

Glasgow City Region Economic Briefing – Presentation noted.

3 The Cabinet noted a presentation by Andrew Robertson, Intelligence Hub Manager, Glasgow City Region (GCR) on the GCR Economic Briefing for April 2023 which had a focus on the latest labour market data, analysis of the real scale of the Region's unemployment challenge, recent long term healthy and economy analysis, the skills and good work challenge and the recent budget and devolution, highlighting that

- (1) the recent release of the Annual Population Survey in full allowed for the first time a detailed look at change in the labour market over the COVID-19 period and that whilst there was positive employment news, the Region's long standing challenge of economic inactivity due to ill-health had become even more acute;
- (2) looking further back, the Region's relative over the last decade had been satisfactory, with the second largest fall in unemployment and employment growing faster than national averages, however, again, economic inactivity (specifically ill-health) was a major challenge;
- (3) the Hub had conducted some analysis on 'involuntary inactivity', using a method devised by Centre for Cities, to understand better the scale of hidden unemployment in GCR;
- (4) the Institute for Public Policy Research's Commission on Health and Prosperity had released a longitudinal study on the personal impacts of ill-health, and as well as highlighting cost to the economy (£43bn), it also outlined costs to the individual as well as the labour market;
- (5) the Resolution Foundation had published the 13th Low Pay Britain report which had highlighted that too many low-paying jobs did not offer good work (i.e. security, autonomy, voice in the workplace, career progression) and job satisfaction among low earners had fallen;
- (6) skills and human capital were a crucial driver of productivity and economic growth over the long term and, work-related training was in decline, despite big shifts needed to thrive in the workplace; and
- (7) the Chancellor had announced various areas for investment, and one of the key announcements was Trailblazer Devolution Deals for mayoral authorities in England and simplification of their funding arrangements.