



5(i)

**PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL**

**PERTH CITY DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

Minute of meeting of the Perth City Development Board, held in the Council Chambers, 2 High Street, Perth on Tuesday 7 February 2017 at 4.30pm.

**Present:** J Bullough, SCAA (Chairman)  
Councillor D Doogan (up to and including Item 5)  
Councillor A MacLellan  
Councillor J Kellas  
Councillor W Wilson  
Ms B Malone, Perth and Kinross Council  
Mr J Valentine, Perth and Kinross Council  
Mr J Fyffe, Perth and Kinross Council (up to and including Item 9)  
Mr M Beale, Algo  
Ms S Butler, Scone Palace  
Mr G Gibbons, Horsecross Arts Ltd (from and including Item 4)  
Mr K Greenhorn, SSE Enterprise  
Professor C Lang, University of the Highlands and Islands (substituting for Professor C Mulholland)  
Dr E Mitchell, Scottish Enterprise  
Ms M Munckton, Perth College UHI  
Mr B Nicoll, NHS Tayside (substituting for Ms L Mclay)  
Mr D Robertson, Stagecoach East Scotland  
Mr M Robinson, Live Active Leisure  
Mr D Ross, Kilmac Construction  
Mr G Ruddock, Giraffe  
Dr T Ryan, Perthshire Photographic Society and Perthshire Society of Natural Sciences  
Mr S Stewart, Perthshire Chamber of Commerce  
Mr M Stuart, Sandeman (from and including Item 4)  
Ms V Unite, Perthshire Chamber of Commerce  
Ms M Withers, Aviva  
Ms J Yeaman, Blachere Illuminations

**In Attendance:** T Flanagan, Perth and Kinross Council  
J McCrone, Perth and Kinross Council  
H Rheinallt, Perth and Kinross Council

**Apologies:** Councillor I Miller  
Mr K Fergie  
Mr S Gilmore  
Ms L McLay  
Professor C Mulholland

J Bullough, Chairman, Presiding.

## **1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

J Bullough, Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted as above.

## **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest in any item on the agenda.

## **3. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minute of meeting of the Perth City Development Board of 15 November 2016 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

## **4. MATTERS ARISING**

### **(i) Election of Theme Leads (Item 5(ii) refers)**

The Chairman advised that the Declarations of Interest form is being finalised and will shortly be sent to Board members shortly.

## **5. TAY CITIES DEAL UPDATE**

T Flanagan, Interim Head of Economic Development, Perth and Kinross Council gave a verbal update to the Board regarding the Tay Cities Deal. The Tay Cities Deal has been published on the Tay Cities website. It consists of a series of offers from the region, and asks of the Scottish and UK Governments. The Tay area is falling behind in terms of GVA and productivity, therefore the projects are built around combatting these challenges. These projects are set within the context of the Government's economic strategy focusing on investment, innovation, internationalisation and inclusive growth, and aim to grow jobs and increase productivity to support economic growth. An example of an innovative project is the River Tay Heat Pump, which would help to combat fuel poverty and provide cheaper power for residents and businesses. There is a series of infrastructure projects, for example the Cross Tay Link Road, which involve work with the Scottish Government to develop connectivity to support other initiatives supporting growth of key sectors, inward investment and exports across the four local authorities of the region.

The next stage of the Tay Cities Deal is to develop strategic outline business cases, and the four local authorities are to consider the proposals in the deal document over the new few weeks. It is hoped that the deal will be submitted by March 2017 to the Scottish and UK Governments.

In response to a query from Councillor Kellas, T Flanagan advised that the likely investment in the Tay region due to the deal is £1.84bn, the creation of 15,000 jobs and a benefit to over half a million people across the region. J Bullough requested clarification on whether the projects were split across the different local authority areas. B Malone advised that one of the strengths of

the deal is that it involves projects which cover the entire geography of the Tay region. J Valentine further advised that the deal will increase gross value added (GVA) across the whole area, and projects will be supported that provide the biggest benefits to the area as a whole. In response to a query from B Nicoll regarding involvement of NHS Tayside health directors in the bid, B Malone advised that staff from the health sector have been involved in project development and submissions.

