

GLASGOW CITY REGION CABINET.

Minutes of meeting held on 8th December 2020 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.

Apologies: Councillor Vaughan Moody, East Dunbartonshire Council; and Councillor Jim Logue, North Lanarkshire Council.

Attending: N Lyttle (Clerk); A O'Donnell, K Rush, W Hart, A Robertson 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, South Lanarkshire Council; J White, West Dunbartonshire Council; and Professor Alan McGregor and Des McNulty, Commission on Economic Growth.

Minutes of previous meeting approved.

- 1** There was submitted and approved the minutes of 6th October 2020.

Minutes of Glasgow City Region Education Committee noted.

- 2** There was submitted and noted the minutes of the Glasgow City Region Education Committee of 17th November 2020.

Internal audit review of governance compliance noted – Instruction to Head of Audit and Inspection.

- 3** There was submitted a report by the Head of Audit and Inspection, Glasgow City Council, advising of the findings of a review of governance compliance, in respect of frequency, attendance and agendas of meetings, as outlined within the Assurance Framework and expanded upon in group roles and remits and meeting plans and maps.

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.

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

After consideration, the Cabinet noted the report and that the Head of Audit and Inspection would provide a further report on the implementation of the outstanding recommendations.

Skills and Employment Futures Report – Presentation noted etc.

5 The Cabinet heard a presentation by Professor Alan McGregor, University of Glasgow, in respect of progressing the 5 recommendations relevant to the skills and labour market contained in the Commission for Economic Growth's report, "Looking Forward to the Future: The Glasgow City Region Economy", which had been circulated to Cabinet members in April 2020 for approval of proposed leads and next steps for progressing the 28 recommendations in that report, together with monitoring arrangements and funding for the work. During his presentation Professor McGregor highlighted

- (1) a number of problems that were likely to become more entrenched, as well as those that were likely to re-emerge, in light of COVID-19;
- (2) potential labour market scenarios in the wake of Brexit, including loss of employment due to tariff barriers, reduced inward investment and reduction in EU workers in the labour supply;
- (3) that the skills and labour chapter within the Commission report had focused on 3 key labour market challenges through to 2050, namely, digitalisation of employment and the rise of artificial intelligence, long run changes in demand for skills and the levelling out of the number of Scotland's 16-65 year olds;
- (4) in detail, the Commission reports' 5 key skills and labour market recommendations and that there was no reason to revise these in light of COVID-19;
- (5) that whilst the skills chapter within the Commission report paid little attention to the climate emergency, a variety of skills would be required in order to deliver the city's net zero carbon target by 2030, including:-
 - (a) retrofitting existing homes and buildings to make them more energy efficient, with an estimated initial programme cost of £10-12 billion;
 - (b) opportunities in specific trades, including external wall insulation which was a major part of retrofitting; and

- (c) manufacturing opportunities within the GCR; and
- (6) that GCR could not control global economic forces and major technological changes, but with the necessary powers could build an agile and first class skills system.

After consideration and having noted a number of points raised by Cabinet members, which were responded to by Professor McGregor, the Cabinet

- (i) thanked Professor McGregor for his presentation; and
- (ii) agreed that the Programme Management Office develop the matter further with the Scottish Government with a view to creating a more agile and forward looking skills system throughout the GCR.

Glasgow City Region COVID-19 Recovery Plan - Updated actions approved etc.

6 With reference to the minutes of 11th August 2020 approving the key priority areas that would be the focus of the Glasgow City Region (GCR) COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan and instructing the Programme Management Office (PMO) to co-ordinate the development and costing of the key priority actions to be progressed by the lead partners, there was submitted a report by the Director of Regional Economic Growth regarding the updated version of the Plan, advising that

- (1) the Chief Executives' Group on 28th October 2020 had noted that the PMO was reviewing the most recent versions of local recovery plans from individual Member Authorities and examples of good proactive from other cities and regions, and that work would continue to update the GCR COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan and present it as an outward facing document;
- (2) it was anticipated that the refreshed Regional Economic Strategy would be published in 2021 setting out the Region's long term objectives to restart the Regional economy and would build on the foundations set out in the Recovery Plan, adapting to the challenges of living with or post-COVID-19, as the picture continued to evolve;
- (3) the updated Recovery Plan was attached as an Appendix to the report, with the 10 actions identified in the updated Plan, which covered 4 broad themes, being aligned with the previous set of key actions previously approved by this Cabinet and reflected the national policy announcements from the UK Government and Scottish Government over recent months and the activity that was underway in GCR to respond to COVID-19; and
- (4) beneath the 10 actions, a series of supporting tasks and enablers had been identified and lead delivery partners assigned ownership, with updates and progress reports being submitted to future meetings of this Cabinet, the Chief Executives' Group and the Regional Partnership.

