



Glasgow City Region

Cabinet

Report by Councillor Tony Buchanan, Leader of East Renfrewshire Council and Portfolio Lead for Infrastructure and Assets

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Item 7

5th October 2021

Fourth Glasgow City Region Infrastructure Summit 2021

Purpose of Report:

To advise the members of the Glasgow City Region Cabinet of the outcome of the fourth Glasgow City Region Infrastructure Summit held with the major utility companies and infrastructure providers on 3 September 2021.

Recommendations:

The Cabinet is invited to:

- note the success of the fourth Summit;
- note the community and financial benefits achieved as a result of the ongoing collaborative working;
- note the evolution of aligning strategic investment to the emerging Regional Capital Investment Plan and
- agree to support the ongoing development of the Scottish Futures Trust Construction Pipeline Tool through the submission of updated capital investment data from Member Authorities and partners.

Background

1. The fourth Glasgow City Region Infrastructure Summit which took place on 3 September 2021 was organised by the Infrastructure and Assets Portfolio and continued the ongoing dialogue between Glasgow City Region and senior representatives of Scottish Water, Scottish Power Energy Networks, SGN, Openreach, Virgin Media, City Fibre, Scottish Government (Planning), SEPA, Scottish Futures Trust, Transport Scotland and Network Rail.
2. The goals of the partnership working with the utility companies are to:
 - understand shared infrastructure and investment priorities and constraints;
 - agree principles for aligning spend and priorities strategically; and
 - establish ways of improving working practices.
3. The summit was also organised on behalf of the Transport and Connectivity, the Land Use and Sustainability, and the Housing and Equalities Portfolios. The event was chaired jointly by Councillor Tony Buchanan and Douglas Millican, Chief Executive of Scottish Water.
4. The summit was attended by:
 - Councillor Andrew Polson, Joint Leader East Dunbartonshire Council,
 - Gerry Cornes, Chief Executive of East Dunbartonshire Council;
 - Councillor Michael McPake, North Lanarkshire Council;
 - Robert Steenson, Assistant Chief Executive of North Lanarkshire Council (representing for Des Murray);
 - Councillor Jonathan McColl, Leader of West Dunbartonshire Council; and
 - Joyce White, Chief Executive of West Dunbartonshire Council.

Introduction

5. Prior to the summit an information pack was sent out highlighting the main projects under development in the City Region. The pack can be found in Appendix 1 and may have wider use by teams working on City Region projects who would like an understanding of the wider City region context.
6. Following the welcome and introductions, the Summit attendees were updated on:
 - the successful conclusion of the City Deal Project and Infrastructure provider investment mapping project, and
 - progress to date on the internet of Things.

Regional Capital Investment Plan

7. The Summit heard presentations on the Glasgow Metro and Clyde Mission proposals which highlighted opportunities for targeted collaboration with Partners as well as wider engagement.

8. The contribution of utilities companies will be vital in progressing the major transformation infrastructure projects, such as Clyde Mission and Metro, and it is important that engagement with utilities takes place at the earliest opportunity. Kevin Rush, Director of Regional Economic Growth, outlined the ambition to build on the both the mapping exercise and emerging significant strategic investment proposals across the Region to develop a comprehensive Regional Capital Investment Plan.
9. It was suggested the recently launched Construction Pipeline Forecast Tool by Scottish Futures Trust (SFT)¹ could be the most efficient and appropriate vehicle for collating and mapping regional investment data.
10. All partners, including Member Authorities, agreed:
 - that where possible, individual organisations will share committed capital spend data to a Regional Capital Investment Plan
 - SFT will engage with the utility partners to demonstrate the Tool and explore the sharing of data to further enable alignment of strategic capital investment across the city region.

Climate Change and Net Zero

11. The second point of focus for discussion was on how we can act collaboratively to address climate change. Douglas Millican, the Chief Executive of Scottish Water, reminded partners of the “City Fathers” legacy of Loch Katrine and our water and drainage network much of which remains operational today.
12. Climate Ready Clyde outlined the key messages in the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan which launched in June this year and is endorsed Glasgow City Region Cabinet.
13. Partners were then invited to identify how their organisation would contribute towards achieving net zero targets.
14. There followed a discussion that identified:
 - the need to “pick up the pace” on collaboration
 - the need to link utilities partners into the delivery side of the Regional Adaptation Strategy;
 - Scottish Water offered to share learning on their net zero construction plans; and
 - the benefits of collaboration with the utilities companies in the development of our regional approach to EV charging.

¹ <https://pipeline.scottishfuturestrust.org.uk/>

Recommendations

15. The Cabinet is invited to:

- note the success of the fourth Summit;
- note the community and financial benefits achieved as a result of the ongoing collaborative working;
- note the evolution of aligning strategic investment to the emerging Regional Capital Investment Plan; and
- agree to support the ongoing development of the Scottish Futures Trust Construction Pipeline Tool through the submission of updated capital investment data from Member Authorities and partners.