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Regional Economic Strategy Action Plan – Update for 2024/25

Purpose of report:

This report provides the Cabinet with the update of the Regional Economic Strategy (RES) Action Plan for 2024/25.

Recommendations

Cabinet is invited to:

a. note the content of the report;

b. approve the updated RES Action Plan for 2024/25.

1. Purpose

1.1   This report provides the Cabinet with the update of the Regional Economic Strategy (RES) Action Plan for 2024/25.

2. Background

2.1   The Regional Economic Strategy was approved by Cabinet in December 2021 with the Action Plan subsequently approved by Cabinet in August 2022. Delivery of the actions within the document are monitored through by the PMO and reported to the Regional Partnership and Cabinet.

3. Scope of the Updates

3.1.   The process to update the Action Plan was undertaken by the GCR PMO, in consultation with the Economic Delivery Group, prior to moving into the 3rd year of delivery, and reflect progress made to date in delivering the initial actions, removing those actions previously marked as completed or superseded, and adding in new actions.

3.2.   The proposed changes are to the Action Plan, not the Regional Economic Strategy where the grand challenges and missions remain unchanged.

3.3.   Since approval of the first Action Plan in August 2022, there have been significant developments to the policy context, both nationally and within Glasgow City Region. These include:

- securing over £350 million of additional investment to the City Region through the Shared Prosperity Fund, Innovation Accelerator, Investment Zone, Clyde Mission;
- the ongoing City Deal Reprogramming exercise;
- the adoption of Community Wealth Building objectives;
- national policies in relation to Net Zero; and,
- changes to the skills system, signalled through the Withers' Report.

3.4   An updated version of the Action Plan is attached as an Appendix. In addition to the updates proposed as part of this annual review and summarised in the following paragraphs, additional actions will be added to the Action Plan throughout the year as required.

3.5   The updates to the draft RES Action Plan for 2024/25 include:

- Bringing together the development of the GCR Investment Zone and development of a GCR Investment Fund into a new '**Investment Programme'**;
- Updated actions for the **Clyde Mission** Programme (*Actions 7 & 8);*
- A new '**Sustainable City Region Programme'** that brings together actions on the Green Network Blueprint, Clyde Climate Forest, and the Climate Adaptation Strategy Action Plan *(Actions 11-13);*
- Updated actions for the **Housing Retrofit Programme** to include the development of a GCR Retrofit Strategy *(Action 15*);

- Updating of the actions in the '**Future Skills Programme'** to include the actions of the Regional Skills Devolution Group, Local Government Skills activity, development of skills programmes for the Investment Zone and Innovation Action Plan, and delivery of Multiply (Actions 19-26);
- A new '**Economy and Health Programme'** bringing together activity to around the fair and healthy work business case, Living Wage Place accreditation, Good Employment Charter, and Economies for Healthier Lives *(Actions 27 – 31);*
- A new '**Inclusive Economy Programme'** that aligns the community wealth building themes of progressive procurement, shared ownership, and finance, with the Foundational Economy Delivery Plan delivery of the 5G Innovation Region business cases *(Actions 32 – 36);*
- The '**Green Business Support Programme'** has a new action to evaluate the current activity in Q3 2024/25 to inform medium to long term arrangements *(Actions 37 – 39);* and,
- A new '**Commercial Land and Property Programme'** that brings together the completion of the Vacant & Derelict Land business case to include the ongoing commercial assessment of the priority V&DL sites, the energy efficiency analysis of commercial and industrial premises in GCR, creation of economic dashboards for GCR's largest town centres, and creation of a new regional project to provide support for Commercial Property & Land development *(Actions 42 – 47).*

4   Consultation

4.1   The updated Action Plan was presented to the Economic Delivery Group and the Regional Partnership for comment prior to submission to Cabinet for approval.

5.   Recommendations

5.1   Cabinet is invited to:

a. note the content of the report; and,

b. approve the updated RES Action Plan for 2024/25.

