



Glasgow City Region Cabinet

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Glasgow 5G Innovation Region

Purpose of Report:

This report provides Cabinet with an update on the recent £3.2m award by the Department of Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) to the Region as one of ten UK 5G Innovation Regions. In doing so, the report outlines:

- i. the key elements of the project,
- ii. next steps for delivery; and
- iii. expected costs to be incurred and a proposal for how this will be managed

Recommendations

Cabinet is invited to:

- a) Note the content of the report,
- b) Agree recommendations for short term spending on the project, outlined in section 5.3; and
- c) Agree the delegation of future spending decisions to the Chief Executives' Group outlined in 5.6

1. Purpose

- 1.1. This report provides the Cabinet with an update on the recent £3.2m award by the Department of Science, Innovation and Technology ('DSIT') to the Region as one of ten UK 5G Innovation Regions. In doing so, the report outlines:
- i. the key elements of the project,
 - ii. next steps for delivery; and
 - iii. expected costs to be incurred and a proposal for how this will be managed

2. Background

- 2.1. On 31 July 2023, UK Government launched a 5G Innovation fund, as part of a wider "programme to drive 5G adoption, with a focus on key sectors where there is local capability and opportunities."
- 2.2. The objectives behind the fund itself are to:
- drive economic growth across the UK by supporting places to adopt advanced wireless technologies for services based around local opportunities for growth
 - accelerate commercial investment in 5G and other advanced wireless technologies by aggregating and demonstrating demand
 - foster the 5G ecosystem enabling "learning by doing."
- 2.3. As presented to the CEG on 9 September 2023, Glasgow City Council pulled together a bid on behalf of the Glasgow City Region.
- 2.4. In November 2023, DSIT confirmed that Glasgow City Region had been awarded £3.2m for a 5G Innovation Region project ('G5GIR'). This was one of ten awards to regions across the UK, and one of only two in Scotland.

3. Glasgow 5G Innovation Region

- 3.1. The project will deliver a series of business cases that showcase how wireless connectivity and digital technologies can provide transformative impacts on service delivery across the region. It will do this by focusing on the innovative adoption of internet of things (IoT) in four council areas.

Asset Monitoring and Maintenance – Renfrewshire Council

- 3.2. Renfrewshire Council has been successfully using IoT sensors to monitor residential environmental conditions.
- 3.3. Monitoring real time environmental conditions like humidity and temperature levels can allow for early detection of mould issues. This allows housing providers to target problem areas, prioritise maintenance activities and avoid costly remediation efforts to property. Quicker intervention can also have significant health benefits for residents.

- 3.4. Energy consumption related to dehumidification can also be optimised, leading to significant cost savings in terms of energy bills. Whilst sensors can also be used to better detect voids.
- 3.5. Renfrewshire Council is exploring how savings in their maintenance costs could be used to provide free broadband for tenants.
- 3.6. The G5GIR project will consider how this approach could be rolled out elsewhere across the Region. Equally, it will review if there are examples of best practice in other areas, including beyond the Region, which could be used to expand the use case for this highly innovative project.

Net Zero Social Housing – North Lanarkshire Council

- 3.7. Using similar technology, North Lanarkshire Council is exploring the use of sensors to understand the impact different interventions (heating systems, solar panel and building fabric) can have to reduce energy consumption, carbon emissions and energy bills.
- 3.8. This project is still at an early stage, and the G5GIR project will be used to help study the 'Test of Change' i.e. how it can work. This will also include a review of best practice across the Region and elsewhere. The final output will be a business case for roll out across the Region.

Health and Social Care Monitoring– Glasgow City Council

- 3.9. Glasgow City Council has been working with a local SME to understand how to enable further digitalisation of home care, ahead of the 2025 digital telecare switchover.
- 3.10. Going from the use of a 'red button' to use of off-the-shelf products, such as Alexa, IoT can be used to monitor and track the health and well-being of a patient remotely. As well as traditional uses in emergencies, these sensors can alert healthcare providers in case of abnormalities, improve outcomes for patients and reduce healthcare costs.
- 3.11. Again, the G5GIR project is being used to test the model and incorporate learnings from elsewhere as part of a regional business case.

Data Aggregation – Regional

- 3.12. The three use cases noted provide an opportunity to test the use of a data aggregation platform which can be used to readily share data from multiple sources across services to improve real time decision making.
- 3.13. Like the other projects, the G5GIR will be testing the adoption of the model.

4. Delivery of G5GIR

- 4.1. The project delivery team is current being finalised. It will be delivered with a blend of internal and external experts and the team is being set up to ensure that knowledge is retained within the Region.
- 4.2. The project should be able to demonstrate clear service delivery improvements and cost saving benefits to local authorities across the Region. In doing so, the team will need input from officers across all Councils, associated social housing and social car providers.
- 4.3. Additionally, input will be sought from the academic community and IoT technology and network connectivity providers who have already confirmed their commitment to the project.
- 4.4. The DSIT grant funding is being used to fund the delivery team, over the period to 31 March '25. As part of the process, the team will identify the budget requirements, and potential sources of funding, for the further roll-out of activity/learning from the project.

5. Project Costs and Spending

- 5.1. This is for a wide of experts who will contribute to the delivery of the business cases. It will be used to cover the costs of the team overseeing the delivery of the project. It will also cover the costs of the staff from the different local authorities who will support the development of the business cases. For instance, through identifying best practice and implementation challenges in their service areas.
- 5.2. Due to the nature of the project, the delivery team requires additional expert support. This will include a range of specialists' providers including – business case, change management and digital connectivity experts.
- 5.3. As agreed with DSIT, the delivery team is looking to procure the following experts, as a priority:
 - Procurement of Business Case Consultants to support the wider programme— anticipated costs £1.2m
 - Payment of grant award to Renfrewshire Council to support the procurement of Sector and Technical Consultants to support their pilot project – anticipated costs up to £200,000. Which will be paid via a grant agreement.
 - Procurement of Technical Consultants to support the Glasgow Health and Social Care Monitoring – anticipated costs £236,000 for service support and approximately £180,000 for hardware and software costs
- 5.4. The procurement will be conducted in accordance with the appropriate procurement law and processes (where relevant) plus subsidy control and other relevant legislation.
- 5.5. As noted, the labour costs for time spent by officers in member authorities is also eligible costs. The programme team are tracking the time for each local authority officer working on the project so their costs can be recovered.

- 5.6. To efficiently manage future spending on the project, including paying for local authority costs, it is proposed that future spending decisions are delegated to the Chief Executives Group.

6. Next Steps

- 6.1. The team has set up a steering group which is overseeing the finalisation on the detail of the scope for each workstream.
- 6.2. After which, the team will look to engage with each member authority to better understand best practice in their local areas.
- 6.3. The Cabinet will be kept updated as the project progresses.

7. Recommendations

7.1 Cabinet is invited to:

- a) Note the content of the report,
- b) Agree recommendations for short term spending on the project, outlined in section 5.3; and
- c) Agree the delegation of future spending decisions to the Chief Executives' Group outlined in 5.6