

Minutes

Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Joint Committee

Microsoft Teams

10.00am, Friday 1 March 2024

Present:

City of Edinburgh Council – Councillor Cammy Day

East Lothian Council – Councillor Andrew Forrest

Fife Council – Councillor David Ross

West Lothian Council - Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick (Chair)

Midlothian Council – Councillor Russell Imrie

Regional Enterprise Council – Garry Clark

Higher/Further Education Consortium – Professor Peter Mathieson

In attendance:

Andrew Kerr, Chief Executive, City of Edinburgh 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 Hanna, City Region Deal PMO, City of Edinburgh Council

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

David Baxter, City Regions Deal PMO, 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

Daniel Baigrie, Committee Services, City of Edinburgh Council

Carol Connolly, Executive Director of Place, Fife Council

Jenni Craig, Service Director Customer & Communities, Scottish Borders Council

Fiona Clandillon, Head of Development, Midlothian Council

Gordon Mole, Head of Business and Employability Fife Council

Jarmo Eskelinen, Executive Director, Data-Driven Innovation Initiative, The University of Edinburgh

Craig McCorrison, Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration, West Lothian Council

Richard Lloyd-Bithell, Service Director, Finance and Procurement, City of Edinburgh Council

Simon Chapple, Head of Data Technology, and IoT Programme Lead, The University of Edinburgh

Steve Taylor, IoT Programme Manager, The University of Edinburgh.

Tommy Lawson, Schools Technology Advisor, Midlothian Council

1. Appointments

The Joint Committee was asked to make appointments to the roles of Convener, Vice-Convener and Chair of the Elected Member Oversight Committee.

Decision

- 1) To appoint Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick as Convener.
- 2) To appoint Councillor Cammy Day as Vice-Convener.
- 3) To appoint Councillor Kirsteen Sullivan as Chair of the Elected Member Oversight Committee.
- 4) To record the committee's thanks to Councillor Euan Jardine, as previous Convener and Councillor Euan Robson as previous Chair of the Elected Member Oversight Committee.

2. Minutes

Decision

To approve the minute of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Joint Committee of 1 December 2023 as a correct record.

3. Joint Committee 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.)

4. City Region Deal Progress Report

The Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal progress report gave 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.

This progress report was being used across the City Region Deal's governance structure to monitor progress across all aspects of the City Region Deal. It was updated and shared with Government on a weekly basis and was taken to all Board meetings. A RAG (Red, Amber, Green) scale is assigned to programmes and

projects by the Programme Management Office (PMO), as well as scores for strategic added value.

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. Data Driven Innovation Programme Annual Update

This report reviewed the progress in delivery of the Data Driven Innovation (DDI) initiative in the period to July 2023. The initiative remained one of the single biggest innovation investments in UK academic institutions and was designed to enhance the data capability of the region, drive economic growth, social change and inform and improve public services

Decision

- 1) To note the progress to date in the delivery of the DDI Programme.
- 2) To endorse efforts to secure long-term funding for the Data Skills Gateway initiative.
- 3) To endorse efforts to ensure the success of the Internet of Things (IoT) in schools initiative.
- 4) To promote the successful delivery of the portfolio of DDI initiatives identified in the Regional Prosperity Framework (RPF) Delivery Plan; and
- 5) To support the ambition to utilise the CRD Benefits Realisation Plan to build evidence to back up future innovation investment for the region.

(Reference – report by the DDI Programme Director, Edinburgh University, submitted.)

6. Data Driven Innovation – Internet of Things Schools Project Update

This report updated committee on progress made by the Data Driven Innovation (DDI) Internet of Things (IoT) in Schools project. A presentation was previously provided to the Joint Committee on 3 December 2021 and a video showcasing examples such as work at Addiewell Primary school was included in the ESES City Region Deal Annual Report 22- 23. The project aimed to deliver the IoT in Schools service to the majority of schools across the ESES City Region.

Decision

- 1) To note the progress made by the IoT in Schools project to complete the rollout of the service to all primary and secondary schools in West Lothian establishing pilot projects across all other authorities.
- 2) To acknowledge the great effort made by students, teachers, support teams, and other local authority staff across all ESES City Region Local Authorities to progress the project to this stage.
- 3) To note that planning is commencing for wider rollouts across Fife, the Scottish Borders, East Lothian, Midlothian, and the City of Edinburgh following the completion of their respective pilot projects.
- 4) To note that a further progress report to be presented in six months.
- 5) Members are encouraged to view the three case study videos from pilot projects, which are on the IoT in Schools website. These demonstrate the benefits that the IoT in Schools service will bring to schools across the ESES City Region Deal area.

(Reference – report by the Head of Data Technology, and IoT Programme Lead, The University of Edinburgh, submitted.)

