

Glasgow City Region Intelligence Hub – Economic briefing – Presentation noted.

7 The Cabinet heard and noted an economic briefing presentation by David Boyle, Glasgow City Region Intelligence Hub Manager, highlighting that

- (1) the UK Economy had returned to growth, with the latest figures from the Office for National Statistics demonstrating double the expected growth for Gross Domestic Product;
- (2) the latest data had shown an increasingly weak labour market across the UK and summarised the latest headline estimates and quarterly changes, seasonally adjusted from March to May 2024, as detailed in the slides;
- (3) worklessness remained an issue for Regional productivity and significant challenges faced the UK and Regional labour market;
- (4) low pay in the foundational economy remained an issue and despite the successes of the national minimum wage, critically important sectors like social care remained amongst the lowest paid in the country;
- (5) the fiscal challenges for the new Government, and according to the Institute for Government, most public services were performing worse than before the 2019 election, and far worse than in 2010, while public spend had also increased;
- (6) crucial to the new Government's fiscal plans would be productivity growth, which had stagnated since the financial crisis;
- (7) devolution of skill planning to a regional level would allow Glasgow City Region to align policy to Regional business needs; and
- (8) the new Government would need to address centralisation of policy development, noting that Labour had committed to deepening devolution for combined authorities but clarity was required on what this might mean for Glasgow City Region.