



**Glasgow City Region Cabinet**

**Report by: Kevin Rush, Director of Regional Economic Growth**

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**Item 15**

**25th February 2025**

### **Regional Economic Strategy Action Plan – Inverclyde**

#### **Purpose of report:**

This report proposes that Cabinet approve the inclusion of an additional action within the Regional Economic Strategy's Action Plan that provides a specific geographic focus on addressing challenges faced in Inverclyde.

#### **Recommendations**

The Cabinet is invited to:

- a. approves the inclusion of an additional programme in the Regional Economic Strategy Action Plan which provides a geographic focus on the challenges faced by Inverclyde; and,
- b. instruct the GCR Programme Management Office and Intelligence Hub to engage with Inverclyde Council and relevant partner organisations to develop actions to support the Inverclyde programme and bring these back to Cabinet for approval.

## **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 This report proposes that Cabinet approve the inclusion of an additional action within the Regional Economic Strategy' Action Plan that provides a specific geographic focus on addressing challenges faced in Inverclyde.

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 The Regional Economic Strategy was approved by Cabinet in December 2021 with the Action Plan subsequently approved by Cabinet in August 2022. Delivery of the actions within the document are monitored through by the PMO and reported to the Regional Partnership and Cabinet.
- 2.2 An updated Action Plan was agreed by the GCR Cabinet on 6 August 2024 which approved 13 overall programmes and 47 individual actions. The programmes and actions are attached at Appendix One for information.

## **3. Inverclyde's Economic Underperformance**

- 3.1. Following a discussion at Glasgow City Region Cabinet in February 2024, the GCR Intelligence Hub ('the Hub') undertook a review of the economic performance of Inverclyde and whether there was a case for designating Inverclyde as a regional priority.
- 3.2. The Hub's report demonstrated how, in contrast to all other local authority areas in GCR, Inverclyde's economy is underperforming on economic and healthy working indicators. The report is available on request from the Clerk.

## **4 Inverclyde Socio-Economic Task Force**

- 4.1 Recognising the underperformance of Inverclyde's economy, the Inverclyde Socio-Economic Task Force was established in June 2022 with the objective of stimulating the Inverclyde economy, creating opportunities for business and residents to ensure Inverclyde is a place of choice for people to live, work and thrive. The Task Force has the support of the UK Government and the Scottish Government and the membership includes ministers from both governments.
- 4.2 During its lifetime the Task Force has focussed on the four key themes of business, business premises, skills and housing.

## **5 Next Steps – Inverclyde as a Regional Priority**

- 5.1 Building on the research of the Hub and the work of the Task Force, this report proposes that Inverclyde is designated as a regional priority within the Regional Economic Strategy Action Plan.
- 5.2 The proposed next steps are set out below:
- **Regional Economic Strategy:** Cabinet is invited to approve the inclusion of Inverclyde as a regional priority in the Action Plan and instruct the GCR PMO and the Intelligence Hub to engage with Inverclyde Council and partners to develop actions for inclusion in the RES Action Plan; and,

- **Governance:** GCR PMO will engage with Inverclyde Council to determine relevant governance structures, including links with the Task Force.

## **6. Recommendations**

### **6.1** The Cabinet is invited to:

- a. approve the inclusion of an additional programme in the Regional Economic Strategy Action Plan which provides a geographic focus on the challenges faced by Inverclyde; and,
- b. instruct the GCR Programme Management Office and Intelligence Hub to engage with Inverclyde Council and relevant partner organisations to develop actions to support the Inverclyde programme and bring these back to Cabinet for approval.

