

**WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL****Report by the Chief Officer - Regulatory & Regeneration****Council: 24 February 2021**

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**Subject: Glasgow City Region City Deal - Update****1. Purpose**

- 1.1** To note the progress with the implementation of the Glasgow City Region, City Deal.

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1** It is recommended that Council:
- i) notes the progress of the Glasgow City Region (GCR); and
  - ii) notes progress of the Council's City Deal project for the Exxon site.

**3. Background**

- 3.1** The Glasgow City Region City Deal Infrastructure programme equates to £1.13bn of investment during period 2015-2035. Projects are progressing and have reached various stages from Strategic, Outline and Full Business Case stages of approval.
- 3.2** The Clyde Mission has been established with a purpose to use the Clyde to drive sustainable and inclusive growth for the city, the region and Scotland. The Mission, led by the Scottish Government, brings together public and private sector partners to harness the opportunities and competitive advantage of the River Clyde and the surrounding assets to deliver economic, social and environmental benefits.

**4. Main Issues**

- 4.1** The Council secured planning permission in principal with application DC20/088 on 13 January 2021. This will allow the £34.05m project to progress through further stages of design and procurement towards delivery of the infrastructure works at the former Esso site at Bowling.
- 4.2** An update related to the Clyde Mission programme is provided at 5.8 below.

**5. Glasgow City Region City Deal Update**

- 5.1** The GCR Cabinet met on 9 February 2021 and approved the Q3 Performance Report from the Programme Management Office (PMO). The full report can be found at Appendix 1.
- 5.2** The GCR Intelligence Hub presented a Regional Economic Baseline report which was approved by the Cabinet on 9 February 2021. The report

provides a wide range of socio-economic indicators and a snapshot of how well the economy is performing against our comparator UK City Regions and also brief commentaries on impacts arising due to the Pandemic. The report can be found at Appendix 2.

- 5.3** A change control requests was approved by the GCR Chief Executives' Group on 28 January 2021 related to the South Lanarkshire Council Larkhall roads project which is being delayed by seven months. The delay has been apportioned to additional time required with Transport Scotland to resolve final design details and a legal agreement. The new completion date is planned for October 2022.
- 5.4** One further change control was approved by the GCR Cabinet on 9 February 2021 related to the East Dunbartonshire Council Place and Growth Programme. This project has been delayed by 12 months, beyond the original City Deal programme end date of 2025 to December 2026. This delay has been identified as being due to COVID-19. The project is at pre-Outline Business Case stage.
- 5.5** In the Housing and Equalities Portfolio group work is progressing with the PMO to progress an action to develop a proposal to deliver the ambitious housing energy efficiency retrofit programme which was part of the GCR Recovery plan. The current focus is on developing the scope for a feasibility study. The Intelligence Hub will host a series of workshops in early February 2021 to progress the workstreams around funding and procurement.
- 5.6** The Tourism Portfolio Group met on 15 January 2021. The meeting included a focus on the business grant support currently available to tourism, hospitality and events businesses. The Group agreed to update the current Tourism Action Plan to respond to Covid and changes in national strategies. The refreshed Action Plan will come to the Chief Executives' Group and Cabinet through the Annual Implementation Plan.
- 5.7** Clydeplan presented a new Draft Forestry and Woodland Strategy (FWS) for the Glasgow City Region which sets the policy context to support forestry and woodland planting and management. It provides broad strategic locational guidance and environmental advice to those seeking to expand or manage woodlands and will provide the strategic context for local FWS by establishing a regional target for woodland expansion. The Kilpatrick Hills may provide the Council an opportunity to be further involved in the FWS.

## **5.8 Clyde Mission**

- 5.8.1** Given the pressures which the main stakeholders currently face in light of the continued Coronavirus pandemic, the Clyde Mission has limited its call on partner resources and used the Q4 period in 2020/21 to:
- ensure that existing grant offers are agreed, signed and funds released;
  - support funded projects to progress delivery;
  - complete the Clyde energy masterplan work;
  - explore of how best to exploit digital mapping of Vacant and Derelict Land (VDL);

- progress 'Clyde Climate Forest' discussion with Green New Deal/ COP26;
- explore potential funding of flood mapping studies in order to identify the need for and prioritise flood alleviation projects;
- progress discussions around Maritime Engineering strategy for the Clyde (particularly recognising developments at Inchgreen and the Carless, Scottish Marine Technology Park), and
- develop position papers related to all Missions along the Clyde.

Once the current major Covid-19 restrictions are lifted, and stakeholders have more capacity, partners will be brought together in a 'Clyde Mission Strategy Group' and Mission-focused sub groups to progress emerging themes.

**5.8.2.** The Clyde Mission team are developing a detailed digital map of all vacant and derelict land in the Clyde Mission area. From a Clyde Mission perspective there is an opportunity to use Vacant and Derelict Land, to create positive green spaces for communities and to contribute to net zero. Clyde Mission are working between COP26 (United Nations Climate Change Conference, 1-12 November 2021) and Green Network to identify opportunities for a potential project.

**5.8.3** Funding has also been notionally allocated from Scottish Enterprise to Clyde Mission to extend current work on flood mapping to cover the whole of the Clyde Mission area, and to develop a means of modelling the impact of alternative flood management proposals. Taken together the VDL and Flood mapping data and models will provide new tools to support the categorisation and prioritisation of developments along the river.

**5.8.4** The Clyde Mission team will develop a series of position papers providing a detailed analysis of the issues and opportunities in the Clyde Mission area. The position papers will be produced using the expertise of the City Region's Intelligence Hub and will draw on analysis being produced by the Intelligence Hub for the preparation of the Glasgow City Region Economic Strategy, alongside other sources.

