

**GLASGOW CITY REGION CABINET.**

Minutes of meeting held on 9th February 2021 by video conference.

**Present:** Councillor Susan Aitken (Chair), Glasgow City 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, P Murphy, A Robertson and J Thompson, Glasgow City Council; G Cornes, East Dunbartonshire Council; L McMillan, East Renfrewshire Council; A Fawcett, Inverclyde Council; K Bryson, North Lanarkshire Council; C Sneddon, South Lanarkshire Council; J White, West Dunbartonshire Council; D McNulty, Commission on Economic Growth; and M Hislop, GCV Green Network Partnership.

**Minutes of previous meeting approved.**

**1** There was submitted and approved the minutes of 8th December 2020.

**Performance report noted etc.**

**2** There was submitted a performance report by the Director of Regional Economic Growth for Quarter 3 2020/21 providing updates on the progress of the City Region Portfolio Groups, the City Region Intelligence Hub and the City Deal Programme, including a Clyde Mission update, project status, benefit realisation performance, financial monitoring information, programme risks and issues, change control requests and Annual Implementation Plan actions.

After consideration, the Cabinet

- (1) noted the report and the change control request approved by the Chief Executives' Group in terms of delegated authority, as detailed in the report;
- (2) approved the change control request in relation to East Dunbartonshire Council's Place and Growth programme project, as detailed in the report; and
- (3) 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.

### **Member Authority infrastructure grant allocations 2020/21 approved.**

**3** With reference to the minutes of 2nd June 2020 approving the initial allocation of infrastructure grant to each member authority for 2020/21, there was submitted a report by the Director of Regional Economic Growth regarding the proposed final allocation of infrastructure grant to each member authority, advising that

- (1) the final position in relation to the 2020/21 allocation of grant had been agreed in principle by the Finance Strategy Group and subsequently by the Chief Executives' Group;
- (2) the proposed 2020/21 grant allocation, detailed in an appendix to the report, was based on member authorities' cumulative actual spend levels as at 31st December 2020 and projects' percentage share of the overall grant allocation; and
- (3) member authorities could only claim eligible expenditure up to the level of their grant allocation for 2020/21.

After consideration, the Cabinet approved the 2020/21 allocation of infrastructure grant to each member authority, as detailed in the appendix to the report.

### **Changes to the Assurance, Governance and Programme Management Framework 2021 approved etc.**

**4** There was submitted a report by the Director of Regional Economic Growth seeking approval for a series of changes to be made to the Assurance, Governance and Programme Management Framework 2019 (AF), advising

- (1) that the Glasgow City Region City Deal required the development of an AF, the first version of which had been approved in 2015, with a further revised version being approved in 2019 noting that the AF would be reviewed annually and amended to reflect any changes in practices, processes and procedures, with any such amendments being subject to approval by this Cabinet and endorsed by the UK and Scottish Governments;
- (2) that all key changes, excluding the refresh to the names of the Group members, reflected decisions that had already been approved by the Chief Executives' Group and this Cabinet throughout the period since the approval of the 2019 AF; and
- (3) of a summary of the key changes which had been made to the 2019 AF, all as detailed in the report.

After consideration, the Cabinet

- (a) approved the changes to the AF 2019 V2.4, as detailed in the report; and

- (b) agreed that the Lead Officers Group be given delegated authority to approve any required changes to the Programme Management Toolkit resulting from the changes to the AF.

### **Regional Economic Baseline approved.**

5 There was submitted a report by the Director of Regional Economic Growth, providing, in an appendix to the report, a Regional Economic Baseline (REB) for the Glasgow City Region, which was an update on the Regional Strategic Assessment published in Autumn 2019, advising that using a wide range of socio-economic indicators, the REB provided partners with a snapshot of how well the economy was performing and

- (1) focused primarily on the Glasgow City Region, although the underlying data with the breakdown of indicators was available and in the coming months, analysis would be conducted on each indicator, which would provide member authority insights;
- (2) included a relative assessment against comparator UK Core City Regions and identified emerging priorities for the Region; and
- (3) included brief commentaries on City Deal impacts arising from COVID-19 and it would be used to inform the update of the Programme Business Case.

After consideration and having heard a presentation by Andrew Robertson, Intelligence Hub Manager, the Cabinet approved the report.

