

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**Report by the Chief Officer - Regulatory and Regeneration****Council: 26 May 2021**

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.

4. Main Issues

- 4.1** The Council is progressing our Exxon Project with progress being made in terms of developing our contractual arrangement through the Scape Framework with our main contractor and ExxonMobil are progressing their works to remediate the site commencing Summer 2021.
- 4.2** An update related to the Economy Recovery Plan- Home Energy Retrofit Feasibility study which is led by the Council Leader is provided at 5.7 below.

5. Glasgow City Region City Deal Update

- 5.1** The GCR Cabinet met on 6 April 2021. An interim performance report for the period from 17 February to 29 March 2021 was presented and approved. The report which is attached as Appendix 1 provided updates on the progress of the City Deal Programme, including key performance indicators for the Infrastructure Fund programme, project status, programme risks and issues, Clyde Mission and Clyde Climate Forest project and Annual Implementation Plan actions.
- 5.2** The Interim Performance Report highlighted to Cabinet that two projects were approved during this period. On 25 February 2021 the Chief Executives' Group approved the Final Business Case (FBC) for Renfrewshire Council for Clyde Waterfront and Renfrew Riverside Project,

which includes the Renfrew Bridge with an update provided later in this report. The Director of Regional Economic Growth on 18 February 2021 approved the Glasgow City Council FBC for the Clyde Waterfront and West End Innovation Quarter: Access and Integrity of the Waterfront: Tradeston Bridge. Work commenced in February 2021 and will be completed in July 2021. The FBC approved was for £0.876m for the sub-project of refurbishment of Tradeston bridge and local enhanced public realm.

5.3 West Partnership

- 5.3.1** At GCR Cabinet on 6 April 2021 West Partnership (also known as Glasgow City Region Education Improvement Collaborative) presented an interim action plan (IAP) which was endorsed and is provided as Appendix 2.
- 5.3.2** In September 2020 the West Partnership Improvement Plan, 'The Road to Renewal: The Response to COVID-19' was drawn up outlining the Partnership's priorities for session 2020-23, which aimed to support activities during the period of recovery from the pandemic, as well as aiming to address both recovery and renewal.
- 5.3.3** In January 2021, a further IAP had been drawn up at the request of Directors of Education in order to address the challenges of the current and immediately foreseeable education landscape.
- 5.3.4** The IAP, while based almost entirely on the existing 2020-23 Plan, had recognised the need to prioritise and accelerate certain aspects of that Plan, having identified 7 priority projects, each of which had a specific relevance during the pandemic restrictions, as detailed in the IAP.

5.4 Scotland Inward Investment Planning

- 5.4.1** The Cabinet noted a presentation by Scottish Development International, regarding the Scottish Government's 'Shaping Scotland's Economy: Scotland's Inward Investment Plan', which was launched in October 2020 <https://www.gov.scot/publications/shaping-scotlands-economy> and sets out the ambition for Scotland as a leading destination for inward investment, during which the following was highlighted:
 - that the Plan set out to take a purposeful, values-led approach to investment and would focus on inward investment only;
 - that inward investment made a positive and significant impact on Scotland's economy;
 - that for the last seven years in a row, Scotland had attracted the most projects of any UK nation or region outside of London;
 - the nine opportunity areas where Scotland's strengths met the world's needs, intersecting with future global investment flows;
 - the mix of wider benefits that those nine opportunity areas delivered and how these could potentially support job creation throughout Scotland;
 - that Glasgow City region was the only area in Scotland that had capability and the potential to deliver in all nine opportunity areas, and
 - a brief description of the eighteen inward investment plan actions.

5.5 Ready to Go Project List

- 5.5.1** There was submitted a report by the Director of Regional Economic Growth updating the Cabinet on 6 April 2021 of the development of the list of 'Ready to Go' projects that could be implemented quickly in order to stimulate economic growth. The Programme Management Office (PMO) had engaged with the Member Authorities and partner organisations and identified 81 potential projects, falling into a mixture of infrastructure, commercial and residential projects. The Council is fully engaged with process and provided a range of potential projects.
- 5.5.2** The Cabinet noted the report and agreed that the Chair of the Cabinet would use the list to make representations to the UK and Scottish Governments in order to identify available funding to deliver those projects.

5.6 Scottish Government's Bus Partnership Fund

- 5.6.1** The GCR Cabinet noted a report regarding a submission of a bid on behalf of the Glasgow City Region Bus Partnership to the Scottish Government's Bus Partnership Fund (BPF) for bus priority interventions across all eight Glasgow City Region Local Authority areas.
- 5.6.2** The Cabinet approved a proposal to submit a bid amounting to between £200m and £250m for investment in bus priority interventions, with costs for the bid being sought solely from the BPF. The Council is included in the early interventions list and also for initial funding resources to develop business cases and feasibility studies for projects for the further years of the bid. The final sign-off for the bid was agreed, and due to timing to be delegated to the Chair of the Transport and Connectivity Portfolio Group, Chief Executive of North Lanarkshire Council.

