

Bus network workstreams – Progress and consultation noted.

3 There was submitted a report by the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability regarding an update on the various related workstreams in Glasgow, advising

- (1) that the Scottish Government would be launching a new Bus Infrastructure Fund (BIF) for 2025/26 which would focus on the delivery of bus priority and other bus infrastructures, with the aim of improving the attractiveness of bus services and would replace the Community Bus Fund and the Bus Partnership Fund;
- (2) that Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) had commenced a consultation on the draft Strathclyde Regional Bus Strategy (SRBS) and the aim of the strategy was to reverse the decline in bus use, increase bus attractiveness for use and ensure that buses provided essential access for everyday journeys;
- (3) that SPT had initially proposed a dual approach to tackle the bus 'cycle of decline' which would have seen a Bus Service Improvement Partnership (BSIP) formed in the short-term to deliver key activities, however, the results of SPT's consultation with stakeholders and elected officials had demonstrated that there was limited support for that approach, particularly due to the resources required to carry out the formal statutory process for a BSIP, as detailed in the report;
- (4) of a review of the governance arrangements of the Glasgow City Regional Bus Partnership;
- (5) that officers were working with key partners and stakeholders to explore options to deliver a free public transport pilot;
- (6) of the work of the Bus Operators Co-ordination Group; and
- (7) that in December 2023, the Scottish Government budget had resulted in the withdrawal of capital funding to SPT for public transport improvements, however SPT had indicated that it was anticipated that funding would resume for 2025/26 and officers in Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability were awaiting details of what funding would be available.

After consideration, the committee noted

- (a) the progress of bus network related activities in Glasgow; and
- (b) the current consultation on SPT's Strathclyde Regional Bus Strategy.