

To: Leadership Board

On: 19 June 2024

Report by: Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources

Heading: GCR City Deal Reprogramming

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report is to update the Board on the Glasgow City Region City Deal (GCRCD) reprogramming exercise, noting the detail of the submission of the expression of interest for a new regional project and the commencement of engagement with GCRCD to request additional GCR grant for the CWRR project, and further to approve that the CWRR bridge will be named the Renfrew Bridge.
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2. Recommendations

2.1 The Leadership Board is asked to:

- i) Note the submission of the expression of interest to the Glasgow City Region for a new regional project (in line with the *Leadership Board February 2024 report – City Deal and THI.CARs Project update section 3.4*)
 - ii) Note the Programme Director for City Deal & Infrastructure has commenced engagement with the Glasgow City Region PMO to progress a drawdown request for additional Infrastructure Grant funding of up to £8.5M for the CWRR project.
 - iii) Approve that the CWRR bridge be named the Renfrew Bridge.
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3 City Deal Reprogramming Background

The GCR Cabinet at the February 2024 meeting approved proposals for the reallocation of City Deal funds to support the Reprogramming Exercise based on discussions with UK and Scottish Governments.

The reprogramming exercise seeks to reallocate the balance of the Glasgow Airport Access Project (GAAP) which totals £129.145M.

GCR Cabinet in February 2024

- (i) Agreed that the City Deal funded studies and business cases completed by Renfrewshire Council for the Glasgow Airport Access Project be used to inform the Clyde Metro Scheme development and continues to represent eligible expenditure.
- (ii) Noted that in December 2023, the GCR Chief Executives' Group, under the authority delegated to it by the Cabinet in April 2020, agreed to allocate £12.155m of the approved business case stage funding from the City Deal Glasgow Airport Access Project (GAAP) to Glasgow City Council to promote and accelerate business case development of Clyde Metro proposals towards key gateway decisions;
- (iii) Noted that Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) is to be the lead organisation for the Case for Investment development stage for Clyde Metro

There are two elements to the proposals to reallocate the funding which have been considered with UK and Scottish Governments. These are summarised below.

1. **New Regional Project:** Governments have requested that 50% (£64.57m) be allocated to a new regional project of significant scale to provide the opportunity to address new priorities that have emerged since the initial City Deal programme assembly exercise in 2013/14. A key criteria is that the project must evidence strong and positive demonstrable impacts that benefits the region as a whole.
2. **New and Existing Local Projects:** The remaining 50% (£64.57m) is to be reallocated to Member Authorities for new local project activity and to support the delivery of existing City Deal projects which have faced unprecedented cost pressures resulting from externalities (e.g., construction inflation, Covid impacts etc). Ringfenced allocations for each Member Authority share of the available funding have been advised and Renfrewshire's share is up to £8.5M subject to meeting the qualifying criteria and the GCR approval process.

4 New Regional Project Expression of Interest

The main emphasis of the Renfrewshire Councils' Expression of Interest for the programme prioritisation exercise is the development of a phased plan to develop a Regional Gateway to transform the area around Gilmour Street station and County Square into a mixed-use transport/connectivity hub, residential and innovation quarter. We believe this is able to meet the key criteria of regional impact.

The Regional Gateway is an important strategic location for the Glasgow City Region. Gilmour Street station is the fourth busiest train station in Scotland. Taking advantage of this by investing in the surrounding area, as a regional public transport interchange, will enhance connectivity throughout Renfrewshire, including to Glasgow Airport and our key strategic manufacturing sites at Westway and Inchinnan business parks as well as the Council's new Advanced Manufacturing Innovation District (AMIDS) enabling our local residents to more easily access high quality jobs.

The Gateway will be the first and the final urban location that both Renfrewshire residents and visitors will see when travelling to and from Gilmour Street, the airport, AMIDS and all locations across Renfrewshire linked to Gilmour Street by public transport. Implementation will be phased and will provide the basis to enable/stimulate further phases of market led investments, triggering much needed regeneration.

If successful, the first phase of the Regional Gateway would be delivered by a GCRCD **funding ask of £31.9m** and include:

