

Glasgow City Region City Deal – Glasgow Avenues, George Square and Block-C Avenues (Phase 1) (Ward 10) – Progress noted.

8 With reference to the minutes of 7th March 2023 (Print 6, page 616) noting the outcome of a public engagement on George Square and agreeing that updates on the progress of the George Square Area strategy be submitted biannually to this committee, there was submitted a report by the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability regarding the progress achieved during RIBA Stage 3 design of George Square and Phase 1 Block-C Avenues (Ward 10), advising

- (1) that Glasgow City Region City Deal had invested approximately £115m within Glasgow city centre to deliver the Enabling Infrastructure - Integrated Public Realm (EIIPR) programme which was a quality place-making scheme that would transform 17 key streets in Glasgow's city centre and which was commonly known as the Avenues project due to its underlying ethos of introducing trees and green infrastructure back into Glasgow city centre;
- (2) that the Council had successfully secured an additional £23m of funding from Sustrans for the delivery of an additional 4 Avenue locations known as the Avenues Plus project which responded to 1 of the key recommendations made as part of the Connectivity Commission: The acceleration and expansion of the Avenues into other areas of the city;
- (3) that John McAslan and Partners had been awarded the Block C design commission, which included producing RIBA Stages 0-4 designs for George Square, John Street, St Vincent Street and Place, West George Street and George Street, Hanover Street and Miller Street, North Hanover Street, Dundas Street and Dundas Lane and Cochrane Street;
- (4) that the Block C project was jointly funded by the Glasgow City Region City Deal and the Council and St Vincent Street, Cochrane Street, North Hanover Street, George Street and John Street would be funded by Glasgow City Region City Deal and George Square, Hanover Street, Miller Street, Dundas Street and Dundas Lane would be funded by the Council, with the design being split into 2 phases, as detailed in the report; and
- (5) of an overview of the design proposals for Phase 1 and George Square developed design.

After consideration, the committee noted

- (a) the outcomes of the recent stakeholder consultations and resulting design amendments statements for the RIBA Stage 3;
- (b) the completion of RIBA Stage 3 and that the next phase would be RIBA Stage 4 Detail and Technical Design which should be concluded around April 2024; and

- (c) that all activity, as detailed in the report would be subject to ongoing cost, budget and wider Avenues programme monitoring and analysis.