

GLASGOW CITY REGION CABINET.

Item 1

8th August 2023

Minutes of meeting held on 9th May 2023 by video conference.

- Present:** Councillor Susan Aitken (Chair), Glasgow City Council; Councillor Gordan Low, East Dunbartonshire Council; Councillor Owen O'Donnell, East Renfrewshire Council; Councillor Stephen McCabe, Inverclyde Council; Councillor Jim Logue, North Lanarkshire Council; Councillor Iain Nicolson, Renfrewshire Council; Councillor Joe Fagan, South Lanarkshire Council; and Councillor Martin Rooney, West Dunbartonshire Council.
- Apologies:** L McMillan, East Renfrewshire Council; A O'Donnell, Glasgow City Council; L Long, Inverclyde Council; A Russell, Renfrewshire Council; and C Sneddon, South Lanarkshire Council.
- Attending:** T O'Neill (Clerk); G Cornes, East Dunbartonshire Council; G McCarney, East Renfrewshire Council (substitute for L McMillan); C Edgar and W Hart, Glasgow City Council; K Rush, J Allen, C Keaveny, P Kilby, M McNally, A Robertson, J Thompson and J Winterbottom, Glasgow City Region; S Jamieson, Inverclyde Council (substitute for Louise Long); D Murray, North Lanarkshire Council; B Walker, Renfrewshire Council (substitute for A Russell); P Manning, South Lanarkshire Council (substitute for C Sneddon); P Hessel, West Dunbartonshire Council; D McNulty, Commission for Economic Growth; M Joyce, Mott MacDonald; R Jones, Ernst & Young LLP; and M Hislop, Green Network Partnership.

Minutes of previous meeting approved.

- 1** There was submitted and approved the minutes of 14th February 2023.

Kevin Rush highlighted that

- (1) it was hoped that the proposed informal session for Cabinet Members to discuss a number of issues would be held sometime in June 2023 prior to the summer recess; and
- (2) an announcement was expected by the Scottish Government over the next few weeks regarding the future direction of the Clyde Mission Programme and it was agreed that any information received on this issue be circulated to Cabinet Members prior to the next meeting of this Cabinet on 8th August 2023, at which a further discussion would be held.

Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure – Presentation noted etc.

- 2** There was submitted a report by the Director of Regional Economic Growth setting out the proposed next steps for Glasgow City Region (GCR) following the

initial phase of development of the Strategy and Expansion Plan (SEP) for electric vehicle charging infrastructure (EVCI) in GCR, advising that

- (1) the development of the SEP had been supported and overseen by the Electric Vehicle Taskforce (EVT) which contained officer representatives from each GCR Member Authority (MA), and that the SEP had been shared with the Taskforce for its comments and that its feedback had been taken into account;
- (2) a supplementary report had also been prepared that looked specifically at HGV (hydrogen) and fleet charging requirements and that this was currently being reviewed by the officers from the MAs;
- (3) on 27th April 2023, the GCR Chief Executives' Group (CEG) had discussed the next steps required to progress the expansion in the delivery of EVCI and there had been agreement that the MAs should continue to explore the opportunities to collaborate on the delivery of EVCI within the GCR;
- (4) the CEG had also considered the different roles that MAs could play in delivering and operating EVCI and the potential models that could be adopted and had agreed that further work be undertaken to more fully understand the potential benefits and risks of all of the potential commercial models;
- (5) in order to progress this work, a senior officer group with representation across the 8 MAs had been established to shape and oversee the next stage of the work, with the next stage of activity likely requiring the engagement of consultants to undertake further feasibility work and some initial engagement with the market to gauge the appetite and capacity of commercial partners to support the expansion of EVCI;
- (6) the work to develop the SEP had concluded and the work on HGV and fleet requirements would be concluding shortly pending final feedback from MAs; and
- (7) it was proposed that this Cabinet delegate to the Director of Regional Economic Growth, the decision to authorise the final scheduled payments to Mott MacDonald, pending the receipt of final feedback from the officers on the EVT, and that the final version of the SEP be shared with Transport Scotland.

After consideration and having heard a presentation by Mairi Joyce, Mott McDonald, providing an overview of the EVCI work to date, the Cabinet

- (a) noted the report; and
- (b) agreed
 - (i) the next steps, as detailed in the report; and

- (ii) that the progress report to be submitted to the next meeting of this Cabinet in August 2023, include a proposed statement of principles and priorities for the Cabinet to approve prior to continuing to develop further on the delivery of EVCI within the GCR.

