

GLASGOW CITY REGION CABINET.

Item 1
16th June 2022

Minutes of meeting held on 15th February 2022 by video conference.

Present: Councillor Susan Aitken (Chair), Glasgow City Council; Councillor Andrew Polson, East Dunbartonshire Council; Councillor Tony Buchanan, East Renfrewshire Council; Councillor Stephen McCabe, Inverclyde Council; Councillor Allan Graham, North Lanarkshire Council (substitute for Councillor Jim Logue); Councillor Marie McGurk Renfrewshire Council; (substitute for Councillor Iain Nicolson); Councillor John Ross, South Lanarkshire Council; and Councillor Jonathan McColl, West Dunbartonshire Council.

Apologies: Councillor Jim Logue, North Lanarkshire Council; and Councillor Iain Nicolson, Renfrewshire Council.

Attending: M Hughes (Clerk); K Rush, C Edgar, J Allen, H Gharyal and J Thompson, Glasgow City Council; G Cornes, East Dunbartonshire Council; L McMillan, East Renfrewshire Council; L Long, Inverclyde Council; L Noble, North Lanarkshire Council; B Walker, Renfrewshire Council; A McKinnon, South Lanarkshire Council; M McGuinness, West Dunbartonshire Council; D McNulty, Commission on Economic Growth; and D Meechan, Audit Scotland.

Minutes of previous meeting approved.

1 There was submitted and approved the minutes of 7th December 2021.

Quarterly performance report noted etc.

2 There was submitted a performance report by the Director of Regional Economic Growth for Quarter 3 2021/22 providing updates on the progress of the City Region Portfolio Groups, the City Region Intelligence Hub and the City Deal Programme.

After consideration, the Cabinet

- (1) noted the report; and
- (2) approved the change control requests in respect of the following Infrastructure Programme projects, as detailed in the report:-
 - (i) East Renfrewshire Council – M77 Strategic Corridor; and
 - (ii) South Lanarkshire Council – East Kilbride Community Growth Area – Jackton Primary School.

Programme Management Office budget and member authority recharges 2022/23 approved etc.

3 There was submitted a report by the Director of Regional Economic Growth seeking approval of the proposed Glasgow City Region (GCR) Programme Management Office (PMO) budget for 2022/23, together with member authority recharges for 2022/23, as detailed in appendix 1 of the report.

After consideration, the Cabinet

- (1) approved the GCR PMO budget and member authority recharges for 2022/23;
- (2) noted the report and that in addition to the member contributions, for 2021/22:
 - (a) Glasgow City Council and the Scottish Government had jointly funded a post to support the Clyde Mission; and
 - (b) Glasgow City Council had funded the cost of 4 graduates within the PMO; and
- (3) further noted that
 - (a) the Scottish Government had provided funding of £675,000 through the Regional Recovery Fund in 2021/22;
 - (b) the PMO had been successful in securing £347,865 from the Health Foundation over the next 3 years; and
 - (c) the GCR Intelligence Hub was in discussions to secure external funding to support additional work, as detailed in the original business case.

Infrastructure grant allocations 2021/22 approved.

4 With reference to the minutes of 15th June 2021 approving the initial infrastructure grant allocations for 2021/22, there was submitted a report by the Director of Regional Economic Growth seeking approval of the proposed allocation of final infrastructure grant payments to each member authority for 2021/22, advising that

- (1) the final position in relation to 2021/22 allocation of grant had been agreed in principle by the Finance Strategy Group on 1st February 2022 and subsequently by the Chief Executives' Group on 3rd February 2022;
- (2) the proposed 2021/22 grant allocation, detailed in an appendix to the report, was based on member authorities' cumulative actual and projected spend levels to 31st March 2021 and also reviewed the percentage share of the overall grant allocation of the projects; and

- (3) grant allocated to member authorities could not be in excess of eligible expenditure incurred.

After consideration, the Cabinet approved the 2021/22 allocation of infrastructure grant to each member authority, as detailed in the appendix to the report.

2020/21 annual audited accounts approved etc.

5 With reference to the minutes of 10th August 2021 approving the Glasgow City Region (GCR) annual unaudited accounts for year ended 31st March 2021, there was submitted the annual audit report 2020/21 by Audit Scotland, together with the Cabinet's audited annual accounts for the period ended 31st March 2021, advising

- (1) of Audit Scotland's findings from the 2020/21 audit of the GCR Cabinet, as detailed in the annual audit report; and
- (2) of the financial performance of the GCR Cabinet for the period from 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021, including the income and expenditure incurred in the year relating to the provision of services to the Cabinet.

