# Briefing Note on City Region and Growth Deals

## Introduction

This briefing note provides details of the City Region and Growth Deals that are in place, which local authorities are included in each, what the priorities are, and what the governance arrangements are. It also provides details of which local authorities are involved in the Scottish Government’s Community Wealth Building pilot work, and those that have been successful in bidding for the UK Government’s Levelling-up Funding.

The table below gives an overview of each City Region and Growth Deal and the local authorities involved.

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| **City Region / Growth Deal** | **Local Authorities** |
| Aberdeen City Region Deal | Aberdeen City Council  Aberdeenshire Council |
| Argyll & Bute Rural Growth Deal | Argyll & Bute Council |
| Ayrshire Growth Deal | East Ayrshire Council  North Ayrshire Council  South Ayrshire Council |
| Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal | Dumfries & Galloway Council  Scottish Borders Council |
| Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal | City of Edinburgh Council  East Lothian Council  Fife Council  Midlothian Council  West Lothian Council |
| Falkirk Growth Deal | Falkirk Council |
| Glasgow City Region Deal | East Dunbartonshire Council  East Renfrewshire Council  Glasgow City Council  Inverclyde Council  North Lanarkshire  Renfrewshire Council  South Lanarkshire Council  West Dunbartonshire Council |
| Inverness and Highland City Region Deal | Highland Council |
| Islands Growth Deal | Comhairle nan Eilean Siar  Orkney Islands Council  Shetland Islands Council |
| Moray Growth Deal | Moray Council |
| Stirling and Clackmannanshire City Region Deal | Clackmannanshire Council  Stirling Council |
| Tay Cities Deal | Angus Council  Dundee City Council  Fife Council  Perth & Kinross Council |

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## City Region Deals

### 2.1 Glasgow City Region City Deal

The [Glasgow City Region City Deal](https://glasgowcityregion.co.uk/city-deal/) was the first in place in Scotland (August 2014), and is one of the largest in the UK. It comprises eight councils (East Dunbartonshire, East Renfrewshire, Glasgow City, Inverclyde, North Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire, South Lanarkshire, West Dunbartonshire). This is made up of £1.2bn of funding over a 20-year period to:

* Support thousands of unemployed people back into work;
* Improve local transport networks;
* Deliver key regeneration and development projects;
* Encourage private sector investment into the region;
* Provide a boost to the city region’s economy.

A [Regional Economic Strategy](https://glasgowcityregion.co.uk/what-we-do/regional-economic-strategy/) was published in 2021 and includes an associated [Regional Action Plan](https://glasgowcityregion.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/GCR-RegionalEconomicStrategyActionPlan-23August2022.pdf) aligned to the Deal. It was developed in partnership with all eight councils and has a strong focus on the move towards net zero as well as Community Wealth Building. It also highlights the critical role of the private sector.

The City Region Deal is monitored via status reports on programmes and projects, as well as delivery of the Regional Economic Strategy. Reports are produced by the councils and the Project Management Office for the Chief Executives Group, the Glasgow City Region Cabinet and the Programme Liaison Group. An Intelligence Hub has also been set up to provide a range of economic intelligence related services, including data analysis, policy research, economic modelling, strategy development and project evaluation for the City Deal.

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| **Community Wealth Building**  The Glasgow City Region has committed to a region-wide Community Wealth Building Action Plan which focuses on procurement in construction, as well as bringing vacant and derelict land sites into productive use for urban agriculture, community food growing and green spaces. |

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| **Levelling Up**  Glasgow City Council was awarded £13.1m to restore and develop parts of Pollok Country Park, with creation of a net-zero Heritage Centre. This will involve social enterprises and community groups, and provide opportunities for training and employability.  Renfrewshire Council was awarded £38.7m to improve transport links between Paisley town centre and Scotland’s manufacturing innovation district. This includes development of a network of road, cycling and walking links around the town centre.  West Dunbartonshire Council was awarded £19.9m for a new transport hub in Clydebank which will incorporate upgrades to the bus and train stations, as well as creating infrastructure for active travel to encourage walking and cycling.  Inverclyde Council successfully bid for £19.4m for the Greenock Project, which will create new civic spaces, a restructured outward-looking town centre retail offer, improved links between parts of the town centre and the waterfront, and build capacity for a new education facility or town centre housing.  North Lanarkshire Council was successful in bidding for £9.2m for long-term redevelopment of Cumbernauld. This will involve knocking down old concrete buildings and replacing these with a new civic hub that incorporates schools, offices, health, and leisure facilities. |

### 2.2 Aberdeen City Region Deal

The [Aberdeen City Region Deal](https://investaberdeen.co.uk/) was agreed in November 2016 by the UK Government and the Scottish Government with Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council and Opportunity North East (ONE). The City Region Deal, named Invest Aberdeen, is worth £826m over a ten-year period to:

* Encourage investment in innovation, internationalisation, digital connectivity and infrastructure;
* Support the Oil and Gas Technology Centre;
* Develop new innovation hubs focusing on research, development and growth in the life sciences and food and drink sectors;
* Deliver improved transport and broadband networks, and local housing programmes.

