

CITY ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE'S MINUTES.

By video conference, 18th September 2025.

City Administration Committee.

- Present: Susan Aitken (Chair), James Adams, Saqib Ahmed, Ken Andrew (substitute for Christina Cannon), Richard Bell, Jill Brown, Allan Casey, Annette Christie, Laura Doherty (substitute for Chris Cunningham), Greg Hepburn, Rashid Hussain, Ann Jenkins (substitute for John Carson), Ruairi Kelly, Anne McTaggart, Angus Millar, Jon Molyneux, Robert Mooney, Cecilia O'Lone, Lana Reid-McConnell, Soryia Siddique, Catherine Vallis and Martha Wardrop.
- Apologies: Christina Cannon, John Carson, Chris Cunningham and John Daly.
- Attending: E Rodger (Clerk); S Millar, Chief Executive; R Emmott, Executive Director of Financial Services; D Hutchison, Executive Director of Education Services; G Gillespie, Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability; C Edgar, Director of Communication and Corporate Governance; M Millar, Director of Legal and Administration; K Rush, Director of Regional Economic Growth; and P Togher, Chief Officer, Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership.

Glasgow City Region Investment Zone – Non-Domestic Rates Retention sites approved – Declaration of interest.

- 1 Councillor Aitken, Leader of the Council and City Convener for City and City Region Economy and Just Transition, presented a report regarding the ongoing development of the Glasgow City Region Investment Zone (GCR IZ), advising
- (1) that the GCR IZ programme was progressing through the Government 5-stage Gateway Process for approval following the announcement in summer 2023 that GCR would receive £160m of grant funding and would be the location of 1 of 2 Investment Zones in Scotland;
 - (2) that following an extensive analysis and engagement process by the GCR Programme Management Office (PMO), the GCR Cabinet on 11th June 2024 had confirmed that the sectoral focus would be advanced manufacturing and precision engineering and following the recommendations of a dedicated Strategic Investment Panel, a sub-set of the Regional Economic Partnership, Cabinet on 25 February 2025 had agreed to short-list 6 projects and 1 tax-site, as detailed in the report;
 - (3) that following value engineering of the projects and additional funding from Scottish Enterprise, the GCR IZ programme had a total of £181m of funding and Regional Economic Partnerships could propose 3 sites of up to 200 hectares each, up to a total of 600 hectares, which could be considered as

potential sites for the Non-Domestic Rates Retention (NDRR) over a 25 year period and the GCR PMO had engaged with the GCR member authorities to understand the potential opportunities;

- (4) that the GCR PMO had developed a high-level application and evaluation process and 6 of the 8 GCR member authorities had submitted proposals with those submissions taken forward and refined following feedback from the Scottish Government, with advice and guidance on the options also being provided by KPMG through their original GCR IZ commission with Renfrewshire Council which had helped shape the refinement of the 3 proposed NDRR locations;
- (5) that the PMO continued to work with the Council, Renfrewshire Council, North Lanarkshire Council, South Lanarkshire Council and Clyde Gateway URC to further refine the location options in advance of the final formal submission of Gateway 4 at the end of September 2025, with a list of the proposed sites in scope for NDRR, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report;
- (6) that the revenue generated from the retention of NDRR was over and above the GCR IZ £160m grant allocation and was the devolved responsibility of the Scottish Government and the retention of rates was on the basis of any uplift in NDR, within the 'red-line' boundary, from an agreed baseline with Scottish Government and as part of the Gateway process, GCR needed to demonstrate that any uplift in NDR would not have been possible without the Investment Zone programme, as detailed in the report;
- (7) of the GCR IZ objectives which had been agreed by the GCR Cabinet and the UK and Scottish Governments;
- (8) that the GCR PMO would work with partners to develop a re-investment strategy for any NDR retained rates to support GCR IZ objectives across the GCR geography and the Investment Zone Technical Guidance provided clarity on the activity the income from retained non-domestic rates growth should primarily be used to fund, as detailed in the report;
- (9) of the Governance arrangements; and
- (10) of the next steps.

After consideration, the committee

- (a) noted
 - (i) the opportunity of retaining Non-Domestic Rates Retention uplift as part of the Glasgow City Region Investment Zone programme; and
 - (ii) that growth retained as a result of the Non-Domestic Rates Retention site would be pooled at the regional level and re-invested back into the Glasgow City Region Investment Zone programme, in line with the overall Investment Zone objectives; and

(b) agreed

- (i) to the sites identified in Appendix 1 to the report being submitted to the Scottish and UK Governments as Glasgow City Region Investment Zone Non-Domestic Rates Retention Sites; and
- (ii) that this re-investment should be determined by Glasgow City Region Cabinet.

In terms of Standing Order No 27, Bailie Siddique declared an interest in this item of business and left the meeting and took no part in the discussion or decision thereon.