After consideration and having heard Mr D Meechan, Audit Scotland, the Cabinet

- (a) noted
 - (i) the contents of the annual audit report 2020/21; and
 - (ii) that the Independent Auditor's report was clear of qualification; and
- (b) approved for signature the audited annual accounts for 2020/21.

Clyde Metro Project – Presentation noted.

6 The Cabinet noted a presentation regarding an update on the Clyde Metro Project by Harjinder Gharyal, Glasgow City Council, during which he highlighted that

- (1) following the publication of the Connectivity Commission report in 2019, this Cabinet had paused the Airport Access Project and the Metro Feasibility Study was mobilised in summer of 2020, to assess wider regional opportunities for a metro proposal;
- (2) the key objectives were to work with key stakeholders to develop a Metro approach; align all national regional and local strategies and policies; and work with Transport Scotland (TS) to recognise Metro as a national infrastructure investment as part of the STPR2 process;

- (3) the announcement of the Clyde Metro draft recommendation was positive news and had attracted, in the main, positive coverage given the transformational opportunity and its scale and bold ambition;
- (4) STPR2 recommendations were subject to public consultation until 15th April 2022, with final recommendations expected to be announced in Autumn 2022;
- (5) preparatory work to set out interim governance arrangements and a work plan for a future Outline Business Case stage would be progressed with TS; and
- (6) further updates and engagement with colleagues across the region were provided at the Transport and Connectivity Portfolio Group on 4th February 2022 and a workshop scheduled for 16th February 2022 to share more information on the development of the Clyde Metro proposal.

Update on the Shared Prosperity Fund noted etc.

7 In terms of Standing Order No 7(c), as a matter of urgency, there was submitted a report by the Director of Regional Economic Growth updating Cabinet on the recent publication of the Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) pre-launch guidance from the UK Government (UKG) and seeking Cabinet approval, in principle, to adopt a city region approach to management of the SPF, in line with Government guidance, advising

- (1) that the SPF was the successor to EU Structural funding and had long been considered as an opportunity for greater revenue investment across the city region, and of the key elements of the SPF, as detailed in the report;
- (2) of the proposed funding allocation methodology, that would see all areas receive funding based on an allocation and a robust Investment Plan, as detailed in the report;
- (3) that local government would be given responsibility for developing the Investment Plan and managing, processing and monitoring the funds and the guidance from the UKG had made clear the desire to promote regional working, as detailed in the report;
- (4) of the next steps for local authorities and the UKG, as detailed in the report;
- (5) that the preferred position from both the UK and Scottish Governments was that there be a regional oversight and accountability over SPF, and the UKG had considered Glasgow City Region (GCR) to be best placed through its existing partnership structure and ability to manage City Deal funding effectively;
- (6) that the UKG had appointed a GCR lead for Levelling Up/SPF and a regional approach would enable a joined up approach to delivery, and a single point of contact to manage the funds at a GCR level would generate significant

efficiencies, allowing local authorities the opportunity to focus more on delivery of projects;

- (7) that governance structures were already in place in GCR, which would require to be adapted rather than created, giving GCR the opportunity to move more quickly than other parts of Scotland and thereby maximise investment in the region;
- (8) that managing the funds at a GCR level would not preclude individual authorities from seeking additional UKG funding through any challenge funds that may be launched;
- (9) of the outcome of a meeting between the Director of Regional Economic Growth and the UKG on 4th February 2022, as detailed in the report; and
- (10) of the proposed next steps, including a proposal to recruit a Head of Shared Prosperity Fund post, as well as the establishment of a working group of ERF/ERDF leads from each local authority to develop the detailed Investment Fund, ensuring an appropriate geographical spread of investment based on need and opportunity, all as detailed in the report.

After consideration, the Cabinet

- (a) noted the direction from the UKG to pursue a regional approach, and further note that this was also the preferred position of the Scottish Government;
- (b) agreed
 - (i) in principle to pursue a regional approach to management of SPF and to authorise the Director of Regional Economic Growth to formally notify the UKG of this approach; and
 - (ii) that the Investment Plan be developed in conjunction with all 8 Member Authorities, with all necessary approvals at both regional and local level prior to final submission in Summer 2022.

Date of next meeting noted.

8 The Group noted that the next meeting would take place on Tuesday, 12th April 2022 at 10.00am.