Item 2

17th November 2026

GLASGOW CITY REGION CABINET'S MINUTES.

Minutes of meeting held on 18th August 2026 at the City Chambers, Glasgow.

Present: Councillor Susan Aitken (Chair), Glasgow City Council; Councillor Paul Feretti (substitute for Gordan Low), East Dunbartonshire Council; Councillor Owen O'Donnell, East Renfrewshire Council; Councillor Stephen McCabe, Inverclyde Council; Councillor Louise Roarty (substitute for Jim Logue), North Lanarkshire Council; Councillor Andy Steel (substitute for Iain Nicholson), Renfrewshire Council; Councillor Maureen Devlin, South Lanarkshire Council; and Councillor Martin Rooney, West Dunbartonshire Council.

Apologies: Councillor Gordan Low, East Dunbartonshire Council; Councillor Jim Logue, North Lanarkshire Council; and Councillor Iain Nicolson, Renfrewshire Council.

Attending: L Sclater (Clerk); C Pimley (substitute for A Davie), East Dunbartonshire Council; S Millar and W Hart, Glasgow City Council; S Jamieson, Inverclyde Council; D Murray, North Lanarkshire Council; S Quinn, East Renfrewshire Council; A Russell, Renfrewshire Council; P Manning, South Lanarkshire Council; P Hessett, West Dunbartonshire Council; D McNulty, Commission on Economic Growth; Professor Sir J McDonald Glasgow Economic Leadership; and K Rush, J Allen, P Kilby, M McNally, R Nimmo and J Thompson, Glasgow City Region; C Thomson (Scottish Government); and R Jones, EY.

Valediction.

1 Councillor O'Donnell noted that this was the final meeting of the Cabinet to be chaired by Councillor Aitken and thanked her for her role in driving forward Glasgow City Region over the past 9 years.

This was endorsed by all other Cabinet members present.

Minutes of previous meeting approved.

2 There was submitted and approved the minutes of 26th May 2026.

Various minutes noted.

3 There was submitted and noted the minutes of the

(1) Glasgow Economic Leadership Board of 20th April 2026;

(2) Glasgow Economic Leadership Board of 30th June (draft) 2026; and

(3) Commission for Economic Growth of 26th February 2026.

Member Authority Interim Infrastructure grant allocations 2026/27 approved.

4 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 2026/27, advising that

(1) consistent with 2025/26 and based on the same overall annual grant funding of £60m for 2025/26 it was proposed to distribute an interim grant of £45m and this would be based on Quarter 1 PSR financial data from the MA's;

(2) the remaining £15m would be allocated in June 2027 based on the final Quarter 4 financials, splitting the grant distribution this way would allow for the forecasted £5m spend for the regional grant and also allowed for any potential spending patterns that might disadvantage other members;

(3) the approach in relation to allocation of grant in 2026/27 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 by the Group;

(4) grant funds allocated to MAs could not be in excess of eligible expenditure incurred; and

(5) of the proposed final infrastructure grant allocations for 2026/27, together with expenditure incurred, grants received to date and grant ceiling, as detailed in the report.

After consideration, the Group

(a) noted the report; and

(b) approved the proposed interim infrastructure grant allocations 2026/27 to each Member Authority, as detailed in the report..

Glasgow City Region Audited Annual Accounts and Annual Audit Report 2025/26 approved etc – Delegated authority to Robert Emmott, Executive Director of Financial Services, Glasgow City Council.

5 With reference to the minutes of 26th May 2026 approving the Glasgow City Region (GCR) unaudited annual accounts for year ended 31st March 2026, there was submitted the Annual Audit Report 2025/26, together with the Cabinet's audited annual accounts for the period ended 31st March 2026, advising

(1) of EYs findings from the 2025/26 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 2025 to 31st March 2026, 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 2025/26; and

(ii) and that the Independent Auditor's report was clear of qualification; and

(b) delegated approval of any additional audit procedures fee, not yet quantified, to Robert Emmott, Executive Director of Financial Services, Glasgow City Council; and

(c) approved for signature the Audited Annual Accounts for 2025/26.

Internal Audit Annual Report noted - Annual Governance Statement 2025/26 approved.

6 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 2025/26, advising that

(1) the Annual Report provided a review of the performance of Internal Audit for 202/26 and gave an opinion on the adequacy of the Glasgow City Region Cabinet system of internal control;

(2) the Annual Governance Statement, as detailed in 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 2025/26 Internal Audit Annual Report; and

(ii) approved the 2025/26 Annual Governance Statement.

Internal Audit – Follow-up audits noted.

