

we connect

UPDATE BRIEFING ON GLASGOW CITY REGION



Councillor Susan Aitken

Leader Glasgow City Council and
Chair of the Glasgow City Region Cabinet

Dear Colleagues

Welcome to the latest briefing on progress across Glasgow City Region and our City Deal.

Since the February update, we continue to report good progress in both our City Deal and in delivery of the actions within the Regional Economic Strategy.

A further project has been completed - Working Matters, and in the past month, we launched a new regional Skills Investment Plan. Find out more about these inside.

Our City Deal continues to attract national interest, with extensive coverage in the June edition of [The Planner magazine](#), generally on the Programme and specifically on various projects including Sighthill and the Smart Canal, Ravenscraig in North Lanarkshire and the Glasgow Airport Investment Area in Renfrewshire.

Our collaboration in Education has also been making great progress and is allowing us to share extensive learning and experience across eight council areas, 700 schools and

250,000 young people, over a third of Scotland's school children. We have high ambitions for our Collaborative and a number of new supporting initiatives are anticipated in the coming months to help make these a reality.

[You can find out more about our progress here.](#)

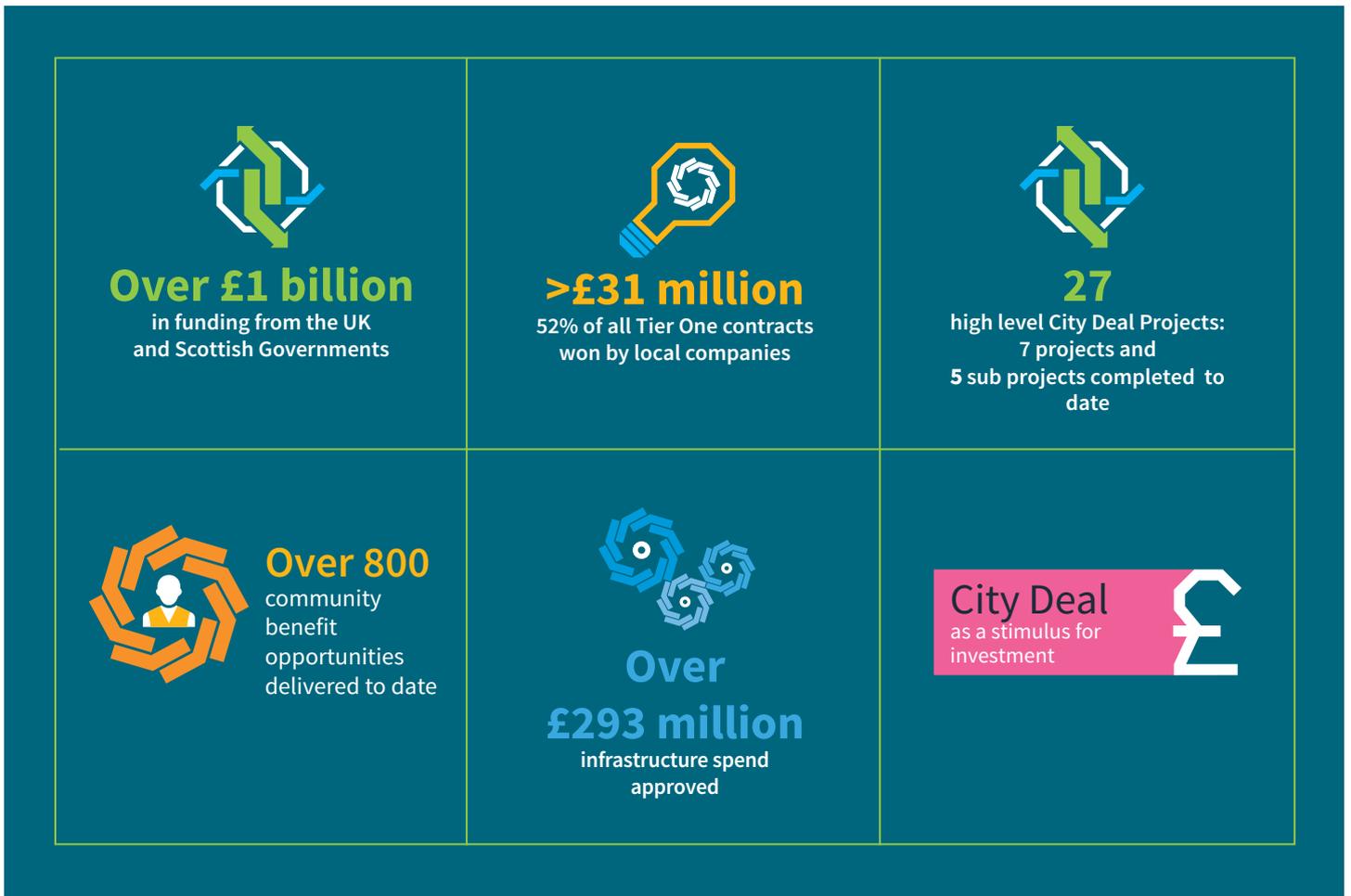
In the next few pages, you can learn about progress in the City Deal and in our actions to grow the economy through the Regional Economic Strategy and consider what's ahead of us this year.

