

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.