

## **Glasgow Airport Access Project Outline Business Case – Update noted etc.**

**9** With reference to the minutes of 12th December 2016 approving the Outline Business Case (OBC) for the Glasgow Airport Access Project (GAAP), and agreeing that a tram train option be taken forward for development of the Final Business Case, there was submitted a report by the Senior Project Manager, GAAP providing an update on the audit of the GAAP OBC which had been commissioned by Transport Scotland and carried out by Jacobs consultancy, advising that

- (1) the tram-train project involved running 4 tram-train vehicles per hour on the existing heavy rail line between Glasgow Central Station and Paisley before leaving the heavy rail line to join a light rail tram spur which would take the tram-train into Glasgow Airport, all of which would require the agreement of both Network Rail and Transport Scotland given their respective responsibilities, as detailed in the report;
- (2) although tram-train was widely used in Europe, there were various regulatory and technical issues which would require to be addressed to enable use of this vehicle type within the UK, as detailed in the report;
- (3) there were various potential tram-train projects emerging elsewhere in the UK, notably in Manchester, and this type of system was expected to become even more commonplace, as highlighted in the report;
- (4) Transport Scotland had provided a final copy of the audit report to project partners on 21st November 2017, and having reviewed the findings, the partners had highlighted that although there was some good commentary in the audit, further discussion was required on many of the conclusions in relation to the key areas of operations, costs and economics, as detailed in the report; and
- (5) following a meeting of the project's Executive Steering Group on 8th December 2017 which had debated the Jacobs audit findings, a number of actions had been agreed, as detailed in the report.

After consideration and having heard George Vincent, Glasgow City Council, the Cabinet

- (a) noted the report and that work would continue with the Executive Steering Group to allow a full discussion of the issues raised in the audit, with any further expenditure being kept to a minimum until this exercise had been completed; and
- (b) agreed that a further report be submitted to a future Cabinet setting out the outcomes of the exercise and the solutions identified by the Executive Steering Group to mitigate against the issues raised in the audit.