

Report

Report to:	Community and Enterprise Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	30 October 2018
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

Subject:	City Deal – Additional Economic Development Officers
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ request approval for 2 full time equivalent (FTE) Economic Development Officer posts to be added to the establishment of Planning and Economic Development Services for a fixed term of 2 years

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the establishment of 2 full time equivalent (FTE) Economic Development Officer posts for a fixed term of 2 years, to be funded from the City Deal Programme, be approved.

3. Background

3.1. The Glasgow City Deal is an agreement between the UK Government, the Scottish Government and the 8 local authorities across the Glasgow and Clyde Valley. It sets out how the region will create economic growth through:-

- ◆ setting up a £1.13 billion Glasgow City Region Infrastructure Fund to improve transport connectivity and regeneration activity across the City Region
- ◆ helping small and medium enterprises to grow and develop
- ◆ delivering programmes to support unemployed people
- ◆ developing new ways of boosting the incomes of people on low wages
- ◆ providing opportunities for those living in economically deprived areas

3.2. South Lanarkshire's four infrastructure projects currently total £166.2 million of capital investment and comprise:-

Cathkin Relief Road

This new £16 million single-carriageway road was officially opened on 24 February 2017. It runs between Mill Street and Burnside Road. Several road junctions have also been upgraded and existing woodland areas have been upgraded by extensive areas of new tree and shrub planting. In addition, complementary works associated with the provision of play areas, improved street lighting and carriageway and footpath resurfacing are being implemented.

Greenhills Road

The widening of Greenhills Road/A726 is a £25.7 million project which will see two sections of road transformed into dual carriageways. Existing junctions will also be improved along with bus infrastructure and active travel options. The Full Business Case was approved by the City Deal's Chief Executives' group on 3 September, the City Deal Cabinet on 9 October 2018 and will commence on site later this year.

Stewartfield Way

Stewartfield Way will undergo a £62.2 million upgrade, becoming a dual carriageway in both directions. As well as improving traffic flow, the project will also enhance pedestrian crossings and increase the capacity of public transport infrastructure. The Strategic Business Case for the project received approval in August 2015 and in 2018/2019 work will continue in the preparation of the Outline Business Case which will then be submitted to the Council and City Deal Cabinet for approval.

Community Growth Areas

Four Community Growth Areas (CGAs) have been identified in Newton, Hamilton, Larkhall and East Kilbride. This £62.3 million scheme will deliver education, transport and community infrastructure projects to support the development and associated population increase. All the Outline Business Cases have been approved and work will now progress to prepare Final Business Case for projects to receive Council and Cabinet approval as appropriate.

4. Economic Development Officer Posts

4.1. The City Deal has now developed into a number of areas of activity including:-

- ◆ project business case development
- ◆ project implementation
- ◆ project benefits monitoring and reporting
- ◆ engagement with 2019 gateway review process, (i.e. post project review and evaluation of outputs and outcomes)
- ◆ implementation of activity aimed at meeting regional economic strategy targets and outcomes

4.2. Bearing in mind the background set out in paragraph 3.2, the City Deal project is now entering a phase of increased activity with corresponding demands being placed on officers to progress projects through the preparation and submission of Final Business Cases for up to 15 projects associated with the CGA's project, an Outline Business Case and Final Business Case for the Stewartfield Way project. This will also include financial management of project activity, community benefit management, and community benefit monitoring. This is in addition to the work which may be generated from the outcome of the 2019 Gateway Review process and supporting the implementation of the Regional Economic Strategy. The focus of the proposed officers' activities is to support this workload and would work alongside existing officers with Economic Development Services.

4.3. It is important to highlight that existing officers have successfully delivered all of the City Deal projects to date. The additional capacity of two temporary posts will ensure that the Council maximises the economic benefit to be realised from the City Deal at the time when the associated workload is at its most onerous. At the same time, it will create capacity for officers to progress other economic development activity including business support and advice, support to key sectors, town centres, East Kilbride Task Force, Clyde Gateway and UWS legacy site.

- 4.4. Taking the City Deal increased workload together with other Economic Development activities, it is considered, the additional 2 FTE Economic Development Officers are required to ensure that these duties and responsibilities can be effectively delivered and the Council can continue to maximise City Deal opportunities.

5. Employee Implications

- 5.1. The following posts should be added to the Planning and Economic Development establishment for a fixed term 2 year period as detailed below:

Post title	Number of posts	Grade/SCP	Hourly Rate	Annual salary (excluding on-costs)	Gross salary (including on-costs 30.3%)
Economic Development Officer	2	Grade 3 Level 8, 77 - 80	£20.21 - £21.16	£36,881 - £38,614	£96,112 - £100,630

These posts have been evaluated using the Council's grading scheme.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. The additional financial implications for the Council will be an increase in the Planning and Economic Development revenue budget of up to £201,260 in total for a period of two years.
- 6.2. The costs of the two additional posts will be recovered from the City Deal budget allocation associated with the projects the Council has in the programme. The basis of recovering the cost of staff working on the City Deal programme is consistent with the approach being taken at other Member Authorities.

7. Other Implications

- 7.1. If these posts are not filled, the Council will find it extremely challenging to be able to sustain its existing commitments to the Glasgow City Deal and there will potentially be slippage in the implementation and spend profile for a number of projects. There may be subsequent failure to meet both project implementation and economic growth targets which are necessary to sustain the levels of both UK and Scottish Government funding to the City Deal and also a negative effect on the Council's reputation among both Scottish and UK Governments and City Deal partners.
- 7.2. There are no issues in term of sustainability in relation to this report.

8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 8.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and therefore, no impact assessment is required.
- 8.2. Trade unions have been consulted in relation to the information contained in this report.

Michael McGlynn
Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Paul Manning
Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

4 October 2018

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ♦ Accountable, effective, efficient and transparent
- ♦ Improve the road network, influence improvements in public transport and encourage active travel

Previous References

- ♦ None

List of Background Papers

- ♦ None

Contact for Further Information

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

Stephen Keating, Economic Development Manager

Ext: 5191 Tel: 01698 455191

E-mail: stephen.keating@southlanarkshire.gov.uk