

Additional action within the Regional Economic Strategy Action Plan approved – Instruction to Glasgow City Region Programme Management Office and Intelligence Hub.

15 There was submitted a report by the Director of Regional Economic Growth proposing that Cabinet approve the inclusion of an additional action within the Regional Economic Strategy Action Plan (RESAP) that provided a specific geographic focus on addressing challenges faced in Inverclyde, advising

- (1) of the background to the Regional Economic Strategy (RES) which had been formally launched by this Cabinet on 7th December 2021 with the RESAP approved by Cabinet on 30th August 2022 and an updated RESAP being agreed by Cabinet on 6th August 2024, approving 13 overall programmes and 47 individual actions, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (2) that following a discussion at this Cabinet in February 2024, the GCR Intelligence Hub ('the Hub') undertook a review of the economic performance of Inverclyde and whether there was a case for designating Inverclyde as a regional priority, with the Hub subsequently demonstrating how, in contrast to all other local authority areas in GCR, Inverclyde's economy was underperforming on economic and healthy working indicators;
- (3) that recognising this underperformance, the Inverclyde Socio-Economic Task Force had been established in June 2022 with the objective of stimulating the Inverclyde economy, creating opportunities for business and residents to ensure Inverclyde was a place of choice for people to live, work and thrive which had the support of the UK Government and the Scottish Government and the membership included ministers from both governments;
- (4) that during its lifetime the Task Force had focussed on the 4 key themes of business, business premises, skills and housing; and
- (5) of the proposed next steps, proposing that Inverclyde be designated as a regional priority within the RESAP, as detailed in the report.

After consideration, the Cabinet

- (a) approved the inclusion of an additional programme in the Regional Economic Strategy Action Plan which provided a geographic focus on the challenges faced by Inverclyde; and
- (b) instructed the GCR Programme Management Office and Intelligence Hub to engage with Inverclyde Council and relevant partner organisations to develop actions to support the Inverclyde programme and bring them back to this Cabinet for approval.