

GLASGOW CITY REGION CABINET.

Minutes of meeting held on 19th August 2025, Glasgow Airport.

- Present:** Councillor Susan Aitken (Chair), Glasgow City Council; Councillor Paul Ferretti, East Dunbartonshire Council (substitute for Councillor Gordon Low); Councillor Owen O'Donnell, East Renfrewshire Council; Councillor Stephen McCabe, Inverclyde Council; Councillor Jim Logue, North Lanarkshire Council; Councillor Andy Steel, Renfrewshire Council (substitute for Councillor Iain Nicolson); Councillor Joe Fagan, South Lanarkshire Council; and Councillor Martin Rooney, West Dunbartonshire Council.
- Apologies:** Councillor Gordon Low, East Dunbartonshire Council; Councillor Iain Nicolson, Renfrewshire Council; A Davie, East Dunbartonshire Council; D Murray, North Lanarkshire Council, Susanne Millar, Glasgow City Council; and Professor Sir Jim McDonald, Glasgow Economic Leadership Board.
- Attending:** C Jack (Clerk); H Holland, East Dunbartonshire Council (substitute for A Davie); 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 Thompson, J Allen, W Hart, C Keaveny; P Kilby, V McNeice, R Nimmo and A Robertson Glasgow City Region; D McNulty, Commission on Economic Growth; K Kane, Glasgow Economic Leadership; and R Jones, Ernst and Young.

Minutes of previous meeting approved.

- 1** There was submitted and approved the minutes of 27th May 2025.

Internal Audit Review of financial monitoring phase 2 arrangements noted.

- 2** There was submitted and noted a report by the Head of Audit and Inspection, Glasgow City Council, advising of the findings of a review across the Glasgow City Region City Deal Programme of the arrangements in place covering financial monitoring phase 2 and reporting carried out by the Programme Management Office and Member Authorities.

Internal Audit Annual Report and Annual Governance Statement 2024/25 approved.

- 3** There was submitted a report by the Head of Audit and Inspection, Glasgow City Council regarding the Glasgow City Region Cabinet Internal Audit Annual Report and Annual Governance Statement 2024/25, advising that

- (1) the Annual Report provided a review of the performance of Internal Audit for 2024/25 and gave an opinion on the adequacy of the Glasgow City Region Cabinet system of internal control; and
- (2) the Annual Governance Statement, detailed in an appendix to the report, outlined
 - (a) the appropriate governance arrangements of the Cabinet in accordance with the Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014; and
 - (b) updates on significant governance issues as well as those issues which had previously been reported on.

After consideration, the Cabinet

- (i) noted the 2024/25 Internal Audit Annual Report and Annual Governance Statement; and
- (ii) approved the 2024/25 Annual Governance Statement.

Glasgow City Region Audited Annual Accounts and Annual Audit Report 2024/25 approved etc – Delegated authority to Robert Emmott, Executive Director of Financial Services, Glasgow City Council.

4 With reference to the minutes of 27th May 2025 approving the Glasgow City Region (GCR) unaudited annual accounts for year ended 31st March 2025, there was submitted the Annual Audit Report 2024/25, together with the Cabinet's audited annual accounts for the period ended 31st March 2025, advising

- (1) of EYs findings from the 2024/25 audit of the GCR Cabinet, as detailed in the annual audit report; and
- (2) of the financial performance of the GCR Cabinet for the period from 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025, including the income and expenditure incurred in the year relating to the provision of services to the Cabinet.

After consideration and having heard Jon Allen, Finance Manager, Programme Management Office and Rob Jones, EY, the Cabinet

- (a) noted
 - (i) the contents of the Annual Audit Report 2024/25; and
 - (ii) that the Independent Auditor's report was clear of qualification; and
- (b) approved for signature the Audited Annual Accounts for 2024/25; and

- (c) delegated approval of any additional audit procedures fee, not yet qualified, to Robert Emmott, Executive Director of Financial Services, Glasgow City Council.

R Jones, EY, thereafter left the meeting.

Member Authority Interim Infrastructure grant allocations 2025/26 approved.

5 There was submitted a report by the Director of Regional Economic Growth regarding the proposed City Deal interim allocation of the infrastructure grant to each Member Authority (MA) for 2025/56, advising

- (1) that after recent years of relatively small City Deal Infrastructure Grants the Gateway Review 2 had released a grant of £60m for 2025/26 and that the £60m grant was of sufficient size to facilitate both an interim and final grant allocation;
- (2) that the Clyde Metro regional project had forecast a £5m spend over the rest of the year that required grant coverage to be retained, allowing for this and potential spending patterns that might disadvantage other members, it was proposed to make an the interim allocation of £45m based on Quarter 1 financial data and that the remaining £15m would be allocated based on Quarter 4 financials;
- (3) that the approach in relation to allocation of grant in 2025/26 was based on each MAs cumulative actual spend levels and business case approvals reported in the Quarter 1 Project Status Reports and that this approach was consistent with that for prior year main grant allocations;
- (4) that grant funds allocated to MAs could not be in excess of eligible expenditure incurred; and
- (5) of the proposed final infrastructure grant allocations for 2025/26, 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 grant allocations detailed in section 3.2.

