

FIFE ECONOMY PARTNERSHIP

EXECUTIVE GROUP MEETING

TUESDAY 4TH JUNE 2019

NOTE OF MEETING

Present: Michael Longstaffe (Chair); Phill Thompson (Innovation Group Chair); Derek Watson (University of St Andrews); Stephen White (Scottish Government); Ian Palmer (John Fergus & Co Ltd); Wendy Brymer (Fife College); Colin Brown (Investment Group Chair); Stephen Hall (FLEXcon); Alan Mitchell (Fife Chamber of Commerce); Ian Wilkie (Leviton); Cllr Altany Craik, Keith Winter, Gordon Mole, Sandra Montador-Stewart, Morag Millar, George Sneddon (Fife Council);

Apologies: Elaine Morrison (Scottish Enterprise); John Penman (Fife Fabrications); Sue Reekie (Fife College)

1. MATTERS ARISING

- Members were reminded that they should liaise directly with the National Manufacturing Institute for Scotland to discuss any potential project proposals.
- Fife Council has received an allocation of £4.3m from the Scottish Government's Town Centre Capital Fund which must be spent or committed within the current financial year and projects funded must be aligned to the Scottish Government's Town Centre Action Plan. Proposed projects have been identified which are capable of being completed within the timescale and support the strategic objectives of Fife's Local Outcome Improvement Plan – Plan4Fife with a particular focus on Mid Fife. These will be presented to the Council's Policy and Co-ordination Committee on 18th June 2019 for approval. It was **agreed** that longer term strategic funding for town centres should be tested with the FEP Investment Group.
- The Fife Business Awards 2019 was successful in gaining more business engagement and a total of twelve Fife businesses were recognised with awards. The 2020 Awards are now open for entries and members were asked to encourage businesses to put themselves forward.

2. MINISTERIAL BUSINESS BREAKFAST

It was noted that Jamie Hepburn MSP Minister for Business, Fair Work and Skills would be attending the Fife Economy Partnership Business Breakfast. An approach was agreed which would focus the meeting on a particular theme which is relevant to the Minister's portfolio to help ensure attendance and effective participation. The event is likely to be

held in November subject to the Minister's availability, with options for location to be looked at. It was **agreed** that discussion should take place between the Chairs and Scottish Government officials to agree a theme for the event.

3. DATA DRIVEN INNOVATION – DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN FIFE

Morag Millar, Fife Council presented on a Study by the University of Edinburgh on Data Driven Innovation (DDI) development opportunities in Fife. A significant proportion of investment will be made in DDI through The Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Deal. The study examines alignment with Fife's Economic Strategy, matching the eight key sectors identified within the Strategy to industry strengths, opportunities and challenges and the University's capacity and capability.

Key DDI opportunities have been identified within Talent, Research, Adoption, Datasets and Entrepreneurship including Advanced Manufacturing for Engineering and Construction; Autonomous Systems and Sensors on Marine and Airborne Platforms; Data Intelligence for Enterprise Services; Data-enhanced Agri/Food & Drink, Distribution and Logistics; and Smart Systems for Health and Wellbeing. Potential projects identified include the Fife FinTech Skills Academy and a health and social care outreach demonstration site.

Next steps are for the University to assess capacity and capability to develop collaborative projects in Fife with a few pilot projects particularly targeting SMEs to build partnership and engagement focused on literacy and digital skills. It was **agreed** that this work needs to be taken through the FEP Innovation Group to gauge private sector interest in getting involved.

4. PLAN FOR FIFE INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND JOBS MONITORING

Keith Winter, Fife Council explained that as one of the theme leads for the Plan4Fife's Inclusive Growth and Jobs ambition and as the geographical lead for Levenmouth, he has been tasked with scrutinising the Fife Economy and Opportunities Fife Partnerships to ensure that the priorities are ambitious enough and making a difference.

A key issue for both partnerships is reporting on performance – reports are provided to the Fife Partnership twice a year on these themes and there is a need to move away from lengthy text-based reports to the use of more visuals and infographics and trends data; providing propositions and challenges to stimulate discussion; and providing case studies which convey information more effectively. It was **agreed** that there would be a joint FEP and OFP presentation with both chairs attending the Fife Partnership meeting in February. Issues to consider include *“have we got the right outcomes? How has the FEP shaped what is in the Plan4Fife?”* and dealing more effectively with risk ie *“what is the risk if we don't deliver specific projects?”* It was **agreed** that it would be beneficial for private sector members to be provided with a diagram which sets out the relationships and linkages between the different plans and strategies that impact on the Fife Economy Partnership.

5. UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS HOST PRESENTATION

Derek Watson presented on the University of St Andrews and how its activities fit with the strategic objectives of the Fife Economy Partnership. The University ranks in the top 3 Universities in the UK and top 100 globally and has 9,000 students and 2,700 staff. Strategic intention is to grow the number of students to 10,000.

The University engages in activities including widening access for Fife, Lifelong Learning, Sport and Volunteering, Student Volunteering and in Transition St Andrews. In developing entrepreneurial activity, the University is engaged in Technology Transfer (including spin-outs and research and consultancy), the use of spare capacity for summer schools and summer accommodation and in industrial partnerships such as the Eden Campus.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was **agreed** that the MSP/MP meeting would be held after BREXIT and members were asked to feed in any views on themes for the Ministerial business breakfast in November.

ACTION POINTS

Meeting Date	Action	Owner	By Date
4 th June 2019	Longer term strategic funding proposals for town centres to be tested with the FEP Investment Group	GM	End Dec 19
	Discussion to take place between the Chairs and Scottish Government officials to agree a theme for the Ministerial Business Breakfast	SMS	End Jul 19
	DDI Development Opportunities in Fife study to be taken to the FEP Innovation Group	MM	3 Sep 19
	Joint FEP/OFP presentation to be taken to the Fife Partnership	SMS	Feb 20
	Diagram to be provided to partners setting out the relationships and linkages between the different plans and strategies that impact on the Fife Economy Partnership	SMS	3 Sep 19
	MSP/MP meeting to be held following BREXIT	SMS	Dec 19/Jan 20

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

TUESDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER 2.00 - 4.00PM AT FIFE FABRICATIONS, GLENROTHES