5.7 Economy Recovery Plan- Home Energy Retrofit

- 5.7.1** As part GCR COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan, approved in December 2020, there was an agreement to develop a feasibility study for a home energy retrofit programme. Councillor Jonathan McColl, Leader of West Dunbartonshire Council and Housing and Equalities Portfolio Lead provided an update on the work that had been undertaken on 6 April 2021 at the GCR Cabinet. An update paper is provided as Appendix 3, advising:
- that a home energy retrofit programme, delivered at scale across Glasgow City Region had the potential to deliver on a number of the region's local and national policy ambitions and a feasibility study would help set up a clear route map to successfully deliver a large scale retrofit programme;
 - that the development and scope of the feasibility study had been supported by the Programme Management Office and it had subsequently been discussed and agreed by the Housing and Equalities Portfolio Group, as well as being shared with the Regional Partnership and other stakeholders;

- that the retrofit programme would include both energy efficiency (home insulation) and low and zero emissions heating options within the scope, focusing on those properties that had the lowest energy efficiency ratings, those with an Energy Performance Certificate of bands D-G, with bands A-C being deemed the most energy efficient;
- that an initial analysis of the housing stock in the region had indicated that over 428,000 properties required to improve their home energy efficiency ratings and it was anticipated that the proposed scheme would be delivered over a period of at least 10 years;
- that a total budget of £80,000 had been identified to deliver the feasibility study, and of this, Skills Development Scotland had offered a contribution of £15,000, and it was proposed that the Regional Recovery Renewal Funding from the Scottish Government be used to meet the remaining £65,000 required, and
- of the current indicative timetable and next steps for the retrofit proposal, as detailed in the paper at Appendix 3.

5.8 City Region Metro

- 5.8.1** At GCR Cabinet on 6 April 2021 an update was provided on the feasibility study related to the consideration of a City Region Metro which is a project that has emerged from the original City Deal Airport Access Project (AAP).
- 5.8.2** The update paper can be found at Appendix 4. The project steering group is chaired by the Chief Executives of Glasgow City and Renfrewshire Councils with the feasibility study's project initiation document and communications strategy approved.
- 5.8.3** A multi-disciplinary Metro project team had been established and has been successful in obtaining £0.175m of funding to undertake three specific consultancy commissions to progress the feasibility of a City Region Metro.
- 5.8.4** The Cabinet noted the close working and developing relationships of the Metro feasibility team with Transport Scotland and its appointed consultants, and with Strathclyde Partnership for Transport and Glasgow's teams preparing the regional and local transport strategies. It also noted that regular update reports would be submitted to the Chief Executives' Group and the Cabinet on the progress of the feasibility study, including any potential proposals for approving additional funding.
- 5.8.5** The Cabinet also agreed that the Project Director and the Programme Management Office make representations to Transport Scotland with a view to ensuring that Inverclyde Council was recognised as an integral part of the Metro project.

5.9 Renfrew Bridge Project

- 5.9.1** Following 24 February 2021 Council members requested further details regarding the Renfrewshire Council City Region Renfrew Bridge project. A briefing was issued on 10 March 2021 which provided members further details on the project.
- 5.9.2** The FBC was approved by GCR Chief Executives Group on 25 February 2021. The following key aspects of the project was presented to Cabinet on 6 April 2021 in the interim report as follows:
- **Timeline:** Works will start in July 2021 and complete Autumn 2023.
 - **Benefits Realisation:** The Clyde Waterfront and Renfrew Riverside Project FBC has identified and quantified the project outputs for this FBC. The benefits to be delivered by this project align to the benefits set out within the wider Clyde Waterfront and Renfrew Riverside Project OBC and include: net additional GVA by 2035 at GCR of £640.7m; and 1440 net additional operational jobs created by 2035.
 - **Scope:** The FBC will deliver a new opening road bridge across the River Clyde in the vicinity of Lubitz Dock, Meadowside Street, Renfrew and Rothesay Dock, Dock Street, Clydebank, with a clear span of 90m. In addition to vehicular traffic/public transport, the bridge will accommodate pedestrian and cycle traffic.
 - **Finance:** The total cost of the project is £105.748m of which £90.636m is funded from City Deal Grant and Renfrewshire Council Member Authority contribution, £15.068m from additional member contributions and £0.044m from Sustrans. This FBC is part of the Clyde Waterfront and Renfrew Riverside Project OBC which has total funding of £90.636m and a total of £13.866m has previously been approved in respect of the OBC. This FBC approved the remaining £76.770m of funding.
- 5.9.3** The contractor awarded the delivery of the project is Graham Construction Ltd, who will develop a detailed programme with the Renfrewshire project board. This will require Renfrewshire Council as project sponsor to undertake discussion with stakeholders and wider communication with communities before finalisation. At this early stage of the three year project there is insufficient detail to determine the scale and duration and thus any impact of works in specific locations.
- 5.9.4** Renfrewshire Council have offered to deliver a members lunchtime briefing session to present the latest developments with this important project and to provide an update on the programme of works and to answer any questions that Members may have. This is currently being arranged
- ## **5.10 Finance Group Update**
- 5.10.1** The finance sub-group last met on 20 April 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 In recognition of the need for a well functioning employability sector to aid successful economic recovery and social renewal, the Scottish Government and COSLA signed a 'No One Left Behind' Employability Partnership Agreement in December 2018 to support the transformation of Scotland's employability support system.