- **Gateway Square:** located at Gilmour Street, County Square, Central Road this element of the project will be driven by demolition to the Piazza Centre car park, a key deliverable known to be impeding the needed redevelopment of the Piazza Centre by its owners. This demolition will unblock a first phase of development of a new urban living & innovation quarter at this site and enable re-opening of a section of the White Cart River. Once complete, this investment will enable private development, including the Piazza owners, to create new attractive riverside apartment blocks, located adjacent to the re-opened section of the White Cart River, ten minutes travel time from Renfrewshire's key manufacturing locations including the Advanced Manufacturing Innovation District, Glasgow Central Station and Glasgow Airport.
- **Paisley Arches:** the investment will also enable the redevelopment of up to seven currently railway arches on Central Road. The Council will look to acquire and specifically repurpose two of these: the first as a Regional Cycle Hub; the second as a Modern manufacturing incubation hub, potentially an urban NMIS hub. Creating access to the remaining arches will offer the opportunity for conversion into attractive and modern business premises at a key strategic location next to Scotland's fourth busiest railway station.
- **Cycle Hub:** a new facility offering cycle hire, cycle parking and active travel route information alongside the Regional Transport Hub and Gilmour Street, linking to the wider active travel provision.
- **Modern manufacturing incubation hub:** a community outreach and exhibition facility building on the benefits of National Manufacturing Institute Scotland (NMIS) already located in Renfrewshire but located in Gateway Square offering opportunities for local residents and students from our local university and college sectors and Renfrewshire schools, to be inspired by and explore future careers in the developing advanced manufacturing sector in Renfrewshire.

- **Regional Transport Hub:** a new transport hub adjacent to Gilmour Street which will improve facilities and enable more direct and regular public and active travel transport connections for all Renfrewshire residents across our communities, and visitors, to Glasgow Airport, AMIDS (Inchinnan Business Park and Westway also) as well as to communities and economic centres across the Glasgow City Region.
- **Active travel connectivity:** the active travel network will be extended by a new link from Gilmour Street at the new Cycle Hub to the junction of Abercorn Street and Old Sneddon Street (this then links to the start of the AMIDS South active travel route to Glasgow Airport and the Advanced Manufacturing Innovation District) and onwards to Inchinnan and Bishopton and will link existing connections to Inchinnan Business Park and Westway (delivered by previous City Deal funding) and the wider national Route 7 cycle network which extends to over 540 miles from Sunderland to Inverness.
- **Enabling Infrastructure:** investment in water, utilities and site preparation to accelerate and enable future commercial development of the cleared site.
- **Improved Public Realm:** including improved streetscaping at County Square and lighting improvements under the rail bridge on New Sneddon Street.

The Regional Gateway will enable/stimulate a further second phase of market led investments, including:

- the welcome consolidation of the Piazza Shopping Centre into a smaller footprint, with the associated redevelopment of the surrounding areas, including the development of a new urban living and innovation quarter, referenced Gateway Square development.
- potential opportunities to enhance the passenger experience and the interface with the Regional Transport Hub and Gilmour Street Station.
- increased densification of activity along the course of the White Cart River Corridor between Gilmour Street and Glasgow Airport.

Overall, the Regional Gateway will look to:

- Contribute to Renfrewshire Council's vision to rebalance, repopulate and repurpose our town centres by reducing retail dominance, creating a new residential quarter and providing places for both residents and visitors to gather.
- Link in with other major cultural and placemaking investments such as the recent refurbishment of the Town Hall into a world class event space and the ongoing work to create a world class Museum to contribute to the Council's ambitions to reconnect residents across Renfrewshire and visitors across the City Region and wider to our main town centre.

- Improve the appearance of the town centre and create a positive first impression for both Renfrewshire residents and visitors from the wider City Region and international arriving into Renfrewshire from the airport and Gilmour Street.
- Catalyse improvement in public transport connectivity between Glasgow city centre, Glasgow Airport, AMIDS, Paisley town centre, and Renfrewshire communities.
- Create a 24-hour increase in footfall in Paisley town centre to support a retail sector which has the potential to support a further 900 jobs in the town.
- Accelerate the development of the Advanced Manufacturing Innovation District bringing thousands of new jobs available to Renfrewshire residents.
- Promote careers in STEM sciences and enable residents and our university, college and schools to engage with the innovation activity currently taking place at the National Manufacturing Institute Scotland, the Medicines Manufacturing Innovation Centre and the University of the West of Scotland
- Ensure that households with no access to a car have easier access to employment opportunities, training courses and service provision.
- Address various challenges constraining Renfrewshire's growth, including high vacancy rates, pockets of multiple-deprivation, limited connectivity and poor public realm in our main town centre.

Next Steps

This is a competitive process, and it is expected that all GCR Member Authorities will submit an EOI.

The Glasgow City Region PMO will assess/score and rank submitted Expressions of Interest, based on the key assessment components and in line with the GCRCD Programme Prioritisation Framework. An Appraisal Report outlining the recommended New Regional Project(s) will be presented to the Chief Executives' Group for submission to UK and Scottish Government for decision. Where approval has been gained, a report will be presented to GCRCD Cabinet (date to be confirmed after General election) outlining the governments' decision and seeking approval for the New Regional Project.

Any approved Project will be given an equivalent status to those on the Initial Project List identified via the initial Programme Assembly Exercise in 2013 and will be invited by the Cabinet to proceed to Business Case development stage. If Renfrewshire Council's funding bid is successful, this will come to Leadership Board for approval.

5 New and Existing Local Projects

The available £64.57M will be distributed across the member authorities to assist in meeting exceptional project costs and inflationary pressures that have emerged due to the prevailing economic conditions and volatility.

