

GLASGOW CITY REGION CABINET'S MINUTES.

Minutes of meeting held on 26th May 2026 at the City Chambers,
Glasgow.

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

Apologies: Councillor Joe Fagan, South Lanarkshire Council; Councillor Jim Logue, North Lanarkshire Council; Des Murray, North Lanarkshire Council; and Councillor Iain Nicolson, Renfrewshire Council.

Attending: A Croall (Clerk); A Davie, East Dunbartonshire Council; S Millar and W Hart, Glasgow City Council; S Jamieson, Inverclyde Council; L Noble (substitute for D Murray), North Lanarkshire Council; C McAuley, East Renfrewshire Council; Russell, Renfrewshire Council; P Manning, South Lanarkshire Council; P Hissett, West Dunbartonshire Council; D McNulty, Commission on Economic Growth; Professor Sir J McDonald and K Kane, Glasgow Economic Leadership; and H Claridge, K Rush, J Allen, D Boyle, M McNally, R Nimmo, K Smith and J Thompson, Glasgow City Region.

Minutes of previous meeting approved.

1 There was submitted and approved the minutes of 17th March 2026.

Various minutes noted.

2 There was submitted and noted the minutes of the

- (1) Glasgow Economic Leadership Board of 16th February 2026; and
- (2) Commission on Economic Growth of 9th October 2025.

Unaudited annual accounts 2025/26 noted.

3 There was submitted a report by the Executive Director of Finance, Glasgow City Council regarding the unaudited financial statements for year ended 31st March 2026.

After consideration, the Cabinet approved the financial statements and the relevant supporting notes, forming part of the unaudited annual accounts for year ended 31st March 2026.

Internal Audit Plan 2026/27 approved.

4 With reference to the minutes of 12th April 2016 agreeing the appointment of Glasgow City Council's Internal Audit team to provide the internal audit function to the Cabinet, there was submitted a report by the Head of Audit and Inspection, Glasgow City Council, regarding the internal audit plan for 2026/27 for the Glasgow City Region Cabinet, advising

- (1) of the areas to be included in 2026/27, as detailed in appendix 1 to the report;
- (2) that the main output of the Internal Audit in 2026/27 would be the Head of Audit and Inspection's Annual Governance Statement, as detailed in the report;
- (3) of the current status of each of the 3 audit reviews which had so far been undertaken within the 2025/26 audit plan, as detailed in the report;
- (4) that the Cabinet would be kept up-to-date with any significant changes to the audit plan in 2026/27; and
- (5) that the indicative fee for the cost of this audit work during 2026/27 was £28,200.

After consideration, the Cabinet

- (a) noted the responsibilities of Cabinet, as detailed in the Audit Charter; and
- (b) approved the implementation of the Audit Plan for 2026/27 and to the implementation of the Internal Audit Mandate and Charter, as detailed in appendix 2 to the report.

Internal Audit Review of Fair Work First Compliance and Clyde Mission Heat Decarbonisation Fund Governance (Phase 1) arrangements noted.

5 There was submitted a report by the Head of Audit and Inspection, Glasgow City Council, advising of the findings of a review of compliance with the Scottish Government's Fair Work First policy across the Glasgow City Region City Deal Programme and of the review of the Clyde Mission Heat Decarbonisation Fund Governance (Phase 1) arrangements within the Glasgow City Region.

After consideration, the Group

- (1) noted the report; and

- (2) instructed the Head of Audit and Inspection to provide follow up reports showing progress towards achievement of the Action Plan arising from the audit undertaken.

Member Authority final infrastructure grant allocations 2025/26 approved.

6 There was submitted a report by the Director for Regional Economic Growth regarding a proposed final allocation of the infrastructure grant 2025/26 to each Member Authority (MA), advising

- (1) that after recent years relatively small City Deal Infrastructure Grants the Gateway review released an increased grant of £60m for 2025/26 and that this £60m grant was of sufficient size to facilitate both an interim and final grant allocation, that £45m had been paid August/September 2025 and that £15m of the grant funding would be held back to make a final grant allocation in June 2026, based on Quarter 4 2025/26 financials;
- (2) that the approach in relation to allocation of grant in 2025/26 was based on each MA's cumulative actual spend levels and business case approvals reported in the Quarter 4 Project Status reports, and that this approach was consistent with that for prior year main grant allocations considered by Cabinet; and
- (3) 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 Group

- (a) noted the report; and
- (b) approved the 2025/26 final allocation of infrastructure grant to each MA, as detailed in the report.

Assurance, Governance and Programme Framework (2025v1) – Changes approved etc.

7 There was submitted a report by the Director for Regional Economic Growth seeking approval for a series of changes to the Assurance, Governance and Programme Framework (2025v1).

