

FIFE ECONOMY PARTNERSHIP

EXECUTIVE GROUP MEETING

FRIDAY 16 MARCH 2018

NOTE OF MEETING/ACTION POINTS

Present: Stephen Doran (Chair); Stephen Edmiston, Ingenico; John Penman, Fife Fabrications; Stephen White, Scottish Government; Lynn Anderson, Poverty Alliance; Geoff Morris, University of St Andrews; Hugh Hall, Fife College; Alan Mitchell, Fife Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise; Lawrence Wyper, Scottish Enterprise; Robin Presswood, Gordon Mole, George Sneddon, Sandra Montador-Stewart, Fife Council.

Apologies: Cllr Altany Craik, Fife Council; Derek Watson, University of St Andrews; Danny Cusick, Scottish Enterprise.

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTION AND MATTERS ARISING

- *Engagement with Fife Partnership* – RP advised that Keith Winter (Fife Council) and Katherine Leys (SNH) had been appointed theme leads for the Plan for Fife's Inclusive Growth and Jobs Priority. One or both would attend a meeting of the FEP Executive Group on an annual basis.
- *Meeting with MPs and MSPs* – it was agreed that a joint FEP/Fife Chamber meeting with MPs and MSPs would be arranged in advance of the November Ministerial Breakfast.
- *Chair and Vice Chair* – SD advised that both he and SE were planning to step down from their roles as Chair and Vice Chair during 2018.
- *Meeting with OFP/DYW* – SD highlighted a meeting he had with OFP and DYW chairs which identified areas of overlap and looked at ways of further collaboration between the three. There is to be a follow-up session in Q2 to which RP would be invited to attend.

2. OPERATIONAL ISSUES

Delivery Group Activity Update – SE and SMS provided an update on the delivery groups activities. It was noted that progress towards developing delivery plans was being made by each of the groups. Business cases have now been prepared to commit the full £6m allocation for the Fife Task Force and the Employer Engagement Delivery Group is feeding in to a regional Integrated Employer Engagement offer through City Deal.

3. IMPLEMENTING FIFE'S ECONOMIC STRATEGY

Inclusive Growth theme (excluding employability)

- *Living Wage* - Lynn Anderson, Poverty Alliance provided an outline of the Living Wage Foundation which was launched in 2011 and offers employer accreditation to companies that choose to pay the living rate. The Fairer Fife Commission's Fairness Matters Report proposes a town by town approach towards making Fife a Living Wage area with

Glenrothes agreed as a pilot by the Fife Partnership. Members were asked to support the initiative and help spread the message out to businesses.

- *Town Centres* - SMS provided an update on progress towards the inclusive growth ambitions relating to town centres. Work being undertaken in town centres includes joint activities with the three BID companies; improving the built heritage and delivering streetscape improvements; and using Fife Council's Town Centre Capital Fund along with other sources of funding to drive forward town centre development.
- *Fife College Regional Outcome Agreement* - HH outlined the key priorities for Fife College which include upscaling the higher education provision and creating stronger relationships with universities. Greater emphasis is to be placed on specific sectors including care, digital, business, engineering and construction and the level of engagement with Fife's businesses is to be improved. The College's SDS Apprenticeship programmes are to be developed in line with business needs and entrepreneurial skills are to be embedded within all curriculum provision.

4. CITY DEALS UPDATE

Geoff Morris, University of St Andrews outlined the University's plans for Eden Campus with the main driving factors being escalating utility costs and the University's carbon reduction aspirations. The Biomass plant has now been operational for a year and was a winner of a 2017 Scottish Green Energy Awards. City Deal funding is being sought for various elements of the site as a whole and social fund contributions will be sought from all tenants. Members of Fife Economy Partnership were asked to act as ambassadors, particularly if they have knowledge of any companies who would be interested in locating within the site.

5. COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

SMS outlined the draft communications strategy which was agreed. It was agreed that the strategy should ensure linkages with the communications plans of Developing the Young Workforce and the Opportunities Fife Partnership and promote the work of the delivery groups. Members were asked to share the strategy with their respective organisations and ensure that the appropriate linkages are made.

6. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

Following discussion on the Economic Development Quarterly Update, it was noted that the reference to the "Scottish Labour Market performing close to record levels" did not include any figures for employment and unemployment and it was agreed that this information should be circulated.

The issue of employer recruitment difficulties was raised and it was agreed that the Employer Engagement Delivery Group should undertake a survey of employers to understand where any difficulties in recruiting lie in order that the Opportunities Fife Partnership could pick this up.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The issue of travellers outside company premises was raised and it was agreed that this should be covered on the agenda for the MP/MSP meeting.

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.	SMS	Jun 18
16 Mar 18	1	Plan for Fife Inclusive Growth and Jobs Lead/s to be invited to an Executive Group meeting on annual basis.	SMS	Mar 18
16 Mar 18	1	Meeting with MPs/MSPs to be arranged	SMS/AM	Nov 18
16 Mar 18	1	RP to be invited to OFP/DYW/FEP Chairs' meeting with OFP/DYW	SD	Jun 18
16 Mar 18	5	Share Communications Strategy with each organisation	All	Jun 18
16 Mar 18	6	Circulate employment and unemployment data as referenced in the Quarterly Economic Update	SMS	Apr 18
16 Mar 18	7	Add "Implementation of legislation relating to travellers" on agenda for MP/MSP meeting	SMS/AM	Aug 18

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

10am-12noon, Friday 8 June – Theme Focus: Internationalisation