

**GLASGOW CITY REGION CABINET.**

Minutes of meeting held on 6th April 2021 by video conference.

**Present:** Councillor Susan Aitken (Chair), Glasgow City Council; Councillor Andrew Polson, East Dunbartonshire Council; Councillor Tony Buchanan, East Renfrewshire Council; Councillor Stephen McCabe, Inverclyde Council; Councillor Allan Graham, North Lanarkshire Council (substitute for Councillor Jim Logue); Councillor Iain Nicolson, Renfrewshire Council; Councillor John Ross, South Lanarkshire Council; and Councillor Jonathan McColl, West Dunbartonshire Council.

**Apology:** Councillor Jim Logue, North Lanarkshire Council.

**Attending:** N Lyttle (Clerk); A O'Donnell, K Rush, W Hart, H Gharyal, P Kilby, P Murphy, A Murray, M Poulton, G Smyth and J Thompson, Glasgow City Council; G Cornes, East Dunbartonshire Council; L McMillan, East Renfrewshire Council; A Fawcett, Inverclyde Council; R Steenson, North Lanarkshire Council; B Walker, Renfrewshire Council; C Sneddon and T McDaid, South Lanarkshire Council; R Cairns, West Dunbartonshire Council; D McNulty, Commission on Economic Growth; and S Hamilton, Scottish Development International.

**Minutes of previous meeting approved etc.**

**1** There was submitted the minutes of 8th February 2021.

With reference to paragraph 2 of those minutes when it had been agreed that the Director of Regional Economic Growth continue to liaise with the Scottish Government and other stakeholders, in order to explore the possibility of increasing the geography of the Clyde Mission to extend further into the South Lanarkshire Council area, the Cabinet, having heard Councillor John Ross, Leader of South Lanarkshire Council, advise that he had received a letter dated 2nd March 2021 from Fiona Hyslop, MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Fair Work and Culture, confirming that it had been agreed to increase the geography of the Clyde Mission to extend into the South Lanarkshire Council area, approved the minutes of 8th February 2021.

**Minutes of Glasgow City Region Education Committee noted.**

**2** There was submitted and noted the minutes of the Glasgow City Region Education Committee of 2nd March 2021.

### **West Partnership – Draft Interim Action Plan endorsed.**

**3** There was submitted a report by the Regional Lead Officer regarding the West Partnership's draft Interim Action Plan (IAP), which had been endorsed by the Education Committee on 2nd March 2021 and the Chief Executives' Group of 25th March 2021, and referred to this Cabinet for consideration, advising that

- (1) in September 2020 the West Partnership Improvement Plan, 'The Road to Renewal: Our Response to COVID-19' had been drawn up outlining the Partnership's priorities for session 2020-23, which aimed to support activities during the period of recovery from the pandemic, as well as aiming to address both recovery and renewal;
- (2) in January 2021, a further IAP, as detailed in an appendix to the report, had been drawn up at the request of Directors of Education in order to address the challenges of the current and immediately foreseeable education landscape; and
- (3) the IAP, while based almost entirely on the existing 2020-23 Plan, had recognised the need to prioritise and accelerate certain aspects of that Plan, having identified 7 priority projects, each of which had a specific relevance during the pandemic restrictions, as detailed in the IAP.

After consideration and having heard Tony McDaid, Regional Lead Officer, the Cabinet endorsed the draft IAP.

### **Internal audit review of community benefits arrangements and processes noted – Instruction to Head of Audit and Inspection.**

**4** There was submitted a report by the Head of Audit and Inspection, Glasgow City Council, advising of the findings of a review of community benefits arrangements and processes in place in relation to the Glasgow City Region City Deal.

After consideration, the Cabinet

- (1) noted the contents of the report; and
- (2) instructed the Head of Audit and Inspection to submit further reports on the progress towards achievement of the recommendations within the action plan.

### **Internal audit follow-up report noted.**

**5** There was submitted and noted a report by the Head of Audit and Inspection, Glasgow City Council, providing an update on action taken to implement audit recommendations, which had previously been agreed following the findings of a review of Governance compliance and compliance with Assurance Framework – Business Case submission and appraisal.

### **Internal audit plan 2021/22 approved etc.**

**6** There was submitted a report by the Head of Audit and Inspection, Glasgow City Council, seeking agreement to implement the Glasgow City Region Cabinet annual audit plan for 2021/22, advising

- (1) of the key system areas to be covered in 2021/22, together with the main control risks associated with those areas, as detailed in appendix 1 of the report;
- (2) that the main audit output in 2021/22 would be the Head of Audit and Inspection's Annual Governance Statement, as detailed in the report;
- (3) that the indicative fee for the cost of this audit work during 2021/22 was £20,200;
- (4) of the current status of each of the 3 audit reviews that had so far been undertaken within the 2020/21 audit plan, as detailed in the report; and
- (5) that the Cabinet would be kept up-to-date with any significant changes to the audit plan in 2021/22.