The Deal supports the delivery of a shared vision for the region, which involves a rebalancing of the economy through maximising the remaining North Sea oil and gas opportunity; anchoring the oil and gas supply chain in the region for the long term; and achieving growth in the region’s other key industry sectors. A [Regional Economic Strategy](https://www.investaberdeen.co.uk/images/uploads/Regional_Economic_Strategy_0.pdf) was published in 2015 to cover the period to 2035, and this was accompanied by a [Regional Action Plan](https://www.investaberdeen.co.uk/images/uploads/RES%20Action%20Plan%202018-2023%20FINAL.pdf). There is also a Regional Skills Strategy and Regional Destination Strategy in place.

The Aberdeen City Region Deal Joint Committee oversees the implementation and monitoring of the Deal and the Regional Economic Strategy, and seeks to maximise the economic benefits of these. It is made up from three Aberdeen City Council Councillors, three Aberdeenshire Council Councillors and three Opportunity North East Board Members, and works closely with both the UK and Scottish Governments.

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| **Levelling Up**  Aberdeen City Council was awarded £20m for improvements to the city centre. This will involve replacement of Aberdeen Market with mixed use developments including retail, food and drink, leisure, and public open space including a pedestrian link from the city centre.  Aberdeenshire Council successfully bid for £20m to renovate and extend an aquarium and develop a cultural quarter. Projects will provide facilities for education, health and wellbeing activities through improving infrastructure and modernising the council’s estate. |

### 2.3 Inverness and Highland City Region Deal

The [Inverness and Highland City Region Deal](https://www.highland.gov.uk/cityregiondeal), signed off in 2017, is made up of £315m of funding and includes only Highland Council. The vision behind the deal is to improve digital connectivity and position Inverness and the Highlands as a region of digital opportunity. Priorities include:

* Developing a skilled labour market and moving towards a high-skilled, high-wage economy;
* Becoming a centre of excellence in rural and digital healthcare with sufficient mass to attract research and investment and exploit commercial opportunities;
* Growing businesses through effective digital connectivity and promotion of innovation;
* Rebalancing the population with the aim or retaining and/or attracting 1,500 young people aged 18-29 over the 10-year period;
* Improved productivity and real living wages.

As Highland Council is the only local authority included in this City Deal, there is not a regional strategy. However, there is a ‘Highland Economic Forum’ which is a partnership of public and private sector organisations, chaired by Highland Council, that ensures the business community is fully consulted on economic development matters.

The Highland Council is the accountable body for the Inverness and Highland City Region Deal, providing effective management arrangements and updates to both Governments. The Deal also has a Programme Board, which is central to the governance arrangements and is attended by lead officers for each project, as well as representatives from the business community and both governments. Quarterly progress updates are provided to The Highland Council’s Economy and Infrastructure Committee, and reported to the Scottish and UK Governments.

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| **Levelling Up**  Highland Council was awarded £19.9m for the Inverness Zero Carbon Cultural Regeneration Project which will drive the environmental, cultural and economic regeneration of Inverness. This will provide transformational cultural opportunities for residents and visitors, and create more accessible space and integrated renewable energy sources. |

### 2.4 Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Deal

The [Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Deal](https://esescityregiondeal.org.uk/) is comprised of six local authorities: City of Edinburgh, Fife, East Lothian, Midlothian, West Lothian and Scottish Borders. The Deal was signed in 2018 and will provide £1.3bn of funding over a period of 15 years to deliver transformational change to the regional economy. Priorities include:

* Research, development and innovation;
* Integrated regional employability and skills programme (IRES);
* Investing in strategic transport improvements;
* Developing the Dunard Centre – Edinburgh’s first purpose-built music venue in 100 years;
* Supporting greater use of offsite construction to deliver affordable homes.

