

Minutes

Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Joint Committee

Microsoft Teams

10.00am, Friday 1 December 2023

Present:

Scottish Borders Council – Councillor Euan Jardine (in the Chair)

City of Edinburgh Council – Councillor Mandy Watt (substituting for Councillor Day)

East Lothian Council – Councillor Norman Hampshire

Fife Council – Councillor David Ross

Regional Enterprise Council – Garry Clark

Higher/Further Education Consortium – Professor Peter Mathieson

In attendance:

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

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

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

Daniel Stevens, City Region Deal PMO, City of Edinburgh Council

Lisa Howden,

Jamie Macrae, Committee Services, City of Edinburgh Council

Ken Gourlay, Executive Director of Enterprise and Environment, Fife Council

Kevin Anderson, Executive Director, Place, Midlothian Council

Jamie Robertson, Strategic Transport Manager, City of Edinburgh Council

Adam Dunkerley, Integrated Regional Employability & Skills and Skills Development
Scotland

Jo Buckley, Chief Executive Officer, Impact Scotland

Ronnie Bowie, Impact Scotland

Jessica Monsen, Impact Scotland

1. Minutes

Decision

To approve the minute of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Joint Committee of 1 September 2023 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 Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal progress report provided an indication of progress across the City Region Deal programme. In this update, the overall status was assigned as “Green”. There were no actions required from 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.)

4. A720 Sheriffhall six-monthly update

An update was provided on A720 Sheriffhall Roundabout project, which was being delivered by Transport Scotland as part of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland (ESES) City Region Deal.

Following the undertaking of a Public Local Inquiry (PLI) for the proposed Scheme in early-2023, the independent Reporter’s report was issued to the Scottish Government on 10 October 2023. The Scottish Government was now taking the necessary time to consider the recommendations within the independent Reporter’s

report to inform a decision on whether or not to proceed to complete the statutory process for the project as promoted.

Decision

To note the progress update provided below that, following conclusion of the Public Local Inquiry (PLI) for the project, the Scottish Government was now taking the necessary time to consider the recommendations within the independent Reporter's report to inform a decision on whether or not to proceed to complete the statutory process for the project as promoted.

(Reference – report by the Director of Major Projects, Transport Scotland, submitted.)

5. Bus Partnership Fund Strategic Business Case

A verbal update was provided on the Bus Partnership Fund Strategic Business Case, which was submitted to the Joint Committee earlier in the year. Since then, it was taken to Scottish Government and Transport Scotland as part of the gateway review to proceed to the next stage. This was successful and funding had been awarded for the next stage of the project. A commitment of £1.7 million had been made to deliver the schemes.

Decision

To note the update.

6. West Edinburgh Transport Improvement Plan Consultation Findings

A presentation was provided on the West Edinburgh Transport Improvements Programme (WETIP). Details were provided of the proposals made in the consultation, which ran from 13 July 2023 for 8 weeks, and involved six face to face workshops and wider stakeholder engagement via email. It was promoted via letter drops, radio advertising, social media/online advertising, flyers and on various websites. 602 responses were received. In summary, the consultation found that existing bus users were positive about potential journey time savings and reliability improvements along the A8/A89 as proposed. Discussions with bus operators had highlighted just how big a barrier network congestion was to their operations. Active travel improvements scored positively among existing users.

Decision

To note the presentation.

7. Culture Programme Annual Progress Update

A presentation was provided on the work taking place to deliver the Dunard Centre, Edinburgh first purpose-built concert hall in more than a century. The building, just off

St Andrew's Square would become home to the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and the Edinburgh International Festival. It would also be a vibrant creative hub for the community. Details were provided of the site, where demolition of the old office building was being carried out level by level. An important aspect going forward would be linking, through the City Region Deal, this cultural strand with the existing transport and tourism strands. Details were also provided of the community engagement programme, which would connect with audiences year-round, with an impact far beyond Edinburgh.

Decision

To note the presentation.

8. Integrated Regional Employability and Skills (IRES) Programme 2023 Annual Report – Look Forward

The Integrated Regional Employability and Skills (IRES) Programme 2023 Annual Report was presented. In order to chart the progress of activity and performance against established targets, the IRES Project Management Office (PMO) had implemented a comprehensive system for tracking and reporting results, which was recognised as sector leading and had influenced how Benefits Realisation is conducted across the wider aspects of the Deal.

The IRES PMO planned to begin investigating how the activity could be resourced once the current round of funding was complete in March 2027. It was proposed that options be explored on how to more closely align the duration of the IRES programme with the 15-year term of the deal as a whole, which would ensure that opportunities were fully realised and risks mitigated across the ESES City Region Deal.

Decision

- 1) To note the progress made by the IRES Programme in establishing the culture of collaboration in relevant skills areas.
- 2) To acknowledge the significant importance of the IRES Programme. As a £25m component of a £1.5bn Deal, the impact of the IRES programme went well beyond its financial worth and its role was essential in providing the framework for the wider Deal to maximise inclusive growth outcomes.
- 3) To support the IRES Board to continue to lead the way by driving the strategic direction for regional skills projects.
- 4) To support the IRES Board to work with UK and Scottish Governments to identify additional allocation for IRES, beyond 2027 to bring it in line with the investment for the rest of the Deal.

- 5) To remit the IRES PMO to investigate how alternative funding streams (such as UKSPF, or replacement funds) and approaches flowing from the Withers' Review could be used to implement future regional skills projects; and explore the options for how regional, collaborative skills projects and the mechanism to collect and distribute regional funds going forward would be managed.

(Reference – report by the Chief Executive Officer, Fife Council and IRES Board Chair, submitted.)