Councillor Wilson requested clarification on the level of involvement by the Tay region's four universities in the bid process. B Malone advised that as part of the inclusive process, the widest possible stakeholder input had been sought. She further advised that a leadership group of the principals of all the region's universities had been established, to inform and support bid proposals. Professor C Lang commented that the Leadership group meetings had been productive. M Munckton further commented on collaborative submission of the food and drink bid, which had involved close working with Perth and Kinross Council and Abertay University to bring together food and drink employers.

## **6. UK CITY OF CULTURE BID**

J Fyffe, Senior Depute Chief Executive, ECS (Equality, Community Planning and Public Service Reform), Perth and Kinross Council gave an update to the Board on the UK City of Culture Bid. There are currently six cities bidding for UK City of Culture 2021 (following the meeting, five more cities declared their intention to bid). The criteria for the bid were published in early January. The initial bid must be submitted by 28 April 2017 and the format of submissions is restricted to thirty pages, not including appendices. J Fyffe highlighted the level of engagement and support that had been shown towards the bid so far, and the importance of continuing this, due to the materiality of the connection between the bid and the community. There was a reception at Westminster, promoting Perth's bid of UK City of Culture, at the beginning of February. After the initial submissions, there will be four or less shortlisted bids. Shortlisted bids will take part in an interview/presentation in June, with the final decision announced in December.

K Greenhorn praised the reception at Westminster, which had been well-attended.

## **7. PERTH TRANSPORT FUTURES**

J Valentine, Depute Chief Executive, Environment (Sustainability, Strategic and Entrepreneurial Development), Perth and Kinross Council gave a presentation and update to the Board on the Perth Transport Futures Project.

Work on the A9/A85 upgrades has begun, which is being driven by the need to open the area for housebuilding, and is one of the biggest construction works in the area. Once it has been completed, works at the Bertha Park area can start. Following that, work will commence on the remainder of the Cross Tay Link Road, a bypass across the Tay to improve

air quality and open up further development land. The route was agreed by the Council in December, with detailed design of the link road and bridge now underway. The Council has committed its share of the cost towards the road; Transport Scotland are being asked through the Tay Cities Deal for their contribution. The link road will contribute towards reducing traffic in the city centre and open up opportunities for development and public realm improvements. J Valentine displayed a video fly through of the road which Board members were encouraged to circulate within their networks (available at [www.perthtransportfutures.co.uk](http://www.perthtransportfutures.co.uk)).

B Nicoll highlighted continuing issues in relation to traffic congestion at the Broxden roundabout, and requested clarification on whether measures were being considered to improve this given potential for this to impact on broader improvements of the transport network. J Valentine advised that improvements to Broxden were being considered by Transport Scotland as part of the strategic review of transport infrastructure investment.

In response to queries from G Ruddock regarding the potential for improvements to accessibility around the city creating a risk that people would not visit it, J Valentine advised that better transport links around Perth were linked to additional transport improvements to improve access into the city for both visitors and residents; and that people would be less likely to visit if there is a high level of congestion coming in or out of the city.

M Robinson commented on the importance of resolving transport issues through increased use of all forms of transport, to address both economic and environmental issues to sustain growth and limit environmental impacts from the projected growth in traffic, in addition to an increase due to the planned housebuilding. He further commented on the importance of drawing people into Perth. B Malone highlighted that the Perth City Development Plan provides a basis for drawing people into Perth, through growth of key business sectors, including tourism, and the development of events and cultural investment to create a vibrant city centre and strong economy.

## **8. RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT**

T Flanagan gave a presentation to the Board regarding rail infrastructure investment (presentation slides attached as Appendix 1). Perth is at the centre of the rail network in Scotland and plays a pivotal role in rail connections. However, it was quicker to get to Edinburgh by train in 1895 than it is now. It is not likely that the direct rail route can be reinstated as part of the past route now forms part of the M90, therefore the challenge is to consider other measures to improve the journey speeds. Improvements to the rail network will be requested for the next Network Rail Control Period, beginning in 2019, including proposed electrification. There is a commitment to improve Perth Rail Station, which is in a pivotal location on the national rail network and within Perth City. Network improvements will increase service frequency and require track re-alignment and additional maintenance facilities. This supports potential development of additional commercial development,

improved car, public transport and pedestrian access within the station, and the development of adjacent sites including PH20. Development of improvements to the rail network and the station are being promoted in the Tay Cities Deal. Proposals can be influenced through Transport Scotland's Rail Infrastructure consultation, and TACTRAN are developing a response.