Glasgow City Region Economic Briefing – Presentation noted.

3 The Cabinet noted a presentation by Andrew Robertson, Intelligence Hub Manager, Glasgow City Region (GCR) on the GCR Economic Briefing for April 2023 which had a focus on the latest labour market data, analysis of the real scale of the Region's unemployment challenge, recent long term healthy and economy analysis, the skills and good work challenge and the recent budget and devolution, highlighting that

- (1) the recent release of the Annual Population Survey in full allowed for the first time a detailed look at change in the labour market over the COVID-19 period and that whilst there was positive employment news, the Region's long standing challenge of economic inactivity due to ill-health had become even more acute;
- (2) looking further back, the Region's relative over the last decade had been satisfactory, with the second largest fall in unemployment and employment growing faster than national averages, however, again, economic inactivity (specifically ill-health) was a major challenge;
- (3) the Hub had conducted some analysis on 'involuntary inactivity', using a method devised by Centre for Cities, to understand better the scale of hidden unemployment in GCR;
- (4) the Institute for Public Policy Research's Commission on Health and Prosperity had released a longitudinal study on the personal impacts of ill-health, and as well as highlighting cost to the economy (£43bn), it also outlined costs to the individual as well as the labour market;
- (5) the Resolution Foundation had published the 13th Low Pay Britain report which had highlighted that too many low-paying jobs did not offer good work (i.e. security, autonomy, voice in the workplace, career progression) and job satisfaction among low earners had fallen;
- (6) skills and human capital were a crucial driver of productivity and economic growth over the long term and, work-related training was in decline, despite big shifts needed to thrive in the workplace; and
- (7) the Chancellor had announced various areas for investment, and one of the key announcements was Trailblazer Devolution Deals for mayoral authorities in England and simplification of their funding arrangements.

Glasgow City Region Innovation Accelerator – Position noted etc.

4 With reference to the minutes of 22nd June 2022 noting an update regarding the progress made on the Glasgow City Region Innovation Accelerator Programme (GCRIA) and of the key sectoral areas that had been approved by the Regional Partnership, there was submitted a report by the Director of Regional Economic Growth providing an update on those projects which had been approved for funding through the GCRIA and regarding the further development of a regional innovation action plan, advising

- (1) that the development of the GCRIA had drawn on a group of key principles which had been set out at both national and local level for this work, as detailed in the report;
- (2) that the anticipated outcomes of the GCRIA had been linked to the key aims of the GCR Regional Economic Strategy, and in particular, for the GCR to become one of the most innovative, sustainable and inclusive economies in the UK by 2030;
- (3) that various iterations of a programme approach had been undertaken across 2022 as part of a process of ‘asymmetric co-creation’ between GCR and Innovate UK, with the main steps being
 - (a) the establishment by GCR of an industry-led Innovation Accelerator (IA) Partnership in March 2022;
 - (b) the submission of a local IA programme plan in June 2022 to Innovate UK with a project longlist corresponding to the key sectors identified by local partners; and
 - (c) the refinement of this long list with the support of university partners as key intermediaries, leading to a total of 17 projects being submitted to the Innovative UK portal by the deadline of 2nd November 2022 and with a total ask of the IA funding of £55m;
- (4) that a shortlist of 11 of those projects, as detailed in appendix 1 of the report, had been put forward by the panel to the GCR Regional Partnership on 2nd February 2023 for approval;
- (5) that those 11 projects were focused on the key sectors that regional partners had previously identified as representing particular areas of local strength and many of the selected projects had drawn upon strong links between business and the higher education sector in particular;
- (6) of the proposed next steps, which had included the development of a wider regional innovation action plan which was currently being created by regional partners in collaboration with Innovate UK, with the current aim being to launch the regional plan in the summer with Innovate UK, as detailed in the report; and

- (7) that a Scottish Government national innovation strategy had also been drafted, with a formal publication date yet to be announced, and that the work to develop the regional action plan would seek to ensure that it connected with national policy at both Scottish and UK level and that it readied the GCR for any further funding opportunities that might arise.

After consideration, the Cabinet

- (i) noted the project portfolio that had been finalised for the GCRIA; and
- (ii) agreed to receive a further report on the draft regional innovation action plan.

Public Health Scotland collaboration with Glasgow City Region – Update on progress and presentation noted etc.

