

Glasgow City Region Economic Briefing – Presentation noted etc.

4 The Partnership heard a presentation by Andrew Robertson, Intelligence Hub Manager, Glasgow City Region (GCR), highlighting:

- (1) the background to the GCR Intelligence Hub, as well as its main objectives and functions;
- (2) that the work of the Hub covered all aspects of the economy but primarily focussed on the elements which local and regional government had a role to play;
- (3) that the GCR had a very broad based service economy, with approximately one third of Scotland's total economy measured by the key metrics of jobs, businesses and Gross Value Added (GVA);
- (4) the economic outlook in terms of inflation, wages and Gross Domestic Product;
- (5) that the Centre for Cities had developed a cost of living tracker which showed how the cost of living was affecting cities differently, with workers in Glasgow, on average, £143 per month poorer in October 2022 than they were the previous year;
- (6) that it was estimated that the average household energy bill would reach £3,000 from April 2023, and that the Federation of Small Businesses had warned that soaring energy bills were fuelling the cost of doing business, with the hospitality sector being especially vulnerable;
- (7) that the deteriorating macro environment had taken its toll on the construction industry with access to credit now being cited as a key challenge, with Faithful and Gould having forecast that inflationary pressures would stay high for 2023, and that construction output was expected to drop by 3.9% before recovering in 2024;
- (8) that headline estimates of employment, unemployment and economic activity were all similar to those published last month, however, there were some signs of change with economic activity due to ill health and early retirement appearing to be falling slightly; and
- (9) how GCR had done relatively well over a series of key economic metrics.

After consideration, the Cabinet

- (a) thanked Mr Robertson for his presentation and further noted a range of suggestions from Cabinet Members regarding potential areas of work that the Cabinet might wish to take forward, in conjunction with the Intelligence Hub and the Programme Management Office (PMO);

- (b) heard Jane Thompson provide an update on ongoing pieces of work that the PMO was currently undertaking in respect of Vacant and Derelict Land and Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure; and
- (c) agreed that the PMO arrange an informal session for Cabinet Members to be convened out-with the normal cycle of meetings, in order to discuss how best to progress the various proposals that had been highlighted during the meeting.