7 There was submitted a report by the Head of Audit and Inspection, Glasgow City Council, providing an update on follow-up audits and the action taken to implement audit recommendations which had previously been agreed following the findings of a review in respect of Managing Relationships and Stakeholder Engagement (2024/25) and Fair Work First Compliance (2025/26).

After consideration, Cabinet noted the progress made in terms of the recommendations and that the Chief Auditor submits further reports on the implementation of outstanding recommendations.

Glasgow City Region UK Shared Prosperity Fund Quarter 1 2026/27 - Update noted etc.

8 There was submitted 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 1 2026/27 and details of expenditure for 2026/27 which was the extension year for UKSPF.

After consideration, the Cabinet noted the Glasgow City Region UK Shared Prosperity Fund Q1 report.

Glasgow City Region Intelligence Hub - Economic briefing presentation noted.

9 There was heard and noted a presentation by the Glasgow City Region Intelligence Hub regarding the latest regional economic briefing, highlighting research that had explored the key economic drivers of success behind the transformation of the City of Manchester and details of a recently published report looking at those young people aged 16-24 that are not in education, employment or training (NEET) in the UK.

GCR Defence proposition - Presentation noted.

10 There was heard and noted a presentation by the Director of Regional and Economic Growth detailing proposals for a GCR defence proposition, highlighting

(1) that the MOD planned to increase their direct spend with SMEs by £2.25 billion by 2028 supporting regions with a strong supply chain;

(2) that the UK Government's intention to increase the defence expenditure presented an opportunity for economic development in growth sectors such as financial and business services, facilities and logistics, shipbuilding, MRO, and communications and data technology, including satellite capabilities;

(3) proposals of how GCR had the capability to drive these proposals forward and could use the projected increase in defence spending as a catalyst for economic growth;

(4) GCR has 'accelerators' (NMIS / AFRC) and a leading research institute and a skilled workforce which amongst other things could provide a strong offer to MOD backed by an evidence base showing how it could act as a catalyst on behalf of MOD (and other departments), to disburse funds to optimise economic impact.

After consideration, the Cabinet

(a) welcomed the presentation and the potential GCR defence proposals;

(b) noted that following discussions with the MOD, an update would be brought back to this Cabinet for further discussion.

Regional Empowerment update noted.

11 There was submitted a report the Executive Director of Regional Economic Growth providing a progress update on developing a Glasgow City Region devolution proposal, advising

(1) that Cabinet had previously agreed that Glasgow City Region (GCR) should develop a detailed proposition for enhanced regional empowerment, following the First Minister's commitment to introduce enabling legislation that would allow regional partnerships to obtain legal status and access a menu of devolved powers, with the agreed objective to prepare a full, evidence-based proposal by March 2027;

(2) of the opportunity to develop a specifically Scottish model of regional empowerment: one that supported devolution from national government and national agencies to the regional level, respected the statutory role of local authorities, strengthened democratic accountability and enabled more coherent delivery across the economic geography of GCR;

(3) that since the previous report to Cabinet, an oversight group chaired by Professor Sir Jim McDonald had been established that would bring various Chairs together to review progress;

(4) Workstream Chairs had been identified for each thematic workstream covering the principle areas where enhanced regional powers, responsibilities or funding flexibility could improve outcomes, namely, Place (housing, infrastructure and planning), Skills, Economic Development, Investment, Transport, Innovation, Poverty and Inclusion and Finance and Governance;

(5) of KPMG's workplan that was designed to deliver rapid progress, whilst ensuring that the final proposition was evidence-based, practical and capable of supporting negotiation with governements;

(6) that Cabinet would be vital in shaping the development of the proposition, providing democratic oversight throughout and ensuring that emerging options were grounded in Member Authority priorities; and

(7) of the timeline for the proposition to be ready for submission in March 2027.

Thereafter, Cabinet heard from Chris Thomson, Scottish Government

(a) confirming that work on the proposal was moving at pace, with the Scottish Government committed to working with the City Regions in relation to any devolution deals; and

(b) engagement workshops were planned across Scotland to gain feedback.

After consideration, the Cabinet

(i) noted

(A) the progress in developing the GCR regional devolution proposition;

(B) the mobilisation of KPMG and the proposed workplan to develop a Draft and Final Devolution Framework;

(C) progress in convening the thematic workstreams and the continued role of the Oversight Group chaired by Professor Sir Jim McDonald;

(D) the importance of continued elected member involvement, particularly in shaping the governance, finance and fiscal options that would underpin the final proposition;

(ii) agreed

(A) that officers would continue engagement with Scottish Government, UK Government, Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region and Core Cities partners; and

(B) to participate in special Cabinet sessions to shape the proposition; and

(iii) requested a further update to each Cabinet in setting out emerging workstream concepts and any early propositions for discussion with governments.

