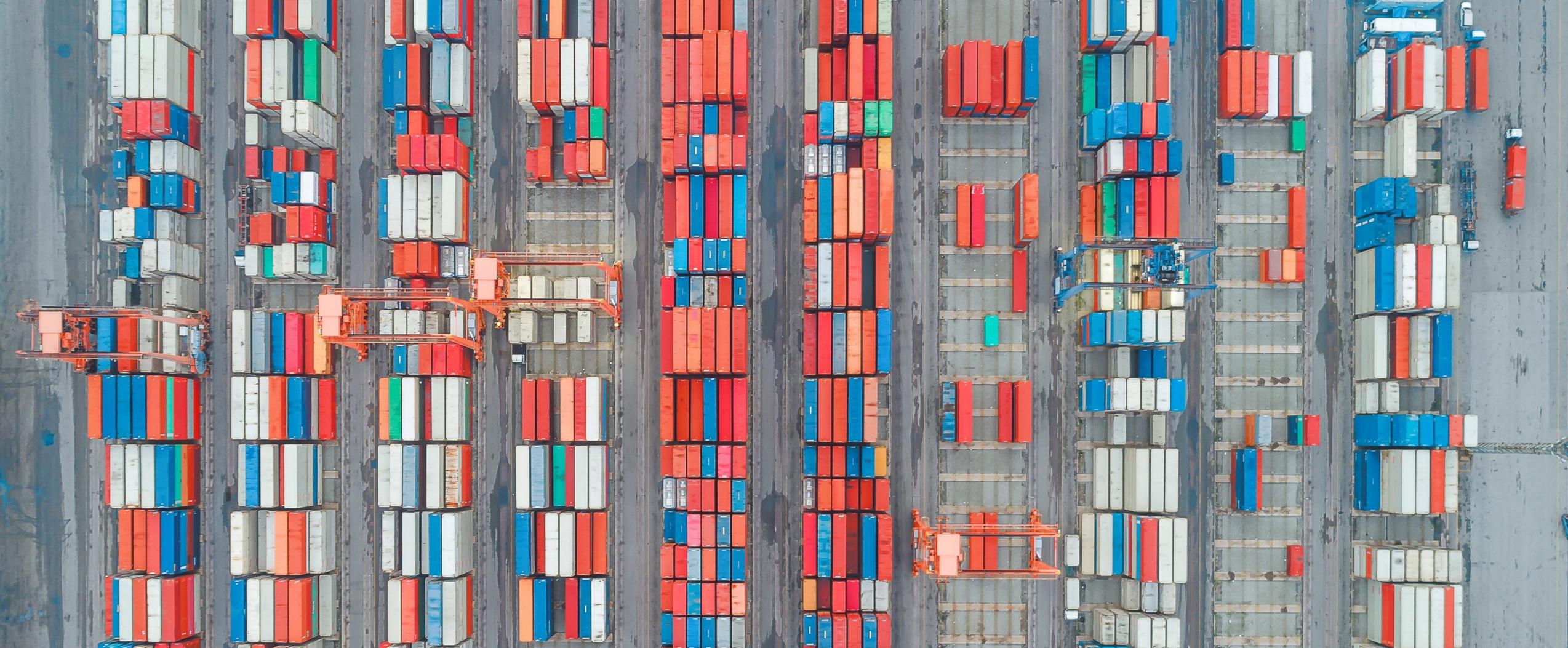


- **Regional Visitor Economy Partnership:**
  - *Seek to establish Regional Partnership with Visit Scotland, Scottish Enterprise and others*
- **Regional Visitor Economy Development Plan:**
  - *Regional Partnership to co-produce a Plan that aligns regional ambitions and actions*
- **Festivals and Cultural Recovery:**
  - *Create Festivals Recovery Fund to create resilience, and to enable festivals to recover with new business model implemented*
- **Creative Industries:**
  - *Define regional creative industries sectoral challenges and opportunities, and co-produce a recovery and growth plan*

# Data Driven Innovation (DDI) Economy



- **DDI Prospectus Sector Opportunity Plan:**
  - *Develop new regional and sectoral plans and prospectus to align the role and impact of data services across the business base and region, focusing on sectorial priorities*
- **DDI-led approach to visitor economy destination management:**
  - *Scope business case, which will help to position the region as a global leader in regional data-driven decision-making for strategic tourism investments*
- **Regional Intelligence Centre:**
  - *Finalise business case to enable regional policy makers, service delivery executives and the public to access relevant useful knowledge and insights to develop regional policy and improve services*



