



Glasgow City Region Cabinet

Report by Kevin Rush, Director of Regional Economic Growth

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The River Clyde: A Vision for the Future and Scoping Adaptation Pathways

Purpose of Report:

This short covering report accompanies two complementary research reports that will be presented to the Cabinet on 8 November 2022 regarding the River Clyde.

Recommendations

The Cabinet is invited to:

- a) note the content of the report.

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This short covering report accompanies two complementary research reports that will be presented to the Cabinet on 8 November 2022 regarding the River Clyde.

2. Background

- 2.1 The two presentations relate to two recent and complementary research reports that consider the River Clyde as an asset for Glasgow City Region and which sets out the proposed next steps in addressing tidal flooding, and scoping adaptation pathways. A short summary of the origins of these pieces of research is set out in the following sections.

3. *'A River Runs Through It: Imagining the future of Glasgow City Region and Clyde Valley'*

- 3.1 In September 2021, a group from Buro Happold's Urban C:Lab programme, Professor Brian Evans - Glasgow's City Urbanist, Glasgow School of Art's Glasgow Urban Lab, and Architecture & Design Scotland, undertook an exercise to explore the future of the Glasgow City Region and the Clyde Valley, teaming up with stakeholders, academics, students and professionals from the built environment sector, NGOs, and local, regional and national governments.

- 3.2 The aim of this exercise was to:

- Enable and encourage participants to adopt new ways of seeing the context, challenges and opportunities for Glasgow City Region and the Clyde Valley.
- Enable and encourage participants to adopt and apply systems-thinking – actively blurring the boundaries of siloed agendas, in order to stimulate integrated propositions. The exercise included a focus on hydrological, ecological, environmental, social, economic, movement and infrastructure systems across the Glasgow City Region as a whole and focus on points of coincidence between them.
- Produce innovative propositions and perspectives for the future of the Glasgow City Region and the Clyde Valley, that intentionally sit outside the confines of conventional local, regional or national rhetoric.
- Contribute to and energise the existing narratives around the future of the Clyde Valley region and engage public and city stakeholders and opinion shapers in conversation.

- 3.3 The outcome of this exercise was the production of the report, '[*A River Runs Through It: Imagining the future of Glasgow City Region and Clyde Valley*](#)'. The findings of this report will be presented to the Chief Executives' Group by Professor Brian Evans.

4. *'Tidal Flooding on the Clyde Options Analysis and Scoping of Adaptation Pathways'*

- 4.1 This work was commissioned by [ClimateXChange](#) with the objective of supporting the Scottish Government's '*Second Climate Change Adaptation Programme (SCCAP) 2019-2024*' by informing development of a credible climate adaptation plan for the tidal reach of the River Clyde and provide practical insights that can be shared with other coastal regions in Scotland and beyond.

- 4.2 At a regional level the research findings seek to directly support the Clyde Mission's vision driven approach backed by evidence and facts. The outputs of this research and scoping study have been designed to provide:

- a baseline of evidence to support future plans and decision making;
- practical insights into the potential use and application of adaptation (investment) pathways for the tidal river Clyde; and
- recommendations for future co-design and development of plans and actions.

4.3 The [Executive Summary](#) and the [Full Report](#) are available online. The research findings will be presented to the Chief Executives' Group by Steven Trehwella, Director of Rivelin Bridge Ltd, the consultants who led on the development of the report.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 The Clyde Mission will play a key role in co-ordinating and overseeing the next steps in relation to these report findings.
- 5.2 The Director of Regional Economic Growth is in ongoing discussion with both the Scottish Government and the UK Government regarding the future role and operation of Clyde Mission and how it relates to the wider Glasgow City Region governance structures. Once these discussions have concluded, a proposal regarding the future of Clyde Mission will be brought back to the Chief Executives' Group for discussion.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 The Cabinet is asked to:
- a) note the content of the report.