

## **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.