

**Commission on Economic Growth
Glasgow City Region City Deal**

Thursday, 26th February 2026 at 15:00 hours

Via MS Teams

Item 2 (c)

18th August 2026

Minutes

Present:-

Des McNulty (Chair)
Professor Duncan MacLennan
Professor Graeme Roy
Professor Nick Bailey
Professor Petra Meier
Alison Muckersie

Apologies:-

Professor Sir Anton Muscatelli
Professor Sara Carter
Professor Jaime L Toney
Professor Ken Gibb
Professor Alan McGregor
Uzma Khan
Kevin Rush

In attendance:-

Andrew Robertson, Intelligence Hub Manager
Jane Thompson, Head of Glasgow City Region PMO
Morgan MacLeod (Clerk)

Item
1 Welcome and introductions. The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.
2 Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising Minutes were circulated in advance and agreed with the below minor changes: • Professor David Waite changed to Dr David Waite. • Item 3 'delivery competence review' changed to 'delivery confidence review'.

- Item 7 'City Deal Governance' changed to 'City Region Governance'.

No matters arising.

3 Economic Report

- AR shared a presentation to update on the briefing from the Intelligence Hub which looked at the latest UK and Scottish economic data and forecast trends.
- GCR priorities must continue to scale innovation districts into clear job-creation engines, and support SMEs to adopt productivity-enhancing technologies. A clear focus is on stopping the onflow of young people becoming economically inactive.
- The Commission members discussed at length and commented on the pressures on local government and economic development given the fiscal challenges ahead nationally and locally.
- JT advised on regional empowerment, housing is a key area, and KR is keen to consider what the region's role should be in housing. There is recognition of the need to review GCR's role in this and opportunity for the commission to input into it.

4 Future of the City Deal National Evaluation Framework

- The Consultation paper from SQW was shared in advance of the meeting and JT summarised the key points for the Committee.
- The paper outlines what is expected at each gateway to unlock the next tranche of funding from the government and the changes to the process.
- JT and AR will be meeting with John Nolan next week to feed back on the paper.
- The Committee discussed and commented on the positive impact from City Deal in enabling a pattern of collaboration in sectors which were previously working independently by creating a delivery vehicle that included people from different backgrounds to engage in a different way of thinking and absorbing ideas, and the mechanism to support it. An argument was made for maintaining the Commission's role in relation to evaluation for the next gateway and looking ahead to the final report.

5 Regional Empowerment: Next Steps

- AR took the Commission through the paper on behalf of KR. The paper sets out high level aims and aspirations for integrated settlement (regional empowerment) and how this is taken forward in the wider policy environment.
- The direction of travel is towards devolution and greater autonomy for the city region. It is proposed that a series of workstreams covering key policy areas, such as Innovation, Housing and Transport, will be set up to create the strategic case for each policy area.
- JT advised the paper has been to the regional partnerships and the Chief Executive, and it will go to Cabinet in March. The workstreams will be started



after this point and KR will be looking to engage and involve the Commission in this.

6 (a) Update on GCR Infrastructure Strategy and the regional spatial strategy & (b) Implications of the creation of the More Homes Scotland Agency for GCR

- Commission members agreed to defer the infrastructure paper to a future meeting and invite Ross Nimmo to attend.

7 AOB

- No items were raised.

8 Date of next meetings

The Commission noted the current date of the next meeting, 26th May, clashes with a scheduled meeting of the City Region Cabinet and will be rescheduled.