5 There was submitted a report by Jo Winterbottom, Organisation Lead for Regional Economies and Health providing a summary of the impacts and the learning from the Public Health Scotland (PHS) and Glasgow City Region (GCR) collaboration with a view to informing the development of a future programme of work on regional economies and health, advising that

- (1) the PHS/GCR collaboration had begun with the PHS Director of Place and Wellbeing joining the GCR Regional Partnership in November 2020 and that subsequent discussions had led to the creation of a full-time public health post (Organisational Lead), funded by PHS and embedded within the GCR Programme Management Office team, and the development of a regional funding bid to the Health Foundation;
- (2) the ambitions for the collaboration had been agreed by this Cabinet on 9th February 2021 and the embedded Organisational Lead had taken up post in May 2021, with a full report on progress being attached as an Appendix to the report;
- (3) the aims for the programme had been as follows:
 - (a) **EMBED** – To maximise the influence PHS could have on economic decision making, initially, to support the development of Glasgow City Region's economic strategy such that it best supported the outcomes of improved health and reduced health inequalities;
 - (b) **LEARN** – To develop an understanding of partnership needs in this area and the added value that PHS could bring in order to help PHS develop its ways of working and work programme; and
 - (c) **TRANSLATE AND ROLL OUT** – To improve health and reduce health inequalities by facilitating more effective working arrangements with, and providing advice and support to, regional economic partnerships;

- (4) under the first aim, EMBED, progress had been made in relation to a number of objectives, as detailed in the report;
- (5) there had also been significant learning captured under various themes, as detailed in the report;
- (6) the learning to date would be shared through a series of dissemination activities, including a webinar hosted by SHRED planned for 19th May 2023, with panel members including the GCR Director of Regional Economic Growth, Scottish Government Regional Economic Policy Unit and PHS Director of Strategy, Governance and Performance, and that in addition, dissemination opportunities would be identified through existing networks and the new Improving Health and Reducing Inequalities Combined Authorities Programme, which had been expanded to a wider range of geographies in England, enabling greater engagement between and within regions and politically;
- (7) PHS would embed the Regional Economies and Health work within a broader PHS Wellbeing Economy programme and opportunities for further development would be identified through the implementation of the Scottish Government Regional Policy review, which would include working to achieve Health in All Policies at a regional level and harnessing the potential of any future funding and investment that might be routed through regional economic partnerships; and
- (8) further to initial contacts already made, scoping work would be undertaken to explore the extent to which other regional economic partnerships reference health inequalities in regional strategies and were engaged with local public health teams, noting that each regional economic partnership was different, and where feasible, the approach developed in GCR would be tested and refined in other geographies.

After consideration and having heard a presentation by Jo Winterbottom, the Cabinet

- (i) noted the progress made; and
- (ii) approved the proposed next steps, as detailed in the report.

Internal audit plan 2023/24 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 2023/24, advising

- (1) of the key system areas to be covered in 2023/24, 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 2023/24 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 2023/24 was £21,500;
- (4) of the current status of each of the 4 audit reviews which had so far been undertaken within the 2022/23 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 2023/24.

After consideration, the Cabinet approved the implementation of the Glasgow City Region audit plan for 2023/24, together with the audit fee of £21,500.

Internal audit review of change control and contract management (Phase 2) noted – Instruction to Head of Audit and Inspection.

7 There was submitted a report by the Head of Audit and Inspection, Glasgow City Council, advising of the findings of a review across the Glasgow City Region City Deal Programme Management Office and Member Authorities of the arrangements in place for Phase 2 of change control and contract management in relation to capital projects and highlighting the 3 recommendations, as detailed in the report.

After consideration, the Cabinet

- (1) noted the contents of the report; and
- (2) instructed the Head of Audit and Inspection to provide follow-up reports showing progress towards achievement of the Action Plan arising from the audit undertaken.

Internal audit review of project procurement strategies noted – Instruction to Head of Audit and Inspection.

8 There was submitted a report by the Head of Audit and Inspection, Glasgow City Council, advising of the findings of a review across the Glasgow City Region City Deal Programme Management Office and Member Authorities of the arrangements in place for project procurement strategies and highlighting the 2 recommendations, as detailed in the report.

After consideration, the Cabinet

- (1) noted the contents of the report; and

- (2) instructed the Head of Audit and Inspection to provide follow-up reports showing progress towards achievement of the Action Plan arising from the audit undertaken.

Internal audit follow-up report noted.

9 There was submitted and noted a report by the Head of Audit and Inspection, Glasgow City Council, providing an update on follow-up audits on action taken to implement audit recommendations which had previously been agreed following the findings of reviews in respect of change control and contract management (Phase 1) and anti-bribery, corruption and fraud measures.