## Appendix – RES Action Plan for 2024/25

Programme	No.	Project/Action	Stage (Existing, In Development, Emerging)*	Funding/Resourcing	PMO/Hub Role
1. City Deal Programme	1.	Deliver <b>key project milestones</b> as set out within City Deal Annual Implementation Plan	Existing	City Deal - £1.13bn Fund	Lead
2. Innovation Programme	2.	Deliver <b>Innovation Accelerator Programme</b>	Existing	Innovate UK - £32.7million	Support
	3.	Deliver the <b>Innovation Action Plan (Ecosystem, Identity, Assets &amp; Infrastructure, Skills, Inclusion)</b>	In Development	Intelligence Hub resources	Lead
	4.	Deliver the benefits of the <b>City Deal Innovation Projects</b> : Continued delivery and benefits realisation (ICE, AMIDs, GWEWIQ)	Existing	CD Funding	Lead
	5.	Develop <b>Local Authority Economic Baselines and Specialisms</b> to support local strategies and LDPs.	In Development	Intelligence Hub resources	Lead
	6.	Develop profiles on GCR's <b>Economic Clusters</b>	Ongoing	Intelligence Hub resources	Lead
3. Investment Programme	7.	Develop Proposal for <b>GCR Investment Zone</b>	In Development	IZ funding commitment £160m	Lead
	8.	Produce options to establish a <b>Regional Investment Fund</b> to support the strategic economic development of GCR.	Emerging	Intelligence Hub resources	Lead
4. Clyde Mission	9.	Develop a <b>Strategic Masterplan</b> for Clyde Mission	In Development	SG Funding	Lead
	10.	Design the <b>Heat Decarbonisation Fund</b> scheme	In Development	SG Funding- £25m	Lead
5. Sustainable City Region Programme	11.	Deliver the <b>Green Network Blueprint</b>	Existing	Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network	Support
	12.	Support the delivery of <b>Clyde Climate Forest</b>	Existing	SPF (£200k until end 24/25) /partners (Forestry Scotland etc.)	Support

Programme	No.	Project/Action	Stage (Existing, In Development, Emerging)*	Funding/Resourcing	PMO/Hub Role
	13.	Progress the Glasgow City Region <b>Climate Adaptation Strategy Action Plan</b>	Existing	Climate Ready Clyde resources	Support
<b>6. Clyde Metro Programme</b>	14.	Support the <b>development of the Case for Investment</b> for Clyde Metro, including the provision of intelligence and policy support towards the broader placemaking element	In Development	GCR PMO and Intelligence Hub resources	Support
<b>7. Housing Retrofit Programme</b>	15.	Develop GCR <b>Regional Retrofit Strategy</b>	In Development	GCR PMO resources	Lead
	16.	Support <b>MAAs and Partners to Engage on Domestic Retrofit</b> (e.g. Retrofit Awareness Week).	In Development	GCR PMO resources	Lead
	17.	Improve use of <b>Existing Retrofit Funding</b> (EES: ABs)	In Development	GCR PMO resources	Lead
	18.	Deliver the 5G Innovation Region (Smart and Connected Social Places) - <b>Net Zero Sensors and Metrics Project</b>	Existing	UKG DSIT (£3.5m total programme costs)	Lead
<b>8. Future Skills Programme</b>	19.	Improve & develop GCR <b>Employer Engagement</b> arrangements.	In Development	GCR PMO resources	Lead
	20.	Deliver the <b>Local Government Skills Project</b> , including for planning roles and scoping a wider programme of activity.	In Development	MAAs to resource posts.	Lead
	21.	<b>Heat Decarbonisation Skills:</b> Map provision and estimate upskilling requirements	In Development	GCR PMO resources	Support
	22.	<b>Maritime:</b> Measure Apprenticeship demand and recommendations from Rand Report	In Development	GCR PMO resources	Support
	23.	<b>Regional Skills Devolution Group:</b> work to progress the proposals to devolve skills decisions to GCR.	In Development	GCR PMO resources	Lead
	24.	Develop <b>skills programmes to support the Investment Zone and Innovation Action Plan</b>	Emerging	Part of £160m for IZ	Lead
	25.	<b>Skills analysis:</b> develop a methodology for looking at future skills needs of different sectors	Emerging	Intelligence Hub resources	Lead