Glasgow City Region City Deal – Annual Performance Report 2024/25 noted.

6 There was submitted a performance report by the Director of Regional Economic Growth regarding the draft Glasgow City Region (GCR) City Deal Annual Performance Report (APR) 2024/25 detailed in an appendix to the report, which covered the period from 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025, advising that the APR

- (1) was a key requirement set out within the Assurance Framework, with the aim of informing key stakeholders of the overall Programme status, and provided an update on progress for both the City Deal and the GCR to 31st March 2025; and
- (2) also included the Annual Implementation Plan for 2024/25 for the 22 City Deal projects.

After consideration, the Cabinet

- (a) noted the draft Glasgow City Region Annual Performance Report for 2024/25; and
- (b) approved the 2024/25 Annual Performance Report.

Quarterly performance report – Change Control Requests approved.

7 There was submitted a performance report by the Director of Regional Economic Growth for Quarter 1 2025/26 for the period to 31st July 2025 providing updates on the progress of the City Deal Programme and the City Region Team workplan.

After consideration, the Cabinet

- (1) noted the report and a verbal update by Kevin Rush in relation to the £30m of Local Innovation Partnership funding announced for the Glasgow City Region on 29th July 2025 and that exact details of how the funding would operate would be provided to the next meeting of the Cabinet; and
- (2) approved the Change Control Request recommendations as set out in Section 8 of the report.

Economic Outlook – Presentation noted.

8 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, UK Industrial Strategy and AI, high street performance and information regarding the latest graduate destination data.

Health and inclusive economy partnership approaches noted – Next steps approved.

9 There was submitted a report by the Director of Regional Economic Growth regarding an update on the evolving joint working arrangements between Glasgow City Region Programme Management Office (GCR PMO) and the health sector in the Region, focused on working towards shared economic and health outcomes, advising that

- (1) analysis by the regional Intelligence Hub highlighted both intractable and emergent issues affecting the people and places in the Region;
- (2) Regional Partners had continued to respond, including working towards creating a more inclusive economy, and enhanced productivity, as agreed goals set out in the Regional Economic Strategy;
- (3) a major shift was needed to bring about the scale and depth of change required to meet the ambitions in the Regional Economic Strategy;
- (4) system change was required; working in collaboration across services and sectors, with enough flexibility to meet the magnitude and nature of the challenges with new collective ambition and agreed outcomes/targets;
- (5) the work of Regional Partners which had a direct impact on people and place fell into two categories:
 - (a) business-as-usual activity including employment of staff, procurement of goods/services, and ownership/use of land and/or property which may be labelled as 'anchor' organisations/institution activity; and
 - (b) service delivery activity driven by the aims of the organisation and facing a client group or population, including residents within a local authority or NHS Boards area;
- (6) in terms of collaboration, a regional Anchor Network had been established in 2023, both NHS Boards in the Region (Greater Glasgow and Clyde, and Lanarkshire) were members of the Network, alongside a range of other partners; and
- (7) of examples of collaboration between economic development and public health, as detailed in the report.

After consideration, the Cabinet

- (a) noted the report; and
- (b) agreed the next steps to develop and strengthen the partnership between the health sector and Member Authorities.

Regional Economic Strategy Action Plan for Inverclyde approved.

10 With reference to the minutes of the Cabinet of 25th February 2025 agreeing that Inverclyde be identified as a regional priority and instructing the Glasgow City Region Programme Management Office (PMO) to engage with Inverclyde Council to identify specific additional actions for inclusion within the Regional Economic Strategic (RES) Action Plan, there was submitted a report by the Director of Regional Economic Growth regarding the inclusion of new actions within the RES, advising

- (1) that discussions had taken place between Glasgow City Region (PMO) and the Intelligence Hub with Inverclyde Council to identify and develop new actions for inclusion within the RES Action Plan, that would provide a specific focus on addressing the challenges faced in Inverclyde;
- (2) that a number of initial RES actions had been identified to support Inverclyde and of the 6 proposed actions, as detailed in the report; and
- (3) of the support from members of the Glasgow City Regional Partnership that had discussed their role or actions their organisations could make to help address the challenges faced by Inverclyde and of the responses, as detailed in the report.

After consideration, the Cabinet

- (a) noted the report; and
- (b) approved the inclusion of the new actions relating to Inverclyde within the RES Action Plan.