Renfrewshire's share of this is £8.5M subject meeting the qualifying criteria and the GCR approval process.

Member authorities are now invited to request their share of the additional grant funds for existing City Deal projects through the business case submission process. This requires the submission of a revised Full Business Case (FBC) to the GCR PMO in order that they can be approved by Cabinet (dates to be confirmed after General election).

The CWRR project has experienced significant inflationary pressures and additional project costs due to unprecedented economic conditions, most notably exposure to commodity price fluctuations. Council has previously approved the additional member authority contributions to the project which have been facilitated within the existing financial planning provisions. The total additional Council member authority contribution totals £27M. The approval of the additional grant resource together with secured Transport Scotland Active Travel grant of £1.7M will reduce the additional contribution to £16.8M.

This report seeks the approval of the Leadership Board to engage in the revised FBC process with the GCR PMO to obtain the required GCR Cabinet approval.

6 Naming of the Renfrew Bridge

It is proposed the name of the new opening bridge across the River Clyde that is being delivered as part of the CWRR project is named the Renfrew Bridge in reflection of its location and following the standard approach of naming a bridge after its geographical setting.

In line with the council's current street naming and numbering guidance approved in 2012, local ward members were consulted on the proposed name and there were no indications made against the proposal.

Once approved, the agreed name was communicated to the Glasgow City Region to inform its members, as well as the Scottish and UK Governments.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – The financial implications arising from the Council's participation in City Deal are set out in detail in item 3 Financial Sustainability and General Fund Financial Outlook section 7.7 and 7.8 of the report approved by Council on 30th June 2022.

The approval of additional GCR City Deal grant will reduce the previously approved Council contribution and resulting ongoing financing costs. The GCR Regional project would be 100% grant funded if successful in bid process.

2. **HR & Organisational Development** – None.

3. **Community/Council Planning –**

- *Our Renfrewshire is thriving* – These projects will link our communities and facilitate new development opportunities and business growth with both projects improving skills development, educational and health opportunities for people within the local communities as well as aiding employees to access these major existing and new employment centres. The projects align with and aid the outcomes of the Renfrewshire Economic Strategy 2020 -2030 and the Renfrewshire Economic Recovery Plan
- *Our Renfrewshire is well* - The new safer walking and cycling infrastructure incorporated within these projects, will help encourage active travel by children and young people, as well as adults.
- *Reshaping our place, our economy and our future* – These infrastructure projects provide connectivity and access to new and existing jobs for people in our communities. During the project construction period hundreds of new jobs have been created and as a result of new business creation it is estimated that thousands of additional new permanent jobs will be created. NMIS and MMIC are already up and running as a direct consequence of this enabling infrastructure. The combined projects investment in linking active travel infrastructure and education and will provide connectivity and access to new and existing jobs for people in our communities.
- *Tackling inequality, ensuring opportunities for all* – CWRR provides access to development opportunities along Meadowside Street, increases the potential to reinvigorate Blythwood Retail Park and improves access for the communities on both sides of the River Clyde to facilities and employers on the other side such as the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital; NHS Golden Jubilee; West College Scotland's Clydebank campus and Yoker train station. The project also increases the employee catchment area for businesses planning to locate at AMIDS, while improving links to suppliers and customers.
- *Creating a sustainable Renfrewshire for all to enjoy* - The completed infrastructure includes segregated provision for walking and cycling and will also enable improved public transport links CWRR opens up development opportunities, which through the LDP will be managed as sustainable linked communities.
- *Working together to improve outcomes* - Officers are working closely with local communities, neighbouring councils, private sector organisations, Scottish Government, Scottish Enterprise, and other partners to ensure the maximisation of positive outcomes from the projects noted within this report.

4. **Legal – None.**

5. **Property/Assets** – Completed assets will require to be maintained and operated by the Council.

6. **Information Technology** – None.
 7. **Equality & Human Rights** -
 - (a) The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report because it is for noting only. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.
 8. **Health & Safety** – None.
 9. **Procurement** – all contracts are tendered in accordance with Council procurement procedures and where relevant taken to FRCS Board for approval.
 10. **Risk** – Project specific and Programme level risk registers have been established for all projects. These are kept under regular review and reported to the Council's internal City Deal and Infrastructure Programme Board. Should the Regional project funding bid be successful the project will be further scoped through the Glasgow City Region Business Case development process.
 11. **Privacy Impact** – None.
 12. **COSLA Policy Position** – Not applicable.
 13. **Climate Risk** – the project will provide sustainable active travel routes and encourage sustainable neighbourhoods and transport links including provision of blue green infrastructure.
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List of Background Papers

None.

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Author: *Barbara Walker, City Deal and Infrastructure Programme Director; Email*
Barbara.walkers@renfrewshire.gov.uk