Appendix – Draft RES Action Plan for 2024/25

Programme	No.	Project/Action	Stage (Existing, In Development, Emerging)*	Funding/ Resourcing	PMO/Hub Role
1. **City Deal Programme**	1.	Deliver **key project milestones** as set out within City Deal Annual Implementation Plan	Existing	City Deal - £1.13bn Fund	Lead
2. **Innovation Programme**	2.	Deliver **Innovation Accelerator Programme**	Existing	Innovate UK - £32.7million	Support
	3.	Deliver the **Innovation Action Plan (Ecosystem, Identity, Assets & Infrastructure, Skills, Inclusion)**	In Development	Intelligence Hub resources	Lead
	4.	Deliver the benefits of the **City Deal Innovation Projects**: Continued delivery and benefits realisation (ICE, AMIDs, GWEWIQ)	Existing	CD Funding	Lead
	5.	Develop **Local Authority Economic Baselines and Specialisms** to support local strategies and LDPs.	In Development	Intelligence Hub resources	Lead
	6.	Develop profiles on GCR's **Economic Clusters**	Ongoing	Intelligence Hub resources	Lead
3. **Investment Programme**	7.	Develop Proposal for **GCR Investment Zone**	In Development	IZ funding commitment £160m	Lead
	8.	Produce options to establish a **Regional Investment Fund** to support the strategic economic development of GCR.	Emerging	Intelligence Hub resources	Lead
4. **Clyde Mission**	9.	Develop a **Strategic Masterplan** for Clyde Mission	In Development	SG Funding	Lead
	10.	Design the **Heat Decarbonisation Fund** scheme	In Development	SG Funding- £25m	Lead
5. **Sustainable City Region Programme**	11.	Deliver the **Green Network Blueprint**	Existing	Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network	Support
	12.	Support the delivery of **Clyde Climate Forest**	Existing	SPF (£200k until end 24/25) /partners (Forestry Scotland etc.)	Support

Programme	No.	Project/Action	Stage (Existing, In Development, Emerging)*	Funding/ Resourcing	PMO/Hub Role
	13.	Progress the Glasgow City Region **Climate Adaptation Strategy Action Plan**	Existing	Climate Ready Clyde resources	Support
6. **Clyde Metro Programme**	14.	Support the **development of the Case for Investment** for Clyde Metro, including the provision of intelligence and policy support towards the broader placemaking element	In Development	GCR PMO and Intelligence Hub resources	Support
7. **Housing Retrofit Programme**	15.	Develop GCR **Regional Retrofit Strategy**	In Development	GCR PMO resources	Lead
	16.	Support **MAs and Partners to Engage on Domestic Retrofit** (e.g. Retrofit Awareness Week).	In Development	GCR PMO resources	Lead
	17.	Improve use of **Existing Retrofit Funding** (EES: ABs)	In Development	GCR PMO resources	Lead
	18.	Deliver the 5G Innovation Region (Smart and Connected Social Places) - **Net Zero Sensors and Metrics Project**	Existing	UKG DSIT (£3.5m total programme costs)	Lead
8. **Future Skills Programme**	19.	Improve & develop GCR **Employer Engagement** arrangements.	In Development	GCR PMO resources	Lead
	20.	Deliver the **Local Government Skills Project**, including for planning roles and scoping a wider programme of activity.	In Development	MAs to resource posts.	Lead
	21.	**Heat Decarbonisation Skills**: Map provision and estimate upskilling requirements	In Development	GCR PMO resources	Support
	22.	**Maritime**: Measure Apprenticeship demand and recommendations from Rand Report	In Development	GCR PMO resources	Support
	23.	**Regional Skills Devolution Group**: work to progress the proposals to devolve skills decisions to GCR.	In Development	GCR PMO resources	Lead
	24.	Develop **skills programmes to support the Investment Zone and Innovation Action Plan**	Emerging	Part of £160m for IZ	Lead
	25.	**Skills analysis:** develop a methodology for looking at future skills needs of different sectors	Emerging	Intelligence Hub resources	Lead