You can find more detail on our website and keep up to date by following us on twitter and by [registering](#) to receive our update briefings.

Councillor Susan Aitken
Email: susan.aitken@glasgow.gov.uk



CITY DEAL - PROGRESS SO FAR



Progress since the last update includes the conclusion of the Working Matters pilot in March 2019, marking seven fully completed City Deal projects to date.

This region-wide project aimed at demonstrating innovative ways of working with people who are furthest away from the labour market, providing support into sustained employment. On completion, over 3,200 clients (105% of the revised target) had been engaged with, with 95% of the job outcome target achieved. A final evaluation report will be presented at August Cabinet.

All three employability and all three innovation and business growth projects are now at completion stage.

Work around Community Benefits has also progressed, with a new group established to maximise Community Benefits arising from City Deal contracts, particularly benefitting local SME's and those furthest from the labour market or experiencing disadvantage.

In the next few months, the Group will oversee the roll out of a pilot IT solution which will dramatically improve the information recorded on Community Benefits assigned to and successfully generated from our City Deal project contracts across the eight member authorities' £1 billion infrastructure programme. Ultimately, the new system will provide better reporting on our performance and provide a means by which we can learn and improve.

The past year has also seen a significant improvement in the number and type of City Deal benefits secured and realised, thanks to work by the Group. By the end of Quarter Four 2018 to 2019, over 800 City Deal contracts secured community benefits with the overall value of £151,943,059, representing a 53% increase in those secured in the last year.

Our programme plan the Annual Implementation Plan for the next financial year and the 2018 to 2019 Unaudited Accounts were also approved at June Cabinet.

CITY REGION - NEWS



Skills Investment Plan to boost job prospects and grow a “workforce for the future”

Earlier this month, a new Regional Skills Investment Plan for Glasgow City Region was launched at South Lanarkshire College in East Kilbride, with the backing of the eight local authorities, the business sector, universities and colleges and the Scottish and UK Governments.

The plan, underpinned by a detailed Glasgow University analysis of the region’s labour market, sets out a number of ambitious actions which will:

- Ensure the workforce has the right skills to deliver £1 billion of City Deal projects
- Help local people get those skills and some of the 29,000 additional jobs that will be created

- Reduce labour market inequalities and in-work poverty
- Increase opportunities for local businesses to develop and grow.

The five-year plan is accompanied by an ambitious set of actions for the first 12 months, including the growth of Modern and Foundation apprenticeships, plus a Youth Guarantee with a 95% target for school leavers going into jobs, training, further or higher education.

These and other actions will support people from all backgrounds as they seek to develop the skills that will help them share in the benefits of economic growth. They will also futureproof the regional economy by ensuring the local workforce has the digital and other skills needed going forward.