Programme	No.	Project/Action	Stage (Existing, In Development, Emerging)*	Funding/Resourcing	PMO/Hub Role
	26.	Support the delivery of the <b>Multiply Programme</b>	Existing	SPF (£245k until end 24/25)	Support
<b>9. Economy and Health Programme</b>	27.	Develop a business case for a project to <b>support the retention of staff in fair and healthy work</b>	In Development	GCR PMO resources	Lead
	28.	Secure accreditation with Living Wage Scotland to <b>make GCR a Living Wage Place</b>	In Development	GCR PMO resources. Future resources TBC.	Lead
	29.	Establish and embed a <b>GCR Good Employment Charter</b>	In Development	GCR PMO resources. Future resources TBC.	Lead
	30.	<b>Pilot 'Economies for Healthier Lives' CHIA Toolkit</b> on key GCR projects: Metro Business Case, existing MA retrofit investment, and EVCI.	In Development	Health Foundation £300k	Lead
	31.	<b>Evaluate 'Economies for Healthier Lives' project</b>	Existing	Health Foundation (included in £300k)	Support
<b>10. Inclusive Economy Programme</b>	32.	<b>Progressive procurement:</b> working through the Anchor Network to develop action(s) to increase public procurement spend in GCR, and the development of the Community Wishlist approach.	Emerging	GCR PMO resources	Lead
	33.	<b>Shared ownership:</b> working through the Anchor Network to develop an action(s) to support the development of inclusive business models.	Emerging	GCR PMO resources	Lead
	34.	<b>Finance:</b> working through the Anchor Network to develop an action(s) to support the recirculation of wealth in GCR.	Emerging	GCR PMO resources	Lead
	35.	Develop a progress the <b>Foundational Economy Delivery Plan</b> , including a Challenge Fund & FE business support	In Development	Intelligence Hub Resources	Lead
	36.	Deliver the <b>5G Innovation Region business cases</b> for all programme elements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Smart Social Assets</li> <li>• Connected Care and Wellbeing</li> <li>• Data Aggregation and Business Intelligence</li> <li>• GCR Connectivity Assessment</li> </ul>	Existing	UKG DSIT (£3.5m total programme costs)	Lead

Programme	No.	Project/Action	Stage (Existing, In Development, Emerging)*	Funding/Resourcing	PMO/Hub Role
11. Green Business Support Programme	37.	<b>Deliver a package of Green Business Support</b> to businesses in GCR.	Existing	Existing MA resources.	Lead
	38.	<b>ExtendPlus delivery:</b> 500 Carbon Baseline Assessments to GCR businesses.	Existing	SPF (£376k until end 24/25)	Support
	39.	<b>Review Green Business Support arrangements (Q3 2024/25).</b>	Emerging	GCR PMO resources	Lead
12. Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Programme	40.	<b>Develop &amp; deliver a GCR ECVI Collaboration</b> with a Commercial Partner to deliver approx. 3,000 additional chargepoints.	Existing	EVIF (approx. £3.5m) & Private Sector Investment (TBC).	Lead
	41.	<b>Plan for future EVCI collaboration arrangements</b> over medium to longer term.	Emerging	All GCR MAs	Support
13. Commercial Land and Property Programme	42.	<b>Complete VDL OBC &amp; FBC</b> (inc. Land Supply report, updated economic assessment, recommendations)	Existing	Existing PMO & MA resources.	Lead
	43.	<b>Complete Commercial Assessment</b> of the VDL Priority Sites	Existing	GCR PMO resources	Lead
	44.	Deliver <b>V&amp;DL Business Case recommendations.</b>	Emerging	GCR PMO resources. Future resources TBC.	Lead
	45.	Scope and develop <b>Regional Commercial Property &amp; Land Project</b>	Emerging	Potentially CD funding	Lead
	46.	<b>Create a dashboard for the largest town centres</b> in each local authority to help officers understand the performance of these centres	In Development	Intelligence Hub Resources	Lead
	47.	Complete <b>energy efficiency analysis</b> of GCR commercial and industrial premises	Existing	GCR PMO resources	Lead

\*Project stage is defined as:

- **Existing** – business case completed, funded, scope defined, and in delivery.
- **In Development** – nearly/fully funded & scoped, still in business case development, not in delivery.
- **Emerging** – high-level ambition agreed, but business case, funding and scope not in pl