Programme	No.	Project/Action	Stage (Existing, In Development, Emerging)*	Funding/ Resourcing	PMO/Hub Role
	26.	Support the delivery of the **Multiply Programme**	Existing	SPF (£245k until end 24/25)	Support
9. Economy and Health Programme	27.	Develop a business case for a project to **support the retention of staff in fair and healthy work**	In Development	GCR PMO resources	Lead
	28.	Secure accreditation with Living Wage Scotland to **make GCR a Living Wage Place**	In Development	GCR PMO resources. Future resources TBC.	Lead
	29.	Establish and embed a **GCR Good Employment Charter**	In Development	GCR PMO resources. Future resources TBC.	Lead
	30.	**Pilot 'Economies for Healthier Lives' CHIA Toolkit** on key GCR projects: Metro Business Case, existing MA retrofit investment, and EVCI.	In Development	Health Foundation £300k	Lead
	31.	**Evaluate 'Economies for Healthier Lives' project**	Existing	Health Foundation (included in £300k)	Support
10. Inclusive Economy Programme	32.	**Progressive procurement**: working through the Anchor Network to develop action(s) to increase public procurement spend in GCR, and the development of the Community Wishlist approach.	Emerging	GCR PMO resources	Lead
	33.	**Shared ownership**: working through the Anchor Network to develop an action(s) to support the development of inclusive business models.	Emerging	GCR PMO resources	Lead
	34.	**Finance**: working through the Anchor Network to develop an action(s) to support the recirculation of wealth in GCR.	Emerging	GCR PMO resources	Lead
	35.	Develop a progress the **Foundational Economy Delivery Plan**, including a Challenge Fund & FE business support	In Development	Intelligence Hub Resources	Lead
	36.	Deliver the **5G Innovation Region business cases** for all programme elements: • Smart Social Assets • Connected Care and Wellbeing • Data Aggregation and Business Intelligence • GCR Connectivity Assessment	Existing	UKG DSIT (£3.5m total programme costs)	Lead

Programme	No.	Project/Action	Stage (Existing, In Development, Emerging)*	Funding/ Resourcing	PMO/Hub Role
11. Green Business Support Programme	37.	**Deliver a package of Green Business Support** to businesses in GCR.	Existing	Existing MA resources.	Lead
	38.	**ExtendPlus delivery**: 500 Carbon Baseline Assessments to GCR businesses.	Existing	SPF (£376k until end 24/25)	Support
	39.	**Review Green Business Support arrangements (Q3 2024/25).**	Emerging	GCR PMO resources	Lead
12. Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Programme	40.	**Develop & deliver a GCR ECVI Collaboration** with a Commercial Partner to deliver approx. 3,000 additional chargepoints.	Existing	EVIF (approx. £3.5m) & Private Sector Investment (TBC).	Lead
	41.	**Plan for future EVCI collaboration arrangements** over medium to longer term.	Emerging	All GCR MAs	Support
13. Commercial Land and Property Programme	42.	**Complete VDL OBC & FBC** (inc. Land Supply report, updated economic assessment, recommendations)	Existing	Existing PMO & MA resources.	Lead
	43.	**Complete Commercial Assessment** of the VDL Priority Sites	Existing	GCR PMO resources	Lead
	44.	Deliver **V&DL Business Case recommendations**.	Emerging	GCR PMO resources. Future resources TBC.	Lead
	45.	Scope and develop **Regional Commercial Property & Land Project**	Emerging	Potentially CD funding	Lead
	46.	**Create a dashboard for the largest town centres** in each local authority to help officers understand the performance of these centres	In Development	Intelligence Hub Resources	Lead
	47.	Complete **energy efficiency analysis** of GCR commercial and industrial premises	Existing	GCR PMO resources	Lead

*Project stage is defined as:
- **Existing** – business case completed, funded, scope defined, and in delivery.
- **In Development** – nearly/fully funded & scoped, still in business case development, not in delivery.
- **Emerging** – high-level ambition agreed, but business case, funding and scope not in place.