

Proposed Midlothian Council Membership of the Easter Bush Development Board**Report by John Blair, Director Corporate Resources****1 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to request Council to identify Midlothian Council representation on the Easter Bush Development Board (EBDB).

2 Background

- 2.1** At its meeting on 26 February 2013, Cabinet considered and approved the content of a report entitled 'The Bush Framework Masterplan'. Cabinet noted that the continuing development of the Bush is central to supporting the emerging Midlothian Economic Recovery Plan (MERP) and key economic sectors such as Life Sciences and Animal Biosciences. This aligns closely with the priorities highlighted in the Scottish Government Economic Strategy and the aims/objectives of Scottish Enterprise/the University of Edinburgh – both key partners in the Masterplan preparation.
- 2.2** On 15 March 2013, officers attended an Easter Bush Campus Partnership meeting at the Royal Dick Vet School, Easter Bush. This meeting, chaired by a senior member of staff from the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), involved representatives from a range of key partner organisations including the University of Edinburgh, the Roslin Institute and the Moredun Foundation. At the meeting, the Council was requested to provide project governance support for the establishment of the EBDB – a strategic partnership to guide and support the future development of Easter Bush. In addition, the Council was requested to nominate two Board members.
- 2.3** Following internal discussions, it is recommended that Councillor Bryant and the Head of Planning and Development be nominated as the Council's EBDB representatives. The Economic Development Manager would provide governance to the Board, which will be chaired by Dr John Brown, Co-Chair of the Scottish Life Sciences Advisory Board. The inaugural Board meeting is due on 28 August 2013. It is expected that all of the major interests at Easter Bush, including the University of Edinburgh, the Roslin Institute and Scottish Enterprise will be represented on the Board.

3 Report Implications

3.1 Resource

There are no financial resource implications for the Council. All other costs associated with the project governance of the EBDB are related to staffing support which can be provided by the Economic Development Manager on an ongoing basis.

3.2 Risk

Failure to participate in the EBDB would potentially put the Council out of step in terms of positively influencing the shape of future development activity in the Easter Bush area. In addition, failure to provide project governance related support for the EBDB could stall the process of driving forward development activity at Easter Bush, and place an additional administrative related burden on organisations such as the Roslin Institute.

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 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

Participation in the EBDB will positively impact on a wide range of economic development related outcomes. This includes job creation in Midlothian, support for key economic sectors such as life sciences/animal biosciences and the leverage of external funding into Midlothian.

3.5 Adopting a Preventative Approach

Economic recovery/growth and employment are two of the six national priorities where there is an expectation that each Community Planning Partnership will show how it is giving priority to demonstrating improvement in these particular areas. Accordingly, from a preventative approach, having a vibrant and successful local economy will positively impact on most, if not all, of the national priorities.

3.6 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

Key stakeholders such as the Roslin Institute, Scottish Enterprise, the University of Edinburgh and the Moredun Foundation have been fully consulted and involved in the development and establishment of the

EBDB. A number of key stakeholders, including the Council, also attended an Easter Bush Campus Partnership meeting on 15 March 2013 at the Royal Dick Vet School, at which the proposal to set up an EBDB was tabled.

3.7 Ensuring Equalities

There are no equalities issues at this stage. If any equalities issues arise during development and implementation of the proposed EBDB workstreams, they will be fully addressed by EBDB members.

3.8 Supporting Sustainable Development

There are no sustainability issues at this stage. The EBDB will take full account of any sustainability issues in relation to planned and proposed development activity at Easter Bush.

3.9 IT Issues

There are no IT issues arising from this report.

4 Recommendations

4.1 It is recommended that Council:

- i) considers the appointment of Councillor Bryant and the Head of Planning and Development to represent the Council on the Easter Bush Development Board;
- ii) agrees that the Council provides ongoing project governance support to the Easter Bush Development Board; and
- iii) instructs that regular progress reports on the operation of the Easter Bush Development Board be presented to Cabinet.

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Background Papers: Easter Bush Development Board