

City Deal Infrastructure Investment Programme - High Street Public Realm and Connectivity project - Grant Agreement approved - Instruction to Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability.

3 With reference to the minutes of 24th October 2024 (Print 5, page 32) approving the Revision 10 of the City Deal Programme Infrastructure Investment Programme, inclusive of the additional Infrastructure Grant Funds identified for inflationary pressures, Councillor Aitken, Leader of the Council and City Convener for City and City Region Economy and Just Transition, presented a report regarding a proposed award of City Deal funding by way of a Grant Agreement to Network Rail, for the City Deal, High Street and Public Realm and Connectivity project, advising

- (1) that the Collegelands Calton Barras (CCB) project was 1 of 5 major infrastructure sub-programmes being delivered as part of the City Deal Programme and £27m of City Deal infrastructure investment had been committed to the CCB sub-programmes to support its objectives, as detailed in the report;
- (2) that following approval of the current City Deal Infrastructure Investment Programme, engagement had continued between the Council and Network Rail regarding a range of improvements to High Street Railway Station, including the entrance façade;
- (3) that early inspirations to undertake a full redevelopment of the station were not able to be delivered as a result of funding from Transport Scotland no longer being available, and a new scope of works including only the entrance and façade was now being taken forward;
- (4) that the project comprised of 2 elements, the entrance façade of High Street Station and Avenues public realm and active travel interventions on High Street, with both elements compliant with the City Deal Collegelands Calton Barras Outline Business Case;
- (5) that the façade treatment project would seek to significantly improve the appearance of the station, as detailed in the report, and as the station was an asset that was in the ownership of Network Rail, it was appropriate that they oversaw the development of the façade treatment in conjunction with council officers and planning, acting as the appointed delivery partner and recipient of City Deal grant funding; and
- (6) of proposals to grant the maximum award of £120,000 of City Deal funding by way of a Grant Agreement to Network Rail to undertake all required design work as officers were satisfied that a Grant Agreement was the most appropriate mechanism for this project and would ensure that the Council's Strategic Plan and City Deal objectives were being met.

After consideration, the committee

- (a) noted the report;

- (b) approved a maximum grant of £120,000 to Network Rail for technical and design fees; and
- (c) instructed the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability, in consultation with the Director of Legal and Administration to agree detailed terms and conditions in relation to the Grant Agreement.