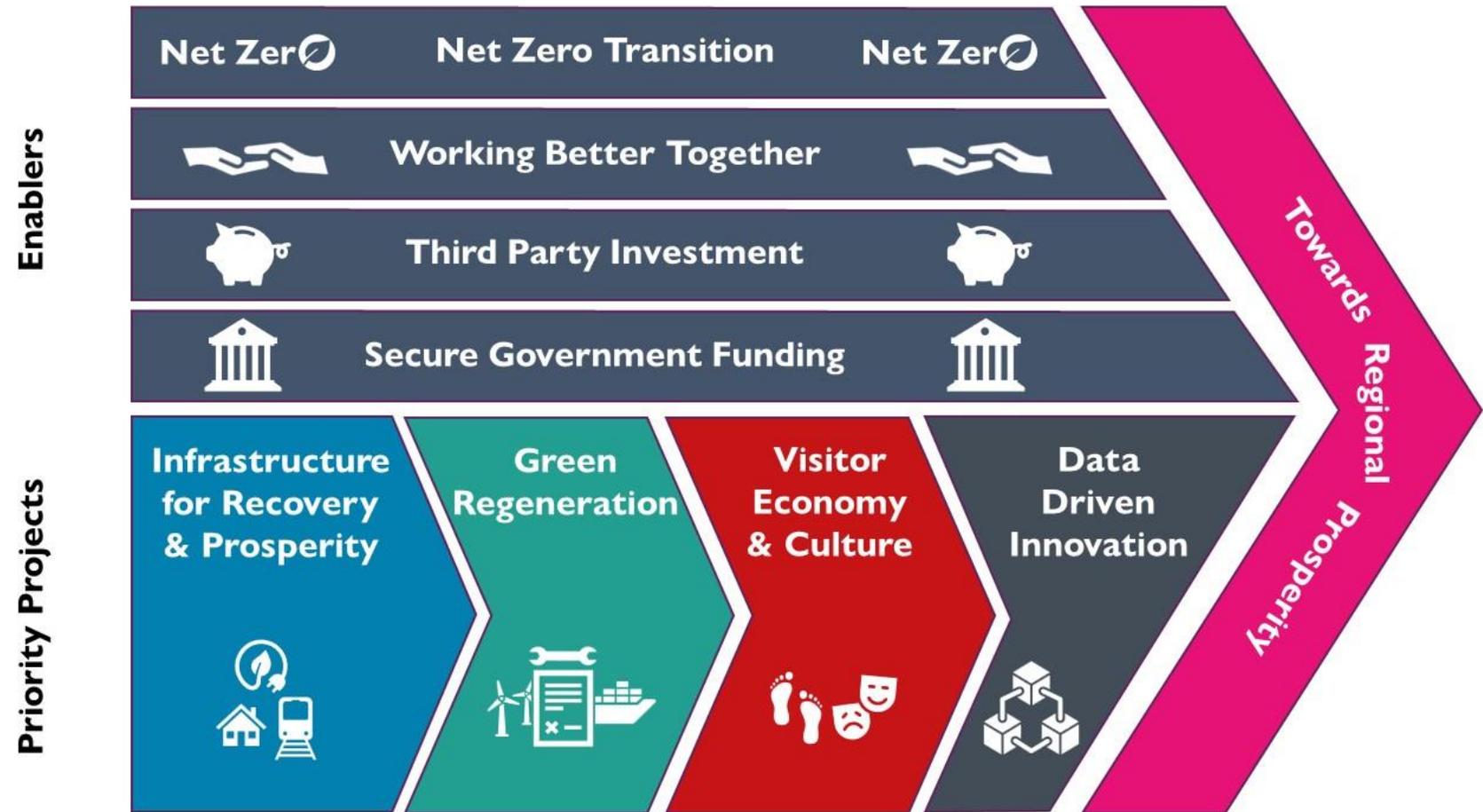
**OUR SHARED PROSPECTUS:  
DELIVERING TOGETHER**

## A Call to Action

Early momentum is key to any major initiative and is embedded in the Action Plan. Our Call to Action does not require all **12** initiatives to be launched simultaneously and immediately. Instead, we will undertake the following four activities as a priority:

- Infrastructure for Recovery & Prosperity - co-developing with the Governments a new funding model for regional infrastructure initiatives that incorporates capital and revenue place-based funding allocations.
- Develop an investment prospectus for the Green Regeneration (*focused on the Forth*).
- Secure a sustainable visitor economy and promotion of our cultural assets.
- Promote the transition to data enabled business performance in the region.

