

Economy Committee

10am, Friday, 13 February 2015

Scotland's Cities and Regions in a Global Smart Economy Conference

Item number	7.13
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	All

Executive summary

This report outlines Council representation at Scotland's Cities and Regions in a Global Smart Economy: The challenge of competing, collaborating and growing. This conference takes place on Wednesday 25 March 2015 in Edinburgh.

The conference will explore the challenges and opportunities for Scotland's smart cities and regions and will look at how to compete and collaborate across the United Kingdom (UK) and beyond.

This report proposes Councillor Ross attend this conference on behalf of the City of Edinburgh Council.

Links

Coalition pledges	P15
Council outcomes	CO7, CO8, CO9, CO26
Single Outcome Agreement	

Scotland's Cities and Regions in a Global Smart Economy Conference

Recommendations

- 1.1 To approve the Council's attendance at Scotland's Cities and Regions in a Global Smart Economy Conference: the challenge of competing, collaborating and growing on 25 March 2015.
- 1.2 To approve the attendance of Councillor Ross.

Background

- 2.1 Edinburgh's Economic Strategy: A Strategy for Jobs 2012 – 2017 aims to achieve sustainable economic growth through investment in jobs.
- 2.2 The Council and its partners are working towards this goal in four ways:
 - investing in the city's development and regeneration;
 - supporting inward investment;
 - supporting businesses; and
 - helping unemployed people into work or learning.
- 2.3 The Council is already working with partners across the city region and with the Scottish Cities Alliance (SCA).

Main report

- 3.1 The conference '[Scotland's Cities and Regions in a Global Smart Economy Conference: the challenge of competing, collaborating and growing](#)' has been organised by Mackay Hannah on 25 March 2015.
- 3.2 The aim of the conference aims to explore the challenges and opportunities for Scotland's cities and regions in a globally competitive smart economy.
- 3.3 The conference will focus on the following areas:
 - Scottish cities and Scottish Government strategy and policy;
 - Collaboration and competition between city regions at home and abroad;
 - Key economic drivers for city regions;
 - Investment, partnership and growth;

- City and city region approaches in Europe and globally;
- Connecting urban, rural and remote Scotland's economic growth; and
- Smart, connected places: Combining digital and low carbon.

3.4 The conference will offer the opportunity to:

- Share experience and good practice with other participants;
- Promote the city and the expertise available in Edinburgh; and
- Strengthen links between Edinburgh and the city region as well as engaging with participants from across Scotland, the UK and beyond.

Measures of success

4.1 Councillor Ross' attendance at this conference will:

- Raise the city's profile;
- Raise awareness of Edinburgh's existing economic activity and of collaborative working within the city region and the SCA;
- Support learning from good practice; and
- Focus on opportunities for Edinburgh to engage in discussion on smart cities, digital and low carbon connectivity.

Financial impact

5.1 The cost of attendance is £235. As this conference is in Edinburgh there will be no travel or accommodation costs. These costs will be met from the Economic Development Service budget 2014/15.

Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

6.1 There are no risk, policy, compliance or governance impacts as a consequence of Councillor Ross attending this conference.

Equalities impact

7.1 There are no direct equalities impacts as a result of Councillor Ross' attendance at this conference.

Sustainability impact

8.1 There are no direct sustainability impacts arising from Councillor Ross' attendance at this conference.

8.2 Travel arrangements will be made in accordance with the Council’s Sustainable Travel Plan.

Consultation and engagement

9.1 Attendance at the conference will provide the Council with a channel for engaging with key stakeholders including local and national government from across the UK.

Background reading/external references

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Links

Coalition pledges	P15 - Work with public organisations, the private sector and social enterprise to promote Edinburgh to investors
Council outcomes	CO7 - Edinburgh draws new investment in development and regeneration CO8 - Edinburgh’s economy creates and sustains job opportunities CO9 - Edinburgh residents are able to access job opportunities CO26 - The Council engages with stakeholders and works in partnership to improve services and deliver on agreed objectives
Single Outcome Agreement	
Appendices	