

# FIFE ECONOMY PARTNERSHIP

## EXECUTIVE GROUP MEETING

FRIDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2017

### NOTE OF MEETING/ACTION POINTS

**Present:** Stephen Doran, Raytheon; Cllr Altany Craik, Fife Council; Derek Watson, University of St Andrews; Hugh Hall, Fife College; Danny Cusick, Scottish Enterprise; Alan Mitchell, Fife Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise; Robin Presswood, Derek M Brown, Peter Wright, George Sneddon and Morag Millar, Fife Council.

**Apologies:** Stephen Edmiston, Ingenico; Sandra Montador-Stewart, Fife Council; Karen Jackson, Scottish Government.

#### 1. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- *Investment Group* – Stephen Doran had met with the Chair, Colin Brown, and is to attend the next Delivery Group meeting
- *Innovation and Internationalisation Delivery Groups* – no chairs had yet been appointed; the Group agreed with Stephen Doran’s recommendation that chairs were required to drive focus in these areas of the economic strategy. Stephen Doran and Stephen Edmiston will meet with potential chairs to discuss the role requirements.
- A summary of Fife Council’s new governance structure would be circulated to members.
- John Penman and Ian Campbell had agreed to take on the roles of Manufacturing and Inclusive Growth Champions respectively.

#### 2. IMPLEMENTING THE NEW FIFE ECONOMY PARTNERSHIP STRUCTURE

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

An update of the activities of each of the delivery groups had been provided. The results of the 2017 Fife Trade Survey were tabled. It was noted that there was an overlap between the delivery groups on transport. Alison Irvine, Transport Scotland had agreed to attend the Investment group annually; members from the digital sector were still being sought for the group.

##### **FEP Business Breakfast with Paul Wheelhouse MSP, Minister for Business, Innovation & Energy**

It was agreed that invitations would be sent out as soon as possible to members of the delivery groups, with a request for questions for the Minister. It was also agreed that the agenda would include a presentation on the changes made to the Fife Economy Partnership governance and the rationale for these. Each of the delivery groups would pose a question from the suggestions received from their membership.

Initial questions discussed included:

- Congestions on trains and roads into Fife is hampering inflows of workers and trade. How do the Scottish Government's connectivity proposals impact on the Fife economy?
- How the Programme for Government translates into the Fife economy?
- How does Inclusive Growth assist with the development and growth of the Fife economy?
- How is the Scottish Government encouraging the dispersal of investment into the weaker areas of Scotland? E.g. public sector jobs; through the regional partnership proposals from the Enterprise and Skills Review?
- What is the progress on the Tay Cities Deal? How is the Minister addressing the risks arising from a lengthy negotiation process?

### **3. IMPLEMENTING FIFE'S ECONOMIC STRATEGY - INNOVATION THEME**

#### **Tay Cities Deal Bid - Eden Campus**

Derek Watson outlined the background to the acquisition of the Campus and the development proposals. There was discussion around the potential loss of investors as a result of lengthy delays to the negotiations. The critical role in the STEM agenda for Fife was also discussed and the linkage to the Fife network of enterprise centres. Danny Cusick offered SDI support to assist with negotiations with potential investors.

#### **Edinburgh City Deal – Innovation/Industrial estates**

Morag Millar gave an update on progress with the Deal and outlined its proposals for industrial regeneration and innovation in Fife. There was discussion around the need to develop stronger joint working with not just the Universities but also the Scottish innovation centres. George Sneddon and Hugh Hall would work up proposals for business engagement linked to the requirements of Fife's businesses. Danny Cusick offered support from SE's commercialisation team to assist with the final business case for the Industrial Estate investment programme.

#### **Innovation Delivery Group update**

George Sneddon gave a verbal update on the first meeting of the group whose role will be to coordinate and oversee a new programme of engagement in innovation. There was discussion about how to include the Regional Skills Investment Plan. It was agreed that better understanding of the innovation landscape in Fife and the best ways to maximise it is required.

#### **Innovation: Fife's STEM Strategy**

Derek Brown gave a presentation explaining the process to develop an action plan and outcomes, not review the STEM strategy developed in 2016. Joint activity with the Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) Board is required to increase the number of employers engaging with STEM activity. Coordinators are also being appointed to work with Primary and Secondary schools in Fife to increase their engagement. An action plan is also being developed from the 15-24 Learner Review. The draft action for STEM will be presented at a future FEP Executive Meeting. Any further information required or specific questions to be sent to [DerekM.Brown@Fife.gov.uk](mailto:DerekM.Brown@Fife.gov.uk)

#### 4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Fife Chamber has a meeting with Keith Brown MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure, Investment and Cities on 11<sup>th</sup> October to discuss its members' connectivity issues.
- Stephen Doran outlined his new job from 2<sup>nd</sup> October and his intention to remain as FEP chair.

#### ACTION POINTS

Meeting Date	Agenda Item No	Action	Owner	By Date
23 Jun 17	1	Membership Matrix to be developed.	SMS	8 Dec 17
23 Jun 17	2	Chair and Vice Chair discussion with Delivery Group members identified as potential chairs.	SD/SE	8 Dec 17
8 Sept 17	1	Chairs to be appointed for the Internationalisation and Innovation Groups.	GYS	8 Dec 17
8 Sept 17	1	Summary of Fife Council governance structure to be circulated to members of the FEP Executive Group.	AL	22 Sep 17
8 Sept 17	2	Invite members of the delivery groups to the Breakfast with the Minister, along with requests for discussion questions.	AL	22 Sep 17
8 Sept 17	3	Danny Cusick to connect SDI support with the Eden Campus project manager.	DC	22 Sep 17
8 Sept 17	3	Danny Cusick to provide contact for SE commercialisation support for final business case for Industrial Estates Regeneration Programme.	DC	22 Sep 17
8 Sept 17	3	A proposal for Innovation Engagement activities would be worked up.	GYS/HH/AL	8 Dec 17
8 Sept 17	3	The STEM Action Plan to be presented to FEP Executive.	DMB	March 2018