

# Report

Report to: **South Lanarkshire Council**  
Date of Meeting: **27 March 2024**  
Report by: **Chief Executive**

Subject: **Clydeplan and Glasgow City Region Spatial Planning**

## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ seeks the Approval of Council to formally withdraw from the Clydeplan Joint Committee and agree to transfer the responsibility for the development of a Regional Spatial Strategy to the Glasgow City Region (GCR) Cabinet.
- ◆ this is within the context of proposed new governance structures to continue the collaborative approach to Regional Planning that has existed in the Glasgow and Clyde Valley/Glasgow City Region Area since the creation of Unitary Authorities in 1996 and within the context of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 and the Scottish Government's National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) 2023.

## 2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Council is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the recommendation of the Clydeplan Joint Committee to transfer responsibility for the development of a Regional Spatial Strategy to the Glasgow City Region Cabinet be noted;
- (2) that the GCR Cabinet's approval of the establishment of a new Regional Spatial Planning Sub Committee to oversee the development of a Regional Spatial Strategy be noted;
- (3) that the approval of participation in any future Regional Spatial Strategy will remain a decision for South Lanarkshire Council be noted;
- (4) Agree to formally withdraw from the Clydeplan Joint Committee and transfer existing funding to Glasgow City Council as lead authority for the Glasgow City Region; and
- (5) Agree that Councillor Robert Brown and Councillor Richard Nelson continue their existing role on the Clydeplan Joint Committee and act as the South Lanarkshire Council representatives on the new Regional Spatial Planning Sub-Committee.

## 3. Background

3.1. The National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) approved by the Scottish Parliament in 2023 removed the statutory requirement to produce a Strategic Development Plan and replaced it with a duty to prepare a non-statutory Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS).

- 3.2. 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.
- 3.3. The previous SDP set out a Vision and Spatial Development Strategy from now until 2036, suggesting where new development should be located and a policy framework that helps deliver 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. The SDP also set the strategy and policy context for the individual local authority Local Development Plans.
- 3.4. This requirement is no longer in place since the introduction of NPF4, and has been replaced by the requirement to prepare a Regional Spatial Strategy.

#### **4. Governance**

- 4.1. Clydeplan has been governed by a Joint Committee for the purpose of representing the eight local authorities in the Glasgow and Clyde Valley area in carrying out the functions conferred upon them under Sections 4 to 14 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 as amended by the Planning etc (Scotland) Act and have each passed the necessary resolution for giving effect to this Agreement. Renfrewshire Council provides support functions for the Joint Committee on behalf of the Member Authorities.
- 4.2. The Clydeplan Joint Committee has previously agreed that work should be undertaken to explore the future governance arrangements for the delivery of the functions undertaken by the Joint Committee particularly in relation to the new duty on local authorities for strategic planning as part of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019, namely to prepare a Regional Spatial Strategy.
- 4.3. Unlike the current Strategic Development Plan the Regional Spatial Strategy will not form part of the statutory Development Plan which will now comprise the National Planning Framework and the Local Development Plan.
- 4.4. Given these changes it was acknowledged that the role and remit for which the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Strategic Development Planning Authority Joint Committee as originally established will significantly change and therefore the future role of the Committee required to be reviewed.
- 4.5. The Joint Committee itself has recommended to its members that the functions transfer to the Glasgow City Region, with GCR Cabinet overseeing the development of the RSS. At its meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024, the Cabinet agreed to establish a Regional Planning Sub Committee to discharge this function, subject to approval by the 8 Local Authorities through their own local democratic structures.
- 4.6. This approval by GCR Cabinet set out the proposed approach to future collaboration, based on three fundamental principles, namely:
  - (i) A collaborative approach to Regional Spatial Planning;
  - (ii) Integration with wider regional activity to maximise impact; and,
  - (iii) The need for local democratic accountability with no local authority being bound by any decision they cannot support

- 4.7. To achieve this, the new Sub-Committee will not have decision making powers and will oversee the development of an RSS for the region. This will then be presented to the 8 Local Authorities for consideration, with Cabinet simply noting the approved document. This ensures that approval sits with local democratic structures whilst collaboration is facilitated through regional ones and in this respect in order to provide continuity from the existing process into the new arrangement it is recommended that Cllr Robert Brown will represent South Lanarkshire Council on this Sub-Committee with Cllr Richard Nelson providing a role as substitute if required.
- 4.8. Under the new arrangements, South Lanarkshire Council will remain accountable and responsible for all planning decisions within the area.

## **5. Employee Implications**

- 5.1 The proposed arrangements will have no impact on South Lanarkshire Council employees. Clydeplan currently has a Core Team of Officers who are employed by Renfrewshire Council as Administering Authority and it is proposed that the staff will transfer to Glasgow City Council who administer the City Region functions. This process will be carried out under Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) (TUPE) regulations.

## **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1 It had been anticipated that South Lanarkshire Council would have received a requisition of £60,439 from Renfrewshire Council for 2024/25 to support staff and associated costs with the operation of Clydeplan. It is proposed that this funding will now be paid to Glasgow City Council as lead authority for the Glasgow City Region to support ongoing resource, operational and associated costs.
- 6.2 While it is anticipated that there should be efficiencies in the budgets to deliver the Regional Spatial Strategies as a result of a review of its management, structure and operational costs, this will be managed through regional structures with the Finance Strategy Group consisting of the 8 Finance Directors overseeing the budget and reporting to the 8 Chief Executives. The final budget for the new Regional Planning Sub Group will be approved by Cabinet on an annual basis.
- 6.3 Appropriate due diligence will be carried out by Glasgow City Council and Renfrewshire Council to ensure the transfer of assets. Any reserves will be returned to the 8 constituent authorities following conclusion of the process.

## **7. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications**

- 7.1. Having appropriate Regional Spatial Planning arrangements in place will help in providing a policy context for development priorities across the Glasgow City Region.

## **8. Other Implications**

- 8.1. None

## **9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

- 9.1. This report does not introduce any new activities that would have an impact on the Council's Equality Objectives and consultation has taken place across the eight Local Authorities in the Glasgow City Region.

**Paul Manning**  
**Chief Executive**

13 March 2024

**Link(s) to Council Values/Priorities/Outcomes**

- ◆ Achieve results through leadership, good governance and organisational effectiveness
- ◆ Accountable, effective, efficient and transparent

**Previous References**

- ◆ None

**List of Background Papers**

- ◆ Agenda - Glasgow City Region Cabinet 17<sup>th</sup> February 2024 - [Committee Information - Meetings \(glasgow.gov.uk\)](https://glasgow.gov.uk/committees/committees-information/committees-information)

**Contact for Further Information**

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:- Paul Manning, Chief Executive

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