

Clyde Green Freeport Bid – Position agreed etc.

2 There was submitted a report by the Director of Regional Economic Growth providing an update on the development of a bid for a Clyde Green Freeport within the Glasgow City Region (GCR) and seeking approval for submission of the final bid to the UK Government (UKG) and Scottish Government, advising

- (1) of the background to the Clyde Green Freeport bid, as detailed in the report;
- (2) that a prospectus for Green Freeports in Scotland had been published on 25th March 2022 with a submission bid deadline of 20th June 2022 and consultants had been appointed by the Programme Management Office (PMO) to support the public and private partners to develop the bid, which set out 4 principal objectives, as detailed in the report;
- (3) of the financial incentives of a successful bid for a Clyde Green Freeport, as detailed in the report;
- (4) that the scope of the Clyde Green Freeport would uniquely include rail, air and sea ports and aim to attract major new investment to GCR, develop global trading opportunities, create tens of thousands of new jobs, accelerate net-zero objectives agreed at COP26 and take the region's world-class innovation economy to the next level;
- (5) that the Clyde Green Freeport would also maximise the area's transport network and facilities at Glasgow Airport, the freight interchange at Mossend, Bellshill and 4 deep-water ports on the River Clyde, as well as make significant progress towards decarbonising the area's transport infrastructure;
- (6) that should the bid be successful, up to £25m of seed capital would be made available to further develop the projects that were part of bid and to establish that the necessary governance arrangements were in place;
- (7) that discussions would progress to establish the potential governance arrangements should the bid be successful; and
- (8) that, following this meeting, the PMO, alongside officers from the member authorities, and private sector partners, would finalise the bid documents, and thereafter it was proposed that this Cabinet delegate the sign-off of the final detailed bid submission to the Senior Responsible Officer and the Bid Development Group.

After consideration and having heard a presentation by David Gwynne, Adam Rees-Leonard and Alistair Mayne, Mott McDonald, providing an overview of the key aspects of the Green Freeport Bid, the Cabinet

- (a) noted the report;
- (b) approved the next steps, as detailed in the report and the submission of the final bid by the deadline of 20th June 2022; and

(c) agreed

- (i) that a comprehensive strategy was required to obtain political backing for the bid;
- (ii) that the Chair of this Cabinet submit a letter of support for the bid, on behalf of the Cabinet, for inclusion in the bid that was submitted to Governments; and
- (iii) that the Mott McDonald presentation slides be circulated to members.