



Glasgow City Council

**Economy, Housing, Transport and Regeneration
City Policy Committee**

Report by Director of Regional Economic Growth

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Item 6

23rd January 2024

Glasgow City Region / Programme Management Office

Purpose of Report:

Following a request at the 7th September 2023 Full Council meeting, this report provides an update on the work of the Glasgow City Region (GCR) Programme Management Office (PMO) and the Region's Intelligence Hub (IH).

Recommendations:

The committee is asked to note the report.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

Local member(s) advised: Yes No consulted: Yes No

1. Introduction and Background

- 1.1 In response to a council motion on 7 September 2023, this report provides a summary of the role and scope of the Glasgow City Region Programme Management Office (GCR PMO) and the Region's Intelligence Hub.
- 1.2 The GCR PMO was initially set up in 2014 to support the £1.13 billion City Deal programme. Funded by the eight local councils, the team is based within Glasgow City Council, led by the Director of Regional Economic Growth. The team includes a dedicated Intelligence Hub which provides economic intelligence and research to support policy and decision-making both at a Regional and local Authority level.
- 1.3 The scope of the team has continued to grow, particularly over the past 18 months, where a significant increase in policies, resources and funding / investment of approximately £300 million have been devolved to the Region
- 1.4 The Glasgow City Region Cabinet was established in 2014, made up of the leaders of the eight member authorities. The Cabinet is responsible for decision making in relation to the City Deal and also for determining the strategic economic development priorities for Glasgow City Region.
- 1.5 The Programme Management Office (PMO) acts as the secretariat for the Cabinet and is the central point for appraisal and monitoring of all aspects of City Deal. The Cabinet is supported by a Chief Executives' Group (CEG), which oversees the management of the PMO in its delivery of the operational functions of the Cabinet, with a series of formal and informal groups set up to support a range of programmes set out below.
- 1.6 Eight local authorities make up the Region: East Dunbartonshire, East Renfrewshire, Glasgow City, Inverclyde, North Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire, South Lanarkshire and West Dunbartonshire.

2. Key Programmes

Glasgow City Region City Deal (£1.13 billion)

- 2.1 Funded by the UK and Scottish Governments, GCR's City Deal is one of the largest and most advanced in the UK. Our 21 infrastructure projects continue to proceed at pace and include the new M8 bridge at Sighthill, the Avenues Programme and the build of the Partick – Govan bridge. The Deal provides vital support to the city and the wider Region's businesses and communities, with contracts to the value of £142 million won by local companies and targeted community benefits in City Deal contracts benefiting hundreds of young people, many from priority groups.

Regional Economic Strategy and Action Plan

2.2 Launched in December 2021, the [Regional Economic Strategy](#) (RES) sets out an evidence base of our economy, future challenges, opportunities and priorities. The strategy was developed and endorsed by the Region's eight councils, along with both Governments and wider public sector agencies including Scottish Enterprise and Skills Development Scotland – all of which will be instrumental in its delivery. An [Action Plan for the Strategy](#) was agreed at August 2022 Cabinet for the delivery of 12 programmes which are being taken forward by the Region and partners, including Electric Vehicle Charging, Housing Retrofit and a Green Business Support programme.

GCR UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan (£74 million)

2.3 The sole region in Scotland to take a collective approach to the development and delivery of the UK Government Shared Prosperity funding, the Region's £74 million Investment Plan was finalised in December 2022, with the GCR PMO responsible for the overall management of UKSPF, including reporting, monitoring and evaluation of the programme.

2.4 While operational delivery rests with each council area, individual projects will support agreed priorities and activities within the Regional Economic Strategy (RES). The collective approach will also bring further benefits and opportunities.

GCR Innovation Accelerator / Innovation Action Plan (£33 million)

2.5 Glasgow's share of £100 million UK Government Levelling Up funding for projects to further accelerate the Region's innovation economy was confirmed in the March 2023 budget statement. As one of three pilot UK Innovation Accelerators (IA), Glasgow's IA projects will address local economic challenges and build on progress made in recent years to take our innovation economy to the next level, leveraging in substantial private sector investment.

