

Infrastructure Programme – West Dunbartonshire Council – Exxon Transport Infrastructure and Platform Development project scope, cost and programme Change Control Request approved – Declaration of interest.

5 There was submitted a report by the Capital Projects Manager, West Dunbartonshire Council (WDC) setting out a proposed Change Control Request relating to a change in scope for the WDC Exxon Transport Infrastructure and Platform Development project, advising

- (1) of the background to the Exxon project and of a number of factors that had directly affected the Exxon programme and cost, as detailed in the report;
- (2) that the significant cost increase had prompted a cost options review to keep the project affordable and delivering on the key funding requirements;
- (3) that as a result of the options review, the Project Board had recommended that WDC consider a reduced scope removing the construction of the eastern and western development platforms, retaining only the central development platform, and thereby reducing the City Deal funded enabling infrastructure output to one development platform, all of which had been approved by WDC on 30th October 2024, as detailed in the report;
- (4) that despite the scope reduction, the current cost had increased to £46.93m and WDC had agreed to provide an additional £2.605m to cover that cost, whilst remaining committed to achieving the full scope of the project and agreeing to bring forward the marketing to attract developers for the Eastern and Western sites;
- (5) of the impact on both the programme and the economic benefits, as detailed in the report;
- (6) that, as a result of local press, publicity and a growing awareness of the site via Glasgow City Region social media channels, there had already been approaches to WDC in advance of any market testing made by a range of businesses interested in either acquiring the entire development as a lead developer, establishing new premises, relocation or in need of expansion sites, as detailed in the report; and
- (7) of the next steps, which had included concluding the outstanding Chivas Brothers' land transfer, together with further promotion of the pre-marketing site promotional brochure.

After consideration, the Cabinet

- (a) noted
 - (i) the report;
 - (ii) the proposed strategy to accelerate the promotion of the site to achieve the overall City Deal objectives; and

- (iii) that WDC would underwrite the cost increase of £2.605m; and
- (b) approved the change to scope, as detailed in the report.

Councillor Martin Rooney declared an interest in this item and took no part in the decision thereon.