These early wins will provide us with further evidence of the positive impact of regional working; build further confidence in our ability to collaborate and deliver and demonstrate the positive outcomes that investment in our region will deliver.



# Our Ask of the Governments

## Transformation is a Team activity

Addressing the scale of transformation required to transition the region to a balanced economy that meets the needs of its citizens and businesses within the limits of its resources will require action at a local, regional and national level. It is for this reason that the Partners have set out an ambitious yet pragmatic vision for innovation and change. New ways of working together are required.

The region has the diversity and attributes to tackle many of its economic challenges in ways that provide for the needs of its citizens and businesses. But the nature of some of the actions required mean that **a new multi-governmental Team approach is required**. Many of the controls through which local and regional challenges can be addressed sit with others at Scottish or UK Government level. Through the right form of partnership (new collaborative approaches and funding models) the Edinburgh and South East Scotland Region has the potential to harness the opportunity of the drive to net zero, to build a more self-sustaining regional economy that can support a just transition for Scotland and the UK.

## Our Asks of Government Span Financial Support and New Forms of Partnering

To realise the aim and objectives of the Regional Prosperity Framework, and this associated Action Plan, Scottish and UK Government are asked to offer the following support:

### **Financial Support for Programmes**

- We ask for our Action Plan to be achieved through a **medium to long term, integrated, place-based funding allocation** based on shared outcomes.

### **New forms of Partnering**

- Support to **develop a new Regional delivery capability** to support the Regional Prosperity Framework
- Align national strategies & policies to **support regional aspirations**
- We ask both the Scottish and UK Governments to **commit to continue to work in tripartite (UKG/SG/ESES) partnership**.
- Recognise the region is closely aligned and uniquely positioned to progress the recommendations made in the Scottish Government's Regional Economic Policy Review.

### **Enablement**

New powers and new delivery tools to deliver the Framework, through a “live” Action Plans.

**National Strength Recognition** – there are a basket of regional economic assets that are a vital part of the national economy, but which have been buffeted by recent economic upheavals. We want to work the Governments to secure these for the long term.



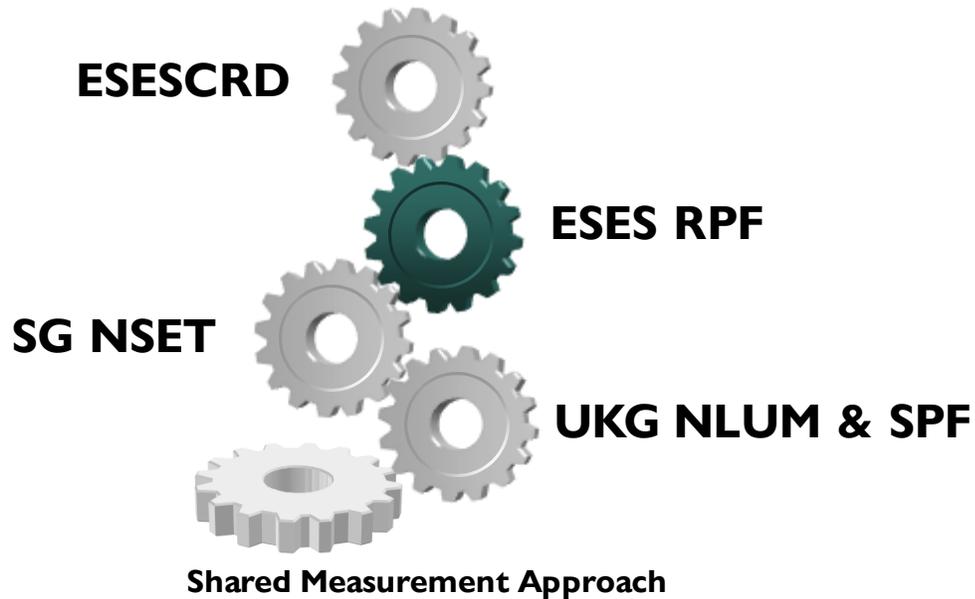
# What Will Change?