After consideration, the Cabinet agreed

- (1) the changes to be made to the Assurance, Governance and Programme Framework (2025v1); and

- (2) that the Lead Officers' Group to be given delegated authority to approve the finalised document and any required changes to the Programme Management Toolkit which resulted from the changes to the Assurance Framework.

Quarterly performance report noted.

8 There was submitted and noted a performance report by the Director of Regional Economic Growth for Quarter 4, 2025/26 providing an overview as at 19th May 2026, of the progress of the City Deal Programme, the Regional Economic Strategy Action Plan updates and the City Region Team workplan.

Glasgow City Region UK Shared Prosperity Fund noted - Submission to UK Government approved.

9 There was submitted a report by the Director of Regional Economic Growth regarding the Glasgow City Region's UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) 2025/26, the end of the current funding period.

After consideration, the Cabinet approved the Glasgow City Region UK Share Prosperity Fund end of year report, for submission to the UK Government.

Glasgow City Region Place-Based Investment Strategy – Scoping Phase noted.

10 There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Regional Economic Growth regarding Glasgow City Region's (GCR) Place-Based Impact Investing (PBII) Strategy – Scoping Phase, advising

- (1) that the report had been completed by the Good Economy Team, commissioned by the Programme Management Office intending to support GCR in diversifying and broadening the funding sources to deliver ambitions through innovative, place-based investment that addressed local challenges and would build on regional strengths;
- (2) of the background to the PBII model which represented a transformative approach to mobilising institutional investment in support of regional growth strategies, and aimed to deliver both competitive financial returns and positive local outcomes, whilst targeting the specific needs of places to strengthen economic resilience, prosperity and sustainable development;
- (2) that PBIIs were structured around 7 core pillars which aligned institutional private market asset classes with key place-based policy priorities;
- (3) that an effective PBII required co-ordinated action across all stakeholders, and that success depended on alignment, clear governance and a shared vision for regional growth underpinned by a series of key factors, as detailed in the report;

- (4) of the factors which had to be considered in applying PBII in GCR and that in order to become more investment-ready, GCR needed to strengthen governance, develop a clearer outcomes framework and build internal capability, and that improved use of shared data and analytics would support better decision-making, prioritisation and impact tracking;
- (5) of the recommended approach in order to attract institutional investment which was to maximise impact within existing structures while working with partners to secure greater devolution and unlock the region's full investment potential; and
- (6) of the recommended next steps and guiding principles, as detailed in the report.

Economic Briefing – Presentation noted.

11 The Cabinet noted an economic briefing presentation by David Boyle, Intelligence Hub, Glasgow City Region (GCR), highlighting

- (1) the latest UK and Scotland data, including Gross Domestic Product (GDP) showing that the UK had experienced the fastest growth amongst G7 nations, inflation and of the Labour Market latest estimates published by the Office for National Statistics;
- (2) the Annual Population Survey recently published, providing Labour Market and Educational Attainment statistics for the calendar year 2025, and in particular GCR was no longer the Region with the highest percentage of economically inactive individuals due to long term health conditions and that an increase in residents with high-level qualifications had improved GCR's ranking to joint top compared with other UK Core City Regions;
- (3) that Academics from the University of Sheffield had published a paper regarding Urban Development: Centripetal Cities, investigating whether the benefits of urban development are diffused to peripheral towns in a Region; and
- (4) that rising energy and fuel costs had likely further strained living standards and research had highlighted a worsening outlook for living standards among low-income groups and that GCR was looking at a Living Standards Indicator to support effective policy and decision-making, with a view to developing it at a Regional level in the future.

Regional Empowerment for Glasgow City Region -

12 With reference to the minutes of 17th March 2026 approving the proposed programme of Glasgow City Region (GCR) workstreams, there was submitted a report by the Director of Regional Growth providing an update on the progress of the development of a regional devolution proposal, following the First Minister's

announcement at the State of the City Economy Conference in Glasgow late 2025, advising that

- (1) a steering group had been established to oversee the developments of the detailed proposition that would be chaired by Professor Sir Jim McDonald, former Principal of University of Strathclyde, Chair of Glasgow Economic Leadership and Chair of Scottish Enterprise and of the Chairs appointed for each of the previously identified workstreams, as detailed in the report;
- (2) an additional workstream on inclusion and poverty reduction would also be established with a Chair being identified in the coming weeks;
- (3) the Scottish Government had confirmed the award of £50k to support consultancy work which the Programme Management Office (PMO) would commission and would be deployed in addition to existing PMO funding to commission external support for activities of the workstreams;
- (4) engagement with both governments to discuss timescales for planned legislation and that the PMO had commenced work looking at developing inclusive growth principles to embed within each of the workstream; and
- (5) that timescales remained on track for submission of a full proposal by March 2027.

