

Report

Report to:	Community and Enterprise Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	24 November 2020
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Resources

Subject:	City Deal – Contract Extension for 2 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, approved by Committee in October 2018 for 2 years, be extended for a further fixed term period of 3 years

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the contents of the report be noted; and
- (2) that 2.0 full time equivalent (FTE) Economic Development Officer posts as detailed in paragraph 5.1 of the report be added to the establishment for a further fixed term of 3 years commencing 1 April 2021.

3. Background

- 3.1. On 30 October 2018, the Community and Enterprise Resources Committee agreed to the recruitment of two additional Economic Development Officers for a period of two years to support the delivery of City Deal and City Region activity in South Lanarkshire.
- 3.2. Despite the impact of Covid-19 on the implementation timetable for the current project programme, the demand for resources to meet the delivery of City Deal and City Region based activity has not diminished. The Glasgow City Region City Deal remains committed to acting as a major driver in creating the infrastructure to stimulate economic growth and post Covid-19 regional economic recovery through:-
- ◆ the continued implementation of the £1.13 billion Glasgow City Region Infrastructure Fund focused on improving 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

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

Cathkin Relief Road

This new £16 million single-carriageway road was officially opened on Friday 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 have been completed this year.

Stewartfield Way

It is proposed that the Stewartfield Way transport corridor will undergo a series of upgrades and improvements aimed at increasing transport capacity in the wider network to bring forward economic development activity at a number of locations in the town. The project also provides an opportunity to address climate change and active travel needs as we progress economic recovery plans across South Lanarkshire and the City Region. The augmentation of the original Strategic Business Case to fully comply with HM Treasury Green Book standards is well underway and will be reported to Committee in 2021 for members consideration.

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 project commenced on site in Spring 2019 and will complete in Spring 2021.

Community Growth Areas

Four community growth areas have been identified in Newton, Hamilton, Larkhall and East Kilbride. This £62.3 million programme will deliver a number of education, transport and community infrastructure projects to support the new and existing residents living in each of the four locations. Projects at Newton CGA (Newton Farm Primary School, Newton Rail Station Park & Ride Extension, Westburn Roundabout) and Hamilton CGA (Woodhead Primary School Extension, Highstonehall Road Access Improvements, Strathaven Road – Woodfoot Rd Transport Corridor Improvements) have been completed.

Full Business Cases for a further 12 sub projects across the 4 CGA's are scheduled to be completed over the next 3 years. It is these projects that will be the focus for the 2 officers and is the main reason for the need to retain them for the next 3 years.

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 Management
- ◆ Project Benefits Monitoring and Reporting
- ◆ Implementation of activity aimed at meeting the Regional Economic Strategy and the Covid-19 City Region Recovery Plan targets and outcomes.

- 4.2 In February 2020, The Glasgow City Region was advised it had successfully progressed through the 2019 Gateway Review 1 process and would receive the second tranche of City Deal funding worth £250 million over the next 5 years. Preparation work for the 2024 Gateway Review will now commence and the

experience gained during the recent 2019 review indicates that this will require significant resources going forward.

- 4.3 As City Deal enters a critical phase of Covid-19 recovery planning and project implementation the demands being placed on Member Authorities will continue to increase. For South Lanarkshire, the additional resources made available in 2018 have been critical in monitoring and reporting benefits and outcomes, ongoing project development and the preparation of up Full Business Cases for projects associated with the CGA's project. As well as continuing this activity an Outline Business Case and Full Business Case for the Stewartfield Way project and undertaking preparatory work which will be required to enter the next Gateway Review process.
- 4.4 The retention of 2.0 FTE Economic Development Officers for a further 3 years will ensure that these duties and responsibilities can be effectively delivered.

5. Employee Implications

- 5.1. The following posts should be extended for a further three-year period to the Planning and Economic Development Services establishment as detailed below.

Post title	No. of posts	Grade/SCP	Hourly Rate	Annual Salary (excl. on-costs)	Gross salary (incl. on-costs 30.3%)
Economic Development Officer	2	Grade 3, Level 8, SCP 79 - 80	£22.89 - £23.24	£41,772 – 42,411	£108,858 - £110,552

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 staff cost budget of up to £331,656 in total for a period of three years.
- 6.2 The additional staff costs of the two posts will be offset by funding 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. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 7.1. There are no direct climate change implications as a result of this report.

8. Other Implications

- 8.1 If these posts are not extended it will significantly affect the Council's ability and capacity to sustain its existing commitments to the Glasgow City Region City Deal. In turn, 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 Governments 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.

9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 9.1. 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.
- 9.2. There was no requirement to undertake any consultation in terms of the information set out in this report.

Michael McGlynn
Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Paul Manning
Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

5 November 2020

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

- ♦ Community and Enterprise Resources Committee 30 October 2018

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

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