Glasgow 5G Innovation Region – Project delivery and delegated authority agreed.

17   There was submitted a report by the Director of Regional Economic Growth providing an update on the recent £3.2m award by the Department of Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) to the Glasgow City Region (GCR) as one of ten UK 5G Innovation Regions, advising

(1)   of the background and objectives behind the fund, as detailed in the report;

(2)   that the project would deliver a series of business cases that showcased how wireless connectivity and digital technologies could provide transformative impacts on service delivery across the region by focusing on the innovative adoption of internet of things (IoT) in 4 Council areas;

(3)   of the work currently being undertaken by Renfrewshire Council using IoT sensors to monitor residential environmental conditions, North Lanarkshire Council to understand the impact different interventions (heating systems, solar panel and building fabric) had to reduce energy consumption, carbon emissions and energy bills and Glasgow City Council who had been working with a local SME to understand how to enable further digitalisation of home care, ahead of the 2025 digital telecare Switchover;

(4)   that the 3 cases outlined above, provided an opportunity to test the use of a data aggregation platform which could readily share data from multiple sources across services to improve real time decision making, and as with those other projects, the G5GIR would be testing the adoption of the model;

(5)   that the project delivery team was currently being finalised and it would be delivered with a blend of internal and external experts and was being set up to ensure that knowledge was retained within the region;

(6)   that the project should be able to demonstrate clear service delivery improvements and cost saving benefits to local authorities across the region;

(7)   that the DSIT grant funding was being used to fund the delivery team, over the period to 31st March 2025, and as part of the process, the team would identify the budget requirements, and potential sources of funding, for the further roll-out of activity learning from the project; and

(8)   of the project costs and spending, and that to efficiently manage future spending on the project, including paying for local authority costs, it was proposed that future spending decisions be delegated to the Chief Executives' Group.

After consideration, the Cabinet

(a)   noted the report; and

(b) agreed

    (i) recommendations for short term spending on the project, as detailed in the report; and

    (ii) the delegation of future spending decisions to the Chief Executives' Group.