



**Commission on Economic Growth  
Glasgow City Region City Deal**

**Item 2 (b)**  
26th May 2026

**Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at 12:00 hours**

**Via MS Teams**

**Minutes**

**Present:-**

Professor Sara Carter (Chair)  
Professor Alan McGregor  
Professor Duncan MacLennan  
Professor Graeme Roy  
Professor Nick Bailey  
Professor Petra Meier  
Des McNulty  
Alison Muckersie  
Kevin Rush

**Apologies:-**

Professor Sir Anton Muscatelli  
Professor Jaime L Toney  
Professor Ken Gibb  
Uzma Khan  
Jane Thompson, Head of Glasgow City Region PMO

**In attendance:-**

Andrew Robertson, Intelligence Hub Manager  
Professor David Waite  
Morgan MacLeod (Clerk)

Item
<p><b>1 Welcome and introductions.</b> The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.</p>
<p><b>2 Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minutes were circulated in advance and agreed.</li> </ul> <p><u>Innovation Zone Update</u></p>

- KR provided a verbal update on the Innovation Zone and advised that the Gateway 4 interventions piece has now been approved. The financial profiling has also been approved, and options are being considered for managing allocation of the flat £16m a year for the next 10 years which is provided by the Government. This has shown the limitations of current governance structures and projects have been asked to smooth out requests.
- The aim is for approval of the project business cases by the Chief Executive in December.

#### Local Innovation Partnerships Fund

- AR shared slides on the Local Innovation Partnership Fund proposed approach. The fund is the successor to the Innovation Accelerator and Glasgow is one of ten earmarked regions within the UK to share an overall pot of £500m with a minimum of £30m for each region.
- There is a tight timescale with the readiness check due for submission by 13<sup>th</sup> November and the Wave 1 Portfolio Development due by 5<sup>th</sup> February which will require some governance issues to be overcome to meet the deadline.
- DMcN offered to set up a conversation for AR and KR to speak with Beck Riley to discuss ideas to structure bids to maximise the funds.

### **3 Verbal update on PMO and Gateway**

- AR provided a verbal update on behalf of JT and advised the reprogramme exercise has progressed well.
- The projects have been advised that March 2029 is the completion date for all, bar one with an end date of December 2030. A delivery competence review is taking place with each project lead to check progress and a report based on this review will be taken to the November Chief Executive and Cabinet meetings.
- The Gateway Readiness Improvement Plan will be ready by the end of the calendar year, and an update will be brought back to the Commission.

### **4 Economic Report**

- AR gave a brief overview and advised a briefing will be produced over the next couple of weeks.
- AR took the Commission through the paper on the Defence sector which was circulated in advance of the meeting. The paper provided context based on the strategic defence review published in the Summer and an understanding of the opportunity presented for Glasgow City Region using existing strengths.
- The Commission discussed at length the moral and ethical challenges in addition to the investment opportunity.

### **5 Future Devolution to Glasgow City Region**

- KR & AR provided an update on previous discussions.

- The report from Anton Muscatelli is coming soon for the Labour Party and SNP are also expected to comment on regional devolution.
- The Scottish Government has been conducting a regional policy review which KR understands will recommend enabling legislation in the next Parliament which allows places to come forward and state what they would like as part of a devolution deal. There has been no discussion around governance structures, and it is not clear what the report will suggest.
- KR advised there is consistency of approach between Glasgow and Edinburgh city regions and there has been joint work taking place specifically around this.

## **6 Urban Big Data Centre – Legacy and Future Plans**

- NB took the Committee through a presentation on new forms of data and data analytics for urban policy and planning which provided the Commission with insight into the work Urban Big Data Centre is involved in.

## **7 City Deal Governance**

- DW shared the findings of work that he, GR, and colleagues at Strathclyde have been developing since the start of the year considering City region governance and what needs to come next in this area.
- The four cities of Dundee, Aberdeen, Edinburgh, and Glasgow have been involved in these discussions to discern what has worked well with the City region working in the last 10 years and what has worked less well.
- Preliminary findings indicate the tripartite arrangements in Scotland make City region working particularly unique and challenging compared to England.
- GR noted city regions are not necessarily demanding devolution, but the ability to influence national policy within the city region.
- It is clear the four cities are in very different positions in terms of their capacities to take on further autonomies and devolution and a framework that reflects those different positions will be needed.
- DW shared final reflections that institutional quality and getting the layers of government working together effectively is the key thing.

## **8 Policy Modelling for Health**

- PM shared a presentation on policy modelling for economy and health which is an investment that started last year for UKRI Population Health Improvement network. The focus is the economic determinants of health and health inequalities and how the health of the population influences economic labour market activity.
- Key areas of work with policy partners are on identifying policy priorities, policy-lever mapping exercise, and alignment of policy priorities to model capabilities.
- AR reflected that they are getting to an interesting point where they are going to start to model scenarios. The work has been helpful for the team with the policy partner network and understanding the policy modelling that they had not previously had exposure to.

## **9 AOB**

- No items were raised.

## **10 Date of next meetings**

The Commission noted the meeting dates for the next session which will take place on:

- Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2026
- Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2026