

Minutes

Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Joint Committee

**Edinburgh Futures Institute, 1 Lauriston Pl, Edinburgh EH3
9EF / Microsoft Teams**

10.00am, Friday 7 June 2024

Present:

West Lothian Council - Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick (Convener)

City of Edinburgh Council – Councillor Cammy Day

East Lothian Council – Councillor Norman Hampshire

Fife Council – Councillor David Ross

Midlothian Council – Councillor Russell Imrie

Scottish Borders Council – Councillor Euan Jardine

Regional Enterprise Council – Garry Clark and Neil McLean

Higher/Further Education Consortium – Professor Peter Mathieson

In attendance:

Andrew Kerr, Chief Executive, City of Edinburgh Council

Monica Patterson, Chief Executive, East Lothian Council

Dr Grace Vickers, Chief Executive Officer, Midlothian Council

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

Kevin Anderson, Executive Director, Place, Midlothian 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

Lisa Howden, City Region Deal PMO, City of Edinburgh Council

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

Jamie Robertson, Strategic Transport Manager, City of Edinburgh Council

Jamie Macrae, Committee Services, City of Edinburgh Council

Peter Forsyth, Roads Asset and Regulatory Manager, East Lothian Council
Morag Millar, Service Manager, Place Programmes & Policy, Fife Council
Jenni Craig, Service Director Customer & Communities, Scottish Borders Council
Ewan Doyle, Workforce Mobility Manager, Scottish Borders Council
Craig McCorrison, Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration,
West Lothian Council
Adam Dunkerley, Integrated Regional Employability & Skills and Skills Development
Scotland
Mark Baillie, Data-Driven Innovation Initiative, The University of Edinburgh
John Scott, Data-Driven Innovation Initiative, The University of Edinburgh
Lynn McMath, The University of Edinburgh
Gavin Dyet, Head of Design Team 2, Major Projects Directorate, Transport Scotland

1. Minutes

Decision

To approve the minute of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Joint Committee of 1 March 2024 as a correct record.

2. 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.)

3. 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

- 1) To note the progress across the City Region Deal Programme.
- 2) To request a simple guide for members on achievements of the City Region Deal, including projects, skills and relationships.

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

4. A720 Sheriffhall Roundabout Six-Monthly Update

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

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.

Decision

To note the progress update 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 Project Manager, Major Projects Directorate, Transport Scotland, submitted.)

5. West Edinburgh Transport Improvement Programme – Outline Business Case

An update was provided on the West Edinburgh Transport Improvement Programme (WETIP). WETIP would advance an essential package public transport and active travel interventions which would: help provide early sustainable development; support mode shift; and target improvement in air quality. Furthermore, the interventions would also provide long-term resilience and support strong connectivity between neighbouring authorities, particularly by improving public transport journey times between West Lothian and Edinburgh. This would increase the supply of labour to help meet the demand required to deliver the full economic potential of West Edinburgh.

Following the conclusion of the Outline Business Case (OBC), the project would advance to the Final Business Case (FBC) stage (Stage 3) which would include the following activities: finalisation of detailed technical designs; publication of all statutory notices; publication of the FBC; and principal contractor appointment.

Decision

- 1) To approve the WETIP Outline Business Case (OBC).
- 2) To note that West Lothian Council, the City of Edinburgh Council and Transport Scotland had all scrutinised and informed the finalisation of the OBC.
- 3) To note that the OBC concluded a positive case for investment, however, the delivery of the full scope of interventions identified had a total estimated cost of £72.3m, including 44% optimism bias. The approved WETIP budget was £36.6 million.
- 4) To note that a “scheme prioritisation” exercise had been undertaken to assess which measures would have the greatest immediate impact and which could

be delivered in later tranches through other programmes. Consequently, a core package of interventions that could be delivered within the existing WETIP budget allocation of £36.6m had been identified.

- 5) To note that the procurement of the required specialist multidisciplinary consultancy support to assist the project team in developing the detailed designs, promotion of the necessary statutory consents, the associated consultation exercise and the delivery of the Full Business Case (FBC) during the next stage of the programme was now underway.
- 6) To note that the project would now progress to the next stage which would include the promotion of required Roads Orders and delivery of Final Business Case.

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

6. City Region Deal Transport Theme Annual Update

An update was provided on progress of the major transport investments in the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal and those overseen by the Transport Appraisal Board (TAB) over the past year.

Updates were provided on the following projects: Bus Partnership Fund; new A1 junction at Queen Margaret University; the A701 Relief Road and A702 Spur Road at Easter Bush; and the Workforce Mobility Programme. Details were provided of how regional partners were working to take forward opportunities to contribute to the delivery of cross-boundary projects through the delivery of the Regional Prosperity Framework and the Regional Transport Strategy.

Decision

- 1) To note the progress that had been made towards the delivery of regional transport projects and relevant strategies that related to the City Region Deal, overseen by the Transport Appraisal Board (TAB) over the past year.
- 2) To note that the six local authority regional Directors of Place had agreed to take a regional approach to EV charging procurement, and to contribute £5000 for taking this forward. Reports were being prepared to be considered by the nine relevant Committees, where required, within partner authorities in the coming months.
- 3) To note that the report by the Chair, Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Transport Appraisal Board, did not include an update on the West Edinburgh Transport Appraisal (WETIP) project, as the Outline Business Case was a separate report to this Committee, and this included information on recent progress.

- 4) To note that the A720 Sheriffhall grade separation project was entirely managed and delivered by Transport Scotland and there was a separate agenda item specific to it at this meeting of the Joint Committee.
- 5) To request that a letter be issued to the Transport Minister asking for clarity in relation to the approach to the Bus Partnership Fund.
- 6) To request that a report be brought forward on charging points.

(Reference – report by the Chair, Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Transport Appraisal Board, submitted.)

7. Regional Prosperity Framework - Annual Update

An update was provided on key progress made on the delivery of the programmes and projects identified within the Regional Prosperity Framework Delivery Plan.

In contrast to much of the rest of Scotland, the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region continued to experience rapid population and economic growth. Accommodating this growth was becoming an increasing challenge for many of the Local Authorities and an approach to both reflect this challenge and deliver sustainable growth in the region was proposed.

Decision

- 1) To note the report by the Senior Responsible Officer, Regional Prosperity Framework, and progress made on the Regional Prosperity Framework Delivery Plan.
- 2) To approve the proposed approach to continue to deliver sustainable growth in the ESES City Region.

(Reference – report by the Senior Responsible Officer, Regional Prosperity Framework, submitted.)