

Regional Spatial Planning Arrangements agreed etc.

10 There was submitted a report by the Director of Regional Economic Growth regarding a proposed revised governance structure for the oversight of the development of a Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the Glasgow City Region (GCR) following the recommendation of the Clydeplan Joint Committee in June 2023 to transfer responsibility to the GCR Cabinet, advising

- (1) that since 1996 the 8 GCR local authorities had worked together to develop a series of regional spatial plans, the most recent being the Clydeplan Strategic Development Plan (“SDP”), which had been approved by Scottish Ministers in July 2017, which was now no longer extant since the introduction of National Planning Framework 4, and had been replaced by the requirement to prepare a RSS;
- (2) that since 2022, the GCR had seen a very significant increase in responsibility and budget devolved to it from both UK and Scottish Governments, which had included a number of programmes that had clear spatial planning elements to them, as detailed in the report;
- (3) that a new Head of Place had been appointed to oversee the spatial planning elements of the GCR Programme, including Clyde Mission, the development of a Clyde Masterplan and the Investment Zone;
- (4) that unlike the current Strategic Development Plan the RSS would not form part of the statutory Development Plan, and given these changes it was acknowledged that the role and remit for which the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Strategic Development Planning Authority Joint Committee had been originally established would significantly change and therefore the future role of the Committee required to be reviewed;
- (5) that following a vote at its June 2023 meeting regarding a report on future arrangements, the Joint Committee had agreed to recommend the following option:
 - (a) that the contents of the report be noted;
 - (b) that the cessation of strategic development plans be noted; and
 - (c) that the preferred option for considering RSS planning issues going forward be that existing Clydeplan staff resource be reviewed in light of the new requirements for RSS preparation. Staff would be consulted on a possible TUPE transfer to Glasgow City Council. If transferred, the team would be integrated into the existing city region structures (overseen by the Regional Director) who would take responsibility for preparing an RSS and reporting this through to this Cabinet for approval. This would move the duty to prepare an RSS directly into the city region governance structures;

- (6) that 2 Councils, namely, Renfrewshire and North Lanarkshire, had expressed views on the future arrangements, as detailed in the report, demonstrating that a sustainable future arrangement needed to be found that satisfied the desire for democratically accountable governance, generated efficiencies, developed a mutually agreed RSS and delivered on the new programmes devolved to regional level;
- (7) of the proposed way forward which was based on 3 fundamental principles, as detailed in the report;
- (8) that in order to secure local democratic accountability for the new RSS it was proposed that a GCR Spatial Planning Committee be established as a sub-committee of the GCR Cabinet, with membership consisting of Planning Conveners or equivalent from each of the local authorities, as detailed in the report;
- (9) that the Spatial Planning Committee would not have decision making powers, would only make recommendations on the RSS for consideration by the 8 Member Authorities (MAs) to ensure local democratic accountability, and ideally, all 8 MAs would participate in an agreed RSS, however, this would be a matter for each Council to decide on; and
- (10) of the proposed staffing and budget proposals, as detailed in the report.

After consideration, the Cabinet

- (i) noted the report; and
- (ii) agreed
 - (A) to the establishment of a new Spatial Planning Sub-committee, with approval of a Spatial Planning Strategy resting with the individual member authorities; and
 - (B) that member authorities seek approval for this approach through their own democratic structures at the earliest opportunity.