

Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership Board

10 June 2021

Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal

Regional Prosperity Framework Consultation Plan

1. Objectives

To attract consultation responses from members of the public, Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal partner organisations, Scottish and UK Governments, regional & national enterprise & commerce agencies, large community groups (Area Partnerships, community councils), local tourism partnerships, industry bodies & professional bodies of the six week consultation on Regional Prosperity Framework (RPF) key themes.

The overarching aim of the RPF consultation is to create a plan for achieving a fairer, more inclusive and sustainable economy with equity, health and wellbeing of citizens at its core – across the City Region Deal area – incorporating the aspirations fed back by stakeholders during the consultation process. The main areas we are focusing on are:

- FLOURISHING – a fairer economy, environment & ecology, households & places
- RESILIENT – workforce, climate responses, infrastructure & buildings
- INNOVATIVE – private sector, third sector & public sector

The RPF will inform future approaches, strategies and policies across sustainability, transport, planning, housing and economic development to enable the region to generate and spread sustainable inclusive growth and to transition to a low carbon economy. In doing so, it seeks to ensure that the success of the region can continue to be realised and that it continues to be a key driver of the Scottish economy. It seeks to identify how regional partners can build on the opportunities created by the City Region Deal.

2. Key dates:

- Approval of RPF sought from City Region Deal Joint Committee Friday 4th June
- If given the go-ahead, partners will issue communications to the media week beginning 7th June in readiness for the consultation commencing on the 14th June
- Consultation and communications activity launch goes live Monday 14th June
- Consultation concludes Monday 26th July
- Theme leads will continue to meet weekly and the Elected Member Oversight Committee monthly.

3. Background

The decision to prepare a Regional Growth Framework was taken in September 2019, prior to COVID-19 and the United Kingdom's exit from

the European Union. Ambitions and action on climate change have also intensified and come more to the fore, with COP26 also due to take place later this year. In a very short period of time there has been significant change in the world that has impacted and will continue to impact our regional economy and our way of life in an unprecedented way.

Our response to these factors is on-going, and the timeline for recovery and nature of renewal is still uncertain. Developing a Regional Framework in this context is challenging. The direction of all strategic policy, strategy and associated interventions is adapting to, and is rapidly being shaped by, these wider circumstances. Our regional ambitions now need to address pre-existing issues as well as current and future challenges and opportunities. We need to be flexible and adaptable in how we collaborate and plan for the future, and our circumstances may rapidly change again.

The Consultation Draft Regional Prosperity Framework has been developed in a consultative and collaborative way with the Regional Enterprise Council and Elected Member Oversight Committee. At this stage, it aims to provide a framework for wider stakeholders to reflect on where the region has come from, to discuss where it is now, and to envision where it should go in future. It also sets out the new ways of working required to deliver regional prosperity.

The Consultation Draft Regional Prosperity Framework signposts, but does not present a fixed view of, the region's future priorities. It sets out to engage people and to stimulate thoughts, ideas, opinions and, importantly, consultation responses, on how the main challenges and opportunities should be addressed, pursuant to the identification of a preferred way forward.

Following the consultation, the final version of the document will change as a result of responses received. It will also be shaped by the strategic context as it evolves over time, to ensure a strategic fit is achieved, including with the new Scottish Government Administration.

**Scottish Borders Council's Executive Director Corporate Improvement
and Economy**