

## **Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Strategic Development Planning Authority**

**To: Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Strategic Development Planning Authority  
Joint Committee**

**On: 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

**Report by  
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### **Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Strategic Development Planning Authority Joint Committee - Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 - Duty to prepare a Regional Spatial Strategy**

#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This report is for the Joint Committee to consider future governance options in respect of discharging the duty under the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 to prepare a Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS).

#### **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Joint Committee consider the content of this report and
- agree to recommend to all eight local authorities that they continue to work jointly to discharge their duty under the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 to prepare a RSS;
  - agree that as an alternative to the continued use of a joint committee model a governance approach involving the development and oversight of the RSS being set within Glasgow City Region should be considered;
  - agree to request that Glasgow City Region give consideration as to how Option 3 can be implemented and to set out the steps to deliver this, along with the associated timescale;
  - note Options 3 and 4 would see the Joint Committee dissolved and staff transferred to Glasgow City Council as host authority;
  - note that further reports be brought to future meetings of the Joint Committee with regard to this matter.

### **3. Background**

- 3.1 At the meeting of the Joint Committee on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020 it was agreed that work be undertaken to explore the future governance arrangements for the performance of its functions. This focused on the new duty on local authorities in relation to strategic planning as part of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019, namely to prepare a RSS.
- 3.2 This duty will come into effect once the National Planning Framework 4 has been approved by the Scottish Parliament which is anticipated to be in the summer of 2022.
- 3.3 Unlike the current Strategic Development Plan the RSS will not form part of the statutory Development Plan which will now comprise the National Planning Framework and the Local Development Plan.
- 3.4 Given these changes, the role and remit for which the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Strategic Development Planning Authority Joint Committee was originally established will significantly change. Therefore, it is appropriate to consider the future role of the Joint Committee.

### **4. Context**

- 4.1 Increasingly the role of city regions, through the establishment of City Deals and Regional Economic Partnerships, are emerging as the key mechanism for the delivery on a number of important agendas including: economic development, City Deals, climate change, environmental improvement and strategic planning.
- 4.2 In this context, the new duty to prepare a RSS is key requirement to ensure the proper planning for the future development of the Glasgow City Region, much in the same way strategic planning has been successfully undertaken in the city region for some time.
- 4.3 From the above, since 1996 the eight Glasgow City Region local authorities have worked together to develop a series of regional spatial plans, the most recent being the Clydeplan Strategic Development Plan ("SDP"), which was approved by Scottish Ministers in July 2017.
- 4.4 The SDP sets out a Vision and Spatial Development Strategy up to 2036, setting out a land use framework to direct and guide where new development should be located and a policy framework that supports the delivery of sustainable economic growth through the creation of high quality development, which seeks to reduce inequalities and enhances the quality of life in Glasgow City Region.
- 4.5 It is important to note that the SDP also sets the strategy and policy context for the individual local authority Local Development Plans.

- 4.6 There is no prescription in the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 on how local authorities discharge the duty to prepare a RSS and it is open for local authorities to consider other models. However, given the inter-related nature of the Glasgow City Region's local authorities in terms of its geography, the interaction and movement of its citizens, the establishment of a Regional Partnership and recognition of a successful history of joint working by all eight local authorities, it is considered the most appropriate and effective model for delivering the RSS is by 8 local authorities continuing to work together.
- 4.7 On that basis, consideration on how this is to be governed and delivered is now required, and this is discussed in the following sections

## 5. Governance Options

- 5.1 To discharge the duty of preparing and approving the RSS under the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 in respect of its governance four options have been considered, namely:

Options		Host Local Authority	RSS Development and Approval
1	Existing Model	Renfrewshire	Clydeplan Steering Group (Officers)  Clydeplan Joint Committee (Members)
2	Limited Change	Glasgow	Clydeplan Steering Group (Officers)  Clydeplan Joint Committee (Members)
3	GCR Collaborative	Glasgow	GCR Land Use and Sustainability Portfolio (Officers)  GCR Land Use And Sustainability/Regional Planning Collaborative (Members)  GCR Cabinet (Members)
4	GCR Cabinet	Glasgow	GCR Land Use and Sustainability Portfolio (Officers)  GCR Cabinet (Members)

