

Board Meeting

Date of Meeting	Monday 17 June, 2019
Paper Title	Glasgow City-Region Skills Investment Plan
Agenda Item	16
Paper Number	BM4-0
Responsible Officer	Robin Ashton, GCRB Executive Director
Status	Disclosable
Action	For Consideration and Comment

1. Report Purpose

- 1.1** To provide to the GCRB Board the final agreed Skills Investment Plan for the Glasgow City-Region.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1** The Board is invited to **consider** and **endorse** on the draft Skills Investment Plan for the Glasgow City-Region

3. Introduction and Context

- 3.1** The Glasgow City-Region is formed of the following eight councils: East Dunbartonshire, East Renfrewshire, Glasgow City Council, Inverclyde, North Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire, South Lanarkshire, and West Dunbartonshire.
- 3.2** The grouping was formed to secure one of the largest City Deals in the UK, with over £1 billion investment being made across the Glasgow City-Region in improved infrastructure, life sciences, business innovation and actions to tackle unemployment.
- 3.3** A City-Region governance structure exists, overseen by a Cabinet formed of local authority chief executives and chaired by Susan Aitken, leader of Glasgow City Council.
- 3.4** To maximise the impact of this investment, a Skills Investment Plan for the City-Region has been developed and agreed by all eight local authorities.

4. City-Region Skills Investment Plan

- 4.1** Members will recall that at the GCRB Board meeting, members reviewed a draft of the City-Region Skills Investment Plan. The final strategy is now attached to this report for review.

- 4.2** The plan was launched on 5 June, 2019 at South Lanarkshire College, with the backing of eight local authorities, the business sector, universities and colleges and the Scottish and UK Governments.
- 4.3** Welcoming the plan, Kate Forbes, the Scottish Government Minister for Public Finance and Digital Economy said: “The Scottish Government is fully behind the collaborative regional partnership as Glasgow City Region works towards a shared vision of a high skill, high performing regional economy which delivers inclusive economic growth.”
- 4.4** The five-year plan is accompanied by an set of actions for the first 12 months, and these incorporate specific contributions from the college regions, including:
- working with SDS to develop a 5-year Skills Training Plan for the Glasgow College Region;
 - meeting Flexible Workforce Development Fund training targets for 2019-20;
 - working with local authorities, to expand the number of Foundation Apprenticeships undertaken;
 - increasing the number of people from disadvantaged backgrounds entering and completing qualifications;
 - continuing to deliver enhanced levels of training in Early Education and Childcare;
 - reviewing skills needs and the training offer for employment in the Tourism sector;
 - delivering training opportunities which better meet the needs of the digital technology sector; and
 - ensuring national funding arrangements take account of Glasgow City Region needs.
- 4.5** To support delivery of these actions, a city-region colleges group has been established with membership from across the West, Glasgow and Lanarkshire college regions, supported by GCRB, SFC and SDS.

5. Risk Analysis

- 5.1** Integrating the Glasgow City-Region Skills Investment Plan into our strategic and operational planning will mitigate against *GCRB Risk 001: Poor environment scanning, and scenario planning, results in a failure to respond proactively to macro-level changes* and *GCRB Risk 005: A failure to effectively plan/monitor our educational delivery results in the curriculum not meeting regional economic and social needs.*

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1** No legal implications are identified.

7. Equalities Implications

- 7.1** No equalities implications are identified.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1** No financial implications are identified, however, curriculum planning is closely aligned to the allocation of Credit funding.

9. Strategic Plan Implications

- 9.1** Integrating the Glasgow City-Region Skills Investment Plan into the GCRB Board's planning and funding considerations will support the Board in delivering its overarching ambition to collectively build Scotland's most inclusive, responsive and effective college system.
- 9.2** GCRB's strategic ambitions are generally aligned well to the goals of the plan, and the plan has a strong focus on supporting inclusive economic growth and the importance of maximising the coherence and impact of the collective skills training provision within the region.