

# FIFE ECONOMY PARTNERSHIP

## EXECUTIVE GROUP MEETING

TUESDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019

### NOTE OF MEETING

**Present:** Michael Longstaffe (Chair); Phill Thompson (Innovation Group Chair); Sue Reekie (Fife College); John Penman (Fife Fabrications); Stephen Hall (FLEXcon); Lawrence Wyper (Scottish Enterprise); Derek Watson (University of St Andrews); Alan Mitchell (Fife Chamber of Commerce); Cllr Altany Craik, Gordon Mole, Sandra Montador-Stewart, George Sneddon (Fife Council).

**Apologies:** Stephen White (Scottish Government); Elaine Morrison (Scottish Enterprise); Ian Palmer (John Fergus & Co Ltd); Colin Brown (Investment Group Chair); Ian Wilkie (Leviton).

#### 1. MATTERS ARISING

- **Strategic funding proposals for town centres** - ML reported on discussions held with the Investment Delivery Group. It was felt that future funding should be focused on one or two areas to ensure that it makes a difference and is not diluted across too many areas. GM suggested that the Investment Delivery Group could assist in shaping the way that town centre related partnerships are progressed and would be meeting with the Group's chair to discuss.
- **Joint FEP/OFP presentation to Fife Partnership** – this is scheduled for the Fife Partnership meeting in February 2020. Keith will bring a draft annual Plan for Fife report to the next FEP meeting

#### 2. MINISTERIAL BUSINESS BREAKFAST

ML advised that as the dates provided were not suitable for the Minister it would be preferable to postpone until February/March with the topic being Life in Fife post-BREXIT. All were in agreement with the suggested approach.

#### 3. SCOTTISH ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

LW presented Scottish Enterprise's recently produced Strategic Framework which sets out a new approach to supporting companies and working with key partners at local levels. This approach represents a shift in the organisation's operation and the collaborative, cross-agency working will allow Scottish Enterprise to target investment where it is needed most. An initial one year operating plan aims to work with partners to drive growth through attracting and retaining jobs and talent; driving research and innovation

investment; stimulating capital investment; giving more businesses the best chance to fulfil their potential; and growing export value and exporters.

#### **4. FIFE COLLEGE**

SR presented an overview of the work of Fife College and how businesses could increase their engagement with the college. The college is structured around four faculties:

- Care, social sciences & education
- Built environment, engineering & technology
- Business, enterprise & tourism with supported programmes
- Creative industries.

It is essential that the college understands employers' future skills requirements so that students are equipped for work and gain the skills that businesses require. Businesses are asked to get involved through engaging with the curriculum areas; offering internships and placements; and supporting the college in influencing government.

#### **5. FIFE'S ECONOMIC STRATEGY ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**

SM-S provided an overview of the FEP in the context of the hierarchy of partnerships and strategies. The structure and partnership diagrams will be circulated for information. The performance monitoring report was discussed and any further questions or comments on the content of the report should be forwarded to SM-S. It was agreed that a request would be made for the STEM Strategy performance monitor to be brought to a future meeting of the FEP.

#### **6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

ML advised that Dr Esther Curnock (Consultant in Public Health Medicine at NHS Fife) had expressed an interest in joining the Fife Economy Partnership. Esther has been remitted to take forward one of the priorities of the Scottish Government's and COSLA's new Public Health Priorities for Scotland (launched in June 2018 as part of the Public Health Reform). It was agreed that Esther should be invited to join the partnership and that the report should be circulated.

ML advised that the format of the meetings was changing and we would either restrict presentations to a maximum of two to allow time for discussion or set the meetings to finish at 5pm latest.

**ACTION POINTS/**

<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>By Date</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sep 2019	Joint FEP/OFP presentation	ML	25 Feb 2020
	Arrange Ministerial Breakfast Meeting for later date	SM-S	Feb/Mar 2020
	Businesses to consider engagement with Fife College through the curriculum areas, offering placements and supporting lobbying efforts	Businesses	Ongoing
	Circulate partnership and strategy diagrams	SM-S	17 Sep 2019
	Any questions or comments on the FES monitoring report to be fed back to SMS	All	17 Sep 2019
	Request that the STEM strategy performance monitor is presented to the FEP at a future meeting	SM-S	Jun 2020
	Circulate copy of Public Health Priorities for Scotland	SM-S	17 Sep 2019

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING****TUESDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER 2.00 - 4.00/5.00PM AT FLEXcon Glenrothes**