

GLASGOW CITY REGION CABINET'S MINUTES.

By video conference, 17th March 2026.

Glasgow City Region Cabinet.

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

Attending: L Sclater (Clerk); A Davie, East Dunbartonshire Council; S Quinn, East Renfrewshire Council; S Millar, and C MacKenzie, Glasgow City Council; K Rush, J Allen, N Gray, C Keaveny, M McNally, A Robertson and J Thompson, Glasgow City Region; S Jamieson, Inverclyde Council; D Murray, North Lanarkshire Council, B Walker, Renfrewshire Council (substitute for A Russell); P Manning, South Lanarkshire Council; P Hessel, West Dunbartonshire Council; D McNulty, Commission on Economic Growth; Professor Sir J McDonald and K Kane, Glasgow Economic Leadership; V Davidson and B Kiloh, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport; and L Prior, EY.

Minutes of previous meeting approved.

1 There was submitted and approved the minutes of 18th November 2025.

Various minutes noted.

2 There was submitted and noted the minutes of the

- (1) Glasgow City Region Regional Spatial Planning Sub-committee of 8th December 2025;
- (2) Glasgow Economic Leadership Board of 25th June 2025; and
- (3) Glasgow Economic Leadership Board of 6th November 2025.

Programme Management Office annual budget and member authority recharges 2026/27 agreed etc.

3 There was submitted a report by the Director of Regional Economic Growth proposing a draft Programme Management Office (PMO) annual budget for 2026/27, together with member authority recharges for 2026/27, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report, advising

- (1) that the total draft budget for 2026/27 was £3,561,789 which was an increase of £753,786 from 2025/26, the explanations of which were detailed in the report;
- (2) that the total member contributions for 2026/27 would remain at £1,347,438 which maintained the total member recharges at 2022/23 levels;
- (3) that the overall deficit from this annual budget was expected to be funded by temporary loan interest earned on grant sums held by Glasgow City Council together with prior year surpluses and that the PMO had previously stated the intention to reduce the overall surplus carried forward by maintaining the 2022/23 member authority contribution levels; and
- (4) of the proposed budget impact on carry forward balances from previous years, as detailed in the report.

After consideration, the Cabinet approved the 2026/27 PMO budget and member authority recharges.

EY External Audit Plan 2025/26 approved.

4 There was submitted a report by the Director of Regional Economic Growth regarding the EY Glasgow City Region Cabinet Joint Committee Annual Audit Plan for 2025/26, 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 2025/26.

Glasgow City Region Digital and Social Media Strategy 2026 – Summary of performance noted etc.

5 There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Regional Economic Growth providing an overview of the Glasgow City Region (GCR) Digital and Social Media Strategy 2026, advising of its social media and digital channels, their objectives and the audience reached for the period January to December 2025.

Clyde Metro – Case for Investment governance arrangements approved.

6 With reference to the minutes of the 18th December 2025 noting the proposed changes to the Clyde Metro Case for Investment (CFI) governance arrangements,

there was submitted a report by the Director of Regional Economic Growth providing further information in relation to the proposed changes, advising

- (1) of the scope of the proposed Metro Governance arrangements and of the managing dependancies/constraints that may exist with other key stakeholders, as detailed in the report;
- (2) that to date, the GCR Cabinet's role had been to oversee the City Deal funding allocation to the Clyde Metro CFI;
- (3) of proposals for Cabinet members to be recognised as Clyde Metro Project Sponsors for the CFI stage, with 2 key roles as Sponsor:-
 - (a) Cabinet would retain oversight of the City Deal funds that were being used to develop the Case for Investment; and
 - (b) Cabinet would be recognised as the "owners" of the CFI document and be expected to have a lead role in supporting the local delivery of the Clyde Metro and seeking of the investment that the CFI would be making the case for, therefore Cabinet would approve the key elements of the CFI documents, whilst Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) would continue to seek any approvals as necessary from their Partnership Board and Committees in line with their governance processes;
- (4) of proposals for the Chief Executive's Group to provide executive support to Cabinet members in their role as Sponsors, including:-
 - (a) each Chief Executive being charged with making decisions and recommendations to their Leaders/respective Cabinet members with regards to approval of the decisions, as set out within Appendix 1 of the report;
 - (b) each Chief Executive would ensure that their Member Authority provides adequate resource and input to the Clyde Metro CFI development, with representation from their MA on the Programme Steering Group and relevant Support Groups; and
 - (c) the Chief Executive's Group would be the initial point of escalation from the Clyde Metro Programme Steering Group (PSG) where decisions could not be agreed or were referred up for a more senior input and of the proposed changes going forward of the PSG membership; and
- (5) of proposals for City Deal grant funding to be awarded directly to SPT and not go via Glasgow City Council as its had done previously, and as grantee, SPT would comply with City Deal grant conditions, Assurance Framework (AF) and Programme Management Toolkit (PMT) requirements; and
- (6) that the proposed Clyde Metro Programme Liaison Group (PLG) should be formed with representation of both UK and Scottish Governments and of the

