

EE46. Falkirk-Grangemouth Investment Zone and Economic Recovery Update

The Emergency Executive considered a report by the Director of Development Services which advised of the announcement of £90m of 'Growth Deal' grant support from the UK and Scottish Governments for the Falkirk-Grangemouth Investment Zone. The next steps to finalise arrangements for delivery of the Investment Zone were identified along with details of the work taking place to prepare an economic recovery plan post Covid-19.

The Falkirk Economic Partnership had developed a package of proposals for an Investment Zone for the Falkirk and Grangemouth area which aimed to fulfil the economic potential of the area. A series of Investment Zone projects were detailed in a strategic business case submitted to UK and Scottish Governments last year. The Governments had pledged £90m of Growth Deal funding towards delivery of the initiative.

In order to progress the Investment Zone, further work was necessary to focus and prioritise the proposals for delivery. It was hoped that Heads of Terms for the proposals could be achieved by the end of 2020, with a finalised agreement being reached by mid-2021. The finalised agreement would allow drawdown of the £90m capital funds to be undertaken over a 15 year period.

In light of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic the Emergency Executive previously agreed that consultations should take place on a draft economic recovery plan. The finalised recovery plan would be submitted to a September meeting of the Emergency Executive.

Decision

The Emergency Executive:-

- (1) noted the award of £90m of growth fund monies by UK and Scottish Government towards delivery of the Falkirk-Grangemouth Investment Zone initiative;**
- (2) agreed that work proceeds to prepare Heads of Terms for agreement with UK and Scottish Governments on the delivery of the initiative and that a further report on progress is supplied to the Executive, and**
- (3) noted the progress of work on the Covid-19 economic recovery plan and that a finalised version of the plan will be presented to the September meeting of the Emergency Executive.**