Glasgow City Region Investment Zone – Locations approved.

11 There was submitted a report by the Director of Regional Economic Growth providing a progress update on the Glasgow City Region Investment Zone (GCR IZ), advising that

- (1) following submission of the £160m GCR IZ budget draft to UK (UKG) and Scottish Government (SG) on 4th July 2025 that ongoing discussion with UK and SG, together with North-East Scotland, National Wealth Fund and Scottish Enterprise was required on budget flexibility however Scottish Enterprise had suggested their £25m funding could be used flexibly;
- (2) 5 tax incentives were available to companies who had chosen to locate in the GCR IZ tax site:-
 - (a) UKG had confirmed the 'value' of the 3 reserved taxes at: Enhanced Capital Allowances - £2.23m, Enhanced Structures and Buildings Allowance - £1.57m and Employer National Insurance Contributions Relief - £14.2m; and
 - (b) 2 SG devolved taxes at Land and Building Transaction Tax (LBTT) which was still to be confirmed and Non-Domestic Rates - £9.8m;
- (3) 2 issues remained outstanding that being the value of the tax relief in relation to the £160m grant and to ensure there was no financial risk to Renfrewshire Council;

- (4) should the reserved tax incentives exceed the budgeted £17.98m that this would be underwritten by the Treasury and that SG had confirmed should the budget for the devolved taxes be exceeded that this would not be covered by SG;
- (5) GCR would await confirmation from SG regarding the value of LBTT and would continue to work with SG to 'cap' the devolved taxes at £7m and this approach would both keep the grant available for the tax-site within the budgeted £25m but also would ensure no financial risk to Renfrewshire Council;
- (6) as part of the GCR IZ programme 3 locations of up to 200 hectares to a total 600 hectares could be identified for the retention of NDR and that the draft Gateway 4 submission had proposed 4 potential locations, as highlighted in maps of the presentation;
- (7) the GCR IZ NDRR site selection had required key qualification criteria and the 'But for test' - retention of non-domestic rates that was a direct consequence of Investment Zone status and of the Governments feedback based on both the maps delineating the NDRR boundaries and the justification of the clear link to the GCR IZ programme;
- (8) the GCR IZ revenue estimates would be subject to revision following Government feedback and development of the Clyde Mission model and of the commitment that individual short-listed projects would bring forward Business Case development to release grant funding; and
- (9) of a revised timeline and highlighting that the final submission of Gateway 3 and 4 would be due by 30th September 2025.

After consideration, the Cabinet

- (a) noted the report; and
- (b) approved the 3 proposed locations for the retention of Non-Domestic Rates, subject to the local agreement of Renfrewshire Council, Glasgow City Council, North Lanarkshire Council and South Lanarkshire Council.

Glasgow City Region Innovation Action Plan – Update noted.

12 There was submitted a report by the Director of Regional Economic Growth regarding progress on the delivery of the Glasgow City Region (GCR) Innovation Action Plan (IAP), advising

- (1) that the IAP had been developed and launched in December 2023 in partnership with Scottish Enterprise and Innovate UK and that since the beginning of 2025 there had been significant progress in the delivery of the plan;

- (2) that the IAP had been based on 6 broad workstreams namely Ecosystem, Identity, Skills, Inclusion, Investment and Infrastructure and the progress for each, as detailed in the report;
- (3) that oversight of the work had come from the Glasgow Economic Leadership Innovation Group chaired by John Howie, Babcock and over the next few months that the intention was to expand the membership of the group so that it had a wider cluster focus and regional representation;
- (4) that the identity workstream of the IAP included the development of a regional resource to 'align existing marketing and communication activity' that would help the Region sell itself better to funders both private and public, help to galvanise innovation activity and should help young people better understand where employment opportunities in the future may come from;
- (5) that a scope to undertake the work was currently being drafted and money would be also be available to pay for the work from the Innovation Accelerator programme capacity building funding and had proposed that this work would be commissioned as a priority and options of how the Region's innovation 'Identity' could be managed had been considered, as detailed in the report; and
- (6) of the recommendation that whilst the expert support was being procured that a plan for how the Invest Glasgow team could manage the 'identity' to be developed in a way that it ensured partner buy-in from across the Region.

After consideration, the Cabinet noted

- (a) the overall progress being made in the delivery of the GCR Innovation Action Plan;
- (b) the decision to bring in specialist support to develop the Region's Innovation 'Identity'; and
- (c) that a proposal would be developed for how the Innovation 'Identity' would be managed by the Invest Glasgow team in collaboration with regional partners.

Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure – Recommended methodology to distribute etc approved.