Ernst & Young's Annual Audit Plan 2022/23 approved.

10 There was submitted a report by Ernst & Young LLP regarding the Glasgow City Region Cabinet Joint Committee Annual Audit Plan for 2022/23, which

- (1) summarised its assessment of the key challenges and the main risk areas facing the Glasgow City Region Cabinet Joint Committee; and
- (2) detailed the audit work that would be carried out by Ernst & Young LLP to address those issues.

After consideration and having heard R Jones, Ernst & Young LLP, the Cabinet approved the Glasgow City Region Cabinet Joint Committee Annual Audit Plan for 2022/23, together with the audit fee of £9,960.

Member Authority final infrastructure grant allocations 2022/23 – Position agreed etc.

11 There was submitted a report by the Director of Regional Economic Growth regarding the proposed final allocation of the infrastructure grant 2022/23 to each Member Authority (MA), advising

- (1) that this distribution related to the remaining £24m from the £48m full year grant received from the Scottish Government for 2022/23;
- (2) that the approach in relation to allocation of grant in 2022/23 included in the report, was based on each MAs cumulative actual spend levels reported in the Quarter 4 Project Status Reports and this approach was consistent with that for prior year main grant allocations considered by the Finance Strategy Group;
- (3) that grant funds allocated to MAs could not be in excess of eligible expenditure incurred; and

- (4) of the additional columns shown for expenditure incurred, funding permitted from business cases and grants received to date, as detailed in the report.

After consideration, the Cabinet

- (a) noted the report; and
- (b) approved the proposed final allocation of the infrastructure grant 2022/23 to each MA.

Quarterly performance report noted – Change control requests approved.

12 There was submitted a performance report by the Director of Regional Economic Growth for Quarter 4 2022/23 providing updates on the progress of the Regional Economic Strategy Action Plan projects, the City Region Team workplan and the City Deal Programme as at 31st March 2023.

After consideration, the Cabinet

- (1) noted the report; and
- (2) approved the change controls requests in respect of the following Infrastructure Programme projects, all as detailed in the report:-
 - (a) East Renfrewshire Council – M77 Strategic Corridor;
 - (b) Glasgow City Council – Enabling Infrastructure: Integrated Public Realm Cambridge Street and Sauchiehall Street Precinct;
 - (c) North Lanarkshire Council – Pan Lanarkshire Orbital Transport Corridor – Ravenscraig Infrastructure Access Full Business Case 2 and Full Business Case 3;
 - (d) North Lanarkshire Council – A8/M8 Corridor Access Improvements – Eurocentral Access Infrastructure;
 - (e) South Lanarkshire Council – Community Growth Area; and
 - (f) South Lanarkshire Council – Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School.

Draft Local Evaluation Framework – Progress noted etc.

13 There was submitted a report by the Director of Regional Economic Growth providing an update on the preparations for the City Deal Gateway Review 2, including the production of the Local Evaluation Framework (LEF), advising

- (1) of the background to the Gateway Review process requirements, as detailed in the report;

- (2) that in December 2022, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) had issued a revised National Evaluation Framework (NEF) setting out the requirements for the City Deal Gateway 2 Process, and the purpose of the Gateway Review was to evaluate the impact of interventions on local economic growth, and the process by which these interventions had been agreed and implemented, and that the evaluation would cover progress over the 5-year period since the last Gateway;
- (3) of the 4 key components to be evaluated for the review, namely, Process, Impact, Capacity and Partnership Working and Economic forecasting, as detailed in the report;
- (4) that the key roles and responsibilities of the Government, its consultants (SQW) and the Glasgow City Region Programme Management Office (PMO) and Intelligence Hub and the GCR Commission on Economic Growth, as detailed in the report, had been set out within the NEF;
- (5) that the PMO and Intelligence Hub had received the LEF template in January 2023 and a significant amount of work had been undertaken throughout February and March to complete the template, with the draft LEF being shared for feedback with a wide range of stakeholders on Monday, 3rd April 2023;
- (6) of the feedback that had been provided, as detailed in the report;
- (7) that the PMO and Hub were working through the final revisions to the LEF to take account of stakeholder feedback and the Chief Executives' Group had delegated responsibility for approving final changes of the LEF to the Director of Regional Economic Growth; and
- (8) that the implementation plan was included within the LEF and upon approval of the LEF by DLUHC, immediate first steps would include:
 - (a) undertaking a series of one-to-one interviews for Capacity Building workstream throughout Summer 2023; and
 - (b) developing the specification and procuring a consultant to complete the Commercial Premises Supply and Demand study.

