

## **Community Benefits Hub: Regional Approach to Social Benefits from Contractors - Update noted.**

**10** There was submitted a report by Director of Regional Economic Growth providing an update on the launch of the new Community Benefits Hub website, next steps in the roll out across the Region and future opportunities and developments, advising that

- (1) following approval in 2022 by the Chief Executives' Group of the policy for the new Regional Community Wish List scheme, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, work had been underway for some time to move forward with research undertaken on UK schemes in place;
- (2) each Member Authority (MA) had their own front door branded website/link, a summary dashboard and access to detailed reporting functionality, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report;
- (3) short guidance videos for community groups and suppliers had been developed and collateral/comms messaging provided to local councils to support them to promote their local schemes at no cost to MAs;
- (4) Phase 2 welcomed additional non-council organisations, with an initial focus on the Anchor Network members who were expected to provide extensive opportunities to local communities, since contractors aligned to Anchors could meet requests from community groups from any area;
- (5) the build for Phase 2 of the website was underway and had been procured with Phase 1 and that working closely with the University of Strathclyde (UoS), a draft policy for Phase 2 had been developed which had also been considered by the CWL Working Group, as detailed in Appendix 3 to the report and that, subject to local approval by the Chief Executives' Group and UoS, there would be initial engagement with colleagues as part of the development work on the website, testing and eventual launch of Phase 2 prior to roll-out to further Anchor organisations;
- (6) at a future date, Phase 3 (to be procured) would introduce a marketplace model with further functionality added to allow registered suppliers to post up offers of good and services which could be picked up by registered community groups and that a policy would be prepared first for approval by CEG;
- (7) following extensive testing with MAs, suppliers and community groups, Phase 1 of the new Community Benefits Hub website/scheme had been launched in early August 2024 with 3 initial councils, East Renfrewshire, Glasgow and North Lanarkshire and of their progress, as detailed in the report;
- (8) the ambition was to roll-out uptake of the website across GCR councils in the next few months, as detailed in the report; and

- (9) this was the first regional scheme and should provide a powerful and transparent channel for local community groups to have specific asks met and supported by an ever-increasing number of registered contractors.

After consideration, the Cabinet noted

- (a) progress in the launch and planned roll-out of the Community Benefits Hub website/scheme; and
- (b) the policy for Phase 2 anchor network members.