

Variation in order of business.

- 3 The Cabinet agreed to vary the order of business as hereinafter minuted.

East Renfrewshire Council – City Deal Programme realignment proposal approved etc – Declaration of interest.

4 There was submitted a report by the Director of Environment, East Renfrewshire Council (ERC), setting out a proposal from ERC to modify its M77 Strategic Corridor programme of City Deal funded activity, advising

- (1) that transport connectivity between the 2 major settlements in the ERC area, Eastwood and Barrhead, was poor and in view of this, the overall focus of ERC's programme had been to provide infrastructure, including road improvements through an M77 Strategic Corridor Programme in support of the planned growth of Newton Mearns, sustaining the regeneration of Barrhead and transforming the Dams to Darnley Country Park into a popular visitor attraction;
- (2) that in 2015, a Strategic Business Case (SBC) had been approved for 4 projects totalling £44m, as detailed in the report, with several Outline Business Cases (OBCs) and Full Business Cases (FBC) from those 4 projects having already been submitted and approved, and while some of those projects had been delivered quickly, some of the mainly transport related projects had been delayed, as detailed in the report;
- (3) that the costs associated with the original SBC and subsequent OBCs and FBCs were now out of date and/or insufficient due to a variety of reasons, as outlined in the report;
- (4) of a revised project timescale together with details of the OBCs and FBCs that still required to be delivered, and of a proposal by ERC to revise its programme, with the key proposal being to redirect funding from the Levern Valley Link Road and the Dams to Darnley visitor facilities projects to support increased expenditure on the Aurs Road upgrade and Barrhead South rail station projects, with the shortfall in funding of around £5.950m being met from external sources, all as detailed in the report;
- (5) that an assessment carried out by ERC's consultants, Stantec and EKOS, had confirmed that the proposed funding adjustments did not adversely affect the benefits of the Programme and provided a positive return on public sector investment; and
- (6) that the revisions proposed in the report had been approved by ERC on 30th June 2021, subject to approval through the normal City Deal governance arrangements in relation to this Cabinet's approval.

After consideration and having heard Andy Cahill, East Renfrewshire Council, the Cabinet

- (a) approved the revised proposed project scopes and budgetary revisions to be contained within the existing allocation of £44m to ERC from City Deal; and
- (b) noted
 - (i) the progress made on the development and implementation of ERC's £44m City Deal Programme and the significant benefits that had already been delivered for residents and business, with remaining projects set to stimulate further economic growth and inclusive growth benefits for the area;
 - (ii) the outcome of an independent report that indicated that the proposals would have no negative impact on the overall programme Gross Value Added to the economy of East Renfrewshire of £193m; and
- (iii) the proposed submission of revised and/augmented OBCs to future meetings of this Cabinet.

Councillor Buchanan declared an interest in this item and took no part in the decision.