A [Regional Prosperity Framework](https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/bi/prosperity/user_uploads/regional-prosperity-framework-consultation-document.pdf) was approved by the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Regional Deal Joint Committee in 2021 and sets out the next steps in the development of the regional economy. It identifies where public and private investment could make the best contribution to driving the region forward in a sustainable and inclusive manner.

The City Region Deal is governed by a Joint Committee, which is the decision-making Board. This is supported by an Executive Board and a number of Advisory Boards and Groups that make recommendations to the Joint Committee. City of Edinburgh Council is the Accountable Body for the Deal.

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| **Levelling Up**  City of Edinburgh Council was awarded £16.5m for the regeneration of Granton Waterfront, to make this a site for public use and turn it into a new coastal town centre. This will include the development of net zero carbon homes, a primary school, health centre, commercial and cultural spaces with sustainable transport links, and a new coastal park.  East Lothian Council has successfully bid for £11.3m for regeneration of the former Cockenzie Power Station site. This will involve increasing the area that is developable, infilling the former underground power station, and repairing the sea wall to make flood protection improvements.  Fife Council was successful in bidding for £19.4m to enhance regeneration of the River Leven, Glenrothes and Mid-Fife. This will involve making the River Leven an exemplar for green economic recovery to meet climate and nature targets, and a just transition to net zero. |

### 2.5 Stirling and Clackmannanshire City Region Deal

The [Stirling and Clackmannanshire City Region Deal](https://www.stirling.gov.uk/council-and-committees/about-the-council/stirling-and-clackmannanshire-city-region-deal/) was signed in 2020 and will provide over £214 of funding for the region over a 10-year period. The city region consists of the Stirling and Clackmannanshire councils and priorities are focused around:

* Inclusive economic growth through creating conditions for businesses to thrive, locally and globally;
* Higher value jobs through investing in clean, green innovations and digital entrepreneurship;
* Sharing prosperity by removing barriers to engagement and supporting inclusion;
* An inclusive skills ecosystem that widens access to opportunity through targeted, inclusive skills pathways.

There is a Regional Programme Management Office in place to monitor progress against the Deal, but the two councils have maintained individual economic strategies.

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| **Community Wealth Building**  Clackmannanshire Council is one of five pilot areas for Community Wealth Building work with SG and has completed the Action Planning process. With support from CLES, the council has developed a range of short and longer-term actions. This includes changing procurement practices and service delivery for maximum community benefit. |

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| **Levelling Up**  Stirling Council successfully bid for £19.1m for the development of Ministry of Defence land at Forthside, which is to be transferred to the council as part of the Stirling and Clackmannanshire City Region Deal. The 40-acre site will be regenerated to provide commercial space and attract new investment to Stirling. It will also unlock additional land for housing and leisure, promote active travel and increase footfall in the city centre. |

### 2.6 Tay Cities Deal

The Tay Cities Deal was signed in 2020, and includes Dundee, Perth & Kinross, Angus and Fife Councils. It consists of £700m of investment in the region over 15 years, and priority areas include:

* Growing the base of knowledge-led businesses in the region;
* Creating more, better-paid jobs;
* Supporting more businesses to trade internationally;
* Attracting investment in the region;
* Attracting and retaining talented people;
* Improving connectivity to, from and around the region;
* Increasing economic participation and reducing inequalities.

A [Regional Economic Strategy](https://www.taycities.co.uk/sites/default/files/tay_cities_res_2019.pdf) was published in 2019 to cover the period to 2039, and this will be supported by an Action Plan. The overarching ambition is to improve access to opportunity and increase the distribution of wealth and wellbeing within the region.

The [Tay Cities Joint Committee](https://www.taycities.co.uk/joint-committee) was established in 2017 and has responsibility for delivery of the Tay Cities Deal. It comprises representatives from the four councils, as well as the private sector, higher and further education, the third sector and the enterprise and skills agencies.

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| **Community Wealth Building**  Fife Council is pioneering work on Community Wealth Building for the Tay City Region and is one of five pilot areas being supported by Scottish Government to develop a Community Wealth Building Action Plan. The council is sharing lessons with the other councils within the region. |

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| **Levelling Up**  Dundee City Council successfully bid for £14.4m to develop a landmark green transport and active travel hub. |

## Growth Deals

### 3.1 Ayrshire Growth Deal

The [Ayrshire Growth Deal](https://www.ayrshiregrowthdeal.co.uk/) was signed in 2020 and comprises North Ayrshire, South Ayrshire and East Ayrshire Councils. The value of the Deal is £251.1m over a 10-year timeframe, with the aim to realise the area’s potential as a world-class business region for the following sectors:

