



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

**Committee** Strategy & Programmes

**Date of meeting** 26 November 2021

**Date of report** 10 November 2021

### Report by Acting Chief Executive

#### 1. Object of report

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

#### 2. Background

EDC's Place and Growth programme is a collaborative project between East Dunbartonshire Council, Glasgow City Council and SPT.

The Strategic Business Case (SBC) for the project was approved by the Glasgow City Region Cabinet at its meeting on 11 February 2020.

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;

- 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.

To meet these objectives, the programme will deliver the following package of transport infrastructure, and site enabling activities:

- **BRR5:** The delivery of 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.

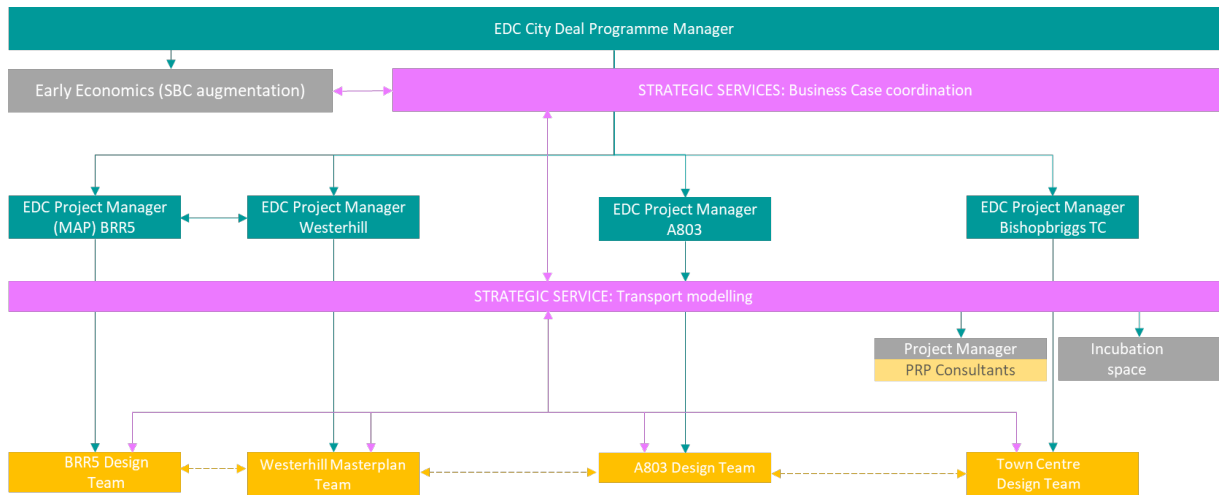
With regard to public transport improvements along the key A803 corridor, specific focus will be given to:

- 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. Progress Update

Further to previous committee update in February 2021, work in the early part of 2021 focused on formulating a delivery model (see below) aimed at identifying the scope and number of consultancy commissions required to take the project forward to OBC stage.



This delivery model formed the basis for preparation of a procurement strategy, which was subsequently approved by EDC’s internal governance board in June 2021, setting out the outline scope, the “route to market”, budget costs, procurment priorities and timescales etc for each commission. Approval of this report allowed the prject team to engage with potential suppliers and start work on tender documents etc.

Further to approval of the procurement strategy, as of October 2021, the procurement status of ech comission is as follows:

- Early Economics (Strategic Business Case Augmentation): EDC appointed Caledonian Economics in April 2021 to support the preparation of a high-level early economic impact assessment based on the approved Strategic Business Case (Feb 2020). A final version of the report is expected this month with a view to submission to Glasgow City Region Chief Executive Group meeting in December 2021;
- Strategic Services (Business Case Co-ordination): Market consultation underway with a view to refining the scope and budget ahead of a competitive tendering exercise in late 2021/early 2022;
- Strategic Services (Transport Modelling): Procured through the Scotland Excel framework. Tender documents issued and a response received with appointment of Consultant confirmed in 2021;
- Bishopbriggs Town Centre Project Management and Design Team: Team appointed in spring 2021 with early design work and first phase of public consultation underway;
- Bishopbriggs Relief Road Phase 5 (BRR5) Design Team: Negotiations on scope and budget ongoing ahead of expected appointment via SCAPE framework, anticipated to be in late 2021;
- Westerhill Masterplanner: Negotiations on scope and budget ongoing ahead of expected appointment via SCAPE framework, anticipated to be in late 2021; and
- A803 Corridor Design Team: Preparation of scope and tender documents underway ahead of a competitive tendering exercise via Scotland Excel framework in late 2021/early 2022.

In addition to the ongoing work outlined above:

- The 'Collaborative Group' which consists of project partner organisations (Strathclyde Partnership for Transport and Glasgow City Council) and which is responsible for overseeing progress, continues to meet on a monthly basis;
- An EDC City Deal programme level engagement plan has been prepared setting out key principles and 'rules for engagement' under which each project element and teams will follow;
- Consultation with external statutory agencies, for example Transport Scotland as part of scoping work to inform the required technical assessments is ongoing;
- A technical working group has been established, attended by representatives from EDC, SPT and Glasgow City Council with a view to ensuring the seamless delivery of the A803 corridor improvements within the Glasgow City boundary;
- Consultation with local bus operators on the project plans and benefits is ongoing;
- Engagement with key landowners and businesses is ongoing;
- Consultation with statutory partners is ongoing in relation to the Environmental Impact Assessment requirements for the BRR5 and for the Strategic Environment Assessment for the Westerhill Masterplan;
- Discussions on a land acquisition strategy have commenced; and
- Discussions on statutory requirements for entry to land to undertake site surveys and investigations underway.

Notwithstanding the significant progress since the February 2021 committee update, the impact of Covid 19 continues to present challenges for the project, especially in terms of capacity within EDC to undertake procurement and legal work. Availability and capacity of suppliers to prepare and submit tenders also continues to be a factor in what is a more protracted procurement phase than would ordinarily be the case.

Despite the ongoing Covid challenges, there would be no justification at this stage for extending the completion and handover date of December 2026 previously approved by the City Deal cabinet in response to a Change Request submitted by EDC in February 2021. A detailed review of programme milestones will be undertaken in mid-2022 when all consultants have been appointed and commission delivery programmes have been agreed.

### **Bus Partnership Fund**

As funding for the A803 corridor is in place through East Dunbartonshire Council's (EDC) Place and Growth programme, no specific bus priority items on the A803 corridor were bid for in the phase 1 round of funding to the Bus Partnership Fund (BPF). Part of the sum granted (£3.65m), however includes £230,000 to carry out a Scottish Transport appraisal Guidance (STAG) study on the wider strategy of the BPF. This will guide funding bids for subsequent phases of the BPF, as well as aligning them with wider policies and other ongoing projects, including EDC's Place and Growth Programme. Alignment of the BPF interventions with other policies will assist in the delivery of multi-modal approach to future mobility provision.

## **4. Committee action**

The Committee is recommended to note the contents of this report.

## **5. Consequences**

Policy consequences	<i>The program objectives align with National and Regional policy.</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>

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