## Measuring impact

As with the City Region Deal activity, it is intended that a Benefit Realisation approach be adopted for the Regional Prosperity Framework.

Given the emerging activities of the Scottish Government, and its National Strategy for Economic Transformation, and the Regional dimension to this being developed, and UK Government, through its Levelling Up Missions and Shared Prosperity Fund activity, the Regional Partners want to work with both UK and Scottish Government, and other Regional Partners, to develop a Benefit Realisation approach that enables all of these activities to be answered with the lowest possible resource demand, ensuring that resources are primarily focused on delivery and impact.

This will look at build up on the work already defined through the City Region Deal, to create a sustained suite of indicators of success and impact, supported by the stories of impact that allow economic development to be understood, allowing the stories of our citizens and businesses to be heard and amplified.



It has been a pleasure for the Regional Enterprise Council (REC) to have been part of developing the Regional Prosperity Framework (RPF), from its original vision through to this Delivery Plan. The REC advises the City Region Deal's Joint Committee on the delivery of projects across the city region and encourages further investment opportunities, and has helped shape the ambition and strategic direction of the RPF.

There has been considerable change at a national, local and regional level since the RPF was published in September 2021. The City Region Deal Partners are determined to respond positively to challenges and changes in the economy. It is critically important that the RPF Delivery Plan is a living document that is regularly reviewed and re-focussed to ensure that everyone benefits from regional prosperity and growth.

The four key programmes - Green Forth; Housing and Recovery; Culture & Visitor Economy; and Data Enabled Business - are critical to the region's economic future. They provide clarity for collaboration and future investment to ensure this region continues to be Scotland's most successful and productive regional economy. The RPF Delivery Plan is a key step in delivering sustainable, inclusive growth to enhance and protect our environment and make best use of the region's built and natural assets, ensuring that the region delivers a just transition to a net zero economy.

***Claire Pattullo and Gary Clark, Chair and Vice Chair of the Regional Enterprise Council***

It has been a privilege to have been part of the team preparing the Regional Prosperity Framework to constitute a flexible and lasting template for economic development across the whole Region and to maximise the benefits for all from the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Deal.

A most welcome characteristic of how that team has worked together is the collaboration across geographies among the elected representatives from all political parties, council officials, communities and enterprises. As we have sought to build back differently for the future many open conversations have taken place about where we are now, where we want to be, and how we are going to get there. These conversations have been conducted, not as a dance of opposites, fueled by self-interest or point-scoring, but as heartfelt dialogues to collectively create and deliver a common vision for the future.

The team have had the confidence to be bold and ambitious in how the pressing challenges that exist for our enterprises, workplaces, marketplaces, communities and for our environment can be addressed. We have had a shared vision of a sustainable, respectful Scotland, where individuals and communities can flourish, and our diversity is celebrated. That vision recognises that our wellbeing is dependent upon the people most affected taking informed decisions about their futures.

As the Framework process now moves from design the team is wrestling with how the pace of delivery can be accelerated. As the actions and outputs are measured, we will answer the timeless question posed by immunologist Jonas Salk, who developed the polio vaccine in the 1950s: are we being good ancestors?

***Robert Carr, Regional Enterprise Council, Partner and Solicitor Advocate - Anderson Strathern***



# CITY REGION DEAL

## Edinburgh & South East Scotland

### Regional Prosperity Framework: 2023/24 Delivery Plan

This is a *'living document'* and will be updated on an annual basis to reflect the delivery of activities to ensure that the Region meets its long term goals of a regional economy that is **resilient, flourishing** and **innovative**.



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## ANNEX 1: CASE STUDIES ON EXISTING REGIONAL COLLABORATION

# Case Studies

## Case Study: Borders Railway

When opened in September 2015, the Borders Railway marked the longest domestic railway to be constructed in Britain for over 100 years. The new railway quickly and substantially exceeded the predicted patronage figures and wider benefit forecasts.

The line has breathed fresh vitality and investment into the communities it serves, transforming the places and local economies by:

- Retaining and attracting residents;
- Enabling the local business base to expand; and
- Doing so in a sustainable manner.