After consideration, the Cabinet noted

- (i) the progress made in the development of the LEF, together with the feedback received; and
- (ii) that the Director of Regional Economic Growth would submit the final version of the LEF to DLUHC.

Clyde Climate Forest - UK Shared Prosperity Fund – Position agreed etc.

14 There was submitted a report by the Glasgow City Region (GCR) Head of UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) providing an update regarding a proposal for the UKSPF to support the continued delivery of the Clyde Climate Forest (CCF) project, advising

- (1) of the background to the CCF, a 10-year initiative and a delivery project of the regional Green Network, with a commitment to seeing 18m trees planted in the GCR within a decade, including 1.5m trees in urban areas, as part of a programme to tackle the 3 grand challenges in the Regional Economic Strategy, namely, inclusive growth, productivity and the climate emergency;
- (2) that the launch of the CCF had been made possible because of £400,000 of funding from the Woodland Trust's Emergency Tree Fund and a funding commitment by Scottish Forestry, which was due to come to an end by October 2023;
- (3) that the GCR Chief Executives' Group, at its meeting on 7th December 2022, had asked the GCR Head of Shared Prosperity Fund to work with the UKSPF Project Lead Officers within each Member Authority (MA) to consider the applicability of the UKSPF to fund CCF;
- (4) that in order to fund the ongoing activity of CCF an annual budget of £100,000 was required and of the proposed MA split to continue to fund CCF, based on the established City Deal methodology, which MAs would draw from activity identified within their initial UKSPF Investment Plan Expenditure Profile, as detailed in the report;
- (5) of a proposal that the GCR Programme Management Office (PMO) take on the role to manage, monitor and report on CCF activity, effectively becoming the 'ninth' MA in the GCR UKSPF programme;
- (6) of the grant agreement that was being developed with the Green Action Trust (GAT), as the agent for the ongoing delivery of the CCF, as detailed in the report; and
- (7) that arrangements would be made for the retention of the grant from the 2023/24 UKSPF allocation to each MA, whilst the 6-monthly report would include details of the inclusion of the CCF project and the GCR PMO as the 'ninth' MA.

After consideration, the Cabinet

- (a) noted the report; and
- (b) agreed
 - (i) the allocation of GCR UKSPF to deliver the CCF project; and

- (iii) that the GCR PMO take on the responsibility as the 'ninth' partner to manage and report on the CCF project.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund 6-monthly report – Submission to UK Government approved.

15 There was submitted a report by the Glasgow City Region (GCR) Head of UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) summarising the GCR UKSPF activity to the end of the financial year 2022/23 and providing the UK Government (UKG) with the details of the 'credible plan', requesting carry forward of 2022/23 underspend into 2023/24, advising

- (1) that the 6-monthly report, detailed in Appendix 1 of the report, provided the UKG with information across a number of headings, including the:
 - (a) overall programme summary;
 - (b) project progress report;
 - (c) outputs and outcomes across the 3 priorities and Multiply;
 - (d) expenditure profile over the 3 years of the programme; and
 - (e) summary of match-funding;
- (2) that to the end of the financial year 2022/23, 4 of the 8 Member Authorities (MAs) had commenced delivery of UKSPF activity, with the remaining 4 due to start operations in Quarter 1 of 2023/24, and as a result, GCR had utilised around 10% of the UKSPF Year 1 allocation, as detailed in the report;
- (3) that the UKG had confirmed that during 2022/23 Lead Local Authorities would be able to carry forward Year 1 underspend into Year 2 with its approval and that the UKG had requested that a 'credible plan' for the utilisation of this underspend be submitted as part of the 6-monthly report;
- (4) of examples of various project activities currently being delivered, as detailed in the report;
- (5) that the UKG had recently updated its guidance on what constituted a Material Change and, in addition, the GCR UKSPF Assurance Framework had detailed the approach to the GCR UKSPF 'Change Control Process, all as detailed in the report;
- (6) that Appendix 2 of the report had provided details of the changes notified by MAs and included within the 6-monthly report; and
- (7) that the UKG had indicated that that the GCR UKSPF Year 2 allocation of £19,284,451 would be transferred to GCR on approval of the 'credible plan.'

After consideration, the Cabinet approved submission of the GCR UKSPF 6-monthly report be submitted to the UKG.

Date of next meeting noted.

16 The Cabinet noted that the next meeting would take place on Tuesday, 8th August 2023 at 1000 hours.