

## Minutes of ESEC Policy Board, 20 January 2017

Present:	Cllr Barney Crockett	Aberdeen City Council
	Amye Robinson	Aberdeen City Council
	Martin Brebner	Aberdeenshire Council
	Cllr Isobel Davidson	Aberdeenshire Council
	Cllr Lynne Devine (Chair)	Angus Council
	Shelley Hague	Angus Council
	Cllr Will Dawson	Dundee City Council
	Diane Milne	Dundee City Council
	Joanne Scobie	ESEC Secretariat
	Cllr Martin Oliver	Falkirk Council
	Sharon Douglas	Fife Council
	Cllr John Kellas	Perth and Kinross Council
	Serge Merone	Perth and Kinross Council
Apologies:	Stuart Bews	Aberdeen City Council
	Laura Paterson	Aberdeen City Council
	Yasa Ratnayake	Aberdeen City Council
	Cllr Geva Blackett	Aberdeenshire Council
	Rory Young	Dundee City Council
	Cllr Tony Martin	Fife Council

### Approval of draft minutes of Policy Board 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2016

- The minutes were agreed as an accurate reflection of discussion.
- The audit report recommended the board agree a set of measurables to monitor the work of the consortium, which have been included in the ESEC Work Plan 2017.

### ESEC Work Plan 2017

- The overview of activities was agreed as the correct course of action in response to Brexit.
- The measurables were agreed, although it was suggested that the 'eight conferences per year' be clarified as an activity of the EU officer.
- It was noted that the weekly bulletin was very informative, and some members are sharing it outside the group. The EU officer encouraged members to share widely, and provide feedback on content.

### ESEC event in the Scottish Parliament

- The invitations to the event were sent out before Christmas and so far around 80 people have signed up, reminders will be sent on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>. The garden lobby can hold around 200 people, so it is aimed to get 150 people to sign up as not everyone will turn up on the night.

- It was stressed by the parliament's events coordinator that MSPs are unlikely to sign up via the invitation, they will just turn up on the evening which makes it difficult to guess numbers. Joanne suggested that members write to their MSPs ahead of time to ensure they are aware of the event and to encourage them to come along. This would also be an opportunity to get a supportive quote and photo if intending to issue a press release.
- Members will be showcasing the following projects; Aberdeen City – hydrogen economy, Aberdeenshire – fisheries, Angus – LEADER, Dundee City – creative industries, Falkirk – ESF employability, INTERREG, Fife – Erasmus project on training young offenders, Perth & Kinross – ESF, Stirling – ESF.
- The parliament has strict delivery arrangements due to heightened security. All instructions will be given to the secretariat, which will then coordinate with members.

### **Brexit update and lobbying strategy**

- The Secretariat drafted a briefing paper outlining the implications of Brexit on our members based on the evidence submitted to the Scottish Parliament. The document has been made more concise in order to highlight key points and make it more readable for policymakers.
- The final briefing paper will be sent to policymakers in our region, including MSPs, MPs and MEPs, with a request for a meeting.
- It was suggested to clarify the reference to the 'Norway model' which could be interpreted as advocating an EFTA-style arrangement, when it is meant that Scotland could still participate in transnational programmes as a third country by paying into the programme budget.
- It was pointed out that the paper is very focused on funding, with some references to policy and so the title of the paper could be updated to reflect this.
- The content of the paper will form the basis of discussion for the meeting with Kevin Stewart MSP, Minister for Local Government and Housing to take place on 3 March 2017.

### **Any Other Competent Business**

- It was noted that the upcoming local elections will have an impact on the work of the consortium and timing of meetings, as councillors will not be readily available in the run up to 4th of May.
- Post-election, the secretariat has suggested an away day (morning or afternoon) to introduce any new policy board members to the work of the consortium, our work plan and other councillors and officers. This date of this will need to be agreed in the weeks following the elections, as time will be needed for councillors to be allocated their respective roles.
- Angus Council is organising an event on EU funding with EUCLID, to take place on 20 February. All members are invited and Shelley Hague will send round the invitation.

### **Date of next meeting**

- Given the time pressures around the upcoming council elections, it was agreed to hold the next Policy Board immediately following the meeting with Kevin Stewart MSP on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March.