

Proposal for City Deal flexibility and partnership actions to mitigate COVID-19 impacts – Action agreed.

3 There was submitted a report by the Director of Regional Economic Growth regarding a proposed joint response to the UK and Scottish Governments on the challenges in delivering the City Deal projects as a result of COVID-19, advising that

- (1) on 30th April 2020 the Scottish and UK Governments wrote to the Glasgow City Region Programme Management Office (PMO) recognising that COVID-19 had created unprecedented pressures and was impacting on priorities at this time and communicating their ongoing support for the GCR City Deal and commitment to working in partnership with the Region to ensure that the Deal funding delivered maximum economic impact, both in the immediate future and as we moved into the recovery phase of this crisis;
- (2) a joint response to the UK and Scottish Governments, developed in consultation with all 8 member authorities, was communicated on a teleconference with officers from all of Scotland's City Deal and Growth Deal PMOs on 21st May 2020, with that response outlining:
 - (a) the challenges faced in the delivery of the City Deal projects;
 - (b) what flexibility might be required to usual arrangements and practices;
 - (c) what changes might be required to existing plans; and
 - (d) what actions could be taken together in partnership with both Governments;
- (3) during the call the Governments had outlined the following key messages:-
 - (a) there was an expectation that across Scotland most projects that had already been approved would still progress, although they might require to be tailored to fit with any changes resulting from COVID-19 impacts;
 - (b) there was no plan to expand Deal funding at this stage; and
 - (c) there was recognition from both Governments that in many cases Deals would require priority input from Government agencies, such as Transport Scotland, Scottish Enterprise etc, to address slippage that had occurred; and
- (4) the Chief Executives' Group had agreed that the response, detailed at Appendix 1 to the report, should be submitted to the Governments for consideration at the Scottish City Region Deal Delivery Board meeting on 28th May 2020, with the proviso that the response would be subject to further amendment following discussion at this meeting.

After consideration, the Cabinet

- (i) noted
 - (A) the PMO's participation in the call with the UK and Scottish Government representatives on 21st May 2020; and
 - (B) that Appendix 1 to the report had been submitted to the UK and Scottish Governments as a draft response ahead of the Scottish City Deals Delivery Board meeting on 28th May 2020;
- (ii) instructed the PMO to draft an amendment to section D of the response to ask the Scottish Government to consider additional powers being given to the Glasgow City Region Economic Partnership and to this Cabinet to give them revenue raising powers around areas such as land values and other such areas, with the draft amendment to be circulated to Cabinet members for comment and approval prior to it being submitted to the Governments; and
- (iii) agreed that South Lanarkshire Council be asked to collaborate with Renfrewshire Council to draft a communication from City Region Leaders to be sent to Rolls Royce regarding the effect on the regional economy of global redundancies within the company.