Quarterly performance report noted – Change control requests approved.

12 There was submitted a performance report by the Director of Regional Economic Growth for Quarter 1 2026/27 for the period to 30th July 2026, providing

updates on the progress of the City Deal Programme and the City Region Team workplan.

After consideration, the Cabinet

(1) noted the report;

(2) approved the following Change Control Requests rated as significant change, in respect of:

(a) South Lanarkshire Council – Newton Community Growth Area – Sustainable Transport Intervention; and

(b) North Lanarkshire Council – A8/M8 Access Corridor Improvements – Orchard Farm Roundabout noting the condition that no further extensions would be granted to the timeline of the project, as detailed in the report.

Glasgow City Region Annual Performance Report 2025/26 approved.

13 There was submitted a performance report by the Director of Regional Economic Growth regarding the Glasgow City Region Annual Performance Report (APR) 2025/26 covering the period from 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026.

After consideration, the Cabinet approved the 2025/26 Annual Performance Report.

Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Procurement - Update noted.

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

(1) that the project had been in development amongst the 8 Member Authorities (MA) since 2023, of the key project milestones to date and key elements of the project scope, as detailed in the report;

(2) of the MA involvement and governance arrangements for the project to the point of contract award to the CPO that had been set out in the Procurement Phase Inter Authority Agreement, signed by all MA's in October 2024;

(3) that between February to May 2026 the GCR Programme Management Office (PMO) had engaged with the GCR Finance Strategy Group (FSG) in relation to the key commercial terms of the contract and that the FSG had provided a clear steer on the level of financial risk that the MAs would be willing to take in relation to specific compensation scenarios and that

the outcome of discussions had been reflected in the draft concession contract which had been shared with MA legal officers;

(4) of the site selection process, route to Market and Project timeline and ITT evaluation, as detailed in the report; and

(5) that the project had been developed with the input of a wide range of expert external advisers and that GCR PMO had regularly convened a meeting with the other Scottish EV charging projects, adopting changes reflecting lessons learned and of the intelligence that had been gathered and indications.

After consideration, the Cabinet

(a) noted the report; and

(b) agreed that a further updated would be presented to Cabinet in November 2026.

Clyde Corridor Co-ordination update noted etc.

15 There was submitted a report by the Director of Regional Economic Growth providing an update on various activities across the Clyde corridor, advising

(1) of the involvement of the Glasgow City Region (GCR) team in a series of activities that are linked by association with the River Clyde corridor:

(a) Clyde Maritime Alliance;

(b) Glasgow City Region Economic Leadership;

(c) Clyde Mission Strategic Masterplan;

(d) Clyde 2070/Transformation Programme Group; and

(e) Defence Growth Deal Engagement;

(2) that the defence sector had helped to drive economic recovery after the pandemic, with GCR experiencing stronger growth due to the presence of the sector and of the research from the ADS Group, as detailed in the report;

(3) GCR had been represented in each of the various groups and activities that provided a link between them and also a conduit into GCR governance structures to enable awareness and co-ordination and as initiatives would develop, governance and representation could be reviewed and strengthened (where they are led by GCR) to ensure they function effectively;

(4) that Argyll and Bute would play a significant role across the Clyde corridor activities and was already part of the Clyde Mission Working Group which this

Group had agreed to invite the Chief Executive of Argyll and Bute Council to future meetings to enable co-ordination and joint working; and

(5) that GCR and the wider Clyde Mission corridor was already one of the largest clusters of maritime and defence related activities in the UK, bringing significant employment and economic benefits.

After consideration, the Cabinet

(i) noted the report; and

(ii) agreed to work jointly to promote optimising the potential benefits of the noted opportunities along the Clyde corridor.

Local Growth Fund update noted - Proposed approach approved.

16 There was submitted a report by the Director of Regional Economic Growth providing a progress update on designing the 3 elements of the Local Growth Fund (LGF), advising

(1) that the LGF had been launched by the UK Government in January 2026 with the aim of driving economic growth and builder fairer, more productive rgional economies, with Glasgow City Region (GCR) having been allocated £60.9m in total over aperiod of 3 years;

(2) the LGF methodology and Investment Plan covering revenue and capital elements over the 3 year period and approved by this Cabinet in May 2026, was awaiting final approval by the UK Government;

(3) of proposals that GCR engage with Member Authorities (MAs) and other partners to progress through a staged process, as detailed in the report; and

(4) that GCR would establish and internal Short Life Working Group to continue developing the proposed approach and would continue to engage with the UK Government and MAs through the GCR Economic Delivery Group to inform the approach.

After consideration, the Cabinet

(a) noted the report; and

(b) approved the proposed approach.