After consideration, the Cabinet approved the implementation of the Glasgow City Region audit plan for 2021/22, together with the audit fee of £20,200.

### **Interim performance report noted etc.**

**7** There was submitted an interim performance report by the Director of Regional Economic Growth for the period from 17th February to 29th March 2021 providing updates on the progress of the City Deal Programme, including key performance indicators for the Infrastructure Fund programme, project status, programme risks and issues, Clyde Mission and Clyde Climate Forest project and Annual Implementation Plan actions.

After consideration, the Cabinet

- (1) noted the report and that the following 2 Full Business Cases had been approved, in terms of the Scheme of Delegation, during the current cycle
  - (a) Renfrewshire Council's Clyde Waterfront and Renfrew Riverside Project; and
  - (b) Glasgow City Council's Clyde Waterfront and West End Innovation Quarter – Access and Integrity of the Waterfront – Tradeston Bridge project;
- (2) approved

- (a) the use of the Cenefits system for a further 24 months until the end of April 2023, as detailed in section 4.10 of the report;
  - (b) that Glasgow City Council receive the funding for the Clyde Climate Forest project on behalf of the City Region, as detailed in section 5.1.3 of the report;
  - (c) a £50,000 contribution from the 2020/21 Programme Management Office budget underspend to allow procurement of a Greenport bid to proceed, subject to the publication of the Scottish Government's prospectus, as detailed in section 6 of the report; and
  - (d) the changes to the city Deal Programme Business Case, as detailed in section 12 and Appendix 2 of the report respectively; and
- (3) agreed the revised dates for the Annual Implementation Plan actions, as detailed in the report.

### **Glasgow City Region Metro - Feasibility study update noted etc.**

**8** With reference to the minutes of 6th October 2020 noting an update on the Glasgow City Region Metro project feasibility study, there was submitted a report by the Project Director providing a further update on developments that had taken place since August 2020, advising

- (1) that a project steering group chaired by the Chief Executives of Glasgow City and Renfrewshire Councils had met monthly since January 2021 to review programme progress updates and to discuss emerging issues and risks, and that the feasibility study's project initiation document and communications strategy had both been approved by the steering group;
- (2) of an update in respect of the publication of Transport Scotland's (TS) Strategic Transport Project Review 2 Phase 1 outputs, as detailed in section 4 of the report;
- (3) that a multi-disciplinary Metro project team had been established that continued to explore other sources of funding to progress the feasibility study and had been successful in obtaining £175,000 funding to undertake 3 specific consultancy commissions, with feedback awaited from a joint funding bid with Public Health Scotland for £300,000 from the Economies for Healthier Lives Programme fund, all as detailed in the report;
- (4) that Steer Group had been appointed as the feasibility study's transport specialist and Jacobs UK Ltd had been commissioned to support 2 work packages, namely, an Economic Narrative and a Transport Governance and Operator Model, as detailed in the report;

- (5) that the Metro project team continued to work closely with TS, its consultants Jacobs, and AECOM to progress a phase 2 work plan for evaluating the next stage of Metro;
- (6) of an update on the work that had been undertaken by the Metro Strategic Advisory Group, including engagement with stakeholders, as detailed in the report;
- (7) that the South-West corridor route had been selected as the initial test route to analyse potential routing options, map available data, identify set gaps and test sensitivity analysis on data sets, as detailed in the report; and
- (8) of the research and benchmarking work that had been undertaken and that further meetings were planned with UK Tram in order to explore developing networking and reference study contacts.

After consideration, the Cabinet

- (a) noted
  - (i) the close working and developing relationships of the Metro feasibility team with TS and its appointed consultants, and with Strathclyde Partnership for Transport and Glasgow's teams preparing the regional and local transport strategies; and
  - (ii) that regular update reports would be submitted to the Chief Executives' Group and this Cabinet on the progress of the feasibility study, including any potential proposals for approving additional funding; and
- (b) agreed that the Project Director and the Programme Management Office make representations to Transport Scotland with a view to ensuring that Inverclyde Council was recognised as an integral part of the Metro project.

