



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

Date of meeting 20 September 2024

Date of report 5 September 2024

Report by Head of Bus Strategy & Delivery

1. Object of report

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

2. Background to report

The previous update to the Strategy & Programme Committee on the Place and Growth Programme was in November 2023¹.

- Westerhill Development Road (WDR): The delivery of the WDR - 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.

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 have been developed as part of the programme Outline Business Case (OBC) development. The updated costings were recently reported by EDC², alongside rescoping plans for the programme required in terms of managing risk and maintaining overall affordability.

3. Outline of proposals

Amongst the ongoing work to further develop and deliver the Place and Growth Programme a key element has been Business Case Coordination, building upon the Strategic Business Case (SBC) previously approved by Glasgow City Region in 2022.

¹ https://www.spt.co.uk/media/hn0i0rw2/sp241123_agenda11.pdf

²

Work therefore continues on development of the Outline Business Case (OBC), which is programmed for completion in early 2025. At this stage in the development of the OBC, further updated costings have been developed by consultants working on behalf of EDC, which represent a significant risk to the delivery of the project programme as previously approved via the SBC.

Based on currently available cost information, it is now estimated the cost to deliver the full project scope would be in the region of £65 million. This represents an increase of £30 million from the original approved budget of £34.9 million set out in the Strategic Business Case (SBC), which is unaffordable at this time.

Given the above and having assessed the updated costings, EDC has therefore proposed that the project scope be revised in order to support a preferred option that is affordable within the available budget, whilst still delivering on key City Deal criteria. The proposed change in scope would result in a reduction in the elements delivered as detailed in the table below.

Approved SBC Scope	Proposed OBC Scope
Delivery of phase 5 of the Bishopbriggs Relief Road. Connect Lochgrog roundabout to Torrance Roundabout	Delivery of the WDR (formerly referred to as phase 5 of the Bishopbriggs Relief Road) to connect Lochgrog Roundabout to Crosshill Road, and Improvements to Torrance Roundabout (this completes the route but does not include upgrades along the existing stretches of Cole Road or Crosshill Road). Works to Cole Road and Crosshill Road are deferred.
Bishopbriggs Town Centre Regeneration. Public realm improvements, and Business Incubation Space.	Bishopbriggs Town Centre Regeneration, Public realm improvements - Civic Space. Business Incubation space is removed.
Improvement to Sustainable Transport on the A803 Route Corridor	A803 Route Corridor project element is deferred.

It is estimated that the cost to deliver the revised programme (noted as proposed OBC scope above) would be £36.84 million. EDC have intimated their intention to seek a further £1.96 million budget allocation from the GCR City Deal to support this increased cost. In terms of next steps, the Council are required to submit a change request to Glasgow City Region for approval of the revised project scope noted above.

SPT continues to support EDC in the development and delivery of the overall Place and Growth programme including consideration of additional funding opportunities. This will include support for development of deferred programme elements, including the A803 Sustainable Transport Corridor.

4. Partnership action

The Committee is recommended to note the contents of this report, including the proposed rescoping of the Place and Growth programme, as a result of significant cost increases.

5. Consequences

Policy consequences

Supports RTS priorities for a healthier environment, inclusive economic growth, and an improved quality of life.

Legal consequences	<i>None directly.</i>
Financial consequences	<i>None directly.</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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