The event to mark the launch was attended by representatives of the region’s twelve universities and colleges, with a keynote speech by Kate Forbes, the Scottish Government Minister for Public Finance and Digital Economy (pictured centre right).

Event host, Councillor John Ross, Leader of South Lanarkshire Council (pictured centre left), who leads on Skills and Employment for the Glasgow City Region, said: “Skills are a big part of our ambitious plans for growing our economy and for ensuring our residents and businesses benefit from this growth.

Skills are vital in building confidence, raising aspiration, improving productivity and reducing poverty and barriers to participation. Our new Skills Investment Plan addresses these challenges.”

Other actions in the plan include the setting up of a Skills for Financial Services hub to support Glasgow City Region’s increasing international recognition in this sector, and the introduction of a Regional Fair Work Strategy.

A copy of the Plan is available here: www.glasgowcityregion.co.uk/skills

CITY REGION - NEWS

Green Network Launch

A groundbreaking new project is set to turn Glasgow City Region 'green' with 500 miles of walking and cycling routes and plans for hundreds of new living spaces for wildlife.

The Glasgow and Clyde Valley (GCV) Green Network Partnership's Blueprint project links up existing wildlife habitats creating new pathways to allow species more freedom of movement and encourages an increase in biodiversity across the area helping to address and reverse the damage done to the natural habitats of wildlife by decades of urban development, strengthening them in the face of a changing climate, and providing new opportunities for people to connect with nature.

The project, a first in Scotland, will also improve links between places



people want to go such as shops, places of work and parks and offer opportunities for increasing levels of active travel, improving health and mental well-being, reducing reliance on cars which will improve air quality and reduce carbon emissions. Launching the Blueprint, Councillor Andrew Polson, Co-Leader of East

Stuart Tait, Chair of the GCV Green Network Partnership and Councillor Andrew Polson, Joint Leader of East Dunbartonshire Council and Chair of Glasgow City Region Land Use and Sustainability Portfolio

Dunbartonshire Council and Chair of Glasgow City Region Land Use and Sustainability Portfolio said:

“The Green Network will improve the social and physical fabric of our areas, encourage inward investment, provide opportunities for skills development, and offer opportunities for people to live more active lifestyles while enjoying a healthier environment.”

The partnership comprises the eight local authorities, Scottish Forestry, SEPA, Scottish Enterprise, Scottish Natural Heritage, NHS Health Scotland and the Glasgow Centre for Population Health. For more information, visit: www.gcvgreennetwork.gov.uk

WHAT'S COMING UP IN 2019

What's next for the City Region and the City Deal?

The next six months are set to be a crucial time for Glasgow City Region, with the key area of focus the first Gateway Review.

Funding provided by the UK and Scottish Governments is to be paid over a twenty year period and unlocked in five-year blocks, subject to the City Deal delivering agreed outputs and outcomes, assessed through the Gateway Review mechanism. Work will continue with colleagues in government to finalise the reporting requirements for December 2019.

As part of this we are revisiting and strengthening our governance arrangements. In 2019 an updated City Deal Programme Business Case and Assurance Framework will be brought forward and a self-instigated internal Programme review carried out.

An updated Action Plan for the Regional Economic Strategy is expected to come through, informed and guided by extensive work carried out over 2018 and 2019, in the form of a Regional Strategic Assessment (RSA). The RSA provides a detailed analysis of the Region's collective and individual Member Authority' economic performance. In late 2019 the Commission on Economic Growth will present the Futures Report, a body of research which

will complement the RSA and set out the region's future challenges and opportunities.

Further progress in the delivery of projects is anticipated including completion of works at Sauchiehall Street - the pilot for the Avenues project; construction will start on the Glasgow Airport Investment Area and in East Renfrewshire Greenlaw Business Centre will open. At Sighthill in Glasgow, the new park will be completed, work will begin on the new iconic bridge over the M8 and the private sector housebuilding will begin – a result of the City Deal funding and a common theme across the region.