After consideration, the Cabinet

- (a) noted the report; and
- (b) approved the
 - (i) appointment of Sir Jim McDonald as Chair of the Oversight Group and appointment of the Chairs for each of the devolution workstreams;
 - (ii) planned engagement with both governments over the coming weeks; and
 - (iii) procurement of external consultants to support the development of the detailed proposal, as detailed in Section 3.4 of the report.

Local Growth Fund Investment Plan approved etc.

13 With reference to the minutes of 17th March 2026 approving the revenue allocation methodology to individual Member Authorities (MA) for 2026/27, there was submitted a report by the Director of Regional Economic Growth providing an update of the approach to the Local Growth Fund (LGF) within the Glasgow City Region (GCR) and the proposed methodology for budget allocation, within the full Investment Plan, advising

- (1) of the LGF policy intent, the LGF (Scotland) policy prospectus released by the UK Government in late March 2026 and the high-level logic model that provided the parameters for the programme, as detailed in the report;
- (2) of the LGF revenue and capital allocation methodology for years 2026/27 to 2028/29; and
- (3) of the GCR LGF 3-Year Investment Plan, as detailed in the report.

After consideration, the Cabinet

- (a) noted the report; and
- (b) approved the allocation methodology and the GCR LGF Investment Plan, prior to its submission to the UK Government.

Clyde Mission – Strategic Masterplan and Heat Decarbonisation Fund awards update noted etc.

14 There was submitted a report by the Director of Regional Economic Growth providing an update on the progress of both the Clyde Mission Strategic Masterplan and grants awarded under the Heat Decarbonisation Fund, advising that

- (1) in August 2023, whilst remaining a key partner, the Scottish Government had transferred lead responsibility for Clyde mission to the Glasgow City Region (GCR) and Argyll and Bute Council, with £25m capital funding for a Heat Decarbonisation Fund and £1.5m revenue funding for a dedicated team and to develop a Strategic Masterplan;
- (2) Phase 1 of the Strategic Masterplan was now complete, which included a comprehensive engagement process carried out with a wide range of stakeholders who had been central to ensuring that the Masterplan reflected shared priorities for the Clyde corridor, as summarised in Appendix A to the report;
- (3) the Clyde Mission - Heat Decarbonisation Fund's (CM-HDF) budget for 2026/27 was £5m and following the first round of applications, 2 applications had been submitted from North Lanarkshire Council for the Strathclyde Country Park Watersports Centre and from Clyde Gateway Developments Ltd for the Clyde gateway Community Energy Project – DHN Thenu Extension; and
- (4) following assessment by the Independent Assessment Panel, the application by North Lanarkshire Council for the Strathclyde Country Park Watersports Centre was approved by the GCR Chief Executive's Group on 13th May 2026, with the other application by Clyde Gateway Developments deemed as requiring further development and was therefore deferred until 31st July 2026 for assessment.

After consideration, the Cabinet noted

- (a) the progress to date of the Clyde Mission Strategic Masterplan; and
- (b) the first grant award made under the Clyde Mission Heat Decarbonation Fund.

Regional Spatial Strategy - Presentation noted.

15 There was heard and noted a presentation by Heather Claridge, Glasgow City Region Group Manager Strategic Spatial Planning, providing an update on progress with the Regional Spatial Planning scoping exercise.

Glasgow City Region Investment Zone – Year 1 (2025/26) delivery report approved – Delegated authority to Chief Executive’s Group approved.

16 There was submitted a report by the Director of regional Economic Growth providing an update on the Glasgow City Region Investment Zone - Year 1 (2025/26) delivery report and the development of a Non-Domestic Rates Income Re-Investment Strategy, advising

- (1) that the development of the the Glasgow City Region Investment Zone (GCR IZ) followed the announcement in 2023 the Glasgow City Regions would be the location of one of the two Investment Zones in Scotland and one of the 12 across the UK;
- (2) of the GCR IZ end of Year report 2025/26, as detailed in Appendix 1 and 2 of the report;
- (3) that the GCR PMO were currently drafting the 2026/27 GCR IZ Annual Delivery Plan that would detail expected GCR IZ activity, spend, outputs and outcomes for the coming financial year and would be finalised in advance of the Chief Executive’s Group on 18th June 2026; and
- (4) of proposals for this Cabinet to delegate authority for approval of the 2026/27 GCR IZ Annual Delivery Plan to the Chief Executive’s Group, prior to its submission to the UK and Scottish Government.

After consideration, the Cabinet

- (a) noted the report;
- (b) approved the GCR IZ end of Year report 2025/26 for submission to the UK and Scottish Government, as detailed in the report and its appendices; and
- (c) delegated authority for approval of the GCR IZ Annual Delivery Plan to the Chief Executive’s Group, prior to its submission to the UK and Scottish Government.

Date of next meeting noted.

13 The Cabinet noted that the next meeting would take place on Tuesday, 18th August 2026 at 0930 hours.