13 There was submitted a report by the Director of Regional Economic Growth regarding progress to date on the Glasgow City Region (GCR) Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure (EVCI) project and an update on the process to engage a commercial charge point operator (CPO) to expand the network of EVCI across Glasgow City Region, advising

- (1) that to formalise collaboration an Inter Authority Agreement (IAA) had been established and signed by all 8 MAs in August 2024 and that the IAA covered

the period until the appointment of a CPO and a subsequent IAA would be developed to formalise ongoing arrangements between the MAs;

- (2) that the PMO had appointed Jacobs as technical consultants to support the MAs and that the development of the GCR EVCI had been guided by the EV principles approved by Cabinet on 8th August 2024;
- (3) that the existing back-office system for public MA owned charge points was through the Charge Place Scotland (CPS) system provided by Transport Scotland (TS) with the provision of CPS scheduled to cease on 31st December 2025 and that following discussions with GCR PMO, TS had agreed to provide an extension to the availability of the CPS system until the end of December 2026, that would allow GCR to progress with the appointment of a CPO without having to make back-office arrangements;
- (4) of the draft project specification and site selection process;
- (5) of the proposed 5-year deployment phasing;
- (6) that the private sector investment and project funding required to install the volume of EVCI proposed through this project would be in the region of £50m, along with GCR securing funding of £3.6m of Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Funding from TS that would support the project until 31st March 2030;
- (7) that the scope included a proposed approach to the receipt of income by MAs throughout the contract period and that the revenue share received by GCR would require to be distributed among MAs, setting out 3 options proposed for consideration, as detailed in the report;
- (8) that there was an identified need for a central, dedicated Contract Management Team (CMT) to oversee activities across the 20-year contract period and that Glasgow City Council would host the CMT on behalf of 8 MAs and of the expected CMT management costs, as detailed in the report;
- (9) from discussions with legal colleagues that there was a requirement for each MA to provide an assurance of ownership for both existing and new EVCI sites and that a meeting would take place in mid-August 2024 with solicitors from all 8 MAs to discuss progression of this work, that the GCR had engaged with other local authorities who had gone through the same process who had engaged with external legal support to carry out the site ownership assessments required; and
- (10) of the immediate next steps, as detailed report.

After consideration, the Cabinet

- (a) noted the report; and
- (b) approved the recommended methodology to distribute future revenue share as set out in Section 10 for inclusion within the Inter Authority Agreement.

National Wealth Fund and Glasgow City Region Strategic Partnership – Update noted.

14 There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Economic Growth providing an update on the work between the National Wealth Fund (NWF) and Glasgow City Region (GCR) as part of the Strategic Partnership, advising

- (1) that the NWF had a £27.8bn fund to invest and had partnered with the private sector and local government to support projects which would help crowd in private investment and drive growth;
- (2) of the 4 NWF priority sectors for investment namely clean energy, advanced manufacturing, digital & technologies and transport and that the NWF had committed at least £5.8bn in 5 clean energy and advanced manufacturing sub-sectors over this parliament namely Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage, gigafactories, electric vehicle supply chains, hydrogen, steel, ports and their supply chains and had committed £4bn of funds to provide low cost debt to local authorities who delivered capital-intensive projects across the UK;
- (3) that through the Strategic Partnership arrangement, GCR had access to the NWF Local Authority Team and its services and offered impartial advisory services in order to help local authorities to understand and navigate the challenges and financing barriers faced in the delivery of critical infrastructures;
- (4) that 37 project proposals had been submitted from across the Region and shared with the NWF for them to review and prioritise using The Prioritisation Framework, as detailed in the Appendix to the report;
- (5) that 5 projects had been identified and prioritised for inclusion in the initial pipeline for support as detailed in the report; and
- (6) of the next steps.

Glasgow City Region UK Shared Prosperity Fund Quarter 1 2025/26 report noted – Request to Councillor Susan Aitken, Glasgow City Council.

15 There was submitted a report by the Director of Regional Economic Growth regarding the Glasgow City Region (GCR) UK Shared Prosperity Fund activity to the end of Quarter 1 2025/26 and details of future UK Government budget projections and potential programme impact.

After consideration, the Cabinet

- (1) noted
 - (a) the Glasgow City Region UK Shared Prosperity Fund spend until end Q1 2025/26; and
 - (b) the potential operational impact of planned budget changes from 2026/27; and
- (2) agreed that Councillor Susan Aitken, Chair, would write to the Secretary of State for Scotland indicating the likely impact of the expected changes to the “regional growth and devolution” budget.

Date of next meeting noted.

16 The Cabinet noted that the next meeting would take place on Tuesday, 18th November 2025 at 0930 hours.

Meeting dates 2026 noted.

17 The Cabinet noted the meeting dates for 2026.

Tuesday, 24th February 2026

Tuesday, 26th May 2026

Tuesday, 18th August 2026

Tuesday, 17th November 2026