

# FIFE ECONOMY PARTNERSHIP

## EXECUTIVE GROUP MEETING

FRIDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018

### NOTE OF MEETING/ACTION POINTS

**Present:** Stephen Edmiston, Ingenico (Vice Chair); Alan Mitchell, Fife Chamber of Commerce; Stephen Hall, FLEXcon Europe Ltd; Phill Thompson, FEP Innovation Group; Sarah Jardine, Optos Plc; Ian Wilkie, Brand Rex/Leviton; Colin Brown, FEP Investment Group; Keith Winter, Robin Presswood, Gordon Mole, Sandra Montador-Stewart, George Sneddon, Fife Council; Elaine Morrison, Scottish Enterprise; Derek Watson, University of St Andrews.

**Apologies:** Cllr Altany Craik, Fife Council; Michael Longstaffe, FEP Trade Development Group; John Penman, Fife Fabrications Ltd; Ian Palmer, John Fergus & Co Ltd; Hugh Hall, Fife College; Stephen White, Scottish Government.

### WELCOME, INTRODUCTION AND MATTERS ARISING

- Membership Update  
Stephen Edmiston advised that following discussions with potential new members Ian Wilkie and Scott Cairns, Ian was attending today's meeting but Scott has decided not to join the partnership.
- Feedback from meeting with MPs and MSPs  
Alan Mitchell provided an update on the first joint politician's meeting with the Chamber and FEP which had just over 30 in attendance and included three MPs and three MSPs. There was support amongst the politicians for the Levenmouth rail campaign and it was agreed that a letter should be sent to the Transport Minister to support the campaign. It was also agreed that the meeting should be repeated but that different formats should be considered to allow more time for debate. Stephen reminded members that Lesley Laird MP had invited FEP and Chamber members to a meeting with Sir Keir Starmer MP, the shadow BREXIT Minister, on 18<sup>th</sup> September.
- Arrangements for 14 November Ministerial Business Breakfast  
Stephen advised that following a Scottish Government reshuffle Jamie Hepburn MSP now has responsibility for Business, Fair Work and Skills. Although Derek Mackay MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Economy and Fair Work, had also been invited to attend the meeting, he had declined. Members were asked to forward any suggested questions to Sandra Montador-Stewart. Stephen extended his thanks to Fife College for agreeing to sponsor the business breakfast once again at Carnegie Conference Centre.

### IMPLEMENTING FIFE'S ECONOMIC STRATEGY

#### 1. Innovation Group Update

Phill Thompson and George Sneddon provided an update on the work of the Innovation Delivery Group. Membership consists of Thornton Tomasetti, Ingenico, Technip FMC,

Power Photonics, ORE Catapult, Archangels, University of St Andrews, Fife College, Interface, Scottish Enterprise, and Fife Council. The group is open to new members and suggestions from the partnership would be welcomed. The group has met on five occasions and has had presentations from members and guest speakers and also held an innovation master class earlier this week. As innovation requires the right skills to be in place, digital skills and STEM pipelines are high on the agenda for the group. Challenges are around understanding of “innovation”; getting baseline information on current innovation activity; measuring progress; and limited resources to get involved in the implementation of solutions. The group is working with the Scottish Government to build on the Fife Innovation Audit (to be circulated). The delivery plan which sets out the priorities for the group is to be finalised in November. It was noted that there had been good progress made by the group and that more advocates for innovation were required. Potential links to Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Deal were raised.

## **2. Industry 4.0**

Sarah Jardine, Senior Director of Manufacturing, Optos Plc presented her understanding of Industry 4.0 and how Optos has embraced the opportunities it offers. Her key messages were to keep it simple; make it easy to do the right thing; ensure the right culture is in place; and to recognise the importance of incremental steps towards change. Big Data and the Internet of Things provides opportunities for better analysis and more informed decisions. Using algorithms provides opportunities to automate non-value added activities, freeing up time for value added activities. The company has been developing skills and undertaking activities relating to Industry 4.0 as they make commercial sense. Advances in technology are opening up new and more efficient methods of manufacturing products and analysing data, and new revenue streams for manufacturing organisations. Embracing these changes will enable organisations to maintain or increase their competitive edge, grow revenues and profits, and will change the type of job roles in organisations. Sarah offered the opportunity for members to visit the company if they wished to.

## **3. Fife STEM Strategy Performance Framework**

Sandra Montador-Stewart presented the draft Fife STEM Strategy Performance Framework. Fife’s STEM Strategy aims to support the current and future skills needs of the local, regional and national economy and reduce the current STEM skills gaps. Six indicators have been presented for reporting purposes although behind these and feeding into them are additional indicators segmented by gender, subject and school; these will provide a range and depth of information for the six key indicators. The performance framework will be updated annually. The draft performance framework was agreed as proposed at this stage with further examination on the potential for an indicator on demand to be carried out in the future.

## **REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**

### **4. Longannet Task Force**

Members noted that responsibility for overseeing the delivery of the Longannet Task Force Economic Recovery Action Plan had been transferred to the Fife Economy Partnership Executive Group.

## 5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Alan Mitchell informed members that the 2019 Fife Business Awards were now open for applications and submissions and nominations from members were encouraged. Gordon Mole advised that nominations for the 2018 Fife Business Diversity Awards could be submitted until 30 September; the awards criteria would be circulated to members.

Stephen extended his thanks to Robin Presswood both on behalf of the partnership and personally, as Robin leaves Fife Council to take up a new post in Dundee. Robin in turn thanked the business community for helping shape the strategic direction which has contributed to Fife's current strong economic performance.

As the partnership generally moves around venues, members were asked to get in touch with Sandra if they could offer a venue for future partnership meetings.

Members were also asked to forward any suggested questions for the Ministerial breakfast on 14 November to Sandra.

### ACTION POINTS

Meeting Date	Action	Owner	By Date
14 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2018	Letter to be sent to the Transport Minister in support of the Levenmouth Rail campaign.	GM	TBA
14 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2018	Suggestions for topics/questions for Ministerial breakfast on 14 November to be forwarded to <a href="mailto:Sandra.montador-stewart@fife.gov.uk">Sandra.montador-stewart@fife.gov.uk</a>	All	19 Oct
14 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2018	Members to suggest potential new members for the Innovation Group.	All	ASAP
14 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2018	Fife Innovation Audit to be circulated with minute of meeting.	SMS	28 Sep
14 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2018	Contact <a href="mailto:Sandra.montador-stewart@fife.gov.uk">Sandra.montador-stewart@fife.gov.uk</a> if interested in a site visit to Optos Plc	All	End Oct
14 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2018	Consideration to be given to the potential of a STEM indicator on demand.	SMS	End Dec
14 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2018	Fife Business Diversity Awards Criteria to be circulated with note of meeting.	SMS	28 Sep
14 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2018	Offers of venues for partnership meetings to be sent to <a href="mailto:Sandra.montador-stewart@fife.gov.uk">Sandra.montador-stewart@fife.gov.uk</a>	All	End Dec

### DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To be advised.