2.6 Working with Innovate UK and the UK Government Department for Science, Innovation and Technology, the Region launched a new Innovation Action Plan for the Region in November 2023. Priorities and actions within the plan are underpinned by an extensive research exercise by the Intelligence Hub to identify the innovation clusters and sectors which offer the highest potential for growth and investment. Additionally, the document was developed in consultation with 120 senior stakeholders from business, academia, the third sector, the investor community and local and national government.

Glasgow City Region Investment Zone (£160 million)

2.7 In June 2023, the Region was confirmed as one of two new Investment Zones in Scotland following a joint selection process by the UK and Scottish Governments. The Chancellor's recent Autumn Statement indicated the opportunity will increase to £160 million in targeted investment, tax reliefs and other incentives over ten years. Work is presently progressing to shape the Region's proposals, with an open call underway for applications from eligible projects.

Clyde Mission (£1.5 million and £25 million)

2.8 In August 2023, the First Minister formally announced the migration of Clyde Mission from the Scottish Government to Glasgow City Region, appointing the Region to lead on developing an ambitious masterplan for the river, with £1.5 million funding for a dedicated team to shape this and to manage a further £25 million heat decarbonisation fund.

5G Region of Innovation (Share of £36 million funding)

2.9 In November 2023, Glasgow City Region was announced as one of the ten successful UK 5G Innovation Regions which will share a funding pot from the UK Government of £36 million. Our 5G project will deliver wide-ranging economic and community benefits demonstrating the demand for, and benefits of 5G and advanced wireless technologies across the social housing and health and social care sectors.

3. Intelligence Hub

3.1 The Region's Intelligence Hub acts as an internal economic consultancy for the Region. Its primary functions are to make the case for investment in the Region and ensure the Region makes evidence-based policy and programme / project decisions. In doing so, it is saving significant costs which otherwise would have been spent on consultants.

3.2 The Hub provides a range of economic intelligence related services, including data analysis, policy research, economic modelling, strategy development and project evaluation for the City Region and the City Deal.

3.3 Work covers a broad range of economic areas – including demographics, land use, sustainability, inward investment, economic growth, tourism, transport, enterprise, skills, employment and housing. Outputs delivered by the Hub provide the evidence base for future policy and investment decisions across the Region.

3.4 Recent work completed by the Hub includes the development of Regional clusters using new and innovative [data analysis techniques](#). This work has underpinned the new [Regional Innovation Plan](#). The team has also been using their knowledge and understanding of the Region's economy to support the development of the new Regional Investment Zone.

3.5 The Hub has also recently updated work on the Cost-of-Living, covered in a separate paper on the agenda. And it has also been working up proposals for a Regional programme to support the development of the [Foundational Economy](#)

3.6 The team has been further developing its business case economic model. This allows partners within the Region to quickly understand the economic impact of development projects. This is being used to support the development of a regional Vacant and Land programme. The Hub is currently exploring options to collaborate with other local authorities beyond the Region to create a bespoke model for their localities.

3.7 It is currently collaborating with Glasgow Life to allow it to measure the economic impact of Tourism projects, and helping it reduce their reliance on external consultants.

3.8 The team also continues to develop its monthly [Economic Briefings](#) and bespoke research on topics such as the impact of AI on the economy. Further information is available from:

- The Glasgow City Region [website](#)
- Our latest [Annual Performance Report](#)
- The GCR [blogs](#) and our [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#) channels.

4. Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

Financial: None

Legal: None

Personnel: None

Procurement: None

Council Strategic Plan: Specify which Grand Challenge (s) and Mission (s) the proposal supports. Where appropriate the relevant Commitment can also be listed.

Indirectly, the work will support all of the Grand Challenges and Missions.

Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25? Please specify. (not applicable)

What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report? (no significant impact)

Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-economic disadvantage. (not applicable)

Climate Impacts:

Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify:

What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal? N/A

Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target? N/A

Privacy and Data Protection Impacts:

Are there any potential data protection impacts as a result of this report: No

5. Recommendations

5.1. The committee is asked to note the report.