



Glasgow City Region City Deal: Update on East Dunbartonshire Council's Place and Growth Programme

Committee Strategy & Programmes

Date of meeting 9 September 2022

Date of report 24 August 2022

Report by Chief Executive

1. Object of report

To update the Committee on the progress with East Dunbartonshire Council's (EDC) Place and Growth programme.

2. Background

SPT Officers last updated the Strategy & Programme Committee on the Place and Growth Programme on 26 November 2021¹.

Members will recall that the Strategic Business Case (SBC) for the project was approved by the Glasgow City Region Cabinet at its meeting on 11 February 2020, and that the high level objectives of the programme are to:

- Support the provision of a well-connected, skilled workforce within the City Region by creating greater accessibility to jobs in the City Region and into East Dunbartonshire;
- Improve the accessibility between East Dunbartonshire and Glasgow, and ensure East Dunbartonshire is an attractive place to establish or grow business, to support innovation and businesses growth by tackling key issues relating to connectivity into the main settlement areas within East Dunbartonshire;
- Ensure the employment opportunities created from the Place and Growth Programme are accessible by public transport, and improve bus patronage from East Dunbartonshire residents commuting to the City and employment locations in the north of Glasgow;
- Reduce barriers to jobs locally, through the diversity and improved quality of the local employment opportunities, and by improving connectivity and access to the wider City Region for local workforce in East Dunbartonshire;
- Support development of existing business locations and enable the unlocking of key business land sites to enable more small and medium enterprises to grow;

¹ https://www.spt.co.uk/media/gwybcikb/sp261121_agenda9.pdf

- Enable larger commercial development and elements of housing delivery, by providing infrastructure to assist in sites being unlocked; and
- Stimulate town centre regeneration by providing new business space and a high-quality physical environment in which to work and live.

Members will recall that to meet these objectives, the programme will deliver the following package of transport infrastructure, and site enabling activities:

- Westerhill Development Road (WDR): The delivery of the Westerhill Development Road (formerly known as Bishopbriggs Relief Road, Phase 5 (BRR5)), to complete the route through East Dunbartonshire and Glasgow north, improving connectivity and unlocking strategic development sites which will enable follow on investment. This project also includes the development of a Masterplan and associated Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Westerhill Regeneration Area;
- A803 Sustainable Travel Corridor: Improvements for sustainable travel along the A803 route corridor to create active travel links and a key bus route corridor between East Dunbartonshire and Glasgow City Centre, serving the north of Glasgow and a range of key retail, regeneration, health and education facilities; and
- Bishopbriggs Town Centre Regeneration: Provision of business space, improved accessibility and improved public realm delivered by the City Deal Project.

With regards to public transport improvements along the key A803 corridor, specific focus continues to be given to:

- Improvements in journey time (including bus priority measures);
- Service reliability;
- Quality of infrastructure;
- Integration with other modes (including active travel and park and ride);
- Accessibility;
- Information (including real-time);
- Demand management (reducing reliance on private car trips); and
- Supporting behavioural change to make public transport a more attractive option for people in both East Dunbartonshire and Glasgow.

The estimated cost of the project is £35 million in total, with Glasgow City Region City Deal contributing £30 million and the balance of £5m being funded by EDC.

3. Outline of proposals

Consultancy support was procured in early 2022 in order to assist with SPT's input into the project. Accordingly, AECOM provide a member of staff to be SPT's point of contact across all workstreams associated with the project but principally focussing on the A803 strand.

Work Undertaken on the project during 2022 has focused upon the following:

Business Case Co-ordination. Turner & Townsend was appointed as business case consultant for the three Place & Growth Programme City Deal projects. Caledonian Economics was appointed with a primary focus on delivery of the Economic Case element of Outline Business Case, together with consultants AECOM, appointed to review the STAG completed in 2015 to inform the Strategic Case Element of Outline Business Case.

Transport Modelling. Procured through the Scotland Excel framework. Consultant Systra was appointed to review and validate Strathclyde Regional Transport Model (SRTM) and recently appointed to develop A803 corridor model. Traffic surveys to be commissioned in Autumn 2022 to inform corridor model.

Bishopbriggs Town Centre Regeneration. Team appointed in spring 2021 with early design work and first phase of public consultation undertaken. Consultant SWECO was appointed summer 2022 to consider potential designs for the town centre.

Westerhill Masterplan & Westerhill Development Road (WDR). Consultant Triskelion (a consortium of Arcadis, SWECO and Fairhurst) was appointed to develop Westerhill Masterplan and associated Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Westerhill Regeneration Area. The Masterplan will provide a non-statutory overarching document to define a strategic vision for the Westerhill Regeneration Area, help guide investment and inform the design process and guide development in the area. The Masterplan has an anticipated delivery of summer 2023. Consultation with statutory partners in relation to the Strategic Environment Assessment for the Westerhill Masterplan have been undertaken. Consultation with Statutory partners in relation to Environmental Impact Assessment requirements for the WDR are ongoing.

Improvements to Sustainable Transport on the A803 Route Corridor. Consultant (Atkins) appointed in May 2022 to undertake DMRB Stage One design work considering options to improve sustainable travel opportunities on A803 corridor between Torrance Roundabout and Royston Road.

Other. In respect of all aspects of the Programme, consultation with local bus operators is ongoing. Discussions to develop a land acquisition strategy are ongoing, and EDC are considering additional funding opportunities, including through Places for Everyone, SPEN, Investing in Communities Fund and Shared Prosperity Fund. SPT continues to support EDC in all of these activities.

4. Committee action

The Committee is recommended to note the contents of this report, and the role SPT are contributing to deliver the transport elements of the project.

5. Consequences

Policy consequences	<i>In line with the Regional Transport Strategy.</i>
Legal consequences	<i>None directly.</i>
Financial consequences	<i>None directly.</i>
Personnel consequences	<i>None directly.</i>
Equalities consequences	<i>None directly.</i>
Risk consequences	<i>None directly.</i>

Climate Change, Adaptation &
Carbon consequences

Successful completion of the project will contribute to support sustainable transport options as a measure to reduce car usage.

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