7. City Regions Deal Programme Benefits Realisation – Six-monthly Update

The City Region Deal EMO presented an update on the Benefits Realisation. Measures including unemployment, active participation and the number of job vacancies posted were considered.

The Integrated Regional Employment and Skills (IRES) Programme had been a success throughout the first 5 years and had exceeded its KPIs. The ESES region was projected to continue to have need for significant skills interventions to support upskilling and reskilling of the labour market. For the long-term health of both deal interventions and the ESES economy, extending the delivery lifespan of the IRES project was noted to be a priority.

Decision

To note the presentation.

8. Fife Industrial Innovation Investment Programme

This paper sought approval for the third and final tranche of investment (years 7 – 10) of the Fife Industrial Innovation Investment (i3) Programme. The Fife i3 Programme was a ten-year investment programme in innovation, business property and employment land in Fife.

Decision

- 1) To approve the Summary Business Case (SBC) included as an Appendix to this report.
- 2) To note that the Full Business Case (FBC) was approved by Fife Council's Cabinet Committee on 11 January 2024, The Full Business Case is confidential and was approved under "NOT FOR PUBLICATION by virtue of paragraphs 8 & 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973". The approval confirms Fife Council's commitment of the resource required for deliver.
- 3) To note that this paper follows the Full Business Case for the Fife i3 Programme, which was approved by Joint Committee on 1 March 2019, and the Full Business Case for Tranche 2, which was approved on 5 March 2020.

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

9. A701 Relief Road and A702 Spur Road

As set out within the adopted Midlothian Local Development Plan (MLDP), investment in enabling transport infrastructure is required to support a range of housing and employment uses along the A701 Corridor. This investment in enabling infrastructure was also required to support the continuing expansion of the Midlothian Science Zone. Land was allocated in the MLDP (2017) and policy support given to development in line with the Bush Framework Masterplan, which was a central component of unlocking new investment opportunities in bioscience and enhancing economic performance across the City Region.

Decision

- 1) To note the revised estimate of the total capital costs of the project of £68.000 million and that this exceeds the current approved £21.774m capital expenditure budget in the Midlothian Council's General Services Capital Plan by £46.226m.
- 2) To note that a revised assessment of the external funding currently available to finance the capital expenditure equates to £14.072m. Including the currently approved utilisation of £7.694m of the Council's Capital Fund, this brings the total committed funding to the project to £21.766m.
- 3) To note that the funding gap associated with the A701 Improvement Programme therefore stands at £46.234m (excluding potential future developer contributions).
- 4) To note the proposed prioritisation of the Bush Loan Junction (Phase 1) and Sustainable Transport Corridor (Phase 2), as outlined in this report.
- 5) To note that the prioritisation outlined above aligns with priorities set out in Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal business plan and needs of partners including University of Edinburgh.

- 6) To note Midlothian Council's continued commitment to deliver the remaining phases (phases 3-8) should funding and delivery mechanisms become available and its commitment to obtaining planning permission for the project by 2026.
- 7) To note continued efforts to obtain funding for the wider enabling infrastructure project through UKG and other available funding streams.
- 8) To agree the economic dimension of the scheme represents value for money and the programme has identified the resources to deliver the next stage of the project.

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

10. Bus Partnership Fund

This report updated Committee on the progress on the Edinburgh and South East Scotland corridors Bus Partnership Fund programme. Funded through the Scottish Government's £500m Bus Partnership Fund (BPF) to support bus priority interventions, a Strategic Business Case (SBC) was approved by Transport Scotland in November 2023 allocating £1.06m funding to support the next stages of the programme up to end March 2024. Following the publication of the Scottish Budget on 19 December 2023, Transport Scotland (on 16 January 2024) wrote to The City of Edinburgh Council to confirm that the £500m Bus Partnership Fund will be paused for Financial Year 2024/25 due to budgetary constraints. No announcement had been made that the programme will recommence in financial year 2025/26.

Decision

- 1) Note that a Strategic Business Case for Bus Partnership Fund intervention measures was approved by Transport Scotland November 2023.
- 2) Note that a grant award of £1.06m was secured to deliver the next stages of the project to end March 2024 to cover the develop an Outline Business Case, scoping of Accelerated Schemes (including bus priority at traffic signals), replacement of A90 Queue Management System and project management costs.
- 3) Note that the Scottish Government has announced that as part of draft Scottish budget for 2024/25 funding allocated to the BPF fund will be paused.
- 4) Recommends the Convener of the Joint Committee writes to the Cabinet Secretary for Transport seeking assurance that the BPF will return in FY25/26 and commits Scottish Government and Transport Scotland resources for FY24/25 to work with officers to advise on development of future bids and to ensure all opportunities are being explored to ensure workstreams are remobilised soon after the anticipated relaunch of the fund in April 25.

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