J Valentine advised that the priorities for rail are being considered by the Scottish Cities Alliance in relation to inter-urban connectivity, and how this can support economic growth across Scotland.

Dr T Ryan queried whether the transportation of goods by rail instead of road was being considered within the context of national transport reviews, to improve safety and relieve congestion. T Flanagan responded that rail freight improvements were also being considered within this context.

The Chairman requested that a response be submitted to the Rail Infrastructure Consultation, by the Perth City Development Board outlining the opportunities for trackside development which forms part of the agreed City plan. (**Action: T Flanagan**).

## **9. FAIR WORK CONVENTION**

Councillor A MacLellan gave a presentation to the Board on the Fair Work convention (slides attached as Appendix 2).

The Fair Work Convention, which was established in 2015, created the Fair Work Framework after considering how to drive forward fair work in Scotland. This is a framework to be used by everyone in the workplace to guide practice and to contribute to the vision that by 2025, people in Scotland will have a world-leading life work balance. The five dimensions of the fair work framework are: effective voice, opportunity, security, fulfilment and respect. Councillor McLellan emphasised that fair working practices delivered benefits to businesses and that fair pay and conditions, workplace representation, and support for diversity within the workforce are essential. Support was requested from the Board in relation to business participation and views.

**J FYFFE LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT**

In response to a query from Dr E Mitchell regarding the potential impact on small business and potential support, B Malone advised that the potential need for this support is recognised and advice on how this can be delivered will be developed as part of the next stage.

The Chairman commented on the provision of financial support to incentivise small business participation in relation to workforce development. M Stuart highlighted that small businesses may not know what support is available for apprenticeships. K Greenhorn, SSE and M Withers, Aviva referred to the living wage status held by their respective organisations and suppliers, and offered their support to the Fair Work Framework. Councillor

McLellan highlighted the importance of collaborative working, and of larger employers supporting smaller employers.

## **10. PERTH CITY PLAN DELIVERY – PROGRESS**

There was submitted and noted a report by the Chairman (G/17/23) providing an update on the delivery of the Perth City Plan in respect of the key Themes and associated Big Moves. The Board has previously agreed that, following approval of the Plan, its delivery would be progressed via subsidiary project groups for the development of infrastructure to support smart growth and required actions for each of the Big Moves, as identified in the Plan.

The Chairman advised that the Theme Groups had not met since the last meeting of the Board on 15 November 2016, and requested that Board members let Committee Services know which Theme Groups they would like to be on, and they should pick one or two Groups (**Action – all Board members**).

An update on Infrastructure for Smart Growth was given as follows: J Valentine advised that Digital Connectivity is progressing well along with previously reported investment in transport infrastructure.

An update on Economy Prosperity and Enterprise was given as follows: S Stewart advised that: (i) V Unite is working with Invest in Perth to arrange an Invest in Perth representative; (ii) Big Move 2, high productivity activity, needs to be reconsidered in the context of the Tay Cities Deal in relation to business and sector support.

An update on City of Knowledge and Learning was given as follows: M Munckton advised that: (i) work is being done through the University Innovation Fund for the development of applied health and wellbeing; (ii) pathways from primary school are being developed; (iii) an S2 food programme for pupils being developed, with continuing professional development being carried out with staff to enable them to deliver it; (iv) the University of the Highlands and Islands has been contracted by the Scottish Government to develop an integrated honours degree for home economics students; (v) Perth College UHI engaged with Perth's winter festival; (vi) there has been significant investment in foundation apprenticeships.

### **PROFESSOR C LANG LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT**

An update on City Centre was given as follows - J Bullough advised that: (i) the Mill Street and Perth Theatre works will be completed at the same time, later in 2017; (ii) the Norrie Miller Walk lights show had had 29,000 visits so far since it began on 28 January 2017; (iii) St Paul's Church had been acquired by the Council and stabilisation work is beginning imminently; (iv) Thimblerow site negotiations are continuing; (v) the lighting on Skinnergate has been installed.

## **11. COMMUNICATIONS**

The Chairman advised that Board members with knowledge and experience of communications will be discussing the Board's communications strategy; an update will be provided in due course.

## **12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 30 May 2017 in the Council Chambers, 2 High Street, Perth, PH1 5PH.