Terms of Reference for the Group that would require to be developed with members' input however it was anticipated or envisaged that the PLG would be a mechanism for:

- (a) helping to manage, via Transport Scotland/Scottish Government, dependencies, constraints and risks associated with integrating Clyde Metro with the wider public transport system and the responsibilities of Network Rail/Scotrail;
 - (b) engaging with the National Wealth Fund (NWF) following HM Treasury's announcement in November 2025 of the Clyde Metro's status as a 'Focus Project' for the NWF as part of the GCR Strategic Partnership Agreement;
 - (c) engaging with senior officials involved with wider Regional economic development/regional empowerment in both governments; and
 - (d) engaging with Transport Scotland on the post-CFI arrangements for funding this Strategic Transport Projects Review 2 project;
- (7) of the proposed decision-making approach and indicative timescales that included SPT developing an overview of the decisions which would be required to be made for the successful delivery of the CFI, as detailed in the Appendix to the report; and
- (8) that relevant progress updates would be provided within the Quarterly Performance Report where specific decisions would not be required and that it was anticipated that ongoing engagement with key stakeholder, particularly GCR local authorities which would take place to support frictionless decision making through the governance channels.

After consideration, the Cabinet

- (a) noted the report; and
- (b) approved the proposed changes to the Clyde Metro Case for Investment Governance arrangements as detailed above and as set out in the report.

Regional Empowerment: Next steps – Proposals approved etc.

7 There was submitted a report by the Director of Regional Growth providing an update on recent national developments in regional economic policy and how Glasgow City Region (GCR) intended to position itself to secure greater autonomy, expanded powers and a strengthened strategic role within Scotland's emerging regional landscape, advising

- (1) that following publication of GCR's opening devolution proposal in April 2025, and a series of significant announcements and publications over recent months, a strategic opening for GCR to assert its role as Scotland's largest

economic region and to pursue a more autonomous, empowered regional settlement, had been created;

- (2) that the current operating system had a series of limitations which continued to restrict the Region's ability to drive long-term economic transformation;
- (3) of a list of the programmes that GCR currently managed, as detailed in the report;
- (4) of key national developments that supported GCR's case for enhanced autonomy and a more formalised regional governance model, as well as allowing Regional Partnerships to obtain legal status and access devolved powers, and the opportunities for GCR that these developments had presented;
- (5) of the suite of dedicated workstreams, which covered key policy areas that were proposed to ensure that GCR were fully prepared to engage with forthcoming national reforms and to articulate a clear, evidence-based case for enhanced autonomy;
- (6) of the proposed approach for all of the workstreams, as set out in the Appendices to the report, the 2 joint workstreams with Edinburgh City Region, which would take place over the next 12 months pending discussion with both Scottish and UK Governments, and that any approvals would require to be approved by GCR Cabinet and each individual partner's governance structures in due course; and
- (7) that the Scottish Government had indicated that some capacity funding would be made available to all Regional Partnerships in Scotland and a high level expression of interest on potential use had been submitted on 27th February 2026.

After consideration, the Cabinet

- (a) noted that all partners would be invited to participate in the workstreams as appropriate;
- (b) approved the proposed programme of GCR workstreams, including joint work with Edinburgh City Region; and
- (c) requested that a further update be brought to the next meeting of the Cabinet.

Economic Briefing – Update noted.

8 There was submitted and noted a report by the Glasgow City Region (GCR) Intelligence Hub regarding the latest regional economic briefing, providing details on

- (1) UK and Scottish economic data which showed relatively low levels of growth across Scotland and the UK;
- (2) Global economic outlook;
- (3) oil prices and their impact for households and businesses;
- (4) Scottish Government information on the impact of US tariffs, which showed to have a disproportionate impact following the introduction of 10% tariffs on all goods;
- (5) the UK defence growth deal following the UK Government's plan in March 2026 for increased defence spending in Scotland which included a £50m UK defence growth deal announced to strengthen Scotland's defence industry;
- (6) the downturn in living standards for low income families; and
- (7) the new GCR Minimum Income Standard indicator which would define the level of income needed for everyone in GCR to achieve a socially acceptable standard of living.

Glasgow City Region UK Shared Prosperity Fund Quarter 3, 2025/26 report noted.

9 There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Regional Economic Growth regarding the Glasgow City Region (GCR) UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) spend to the end of Quarter 3, 2025/26 and an update on details of a 6-month extension period.

Quarterly performance report noted etc – Full business cases and Change Control Requests approved under delegated authority noted.

10 There was submitted a performance report by the Director of Regional Economic Growth for Quarter 3 2025/26 for the period to 5th February 2026, providing updates on the progress of the City Deal Programme and the City Region Team workplan.