There is a commitment in the Borderland Growth Deal for UK and Scottish Governments to fund a Feasibility Study to deliver the remaining section to Carlisle, providing an important regional and national connection southwards to the rest of the UK.



**Source:** Borders Railway Completion The missing link - re-connecting the Borderlands – Produced by Borderland Inclusive Growth Deal

Transport Scotland evaluation of the existing line has revealed the wide-ranging nature of the impacts in just the first two years of operation (since 2015/16). Only two years of data is likely to vastly underreport the full impacts - major rail infrastructure would typically take five to ten years for the full effects. Impact summary below:

### Connectivity

- 40% of journeys were not previously made.
- In only two years, 15% of survey respondents indicating they had changed employment, and over half indicating that the line was a factor.
- 90%+ of travel is to/from Edinburgh and beyond.
- 15% of users did not have a car available.

### Modal Shift

- 60% used another mode, of which 64% previously travelled by car.
- 6% of survey respondents had reduced their car ownership.

### Housing

- Housing delivery in Midlothian doubled in years before opening.
- Over 50% of new residents stated the line had been a factor in their decision to move to the area.

### Visitor Economy

- Visitor numbers for Midlothian and Borders attractions increased by 7% in the first half of 2016.
- 70% of tourist and day visitor users said the railway had been a factor in their decision to make the trip.

### Skills/Qualifications/Training

- Applications to Borders College (Galashiels) increased by 74% in 2016/17 compared to the previous year.

**Approach:** Partnership  
**Themes:** Innovative – Flourishing & Resilient  
**Benefits:** Net Zero, jobs, connectivity, housing, skills

## Case Studies

### Case Study: Preparing for Tomorrow Today – Granton Net Zero Housing

As part of the Region's commitment to "net-zero" 75 net-zero carbon homes and three retail units have been developed as part of the Granton D1 initiative.

This is an [Edinburgh Home Demonstrator](#) (EHD) pilot, championed by City Region partner, the City of Edinburgh Council, with support from construction and academic partners. It is part of the region's ambitions to deliver 18,000 affordable homes by 2028.

The project was undertaken in partnership with CCG (Scotland) Ltd, to test this new business model for building affordable, net zero homes. A large proportion of the construction was carried out off-site in a factory setting, reducing the overall time it takes to build the homes.

The homes include zero emissions heating, reducing the risk of fuel poverty for tenants. In addition, this will help reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and support the region's net-zero targets.

The pilot is also supported by a team from Napier Edinburgh University, who are analysing the energy performance of the homes to validate and inform the net-zero carbon strategy for future EHD projects. The EHD project aims to deliver 1000 affordable net-zero carbon homes across the region as part of the City Region Deal.



**Approach:** Partnership  
**Themes:** Innovative – Resilient  
**Benefits:** Net Zero, homes, jobs, model for other developments

# Case Studies

## Case Study: Integrated Regional Employability & Skills (IRES)



IRES is a £25m, 8 year change programme which started in April 2018. Excellent progress is being made towards delivering an additional 14,700 skill improvements; 5,300 people into employment; and a further 500 career enhancements through its 7 themes:

Workforce Mobility (WFM)