* Aerospace and Space;
* Communities;
* Economic Infrastructure;
* Energy, Circular Economy, and Environment;
* Tourism

An [Ayrshire Economic Joint Committee](https://www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/MVC/Committees/Services/Index/411/8) has ultimate responsibility for delivery of the Growth Deal and this is comprised of representatives from each council, as well as Scottish Enterprise, Skills Development Scotland and the private and education sectors. Under this, there is a [Regional Economic Partnership](https://impservihub.sharepoint.com/sites/tpi-slaed/Shared%20Documents/15.%20Briefing%20Notes/Deals.xlsx) which comprises a wider membership.

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| **Community Wealth Building**  North Ayrshire Council was the original pilot area for Community Wealth Building work in Scotland. The council worked with CLES to develop a diagnostic tool which put forward recommendations on how it could become a Community Wealth Building council, and these formed the basis of the council’s Community Wealth Building Strategy. A Commission has been formed to drive progress, and includes representation from senior elected members, council services, the Health and Social Care Integration Joint Board, and CPP partners including major anchor institutions. |

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| **Levelling Up**  North Ayrshire Council was awarded £23.7m for radical improvements to the B714 road to significantly improve road connectivity between North Ayrshire and other parts of Scotland, and help to provide better road links to encourage investment in the area. Active travel infrastructure along the route will also be improved, helping to connect communities and deliver environmental benefits.  East Ayrshire Council has successfully bid for £20m for the Cultural Kilmarnock project that will include designing a ‘Cultural Park’ that creates green corridors and active transport routes between key heritage assets and the town centre. It will also involve increased employment and training opportunities within the creative industries, and development of wellbeing initiatives through community engagement. |

### 3.2 Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal

The [Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal](https://www.borderlandsgrowth.com/) was agreed in 2021 and is the only Scottish City or Growth Deal that also includes local authorities from out with Scotland. It is comprised of Dumfries and Galloway and Scottish Borders Councils, as well as Carlisle City Council, Cumbria County Council and Northumberland County Council. This Deal also covers the largest geographical area of any regional growth deal negotiated with the UK and Scottish Governments. The Deal includes up to £452m of investment, with priorities including:

* Improving places through place-based regeneration;
* Supporting business, innovation and skills;
* Enabling infrastructure through physical and connectivity improvements;
* Encouraging green growth.

The Borderlands’ Partnership Board is central to the Deal’s governance arrangements, which is responsible for oversight and decision making in relation to investment. There are six seats on the Board, consisting of one representative from each of the partner local authorities. The sixth seat is for the Chair of the [Borderlands Economic Forum](https://www.borderlandsgrowth.com/economic-forum), which provides an opportunity for a wide range of stakeholders to contribute to maximising the impact of the Deal. The Forum supports the Partnership Board by representing the voice of local businesses and ensuring that decisions are made to benefit local people and employers. The Borderlands Project Management Office oversees the development, delivery and management of the Deal.

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| **Community Wealth Building**  SOSE are exploring how to use Community Wealth Building in the South of Scotland region to stimulate economic growth. The region has committed to embedding Community Wealth Building in its regional economic development strategy and is rolling this out through investments and activity across the region. |

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| **Levelling Up**  Dumfries & Galloway Council successfully bid for £17.7m for ‘Reactivating Galloway’, with focus on the themes of Regeneration and Culture. This will involve developing opportunities for outdoor activities and building on the popularity of staycations stemming from the Covid-19 pandemic. Vacant and derelict buildings will also be reused to provide new focal points and visitor attractions and facilities. |

### 3.3 Falkirk Growth Deal

Falkirk Council has an individual [Falkirk Growth Deal](https://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/business-investment/falkirk-grangemouth.aspx), which is not part of a wider region. This was agreed in 2021 and is worth up to £130.8m over a ten-year period. The key aim of the Deal is to reduce emissions and decarbonise, while supporting the Scottish Government aim of a ‘just transition’ to net zero. Priorities include:

* Investment in innovative industry, including a Carbon Dioxide Utilisation Centre and an Innovation Skills Transition Centre;
* Investment in creating great places, including a Central Sustainable Transport Hub and Scotland’s Canal Centre.

The Growth Deal Board, chaired by the council Chief Executive, will have senior officer representatives from the council, UK and Scottish Government representatives, key partners and businesses who are leading on projects.