- 5.2 Option 1: retains the existing model with the oversight of the development of the RSS and its approval by the Clydeplan Joint Committee with Renfrewshire Council retaining the role of host authority for staff, finance, audit and administration.
- 5.3 Option 2: as option 1 with the Glasgow acting in the role of host authority.
- 5.4 Option 3: oversight and development of the RSS by a new political collaborative within the City Region's governance structure. This collaborative would recommend the RSS to the City Region Cabinet for approval. Glasgow would take on the role of host authority.
- 5.5 Option 4: oversight of the development of the RSS and its approval by the Glasgow City Region Cabinet with Glasgow acting as host authority.

## **6. Considerations of Options**

- 6.1 Option 1 retains the existing arrangements which have served the process of developing regional spatial plans well since 1996. The Joint Committee structure ensures political oversight of this process by all of the member councils. It does, however, relate to a duty under previous planning legislation and guidance. The current arrangements under a Minute of Agreement could be seen as being very prescriptive in terms of governance, finance and audit for the new duty to prepare a RSS which is not now part of statutory Development Plan.
- 6.2 The current Joint Committee structure was established at a time when other City Region governance structures were not in existence and this option would sit outside such structures. Renfrewshire Council is willing to continue as the lead authority and the servicing authority should the Joint Committee arrangements continue.
- 6.3 Option 2 would only involve the host authority arrangements changing. This would enable the integration of staff, finance and administration into the existing City Region processes, however, the oversight of the development and approval of the RSS would remain outside the City Region's governance structures.
- 6.4 Option 3 would move the duty to prepare a RSS directly into the City Region governance structures, thus enabling greater alignment with other ongoing related city region activities including closer joint working with other City Region Portfolio groupings for example Infrastructure and Assets and Transport and Connectivity along with other strategy development in particular the Regional Economic Strategy. This approach would bring increased efficiencies and effective engagement in terms of process and resourcing.
- 6.5 The creation of a new political collaborative, reporting to the City Region Cabinet, as part of the City Region's governance would bring additional local authority elected member scrutiny and technical oversight to the development of the RSS. This additional scrutiny and oversight would also be an important part of the future development of the individual Local Authority Local Development Plans as the Local Development Plans under the terms of the Planning (Scotland) Act are required to '*have regard*' to the RSS.

- 6.6 Option 4 would see the oversight of the development of the RSS and its approval directly by the City Region Cabinet. This option would bring a degree of technical oversight which the current Cabinet does not apply to the development of other City Region wide strategies and preclude the additional local authority political oversight that Option 3 would offer.
- 6.7 Options 3 and 4 would see the Joint Committee dissolved and staff transferred to Glasgow City Council as host authority.

## **7. Conclusions and Next Steps**

- 7.1 The eight local authorities of Glasgow City Region have a long standing and successful track record of joint working on regional planning matters. As Scotland's only metropolitan area this joint working will be increasingly important if the City Region is to maximise its economic, social and environmental potential.
- 7.2 The increasing recognition of the importance of City Regions to the future wellbeing of Scotland has seen the creation of the Glasgow City Region along with associated governance structures.
- 7.3 Embedding the development and oversight of the RSS within those structures would allow for greater integration in strategy alignment in particular with the Regional Economic Strategy. In addition, this would allow for resource and governance efficiencies, staff retention and importantly retaining elected member oversight. Taking this into account, it is concluded that Option 3 should be explored further.
- 7.4 From the above, it is officers recommendation that members of the Joint Committee requests that Glasgow City Region consider how this option can be implemented and set out the steps to deliver this, and the associated timescale. This will then be reported back to Joint Committee for its consideration.