Data-Driven Innovation (DDI) Skills Gateway

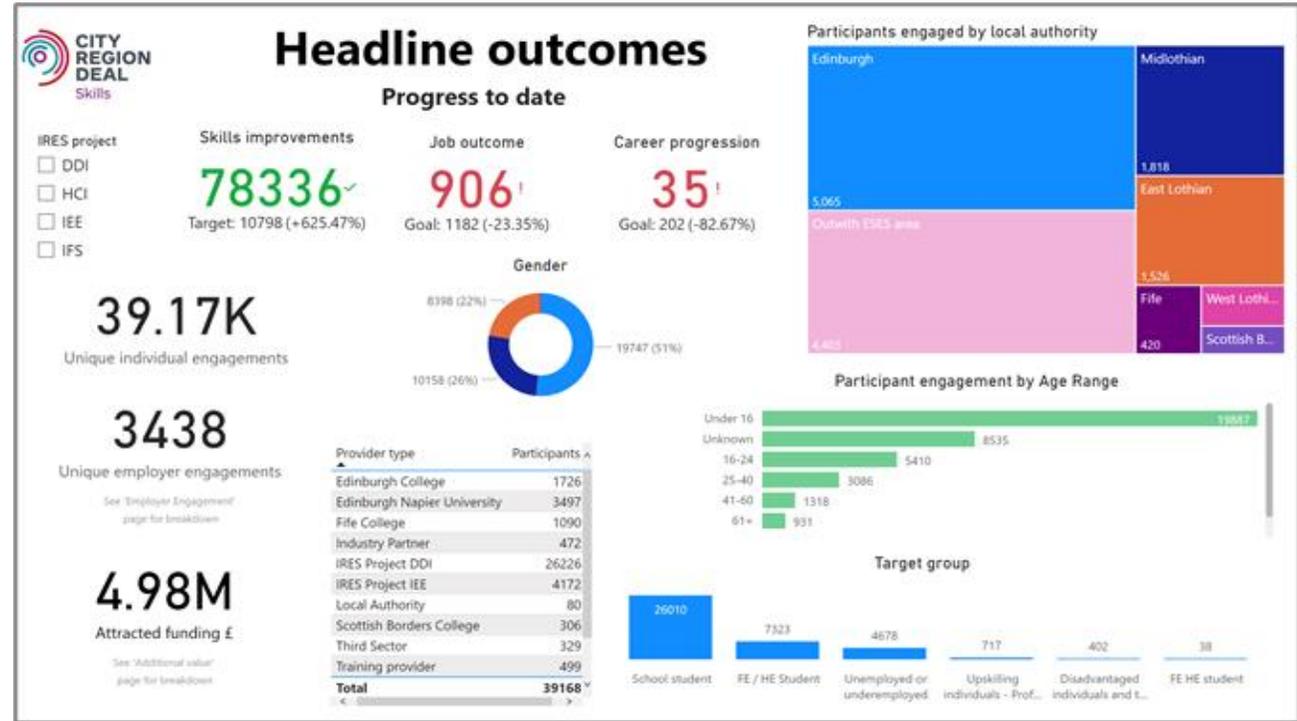
Housing Construction and Infrastructure (HCI) Skills Gateway

Integrated Knowledge Management Systems (IKS)

Intensive family support service (IFSS)

Labour Market Analysis and Evaluation (LMAE)

Integrated Employer Engagement (IEE)



Building on the successful partnerships established through the IRES programme we will support the Regional Prosperity Framework through the establishment of additional Skills Gateways. A Net Zero Accelerator to develop skills linked to green economy jobs including Construction, Energy and Transport; whilst there is a strong ambition for a Health and Social Care Skills Gateway to support innovation and capacity.

Outputs and outcomes are tracked through a bespoke monitoring and evaluation framework and reported using a live dashboard

**Approach:** Partnership  
**Themes:** Resilient – Aligning Skills  
**Benefits:** Skills, Jobs, Poverty Reduction



# Case Studies

## Case Study: Place, People and Planet



### Edinburgh Innovation Hub & Park

- Joint venture between East Lothian Council and Queen Margaret University to deliver the Edinburgh Innovation Hub
- Is funded by UK Government, the Scottish Government, and the Council
- The Hub will drive company growth, support and develop existing businesses and create sustainable new businesses to access a global market for healthy and functional food
- Will be a catalyst for subsequent delivery of wider Edinburgh Innovation Park (EIP)
- The EIP will create a nationally significant centre of knowledge exchange, innovation and high value businesses

### East Lothian's Climate Evolution Zone

As part of the wider greening of the Forth, strategic net zero and just transition opportunities in this Zone include:

- the redevelopment of the Cockenzie Power Station site for net zero infrastructure and strategic employment
- Blindwells new settlement, with potential for expansion into a significant new town
- Sustainable infrastructure, including strategic transport improvements, potential for high speed rail, and green and blue network and nature based solutions

These major green growth projects can also be a catalyst for significant regeneration, and require partnership to enable and accelerate benefits.

### Future of Torness Power Station Site

The future reuse of Torness Power Station site, with its grid connection, coastal location and deep water access, is a significant long term opportunity linked to the wider greening of the Forth. Strategic collaboration and partnership on the future use of this site and wider area could deliver long term benefits.

**Approach:** Partnership  
**Themes:** Flourishing – Innovative – Resilient  
**Benefits:** Green growth and jobs, and biomedical, net zero and just transition innovation, housing delivery, including affordable homes, strategic and sustainable infrastructure, regeneration and place-making,