### **Launch of the Clyde Climate Forest in the Glasgow City Region – Position agreed etc.**

6 There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive of East Dunbartonshire Council seeking approval to support the launch of the Clyde Climate Forest (CCF), which had been developed for the Glasgow City Region (GCR) by the Glasgow Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership (GCVGNP) and Scottish Forestry, advising

- (1) of the background to the GCVGNP, how it had launched its 'Blueprint for the Green Network' in Spring 2019, and since that time how the GCVGNP had been working with all the GCR local authority and other partners to develop a delivery strategy for the ambitions embedded in the Blueprint, which had included exploring the potential to develop major region-wide initiatives that delivered elements of the Blueprint whilst responding to the twin challenges of climate change and ecological collapse;
- (2) that the first of those initiatives was the CCF, with the support of Scottish Forestry and preparations were underway to launch the project in June 2021, with associated inaugural tree planting events in each of the GCR local authorities in March 2021;

- (3) that the CCF would harness current enthusiasm for tree planting and associated resources and would seek to channel them into worthwhile and well-considered tree planting projects that would deliver a broad range of climate and ecological benefits to the GCR;
- (4) of the aim of the CCF, its specific objectives over the next decade and outlining that it was already working with several organisations that had a stake in increasing tree planting in the GCR, with potential to align other interest groups behind the project, as detailed in the report; and
- (5) that a Programme Board and Steering Group had been established to provide oversight for the project and provide direction and co-ordination for the project's programme of work, respectively.

After consideration and having heard a presentation by Max Hislop, GCVGNP, the Cabinet thanked Mr Hislop for his presentation,

- (a) noted and welcomed the development of the CCF project; and
- (b) agreed to the formal launch of the CCF project in June 2021.

**Public Health Scotland collaboration and funding bid – Expression of interest noted etc.**

7 There was submitted a report by the Director of Regional Economic Growth providing an update on collaboration activity between the City Region Programme Management Office (PMO) and Public Health Scotland (PHS), advising

- (1) that PHS was a national special health board of NHS Scotland, jointly sponsored by the Scottish Government and COSLA, which launched on 1st April 2020, and was Scotland's national agency for reducing health inequalities and improving health;
- (2) that following a series of meetings in late 2020 between the PMO and PHS officers, PHS had established a new full-time role for an Organisation Lead to support regional economic development who would work to support the Glasgow City Region (GCR) with the development and implementation of the refreshed 10-year Regional Economic Strategy;
- (3) of the overall aims of the role of the Organisation Lead and how it would support the GCR to deliver its strategic objectives and strengthen the focus of the partnership in applying evidence-based interventions to realise the potential impact of economic development in improving population health, as detailed in the report;
- (4) that it was proposed that PHS and the PMO develop a partnership framework, setting out shared outcomes from the partnership and approach to evaluation of the collaboration to determine impact and learning to strengthen collaboration between public health and economic development;

- (5) that in late 2020, the Health Foundation, an independent charity committed to bringing about better health and health care for people in the UK, had launched a call for applications for the £1.72m Economies for Healthier Lives Programme (EHLP), and was inviting Regional Economic Partnerships to apply for funding of between £300,000 and £500,000 over 3 years, all as detailed in the report;
- (6) that the Health Foundation had previously highlighted 6 categories of economic development activities as having a role in health and the EHLP would fund up to 4 partnerships, as detailed in the report; and
- (7) that the PMO and PHS had developed an Expression of Interest that had been submitted by 29th January 2021, with the proposed project having 3 stages, as detailed in the report.

After consideration, the Cabinet noted the report and the submission of an Expression of Interest for a regional project, as detailed in the report.

#### **Date of next meeting noted.**

**8** The Group noted that the next meeting would take place on Tuesday, 6th April 2021 at 10.00am.

#### **Exclusion of public.**

**9** The Cabinet, resolved in terms of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to exclude the public for the remaining business as exempt information, as defined in paragraph 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A, was likely to be disclosed.

#### **City Deal Innovation project - Proposed future governance arrangements – Position agreed etc.**

**10** In terms of Standing Order No 7(c), as a matter of urgency, there was submitted a report by the Director of Regional Economic Growth notifying the Cabinet of the imminent change in control of the company that owns and operates one of the City Deal Innovation projects, advising

- (1) of the background to the project, including the capital grant awarded, the conditions attached to the grant, the wider funding package and the significant achievements of the project over the 5-year monitoring period, all as detailed in the report; and
- (2) of a commercial opportunity that had arisen for the company operating the project and of the legal and financial implications both for the project and for the City Deal, including issues that had still to be resolved.

After consideration, the Cabinet, having considered the implications, wider economic benefits of the proposal and value-for-money for the public purse,

- (a) noted
  - (i) the imminent change in control of the company that delivered the innovation project supported through the Glasgow City Region (GCR) City Deal;
  - (ii) the plans for future investment in the facility by the new owners; and
  - (iii) the legal advice that had been provided to Glasgow City Council in its role as Lead Authority for GCR and as the body that awarded the capital grant on behalf of GCR;
- (b) agreed that the Chief Executives' Group be given delegated authority to terminate the existing grant agreement between GCC and the project owner, subject to financial and/or legal implications to Glasgow City Council being addressed, and thereby waiving the claim to 50% of net sale proceeds and concluding the existing governance arrangements with regard to the project; and
- (c) noted that a report on all 3 Innovation projects would be submitted to the next meeting of this Cabinet.