



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

Date of meeting 24 November 2023

Date of report 14 November 2023

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 to report

The last update to the Strategy & Programme Committee on the Place and Growth Programme was at the meeting on the 9 June 2023¹.

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, ensure East Dunbartonshire is an attractive place to establish or grow business and to support innovation and business 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 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;
- Enable larger commercial development and elements of housing delivery by providing infrastructure to assist in sites being unlocked; and

¹https://www.spt.co.uk/media/uuof0mbg/sp090623_agenda8.pdf

- 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.
- **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 initial estimated cost of the project in 2020 was £35 million in total, with Glasgow City Region City Deal contributing £30 million and the balance of £5 million being funded by EDC. Given significant inflationary pressures since 2020, particularly in respect of capital projects, further updated costings are expected as the project moves to complete the Outline Business Case. The project team continue to monitor such risks to programme and overall affordability.

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 focusing on the A803 strand.

3. Outline of proposals

Work undertaken on the project since that time has focused upon the following:

- **Business Case Coordination:** Work continues on development of the Outline Business Case which is programmed for completion in early 2025.
- **Transport Modelling:** Work continues to validate the Strathclyde Regional Transport Model (SRTM) and to develop the A803 corridor model, which is in the process of being completed. This model will also support work associated with Westerhill Development Road.
- **Improvements to Sustainable Transport on the A803 Route Corridor:** Consideration of options to improve sustainable travel opportunities on the A803 corridor between Torrance Roundabout and Royston Road continues. The first stage of feasibility analysis has been completed. Consultants have been appointed to undertake the next stage of design, which is programmed for completion in Spring 2025. Specifically work continues to consider options for the corridor between Torrance Roundabout and Royston Road.
- **Westerhill Masterplan:** The Westerhill Masterplan is anticipated to be finalised in winter 2023 / 2024. Consultation with statutory partners in relation to the Strategic Environment Assessment for the Westerhill Masterplan has also been undertaken.
- **Westerhill Development Road (WDR):** Public consultation on the Westerhill Development Road, considering options for a new stretch of road starting from the Lochgrog Roundabout (Phase 4 of Bishopbriggs Relief Road) and tying in with the A803 was undertaken in May / June 2023. Work to progress DMRB Stage 2 is nearing completion. Environmental and ecological surveys have been taking place and will inform the preferred route option.
- **Bishopbriggs Town Centre Regeneration:** A public consultation consider potential designs for the town centre was held in February 2023, which presented concept public realm proposals for Bishopbriggs town centre. An online exhibition was published in June 2023, which presented designs for the new Civic Space in Bishopbriggs town centre.
- **Other:** Consultation with local bus operators is ongoing and EDC are considering additional funding opportunities.

The progress detailed within the workstreams above supports the development of the three key project elements i.e. Westerhill Development Road (WDR), A803 Sustainable Travel Corridor and Bishopbriggs Town Centre Regeneration. SPT continues to support EDC in the development and delivery of the overall programme.

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>Supports RTS priorities for a healthier environment, inclusive economic growth and an improved quality of life.</i>
Legal consequences	<i>None directly.</i>
Financial consequences	<i>Costs associated with SPT consultancy support for the project is being fully funded by East Dunbartonshire.</i>
Personnel consequences	<i>None directly.</i>

Equalities consequences	<i>The projects aim to support improved connectivity and accessibility helping to reduce barriers to employment and services.</i>
Risk consequences	<i>None directly.</i>
Climate Change, Adaptation & Carbon consequences	<i>The projects will promote reduced transport emissions through encouraging modal shift to sustainable travel. Environmental Impact Assessments are in process.</i>

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