## **5.9 Renfrew Bridge Project**

**5.9.1** The Final Business Case (FBC) for the Renfrew bridge has recently been sent to the Programme Management Office (PMO) for evaluation following a successful return of tendering documents that were issued in October 2020.

**5.9.2** A new Marine Scotland (MS) licence application has been submitted, requesting offshore disposal of arising. MS are considering this application. A screening request was also submitted to MS exploring the use of Lobnitz Dock as a repository for dredge material arising from the CWRR project.

## **5.10 Finance Group Update**

**5.10.1** The finance sub-group last met on 19 January 2021. The position remains that the programme currently has a projected underspend of £1m. Due to Covid-19 all projects are still currently under review as project delay may result in cost increases and delays.

**5.10.2** The approach for use of any City Deal identified underspend will still revert to the Finance sub-group which will consider following a review as part of project recovery plans. This is an important process as the Council seeks to secure access to any wider underspend for our Exxon project which is currently seeking an additional £6.153m.

## **5.11 Labour Market Working Group (LMG) Update**

**5.11.1** The Council delivered this project jointly between Working4U and Work Connect which successfully achieved the target to recruit and support 43 people who were considered to be some distance from the labour market. Alongside Working4U, Work Connect provided ongoing support for the group that aimed to build their confidence and resilience. The support provided included:

- specialised person-centred needs analysis;
- low level psychological interventions with a health professional;
- provision of healthy activities to promote healthy living;
- reinstating executive cognitive functioning, and
- delivery of behavioural activation activity.

**5.11.2** This project has now concluded but has acted as a demonstration project for the delivery the new Scottish Government Employability Funding Streams: No One Left Behind; Parental Employability Support Fund; and Young Person's Guarantee, particularly in relation to providing appropriate employability support for clients with disabilities.

**5.11.3** Officers continue to work with the City Region Group to explore areas for potential collaboration at a region level. One such opportunity has emerged for the development of a regional approach for PACE (a package of support for newly redundant workers). This has been included as one of the actions within the GCR Recovery Plan. The Scottish Government has invested an additional £5 million for PACE in 2020/2021. Of that £1.5 million has been allocated to Skills Development Scotland (SDS) with the remaining £3.5 million to be shared among the 32 Local Authorities.

**5.11.4** Each Local Authority has been allocated a core grant of £40,000 to recruit a PACE Key Worker/Single Point of Contact (SPOC), with additional funding based on the potential scale of need. The Council has been awarded approximately £88,000. The Council will employ a 'single point person' for people seeking support through redundancy and a case worker to provide support for those affected with redundancy.

## **6 West Dunbartonshire Council City Deal Project**

**6.1** The Planning Permission in Principal application for the Exxon project was approved at the Planning Committee on 13 January 2021 and a number of the planning conditions are being progressed with our consultant advisors.

**6.2** Officers are progressing with a number of third party land-owners to conclude an amicable transaction transfer of land required to deliver the infrastructure work.

**6.3** ExxonMobil are progressing their site remediation works as planned and approved as part of their remediation strategy. These works will span over 2021-22.

**6.4** The procurement strategy continues to progress inline with the agreed programme. The procurement strategy was approved by the project board and steps are now being taken to engage with our selected provider to progress legal contracts and commence the next phases of the project.

## **7 People Implications**

**7.1** There are a number of senior officers involved in the City Region initiative across services of the Council and as part of the project board.

## **8 Financial Implications**

**8.1** The expenditure for the City Deal project during 2020/21 is currently at £654k. As at January 2021 the total project Capital expenditure was £2.193m.

**8.2** The approved budget to date for the City Deal Exxon project is £3.448m. This will provide sufficient funding to take us to the Final Business Case which will be completed by December 2021

## **9 Risk Analysis**

**9.1** There are a number of project risks associated with the development at the ExxonMobil project site and these are contained within the risk register of the refreshed Outline Business Case and updated by the project board on a regular basis.

## **10 Equalities Impact Assessment**

**10.1** An Equalities Impact Assessment is not necessary for this report.

## **11 Consultation**

**11.1** Consultation with all key stakeholders is progressing as we continue to work as part of the Glasgow City Region.

**11.2** Regular communication is produced regarding progress with the Glasgow City Region on the website <http://www.glasgowcityregion.co.uk/>.

## **12 Strategic Assessment**

**12.1** At its meeting on 25 October 2017, the Council agreed that one of its main strategic priorities for 2017 - 2022 is:

- A Strong local economy and improved employment opportunities

**12.2** The proposals within this report are specifically designed to deliver on this priority.

**Peter Hessel**  
**Chief Officer – Regulatory & Regeneration**  
**Date: 8 February 2021**

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**Appendix:** Appendix 1- Glasgow City Region Performance Report Q3 2020/21  
Appendix 2- Glasgow City Region Economic Baseline Report

**Background Reports:** Nil

**Background Papers:** Glasgow City Region City Deal – 22 Council updates since February 2016, and a July 2020 Members Bulletin. ExxonMobil Commercial Agreement 24 June 2020. Glasgow City Region City Deal - Exxon Site Outline Business Cases 22 Feb 2017 and 28 Nov 2018 (Refreshed).  
Clyde Valley City Deal - Update and Strategic Business Case- Council 24 June 2015.  
Clyde Valley City Deal Update- Council 25 August 2015 and 16 December 2015.  
Clyde Valley City Deal- Governance- Council 17 December 2014.  
Glasgow City Region City Deal- Council 13 August 2014.  
“City Deal Initiative” Clyde Valley Investment Fund- Council 30 April 2014 (Memorandum of Understanding).  
Clyde Valley Community Planning Partnership – City Deal Initiative – Council 28 August 2013.  
Equalities Impact Assessment November 2018.  
Environmental Impact Assessment - [DC20/088 – Planning Application – Documents.](#)

**Wards Affected:** All