After consideration, the Group

- (1) noted the report;
- (2) noted the following Full Business Cases approved under delegated authority by the Director of Regional Economic Growth:-
 - (a) Glasgow City Council – Avenues/EIIPR – Stockwell Street; and
 - (b) North Lanarkshire Council – Enabling Commercial Space – Ravenscraig Phase 1; and

- (3) noted the following Full Business Cases approved under delegated authority by the Chief Executive's Group on 12th February 2026:-
- (a) East Dunbartonshire Council Place and Growth Programme – Westerhill Development Road;
 - (b) East Dunbartonshire Council Place and Growth Programme – Bishopbriggs Town Centre;
 - (c) Glasgow City Council Avenues/EIIPR – Argyle Street East; and
 - (d) Glasgow City Council Enabling Commercial Space – Xworks Red Dalmarnock; and
- (4) noted the following Change Control Requests approved under delegated authority by the Chief Executive's Group on 12th February 2026:-
- (a) East Dunbartonshire Council Place and Growth Programme – Westerhill Development Road/Bishopbriggs Town Centre; and
 - (b) Glasgow City Council Avenues/EIIPR – Argyle Street East.

New Local Growth Fund update – Revenue allocation methodology approved.

11 There was submitted a report by the Director of Regional Economic Growth regarding an update on the new Local Growth Fund (LGF) budget announcement, initial programme parameters and proposed Revenue and Capital allocation methodologies for the Glasgow City Region (GCR) and individual Member Authorities (MAs), advising

- (1) that the UK Government (UKG) Spending Review on 11th June 2025 had made a commitment to “regional growth and devolution” advising that funding in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland would receive the same overall level in cash terms for 2026/27 to 2028/29 as it was for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF);
- (2) that from 2026/27, the UKG would provide targeted, long-term funding to support local growth across the UK, completing the transition from the UKSPF and for the next 3 years this funding would be across 4 new programmes and of the funding streams that would make up the Local Growth Fund:
 - (a) Pride in Place Programme (PIPP) Phase 2;
 - (b) Pride Place Impact Fund (PIPIF);
 - (c) New Local Growth Fund (LGF); and
 - (d) Growth Mission Fund;

- (3) of the GCR allocations under the first 3 interventions, a summary of both the Capital and Revenue allocations for Scotland and GCR and a breakdown of the full Scottish LGF allocations that had been announced on 8th January 2026, as detailed in the report;
- (4) of the LGF allocation methodology that had been determined by the UKG based on the regions of Scotland that had the lowest Real Disposable Household Income per capita, indicating that the allocation methodology was guided by a set of core principles, strategic objectives, geographic levels and institutions and targeting;
- (5) of the new LGF policy intent, the high-level logic model for LGF which would provide the parameters for the programme and a summary of the proposed Revenue allocation to individual MAs for 2026/27, as detailed in the report;
- (6) that for the Capital allocation, the UKG had emphasised the requirement for regional activity at scale and of impact, particularly where the immediate outcome was considered:
 - (a) increased development-ready land and sites;
 - (b) increased housing supply;
 - (c) improved utilities and energy upgrades;
 - (d) increased physical connectivity; and
 - (e) increased digital connectivity; and
- (7) of the next steps, as detailed in the report.

After consideration, the Cabinet

- (i) noted the report; and
- (ii) approved the revenue allocation methodology to individual Member Authorities for 2026/27, as detailed in the report.

Housing Retrofit Annual Report – Update noted.

12 With reference to the minutes of 25th February 2025 approving the Regional Home Retrofit Strategy and Action Plan 2025-28, there was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Regional Growth providing an update on the matter and the wider policy context around retrofit activity, advising

- (1) that following the Scottish Government's announcement that the anticipated Heating Buildings Bill would not progress in its current form, the draft

Buildings (Heat and Energy Performance) and Heat Networks (Scotland) Bill was published on 18th November 2025 which sets out a broader provision for decarbonising heating systems, energy performance requirements, and heat networks;

- (2) that the Green Heat Finance Taskforce (GHFT), which had been convened by the Scottish Government, had been active from 2022 to 2025 and its purpose was to develop a portfolio of innovative financial solutions for building owners in Scotland to ensure that by 2045, residential (and commercial) buildings aligned with the just transition to net zero;
- (3) that there was an assurance that the Scottish Government would work with all parties to help inform development of a new Heat in Buildings Strategy and Delivery Plan, to be published in 2026, which would further explore the practical next steps that can be taken to foster the financing solutions discussed by the GHFT;
- (4) of an update of the 7 actions of the 5 focus areas relating to the Glasgow City Region Housing Retrofit Strategy and Action Plan, as detailed in the report; and
- (5) of the next steps.

Date of next meeting noted.

13 The Cabinet noted that the next meeting would take place on Tuesday, 26th May 2026 at 0930 hours.