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| **Levelling Up**  Falkirk Council was awarded £20m for the Westfield Roundabout project which aims to alleviate pressures from increased traffic through building new roads and roundabouts, and improving pedestrian and cycle crossings. |

### 3.4 Islands Growth Deal

The [Islands Growth Deal](https://www.islandsdeal.co.uk/#:~:text=The%20Islands%20Growth%20Deal%20is%20a%20ten-year%20package,Growth%20Deal%20were%20signed%20on%2017%20March%202021.) was signed in 2021 and is comprised of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Orkney Islands Council and Shetland Islands Council. The Deal is worth £100m over a ten-year period, with £33.3m being invested in each island group. It aims to harness the islands’ unique assets, with priorities focused on:

* Creating up to 1,300 sustainable jobs across the island groups;
* Supporting the islands to be among the first places in the UK to achieve net zero;
* Creating internationally significant new port infrastructure to support achievement of net zero targets;
* Strengthening innovation in low carbon technologies, wellbeing research and sustainable food production in partnership with universities and research institutes;
* Showcasing the Islands’ outstanding natural environment, heritage, culture and creativity;
* Creating the foundation for an innovation-focused recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic and support inclusive growth across the island communities.

An Islands Growth Deal Joint Committee has been established which has elected member representation from each of the three island councils. There is also a Programme Management Board with representation from Chief Executives and Directors of the three local authorities, as well as senior management representation from HIE. A Programme Management Office has been put in place to manage delivery of the programme.

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| **Community Wealth Building**  Comhairle nan Eilean Siar is one of five pilot areas Scottish Government is working with to develop a Community Wealth Building approach. This area is well known for community land ownership and community energy, and the council has been working with CLES to finalise a Community Wealth Building Action Plan. |

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| **Levelling Up**  Shetland Islands Council was successful in bidding for £26.8m funding to upgrade the ‘Fair Isle’ ferry. This service is a lifeline for the island, which is located 80 miles off the Scottish mainland. It will support residents and visitors to maintain supply chains, which are at risk of becoming further isolated unless the current vessel is replaced. |

### 3.5 Argyll and Bute Rural Growth Deal

Argyll and Bute council has its own individual [Argyll and Bute Rural Growth Deal](https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/rgd), which was agreed in 2021 and is worth £70m over a ten-year period. The Rural Growth Deal is focused on attracting additional skills, residents, visitors and businesses, as well as growing the benefit of the area’s natural assets. This will be achieved via three key drivers:

* Connecting high value business sectors with national and international business markets, and local successes with national strategic priorities;
* Attracting additional skills, training and learning opportunities; new residents, visitors and businesses;
* Doing more of what works and making more of natural and built resources.

Argyll and Bute Council have implemented a [governance structure](https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/moderngov/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=191274#:~:text=Argyll%20%26%20Bute%20Rural%20Growth%20Deal%20-%20Governance,taken%20in%20an%20open%2C%20inclusive%20and%20transparent%20way.) to oversee the delivery of the Rural Growth Deal. This consists of a Policy and Resources Committee, a Full Programme Board, an Internal Programme Board, a Programme Management Office, a Communications Group and eight Project Stakeholder groups.

### 3.6 Moray Growth Deal

Moray Council has its own individual [Moray Growth Deal](http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_114144.html#:~:text=The%20Moray%20Growth%20Deal%20is%20a%20regional%20deal,the%20area%20and%20address%20gender%20inequality%20in%20employment.). This Deal was signed in 2020 and is worth over £100 million over a ten-year period. The Deal is designed to transform the economy, encourage young people to live and work in the area, and address gender inequality in employment. Priorities are focused around:

* Attracting and retaining young people and families to live and work in the area through an enhanced culture and leisure offering;
* Addressing occupational segregation and gender inequality in employment, including the significant gender pay gap and underemployment issues for women;
* Creating new high-quality jobs in existing sectors and diversifying the region’s economy into new high value areas;
* Creating opportunities across Moray which help to secure the future prosperity of its communities;
* Supporting businesses to scale up to increase the value of the Moray economy;
* Creating new and improving existing facilities for businesses.

Moray Council is the lead authority responsible for delivering all of the Moray Growth Deal outputs and outcomes. The Moray Economic Partnership is a sub-group of the Moray Community Planning Partnership focused on Moray’s Economic Strategy and maximising the impact of the Growth Deal in stimulating inclusive economic growth. The Moray Growth Deal Programme Board is the governing authority for the Deal with a remit to provide strategic direction and high-level oversight. The Programme Board reports into the Moray Economic Partnership and Moray Council.