**Programme Management Office budget and member authority recharges 2021/22 approved.**

**9** There was submitted a report by the Director of Regional Economic Growth proposing a draft Programme Management Office (PMO) budget for 2021/22, together with member authority recharges for 2021/22, advising

- (1) of the current draft projection for the PMO budget for 2021/22, as detailed in appendix 1 of the report; and
- (2) of a detailed breakdown of the proposed recharges to each member authority, as detailed in appendix 2 of the report.

After consideration, the Cabinet approved the draft PMO budget and proposed member authority recharges for 2021/22.

## **City Deal Infrastructure Fund - Accelerated grant allocations 2020/21 approved.**

**10** There was submitted a report by the Director of Regional Economic Growth regarding the award of an additional £65m of accelerated City Deal Infrastructure Fund grant in 2020/21 from the Scottish Government and the proposed allocation of this grant to each member authority, advising

- (1) that, following discussions with the Scottish Government it had recently confirmed the forward funding of the additional £65m grant in 2020/21 which was expected to be recovered from deductions to grant payments in financial years 2023/24 and 2024/25, however this arrangement had still to be confirmed;
- (2) that the accelerated grant allocations for 2020/21 had been based on member authorities' cumulative actual spend levels as at 31st December 2020 and the percentage share of the overall grant allocation that the projects had;
- (3) of the proposed additional grant allocations in 2020/21 in relation to the £65m, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report; and
- (4) that the approach to allocation of the £65m grant had been agreed by the Glasgow City Region Finance Strategy Group and highlighting that the grant letter was expected to be updated to allow the grant allocated to member authorities to be in excess of eligible expenditure in 2020/21, provided that the cumulative grant received was not higher than cumulative spend to date.

After consideration, the Cabinet approved the proposed allocations, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

## **Shaping Scotland's Economy: Scotland's Inward Investment Plan – Presentation noted.**

**11** The Cabinet noted a presentation by Sharon Hamilton, Head of Financial and Business Services, Scottish Development International, regarding the Scottish Government's "Shaping Scotland's Economy: Scotland's Inward Investment Plan", which had been launched in October 2020 and set out the ambition for Scotland as a leading destination for inward investment, during which she highlighted

- (1) that the Plan set out to take a purposeful, values-led approach to investment and would focus on inward investment only;
- (2) that inward investment made a positive and significant impact on Scotland's economy;
- (3) that for the last 7 years in a row, Scotland had attracted the most projects of any UK nation or region outside of London;

- (4) the 9 opportunity areas where Scotland's strengths met the world's needs, intersecting with future global investment flows;
- (5) the mix of wider benefits that those 9 opportunity areas delivered and how these could potentially support job creation throughout Scotland; and
- (6) a brief description of the 18 inward investment plan actions.

**Marketing sites in Glasgow City Region – Zoom Prospector demonstration noted.**

**12** The Cabinet noted a presentation by Anne Murray and Gavin Smyth, Invest Glasgow, Glasgow City Council, regarding the Zoom Prospector property search tool for prospective investors developed by Invest Glasgow for the Glasgow City Region, which outlined the many advantages that the tool had to offer.

**Ready to Go Projects List – Position agreed etc.**

**13** There was submitted a report by the Director of Regional Economic Growth updating the Cabinet on the development of the list of 'Ready to Go' projects that could be implemented quickly in order to stimulate economic growth, advising that

- (1) one of the tasks included within the Glasgow City Region Economic Recovery Plan was to seek to secure additional infrastructure investment from the UK and Scottish Governments to support projects that would drive short term economic growth, through 'ready to go' projects that could be implemented quickly;
- (2) the Programme Management Office (PMO) had engaged with the Member Authorities and partner organisations to identify potential projects that would fall into that category and from the information provided, 81 potential projects, falling into a mixture of infrastructure, commercial and residential projects, had been identified that could be progressed in the short to medium term, all as detailed in the appendix to the report; and
- (3) following the recent call from the Scottish Government for Regional Recovery Funding, the PMO was now working on the development of a separate 'Ready to Go' project list for revenue funding opportunities and that this would be presented to a future meeting.

After consideration, the Cabinet noted the report and agreed that the Chair of the Cabinet would use the list to make representations to the UK and Scottish Governments in order to identify available funding to deliver those projects.

