

**Scottish Enterprise (East) Regional Advisory Board****Report by John Blair, Director, Resources****1 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1** This report invites the Council to (a) consider formally joining the Scottish Enterprise (East) Regional Advisory Board (RAB) at the Board's meeting on 14 May 2014; and (b) if so minded, to confirm its representative to serve on the Board.

**2 Background**

- 2.1** The attached report (**Appendix**) was presented to the meeting of Midlothian Council on 24 February 2009 by Ian L Young, the former Director, Strategic Services. This explained that as a result of the restructuring of Scottish Enterprise it had been recommended that RABs be set up to advise Scottish Enterprise on the best way to maximise the contribution that each region could make to Scotland's economic growth. It also advised that a RAB for the Scottish Enterprise East Region had been established.
- 2.2** There were to be four Local Authority representatives on the RAB at any one time and these were expected to be councillors. Apart from City of Edinburgh Council, which had a permanent representative, the other three places were to be filled on a rotation basis and agreement had been reached that Fife, Falkirk and East Lothian Councils would serve the first term. Notwithstanding this, Scottish Enterprise had asked each Council to nominate a representative at the time so that they could be kept fully apprised of the work of the RAB.
- 2.3** The Council's representative agreed at that time was Councillor Imrie.
- 2.4** The Chief Executive has recently been contacted by Mr David Rennie, Stakeholder and Partnerships, Scottish Enterprise, who has advised as follows:-

"I have recently taken over the secretariat to the East Regional Advisory Board (RAB).

You will be aware that we have a local authority rotation schedule for membership, with Edinburgh being a permanent member, and the current rotational membership being provided by Fife, East Lothian and Falkirk.

Fife, East Lothian and Falkirk are now all due to retire and I write to invite Midlothian Council to formally join the RAB at its meeting on 14 May 2014. Rotational membership tends to last for 6-quarterly meetings. Our records suggest that Midlothian Council was a member of the RAB back in 2010/11 and I do hope/

hope you would consider joining us again. We normally request that RAB membership is extended to the Leader of the Council or the Elected Member who holds the Economic Development portfolio.

Should you wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me. (I work closely with Alistair McKinnon and Frank Beattie who have the remit of engaging with Midlothian Council on a regular basis.) I look forward to hearing from you and to receiving the relevant contact details of the Council's nominated representative in due course. The RAB has recently appointed a new Chair, Ian Macmillan and I know Ian would be very happy to speak to you or your nominated representative."

- 2.5** In accordance with Mr Rennie's above e-mail to the Chief Executive, the Council is invited to (a) consider formally joining the Scottish Enterprise (East) RAB at its meeting on 14 May 2014; and (b) if so agreed, to confirm its representative to serve on the Board.

### **3 Report Implications**

#### **3.1 Resource**

There are no resource implications arising from this report.

#### **3.2 Risk**

Should the Council not be involved in the RAB, there is a risk that Midlothian's position in the City-region will not be fully represented nor will it be able to input to or influence the wider economic strategy and development for the region.

#### **3.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation**

Themes addressed in this report:

- ☐ Community safety
- ☐ Adult health, care and housing
- ☐ Getting it right for every Midlothian child
- ☒ Improving opportunities in Midlothian
- ☒ Sustainable growth
- ☐ Business transformation and Best Value
- ☐ None of the above

#### **3.4 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan**

This report supports the following key priority within the Single Midlothian Plan:-

- Economic Growth and Business Support

#### **3.5 Impact on Performance and Outcomes**

The Council's involvement in the Scottish Enterprise (East) RAB could have a positive effect on performance and outcomes.

### **3.6 Adopting a Preventative Approach**

None.

### **3.7 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders**

None

### **3.8 Ensuring Equalities**

An equalities impact assessment has not been considered necessary for this report.

### **3.9 Supporting Sustainable Development**

There are no sustainability issues arising from this report.

### **3.10 IT Issues**

There are no IT issues arising from this report.

## **4 Recommendations**

The Council is invited to:-

- (a) consider formally joining the Scottish Enterprise (East) RAB at the Board's meeting on 14 May 2014; and
- (b) if so minded, to confirm its representative to serve on the Board.

**25 April 2014**

#### **Report Contact:**

**Jim Clifford Tel No 0131 271 3155**

**E-mail [jim.clifford@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:jim.clifford@midlothian.gov.uk)**