After consideration, the Cabinet

- (a) approved the updated GCR COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan; and
- (b) agreed that updates on the progress of the Plan be incorporated within the performance report submitted to each Cabinet meeting.

**Update on the work of the Glasgow City Region Intelligence Hub –
Presentation noted.**

7 With reference to the minutes of 11th February 2020 noting a presentation by Andrew Robertson, Intelligence Hub Manager, on the work of the Glasgow City Region Intelligence Hub (the Hub) during its first 6 months of operation, and agreeing that a further update be submitted to this Cabinet within 12 months on the progress of the work of the Hub, the Cabinet heard and noted a presentation by Mr Robertson, advising

- (1) of the work which had been undertaken by the Hub since February 2020;
- (2) of the aims and objectives of the Hub, and of its reporting structure;
- (3) of the specific areas of work that the Hub had undertaken in respect of COVID-19;
- (4) of the broader economic outlook beyond COVID-19;
- (5) that the Hub had developed a series of papers which would feed into the Regional Economic Strategy, as well as a wide variety of different tasks that included Cenefits support and new data analytic tools; and
- (6) of a series of planned activities, both internally and externally, which would be undertaken by the Hub over the next 6 months.

Interim performance report noted etc.

8 There was submitted an interim performance report by the Director of Regional Economic Growth for the period from 19th October to 18th November 2020 providing updates on the progress of the City Region Portfolio Groups, the City Region Intelligence Hub and the City Deal Programme, including key performance indicators for the Infrastructure Fund programme, project status, programme risks and issues, COVID-19 recovery and change control requests, and Annual Implementation Plan actions.

After consideration, the Cabinet

- (1) noted
 - (a) the contents of the report and the detail of the 13 Project Change Control Requests submitted to the PMO, as detailed in the report; and

- (b) the Change Control Requests approved by the Director of Regional Economic Growth and by the Chief Executives' Group, subject to the conditions for approval, as detailed in the report;
- (2) approved the 8 Change Control Requests, subject to the conditions for approval, as detailed in the report; and
- (3) agreed the Working Matters Successor Project grant payments due to Member Authorities, as detailed in the report.

Glasgow City Region – Review of Governance Structures – Phase 1 findings – Position noted etc.

9 There was submitted a report by the Director of Regional Economic Growth regarding the findings and suggested improvement actions from the first phase of a review of the Glasgow City Region (GCR) governance structures, advising

- (1) that in June 2020, the Chief Executives' Group had agreed to a comprehensive review of the City Region's governance structures, which was prompted by conditions set out in the recent Gateway Review approval and by other complementary work underway, with the primary purpose of the exercise being to assess the effectiveness of governance structures, overall and at an individual group level, to understand whether they were fit for purpose in terms of make-up, scope, membership, how they operated, what they delivered, how they worked together and importantly their compliance with our legal and contractual commitments;
- (2) of both the reporting and review approach which had been undertaken, as detailed in the report, including interviews with 8 Council Leaders, discussion at group meetings and an online survey for stakeholders;
- (3) that the review had provided findings in all of the areas referred to at (1) above but owing to the wide ranging nature of the review, findings would be reported in 2 phases, with this first phase setting out high level findings from the overall consultation exercise and specifically seeking to address various Gateway 1 approval conditions;
- (4) that the questions, key findings for each question and any associated phase one improvement actions were detailed in Appendix 1 of the report; and
- (5) that the phase 1 findings would also inform phase 2 of the review, with any phase 2 recommendations being reported to this Cabinet in early 2021, and would take account of a number of related developments, as detailed in the report.

After consideration, the Cabinet

- (a) noted the findings from the review exercise and that a phase 2 report would follow in early 2021; and
- (b) approved phase 1 improvement actions detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

Date of next meeting.

10 The Cabinet noted that its next meeting would take place on Tuesday, 9th February 2021 at 1000 hours.