

# FIFE ECONOMY PARTNERSHIP

## EXECUTIVE GROUP MEETING

FRIDAY 8 DECEMBER 2017

### NOTE OF MEETING/ACTION POINTS

**Present:** Stephen Doran (Chair); Colin Brown, Burness Paull; Cllr Altany Craik, Fife Council; Danny Cusick, Scottish Enterprise; Stephen Edmiston, Ingenico (from item 2); Derek Watson, University of St Andrews; Robin Presswood, Gordon Mole, George Sneddon, Ross Mackenzie and Alison Laughlin, Fife Council.

**Apologies:** Hugh Hall, Fife College; Alan Mitchell, Fife Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise; Sandra Montador-Stewart, Fife Council; Karen Jackson, Scottish Government.

#### 1. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- *Membership Matrix* – Stephen D would write to each Delivery Group chair to ask if their current membership was meeting their needs and if not, what actions would be taken to fill any geographical and sectoral gaps.
- *Innovation and Internationalisation Delivery Groups* – chairs had now been appointed.
- *Governance Structure* – a summary of FC's governance structure was circulated to the Group in September.
- *Ministerial Business Breakfast* - Representatives from each of the Delivery Groups attended the breakfast. Discussion on the proposals for 2018 was deferred to the end of the meeting.
- *Eden Campus* – Simon Wallace (SE) had been asked to make contact with Derek Watson. Quarterly meetings were to be arranged between SDI, FC and the University.
- *SE contact for ESES City Deal* - Ian Blewett (SE) is assisting with the final business case for the Industrial Estates Regeneration Programme.
- *Innovation Engagement Activities* - Hugh Hall had joined the Innovation Group and the action to develop a programme of activities had been passed to the Group.
- *STEM Action Plan* – would be presented to the Group at a future meeting.

#### 2. OPERATIONAL ISSUES

##### **Delivery Group Membership and Activity Update**

An update of each group's activities had been circulated previously. Robin commended how well the groups were going. He highlighted the new 'Delivering Differently' project targeting employability support to people with mental health issues. The need for more investment in innovation and internationalisation was stressed.

##### **BiFab**

Danny Cusick informed the Group that a solution had been secured to avert the company's immediate closure and work was now being carried out by SE, the Scottish Government and BiFab to secure a long-term solution.

### 3. IMPLEMENTING FIFE'S ECONOMIC STRATEGY

#### Investment Theme

Colin Brown gave a presentation on the group's membership and meetings held to date. He outlined some of the investment-related issues facing Fife including competition with Glasgow and Edinburgh and negative publicity. It was agreed that the Partnership had a role in helping communicate positive messages about Fife to opinion makers.

#### The Fife Partnership's Plan for Fife

Robin Presswood outlined the newly approved Plan for Fife. He explained that the new Plan was closely aligned to the priorities of Fife's Economic Strategy (FES). Governance arrangements for the Plan were still to be agreed; these may involve changes in the way in which the FEP connects with Fife Partnership. A briefing reviewing the alignment of FES and the Plan for Fife would be circulated to members.

#### Edinburgh and Tay Cities City Region Business Leadership Proposals

Gordon Mole informed the group that both the Edinburgh and Tay Cities City Region Deals were looking for nominations for respective Business Leadership Fora to provide advice, oversight and steerage. It was agreed former FEP members would be suggested; Robin Presswood and Stephen Doran would draw up short-lists.

### 4. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

It was agreed that a FEP communications strategy would be discussed at the next meeting.

### 5. MINISTERIAL BUSINESS BREAKFAST

Stephen Edmiston explained that whilst the November business breakfast was well organised and attended, there had not been enough time for discussion. It was agreed that next year's event on Wednesday 14 November would have a smaller audience and shorter agenda with fewer questions. It was also agreed to organise a separate forum with MPs and MSPs.

### 6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- UK Government Industrial Strategy White Paper – a copy of SE's briefing would be circulated to members

#### ACTION POINTS

Meeting Date	Agenda Item No	Action	Owner	By Date
8 Sept 17	3	The STEM Action Plan to be presented to FEP Executive.	DMB	16 March or 8 June 2018
8 Dec 17	1	Delivery Group chairs to be asked to review their membership to ensure appropriate geographical and sectoral coverage	SD	31 Dec 2017

Meeting Date	Agenda Item No	Action	Owner	By Date
8 Dec 17	1	Quarterly meetings about the Eden Campus to be arranged between SDI, FC and the University.	RM	31 Dec 2017
8 Dec 17	3	A paper reviewing the alignment of Fife's Economic Strategy and the Plan for Fife would be circulated to members.	AL	22 Dec 2017
8 Dec 17	3	Short-lists of business leaders to be approached to join the ESES and Tay Cities City Deal Business Fora would be drawn up.	RP & SD  RP & SD	ESES – 11 Nov 2017  Tay Cities - 31 Dec 2017
8 Dec 17	4	A paper outlining options for an FEP communications strategy would be brought to the next meeting.	RP	16 Mar 2018
8 Dec 17	5	A proposal for holding an annual forum with MSPs and MPs would be brought to the group.	RP	16 Mar 2018
8 Dec 17	6	A copy of SE's briefing on the UK Government's Industrial Strategy would be circulated to members.	DC	22 Dec 2018