

At a MEETING of the **TAY CITIES REGION JOINT COMMITTEE** held at Dundee on Friday, 18th May, 2018.

Present:-

Angus Council

Councillor Bill DUFF

Councillor Bob MYLES

Councillor Angus MacMillan DOUGLAS

Dundee City Council

Councillor John ALEXANDER

Councillor Lynne SHORT

Councillor Richard McCREADY

Fife Council

Councillor Tim BRETT

Councillor Karen MARJORAM

Councillor David ROSS

Perth & Kinross Council

Councillor Murray LYLE

Councillor Dave DOOGAN

Councillor Colin STEWART

Non-Elected Members

Gordon McGUINNESS, Skills Development Scotland

Tim ALLAN, Tay Cities Enterprise Forum

Professor Sir Pete DOWNES, Principal, University of Dundee Regional HE/FE Forum

Also Present

David LITTLEJOHN, Tay Cities Deal

Ian SCOTT, Scottish Enterprise

Steve GRIMMOND, Fife Council

David MARTIN, Dundee City Council

Mike GALLOWAY, Dundee City Council

Margo WILLIAMSON, Angus Council

Alan McKEOWN, Angus Council

Jim VALENTINE, Perth & Kinross Council

Julie FARR, Third Sector

Alison CARRINGTON, Skills Development Scotland

Alan McGREGOR, Glasgow University

Apologies

Apologies were intimated from Ellis Watson.

I DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

II CONVENER AND VICE-CONVENER

In terms of Clause 12 of the Minute of Agreement, the Joint Committee agreed that appointments for the Convenership of the Joint Committee be made on a calendar year basis, from December 2017 to November 2018.

Accordingly, it was noted that Councillor Bob Myles would continue as Chair for this period.

The Joint Committee noted that following the death of Councillor Ian Campbell, a vacancy had arisen for a Vice Convener.

The Joint Committee agreed that Councillor Murray Lyle be appointed as Vice Convener.

III MINUTE OF MEETING OF 8TH DECEMBER, 2017

The minute was submitted and approved.

IV MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

V TAY CITIES DEAL UPDATE

There was submitted Report TCRJC2-2018 by the Head of Tay Cities Deal providing the Joint Committee with an update on progress and the anticipated timescale for the conclusion of the Tay Cities Deal.

The Joint Committee:-

- (i) Noted the content of this report; and
- (ii) requested that a further progress update be made at its next meeting.

VI SKILLS

- TAY CITIES SKILLS INVESTMENT PLAN, PROFESSOR ALAN MCGREGOR, GLASGOW UNIVERSITY (PRESENTATION)

A presentation was given to the Joint Committee by Professor Alan McGregor of Glasgow University on the Tay Cities Regional Skills Investment Plan, a copy of which is appended to the Minute.

Professor McGregor outlined issues considered in the preparation of the plan, in particular economic projections within the region and how it was paramount for Tay Cities partners to employ a joined up approach to ensure robust economic outcomes for the area.

It was noted that a finding of the plan consultation papers was that challenges may be faced regarding skills development/employer/sector requirements and retention of skilled personnel. However, many assets existed within the Region which could be expanded such is the many exceptional opportunities for further education within the region, increasing business opportunities and innovative intervention around employability.

Furthermore Skills Development Scotland would support the Delivery of Regional Economic of Strategy which aimed to:-

- Raise productivity to Scottish average level.
- Close jobs gap and improve job quality.
- Reduce unemployment.
- Focus on sectoral strengths and opportunities.
- Work to create a smarter and fairer Tay Cities region.
- Help simplify skills system, actively address unnecessary duplication, build agility respond quickly to shocks and opportunities.

Actions to achieve these goals were outlined, noting that these required to be delivered effectively, and also that capacity to make decisions based on evidence existed. Furthermore, annual reviews should be undertaken to measure progress and findings be acted upon to ensure consistent and meaningful progress is made.

The Joint Committee then had the opportunity to ask questions of Professor McGregor and the undernoted points discussed:-

- The impact that Brexit may have on the regional economy
- The importance of the Region as a whole building on existing resources
- Identification of skills needed within region and the development of this region and the development of this
- How private/third sector involvement at future stages in the process was paramount.

The Joint Committee thanked Professor McGregor for his interesting and informative presentation.

VII INVESTMENT

#SCOTLANDISNOW, ERIC SIMPSON, SDI (PRESENTATION)

TAY CITIES TRADE AND INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP, MERLYN DUNN, ANGUS COUNCIL (PRESENTATION)

SCOTLAND'S TAY COUNTRY, ALAN GRAHAM, PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL (PRESENTATION)

Presentations were given to the Joint Committee by Eric Simpson, Merlyn Dunn and Alan Graham, a copy of which are appended to the Minute.

The first presentation focused on the brand #Scotlandisnow, its ambition to be an opportunity to communicate "Scottishness" to the world through old and new media and help ensure Scotland's business community had the appropriate information and support to drive investment, economic impact.

The second presentation outlines the history of the Tay Cities Trade and Investment Partnership, its future and challenges faced, particularly lower than average Foreign Direct Investment. This was due to factors including economies of scale and rural bias within the region. However, it was anticipated that a more joined up approach and shared pathway for business would address this, along with the development of an interactive Asset Map and common events calendar.

The final presentation was on Scotland's Tay Country – a regional approach to Tourism. There was a strong existing tourism business base within the area, however more formalised partnership arrangements would be likely to increase this. Again, it was key to the future success of tourism that clear strategic goals were developed, business skills developed in key areas including digital capabilities and the needs of new and emerging markets adequately met.

After the presentations were made, a brief question and answer session followed with members noting the following points:-

- the scale of existing opportunities for development be fully explored.
- Assets be clearly pinpointed.
- The most opportune time for increased private sector involvement be identified and acted upon.

The Joint Committee thanked Eric Simpson, Merlyn Dunn and Alan Graham for their presentations.

VIII TAY CITIES DEAL GOVERNANCE

There was submitted Report No TCRJC1-2018 by the Clerk to the Tay Cities Region Joint Committee updating the Joint Committee on progress with regard to the governance of the Tay Cities Deal.

The Joint Committee noted that:-

- (i) The Standards Commission for Scotland had granted a Dispensation Request for the Tay Cities Deal (Appendix 1 attached); and
- (ii) The Clerk would prepare Standing Orders for approval by the Joint Committee and a Joint Committee Agreement for approval by the organisations represented on the Joint Committee.

IX AOCB

- (i) The Joint Committee agreed that should progress be made with regards to the conclusion of the Tay Cities Deal prior to the next meeting, then a written update be provided for all members.

X DATE OF NEXT MEETING

24th August, 2018 in Committee Room 1, 14 City Square, Dundee.

Bob MYLES, Convener.