

GLASGOW CITY REGION CABINET.

Minutes of meeting held on 27th May 2025 at the City Chambers, Glasgow

Present: Councillor Susan Aitken (Chair), Glasgow City Council; Councillor Gordan Low, East Dunbartonshire Council; Councillor Owen O'Donnell, East Renfrewshire Council; Councillor Stephen McCabe, Inverclyde Council; Councillor Jim Logue, North Lanarkshire Council; Councillor Joe Fagan, South Lanarkshire Council; and Councillor Martin Rooney, West Dunbartonshire Council.

Apologies: Councillor Iain Nicolson, Renfrewshire Council.

Attending: E Rodger (Clerk); A Davie, East Dunbartonshire Council; Susanne Millar, Glasgow City Council; S Quinn, East Renfrewshire Council; S Jamieson, Inverclyde Council; L Noble, North Lanarkshire Council (substitute for D Murray); B Walker, Renfrewshire Council (substitute for A Russell); P Manning, South Lanarkshire Council, P Hessel, West Dunbartonshire Council; K Rush, J Allen, W Hart, C Keaveny; P Kilby, M McNally, R Nimmo, A Robertson and J Thompson, Glasgow City Region; K Kane and Professor Sir Jim McDonald, Glasgow Economic Leadership; and B Kiloh, SPT.

Minutes of previous meeting approved.

1 There was submitted and approved the minutes of 25th February 2025.

Minutes noted.

2 There was submitted and noted the minutes of the Glasgow Economic Leadership Board of 29th January 2025.

EY Audit Plan 2024/25 approved.

3 There was submitted a report by the Director of Regional Economic Growth regarding EY Glasgow City Region Cabinet Joint Committee Annual Audit Plan for 2024/25, which

- (1) summarised its assessment of the key challenges and the main risk areas facing the Glasgow City Region Cabinet Joint Committee; and
- (2) detailed the audit work that would be carried out by EY to address those issues.

After consideration, the Cabinet approved the EY Annual Audit Plan for 2024/25.

Internal audit - Glasgow City Region UK Shared Prosperity Fund – Follow-up audit noted – Instruction to Head of Audit and Inspection, Glasgow City Council.

4 There was submitted a report by the Head of Audit and Inspection, Glasgow City Council regarding the outcome of a follow-up audit by Internal Audit in relation to the Glasgow City Region UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

After consideration, the Cabinet noted

- (1) the report; and
- (2) instructed the Head of Audit and Inspection, Glasgow City Council to provide following up reports on the progress towards achievement of the action plan arising from the audit undertaken.

Internal Audit - Follow-up report noted.

5 There was submitted a report by the Head of Audit and Inspection, Glasgow City Council, providing an update on follow-up audits on action taken to implement audit recommendations which had previously been agreed following the findings of a review in respect of Managing Relationship and Stakeholder Engagement and the Shared Prosperity Fund – Regional Project Compliance.

After consideration, the Cabinet noted the progress made in terms of the recommendations implemented.

Internal Audit Plan 2025/26 approved.

6 With reference to the minutes of 12th April 2016 agreeing the appointment of Glasgow City Council's Internal Audit team to provide the internal audit function to the Cabinet, there was submitted a report by the Head of Audit and Inspection, Glasgow City Council, regarding the internal audit plan for 2025/26 for the Glasgow City Region Cabinet, advising

- (1) of the areas to be included in 2025/26, as detailed in appendix 1 to the report;
- (2) that the main output of the Internal Audit in 2025/26 would be the Head of Audit and Inspection's Annual Governance Statement, as detailed in the report;
- (3) of the current status of each of the 3 audit reviews which had so far been undertaken within the 2024/25 audit plan, as detailed in the report;
- (4) that the Cabinet would be kept up-to-date with any significant changes to the audit plan in 2024/25; and

- (5) that the indicative fee for the cost of this audit work during 2024/25 was £24,200.

After consideration, the Cabinet approved the implementation of the Audit Plan for 2025/26.

Unaudited annual accounts 2025/26 noted.

7 There was submitted a report by the Executive Director of Finance, Glasgow City Council regarding the unaudited financial statements for year ended 31st March 2025.

After consideration, the Cabinet approved the financial statements and the relevant supporting notes, forming part of the unaudited annual accounts for year ended 31st March 2025.

Assurance, Governance and Programme Framework 2025 – Changes approved etc.

8 There was submitted a report by the Director for Regional Economic Growth seeking approval for a series of changes to the Assurance, Governance and Programme Framework 2025.

After consideration, the Cabinet agreed

- (1) the changes to be made to the Assurance, Governance and Programme Framework 2025; and
- (2) that the Lead Officers' Group to be given delegated authority to approve any required changes to the Programme Management Toolkit which resulted from the changes to the Assurance Framework.

Glasgow City Region UK Shared Prosperity Fund noted - Submission to UK Government approved.

9 There was submitted a report by the Director of Regional Economic Growth regarding the Glasgow City Region's UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) 2024/25, the end of the current period, and detailing the planned expenditure for 2025/26, the extension year for the UKSPF.

After consideration, the Cabinet

- (a) noted
 - (i) the Glasgow City Region UK Share Prosperity Fund end of year report; and

- (ii) the planned expenditure profile for 2025/26; and
- (b) approved the end of year report and planned expenditure profile for submission to the UK Government.

Glasgow City Region Investment Zone - Update noted etc.