5.11.2 This has led to a number of government funds, beyond European Social Funds, being directed through local authorities. This has included, for example:

- No One Left Behind – all age/all stage employability support for unemployed and inactive clients;
- The Young Person's Guarantee, - supporting young people aged 16-24 into jobs, apprenticeships, training and education, or into volunteering;
- Parental Employability Support to support low income parents into work or to improve their earnings potential, as a tackling child poverty initiative;
- Disabled Parental Employability Support to specifically support disabled parents has previously been agreed and is available to spend in 2021/22;
- Partnership Action for Continuing Employment Plus (PACE+) - a package of support for newly redundant workers previously employed by small enterprises.

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 Partnership Action for Continuing Employment Plus. This has been included as one of the actions within the GCR Recovery Plan. The Scottish Government has invested an additional £5m for PACE in 2020/21. Of that £1.5m has been allocated to Skills Development Scotland (SDS) with the remaining £3.5m to be shared among the 32 Local Authorities.

5.11.4 The Council has established a Local Employability partnership with terms of reference and general agreements with key stakeholders managing and delivering employability services in West Dunbartonshire. The partnership is being developed using principles of service design and consists of:

- A strategic group - establishing general priorities and strategic direction;
- Service provider group - creative design to establish appropriate interventions based on local priorities and challenges and the availability of funding;
- Community of practice (frontline staff forum) - to identify and implement continuous improvement, and
- Methods for securing input from service users.

6 West Dunbartonshire Council City Deal Project

- 6.1** The Planning Permission in Principle 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** One of the planning conditions is in relation to Dunglass House and the Obelisk to determine its actual condition and explore potential options for future uses following the City Region project works. This piece of work is being progressed by officers.
- 6.3** Asset Management are continuing to progress with a number of third party landowners to conclude an amicable agreement to transfer the land required to deliver the project works, recognising some challenges as per the open forum question at May 2021 Council. There have also been some delays due to detailed design works requiring to be finalised to identify the final pieces of third party land required to deliver the project elements and this is impacting on the timeline to conclude these agreements.
- 6.4** The project procurement strategy is being taken forward, engaging with our selected contractor Balfour Beatty through the Scape Framework. Officers are progressing the contracts and commencing the next phases of the project which includes detailed design works and continued engagement with key stakeholders, such as Network Rail and SEPA.
- 6.5** ExxonMobil are progressing their site remediation works and during a recent meeting with ExxonMobil representatives on 21 April 2021, officers were informed that there will be three months of mobilisation and establishment of the remediation equipment. ExxonMobil's contractor team are expected to be commencing on site in May 2021. It was highlighted that there will be a significant increase of traffic movement and activity across the site and that ExxonMobil will communicate through letter drop to local residents about their works. The Council's communications team have been engaged and will liaise with the ExxonMobil communications team to ensure members and the local community are made aware of this impending works on site.

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 was £721,425. As at April 2021 the total project Capital expenditure was £2.236m.
- 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. The Final Business Case submission date is being reviewed by the project board and is subject to any delays which have been incurred including those by ExxonMobil in delivering their remediation works, in part this is due to the Pandemic.

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 a refreshed Glasgow City Region 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.

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Date: 4 May 2021

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Appendix: Appendix 1- GCR Interim Performance Report , Period: 17 Feb- 29 March 2021.
Appendix 2 - GCR West Partnership Interim Action Plan
Appendix 3 - GCR Home Retrofit Plan- Feasibility Update
Appendix 4 - City Region Metro Feasibility Study Update

Background Reports: Nil

Background Papers: Glasgow City Region City Deal – 23 Council updates since February 2016, March 2021 Elected Members briefing- Renfrew Bridge, 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