**Development and submission of bid to the Scottish Government's Bus Partnership Fund on behalf of Glasgow City Region agreed etc.**

**14** There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive, North Lanarkshire Council, Transport and Connectivity Portfolio Lead, seeking approval to submit a bid on behalf of the Glasgow City Region Bus Partnership (the Partnership) to the Scottish Government's Bus Partnership Fund (BPF) for bus priority interventions across the Glasgow City Region (GCR), advising

- (1) that the bid was currently being developed by the Partnership, which had brought together the 8 GCR local authorities, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT), bus operators and bus passenger representative groups, to secure funds from the BPF and any successor funds or funding opportunities, and of the Terms of Reference of the Partnership, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (2) that the Partnership was seeking to improve connectivity, safety and wellbeing in the GCR, restore confidence in bus services following COVID-19, accounting for any subsequent changes in transport needs and to reverse the historic decline in bus use by promoting bus as a prime means of passenger transport and a core component in the delivery of wider transformational strategies, with a target of 25% passenger growth between 2022 and 2027;
- (3) that the BPF had first been announced as part of the 2019 Programme for Government whereby as part of its response to the climate emergency, the Scottish Government had committed to investing £500m over 5 years to deliver targeted bus priority measures on local and trunk roads, and having been formally launched in 2020 as a competitive fund, the BPF had been structured in 2 phases, as detailed in the report;
- (4) that while the funding programme covered 5 years, quick win projects for delivery in 2021/22 were also requested to support early scheme delivery and furthermore Transport Scotland had suggested that bidders might also wish to identify schemes for delivery beyond the initial 5-year period in case future funding commitments by the Scottish Government allowed Transport Scotland to extend the fund;
- (5) that a long list of bus priority proposals had been identified for assessment and inclusion in the bid and throughout the early development of the bid there had been consensus among the Partnership that the focus of work should be on prioritising bus priority on routes that benefited the greatest number of passengers, with options being grouped into 3 key funding themes, as detailed in the report;
- (6) of a proposal to submit a bid amounting to between £200m and £250m for investment in bus priority interventions across the GCR, with costs for the bid being sought solely from the BPF and no additional funding from partner authorities, although City Deal funding alongside other committed funding would be highlighted to strengthen the bid, as detailed in the report; and



- (7) that the final bid document would not be completed until after this meeting and that due to the extremely tight timescales involved in preparing and submitting the bid, which was required to be submitted by 16th April 2021, it was proposed that final sign-off of the bid be delegated to the Chair of the Transport and Connectivity Portfolio Group, as detailed in the report.

After consideration, the Cabinet

- (a) noted the report and the work of the Partnership in bringing together all 8 GCR local authorities, SPT, bus operators and other bus interest groups to agree areas of joint work in developing a bid to the BPF; and
- (b) approved the submission of the bid to the Scottish Government's BPF by Glasgow City Council on behalf of the GCR, and that final sign-off of the bid be delegated to the Chair of the Transport and Connectivity Portfolio Group; and
- (c) noted that an update report would be submitted to the Chief Executives' Group and this Cabinet detailing the progress of the bid and setting out options for resourcing the ongoing project management of the programme.

**Economic Recovery Plan – Home energy retrofit programme feasibility study update noted.**

**15** With reference to the minutes of 8th December 2020 approving the Glasgow City Region COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan, which had included the development of a feasibility study for the home energy retrofit programme, there was submitted and noted a report by Councillor Jonathan McColl, Leader of West Dunbartonshire Council, Housing and Equalities Portfolio Lead, providing an update on the work that had been undertaken in this respect, advising

- (1) that a home energy retrofit programme, delivered at scale across Glasgow City Region had the potential to deliver on a number of the region's local and national policy ambitions and a feasibility study would help set up a clear route map to successfully deliver a large scale retrofit programme, as detailed in the report;
- (2) that the development and scope of the feasibility study had been supported by the Programme Management Office and it had subsequently been discussed and agreed by the Housing and Equalities Portfolio Group, as well as being shared with the Regional Partnership and other stakeholders, as detailed in the report;
- (3) that the retrofit programme would include both energy efficiency (home insulation) and low and zero emissions heating options within the scope, focussing on those properties that had the lowest energy efficiency ratings, those with an Energy Performance Certificate of bands D-G, with bands A-C being deemed the most energy efficient;

- (4) that an initial analysis of the housing stock in the region had indicated that over 428,000 properties required to improve their home energy efficiency ratings and it was anticipated that the proposed scheme would be delivered over a period of at least 10 years;
- (5) of a number of key questions that the feasibility study would require to address, as detailed in the report;
- (6) that a total budget of £80,000 had been identified to deliver the feasibility study, and of this, Skills Development Scotland had offered a contribution of £15,000, and it was proposed that the Regional Recovery Renewal Funding from the Scottish Government be used to meet the remaining £65,000 required; and
- (7) of the current indicative timetable and next steps for the retrofit proposal, as detailed in the report.

**Date of next meeting noted.**

**16** The Group noted that the next meeting would take place on Tuesday, 1st June 2021 at 10.00am.