10 There was submitted a report by the Director of Regional Economic Growth regarding an update on the ongoing development of the Glasgow City Region Investment Zone (GCR IZ) programme, advising

- (1) that the GCR IZ was progressing through the Government 5 stage Gateway process for approval which had been instigated following announcement that GCR would be the location on 1 of the 2 IZs in Scotland and 1 of the 12 across the UK;
- (2) of the progress to date of the first 3 stages of the Gateway and that a commitment had been made of Gateway 4 to UK and Scottish Governments by 30th June 2025;
- (3) that workshops had been organised with the short-listed bidders of the IZ that had been approved by Cabinet on 25th February 2025 which outlined the expected next steps and timescales for the conclusion of the Gateway process;
- (4) that GCR had the option to retain the uplift of Non-Domestic Rates across up to 3 sites within GCR, and given the potential scale of revenue that could be generated from the 3 sites, which was over and above the £160m grant allocation from the UK Government, it was proposed the GCR Programme Management Office would engage with Member Authorities to consider suitable locations that met the Non-Domestic Rates Retention criteria; and
- (5) of the next steps, as detailed in the report.

After consideration, the Cabinet noted

- (a) the report;
- (b) the Glasgow City Region Project Management Office will work with Member Authorities to identify potential NDRR sites including quantifying the revenue generating potential; and
- (c) the Scottish Government guidance that pooling of retained non-domestic rates from Investment Zone sites to Regional Economic Partnership level is considered by the Governments to be the approach most likely to enable the policy objectives to be realised.

Labour Market and Productivity Data – Presentation noted.

11 There was heard and noted a presentation by the Glasgow City Region Intelligence Hub regarding the latest regional economic briefing, providing details on UK and Scottish economic data, the Annual Population Survey data for the Glasgow City Region, the Immigration White Paper and policy responses.

Quarterly performance report noted etc – Change Control Requests approved.

12 There was submitted a performance report by the Director of Regional Economic Growth for Quarter 4, 2024/25 providing an overview as at 7th May 2025, of the progress of the City Deal Programme, the Regional Economic Strategy Action Plan updates and the City Region Team workplan.

After consideration, the Cabinet

- (1) noted the report; and
- (2) approved the Change Control Requests recommendations, as detailed in the report.

Member Authority final infrastructure grant allocations 2024/25 approved.

13 There was submitted a report by the Director for Regional Economic Growth regarding a proposed final allocation of the infrastructure grant 2024/25 to each Member Authority (MA), advising

- (1) that the 2024/25 grant of £30m was of sufficient size to facilitate both an interim and final grant allocation, that the interim allocation had already been paid and the final allocation of £15m, based on Quarter 4 financials, was to be distributed to members in May/June 2025 once approved by Cabinet;
- (2) that the approach in relation to allocation of grant in 2024/25 was based on each member authority's cumulative actual spend levels and business case approvals reported in the Quarter 4 Project Status reports, and that this approach was consistent with that for prior year main grant allocations considered by the Cabinet;
- (4) of the proposed final infrastructure grant allocations for 2024/25, together with expenditure incurred, grants received to date and grant ceiling, as detailed in the report.

After consideration, the Cabinet

- (a) noted the report; and

- (b) approved the 2024/25 final allocation of infrastructure grant to each MA, as detailed in the report.

Clyde Metro – Progress noted etc.

14 With reference to the minutes of the Chief Executives' Group of 6th December 2023 agreeing to allocate £12.155m of the approved business case stage funding from the City Deal Glasgow Airport Access Programme to Glasgow City Council (GCC) to promote and accelerate business case development of Clyde Metro proposals towards key gateway decisions, there was submitted and noted a report by the Chief Executive, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) providing a progress update on the Clyde Metro Case for Investment, advising

- (1) that up to £6.5m of this allocation was available to SPT to support the delivery of the Case for Investment (CFI) programme and the remaining £5.655m was available to GCC to support Glasgow City Region local authority resource and spend profile developed in line with the CFI programme;
- (2) of the two stages that form the CFI, Stage 1 that had been completed;
- (3) of the feedback that had been collated from key stakeholders of the programme that informed the first phase of the CFI Stage 2 and would be incorporated into future network development and appraisal processes;
- (4) of the timeframe for the various stages of the CFI Stage 2 process, as detailed in the report; and
- (5) that an update on further progress would be brought to the Cabinet in 6 months' time which would set out progress on CFI Stage 2 delivery and would include an overview of emerging outputs and deliverables from relevant workstreams.

Glasgow City Region Community Benefits Hub – Proposals agreed etc.

15 With reference to the Chief Executives' Group minutes of 24th October 2024 approving the policy for Phase 2 anchor network members of the Glasgow City Region (CGR) Community Benefits Hub, there was submitted a report by the Director for Regional Economic Growth regarding progress on the matter,

- (1) advising that
 - (a) of the 127 approved requests by community groups who had registered an interest on the website, 18 had been delivered as part of Community Benefits in contracts and a further 14 were being progressed;
 - (b) the development work for Phase 2 had been completed and was ready to go live which would enable anchors and other stakeholders to join, and work with an extended number of suppliers; and

- (c) the Phase 2 pilot and the processes behind it would continue to be assessed and reviewed over the next few months, and where necessary changes would be introduced; and
- (2) detailing in the appendices to the report, a summary table of the progress by Council area and the GCR policy for anchor organisations joining the Glasgow City Region Community Benefits Hub scheme.

After consideration, the Cabinet noted

- (i) progress with the Glasgow City Region Community Benefits Hub scheme and the impending launch of Phase 2; and
- (ii) that the University of Strathclyde would join the Community Benefits Hub scheme as the first Phase 2 organisation, which was anticipated to go-live in spring 2025.

Date of next meeting.

16 The Cabinet noted that the next meeting would take place on Tuesday, 19th August 2025 at 0930 hours.