



Glasgow City Region - City Deal

Cabinet

Report by Des McNulty, Vice Chair of the Commission on Economic Growth

Item 5

12th February 2019

Commission on Economic Growth – Work Plan

Purpose of Report:

To provide the Cabinet with an update on the work plan of the Commission on Economic Growth and seeks approval to utilise the existing budget for the Commission for 2018/19 and 2019/20 to progress the development of an in-depth analysis of city region futures.

Recommendations:

The Cabinet is invited to:

- i. note the content of this report;
- i. approve the Commission undertaking the work plan described in this report and submitting a final report to the PMO before 30th September 2019; and
- i. approve the allocation of £40,000 to the University of Glasgow, on behalf of the Commission, across 2018/19 and 2019/20 to support the delivery of this work plan, subject to approval of the final report by Cabinet.

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide the Cabinet with an update on the work plan of the Commission on Economic Growth and seeks approval to utilise the existing budget for the Commission for 2018/19 and 2019/20 to progress the development of an in-depth analysis of city region futures.

2. Background

- 2.1 At the meeting of the Commission on Economic Growth on 21 January 2019, it was agreed that the Commission would seek the approval of Cabinet to undertake an in-depth analysis of city region futures, which it will take forward in the period from the beginning of February until August 2019.
- 2.2 The work will seek to explore the economic future of the Glasgow City Region. The responsibility for delivering the final report will be held by the University of Glasgow, on behalf of the Commission.

3. Proposed Long Term Economic Analysis

- 3.1 It is proposed by the Commission that the outcomes and learning from this longer term economic analysis of Glasgow City Region will be of assistance to both the delivery of the City Deal and the work of the emerging Regional Economic Partnership. It will also be of support to the Member Authorities and portfolios in the delivery of the Regional Economic Strategy and Action Plan, and in refreshing the strategy in order to meet future challenges.
- 3.2 The Commission will provide a final report to the Glasgow City Region Cabinet that will contain the following distinct elements, which are the core elements of the Commission's Workplan for the coming months:
- i. a paper considering the methods used by different cities to look at their future;
 - ii. a review of the existing literature and research on the growth drivers of city economies;
 - iii. a review of existing city innovation systems and how they are evolving;
 - iv. a substantial analysis of the skills and labour market issues the city will face over the next 5 and 30 years;
 - v. a review of the housing and infrastructure issues that will face the region; and
 - vi. research will be undertaken into governance arrangements and the evolving concept of the 'Intelligent City'.

4. Resource implications

- 4.1 The Principal of Glasgow University has agreed to fund Professor Duncan MacLennan moving from a 0.5 to 1.0 FTE commitment to the University over the period from February to the end of July 2019 to lead this work. The PMO budget currently includes annual funding for a support officer who works directly for the Commission (Dr David Waite).
- 4.2 In addition to the existing resource noted above, the Commission has indicated that to deliver the work plan set out above at 3.2, it will require to utilise its total funding allocations for 2018/19 and 2019/20 (totalling up to £40,000).
- 4.3 Within the current City Deal budget for 2018/19, the Commission has an existing funding allocation of £20,000 to support its work. It is anticipated that the same amount will be contained within the PMO budget for 2019/20.
- 4.4 Pending the finalisation of these arrangements, this report proposes that the Cabinet approve that the £20,000 from the 2018/19 budget can be used to initiate the work during 2018/19 and, following the approval of the City Deal budget for 2019/20, that the Commission's budget for 2019/20 is utilised to continue to support the delivery of this work plan and the submission of the final report to the PMO.
- 4.5 Appropriate governance measures will be put in place to control, verify and account for the payments to the Commission.

Key Milestones

- 4.6 The key payment milestone will be the approval of the final report by the GCR Cabinet. The final report will be submitted to the PMO by the University of Glasgow by 30 September 2019.

Reporting

- 4.7 Progress reports on the development of the report will be provided by the University of Glasgow to the PMO on a quarterly basis and the PMO will provide an update to the Chief Executives' Group and the Cabinet within the PMO report.
- 4.8 This proposed funding allocation will cover the activities of the Commission up until the end of March 2020. This is also the end of the first Gateway Review for the City Deal. It would be the intention of the Commission to engage with Glasgow City Region and the PMO to reflect upon the ongoing role of the Commission in supporting the City Deal and in the wider regional economic strategy.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 The Cabinet is invited to:

- i. note the content of this report;
- ii. approve the Commission undertaking the work plan described in this report and submitting a final report to the PMO before 30th September 2019; and
- iii. approve the allocation of £40,000 to the University of Glasgow, on behalf of the Commission, across 2018/19 and 2019/20 to support the delivery of this workplan, subject to approval of the final report by Cabinet.