
**GLASGOW CITY REGION - CITY DEAL CABINET
JOINT COMMITTEE**

Audited Annual Accounts

For the year ended 31 March 2020

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JOINT COMMITTEE**

Audited Annual Accounts Year ended 31 March 2020

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❖ **Management Commentary**

History and Statutory Background

Glasgow City Region, one of the largest regions in the UK, is Scotland’s economic powerhouse. With a combined population of 1.8 million, it provides 33% of the nation’s jobs and a base to 29% of Scotland’s businesses. Its economy produced an approximate £42.9bn of Gross Value Added (GVA) in 2018, making it the largest city region economy in Scotland and the fourth largest in the UK.

Our ground breaking £1.13 billion City Deal, the first in Scotland and one of the largest in the UK, is an agreement between the UK government, the Scottish government and the eight local authorities across Glasgow City Region.

The eight participating local authorities are East Dunbartonshire Council, East Renfrewshire Council, Glasgow City Council, Inverclyde Council, North Lanarkshire Council, Renfrewshire Council, South Lanarkshire Council and West Dunbartonshire Council.

The City Deal provides over £1 billion funding from the UK and Scottish governments and is set to transform the physical and social landscape – creating thousands of new jobs, homes, supporting business growth, improving transport connectivity and unlocking land in key sites for development.

In 2014 eight Councils agreed in principle to establish a Joint Committee to govern the City Deal and determine the strategic economic development priorities for Glasgow City Region.

Glasgow City Council is the Lead Authority.

An Assurance Framework sets out the operational structure of the Joint Committee and how its functions are governed.

Structure

The Joint Committee established to govern the City Deal and determine the strategic economic development priorities for Glasgow City Region is the Glasgow City Region Cabinet (CAB) which meets every eight weeks.

The Cabinet comprises the Leaders of the participating authorities and is responsible for the strategic direction of the City Deal and for approving the annual budget and business plan.

The Programme Management Office (PMO) acts as a secretariat for the Cabinet and the central point for appraisal and monitoring of all aspects of City Deal. The Cabinet is supported

by a Chief Executives' Group (CEG), which oversees the management of the PMO in its delivery of the operational functions of the Cabinet. The Chief Executives' Group proposes a programme of works and where required provides recommendations. The Cabinet takes advice from the Commission on Economic Growth (The Commission).

The Chief Executives' Group is also supported by a number of sub-groups, comprised of officers from the participating councils. To further the existing collaboration between the eight local authorities, a distributive leadership model was agreed in June 2016, based around eight portfolios focused upon driving wider economic growth. Consultation continues to take place with the Glasgow City Region and the UK and Scottish Governments through ongoing officer liaison and an Annual Conversation event in September each year. Governance arrangements align to the Assurance Framework and the Programme Business Case. The City Deal is supported by a programme of internal and external audits and continues to participate in the Scottish Parliamentary Inquiry into City Deals.

Strategic Aims

Over its 20 year lifetime, it is estimated that the City Deal will:

- Deliver £2.2 billion in additional Gross Value Added per annum (a 4% uplift) across the City Region.
- Support an additional overall increase of around 29,000 jobs in the City Region.
- Create 15,000 construction jobs through the ten year City Deal construction programme.
- Work with 19,000 unemployed residents and support over 5,500 back into sustained employment.
- Leverage an estimated £3.3 billion of private sector investment to support the delivery of the projects within the infrastructure programme.
- Spread the benefits of economic growth across Glasgow and Clyde Valley, ensuring deprived areas benefit from this growth.

Programme Performance

The £1.13 billion infrastructure fund will deliver 21 projects focusing on improving transport connectivity and unlocking key sites across the region for residential and commercial development over the next 10– 20 years. Together with a further six projects for innovation, skills and employment, the City Deal will enable a programme of work which will greatly add to the value of the local economy over the next 20 years.

August 2019 marked the five year anniversary of the formal signing of the Glasgow City Region City Deal agreement between the eight City Region councils and the UK and Scottish Governments. On the 15th May 2020, the City Region received confirmation from the governments that the first of three 5-yearly Gateway Reviews had been passed, unlocking the second tranche of the governments' committed funds.

Over five years into a twenty year programme, the partnership is working well and significant progress continues to be made in the delivery of our City Deal. Thousands of jobs are being created through the employment schemes and construction work underway. Local companies are benefitting from contract opportunities and new business support initiatives. Infrastructure projects focused on improving connectivity and land remediation are supporting growth and already drawing further funding and investment into the region.

With over £216 million spent and City Region businesses benefitting from a £79 million boost in contracts won (at end March 2020) the Deal is making a significant contribution to the Regional economy. All of our 27 projects have been selected and seven projects have been completed already, with substantial progress made on projects already underway. The seven projects completed to date include the three skills and employment projects; Youth Gateway, In-Work Progression and Working Matters, the three innovation projects Tontine, Imaging Centre for Excellence and Medicity and one infrastructure fund project namely Cathkin Relief Road. In addition, 16 sub-project elements have been completed from the Infrastructure Fund's 20 ongoing projects. Residents are seeing City Deal investment on the ground. New roads, bridges, remediation and public realm works are visibly transforming our social and physical landscape and helping to unlock vacant sites in key locations, some of which have lain unused for many years, opening up opportunities for new housing, retail and commercial development. Work to improve transport and connectivity, a key focus of the £1 billion programme, will move forward, including a feasibility study on proposals for a Glasgow metro system - a sustainable transport solution which has the potential to greatly improve access to jobs and build on our status as a global city region.

Over 8,000 young people have been supported into work through Youth Gateway, a region-wide employment programme which was completed substantially ahead of target. Our Working Matters pilot has helped thousands of Glasgow City Region residents in receipt of health-related benefits to begin the journey into long-term employment.

We talk about the City Deal leveraging in over £3 billion of private sector investment over 20 years. Already we are seeing this happen, with many new housing, retail and industrial developments arising from the City Deal funded improvements to transport connections and land remediation. High profile announcements such as Barclays and Channel 4 are demonstrating a real confidence in the city region. The Barclays deal is the most significant inward investment ever made in Glasgow, with a new build campus set to bring 2,500 new jobs and breathe new life into an area south of the river. Our success to date has been significant

and while there is no doubt there will be challenges ahead, we are confident we will continue to do even better.

Work will continue to co-produce our refreshed Regional Economic Strategy, creating an updated action plan and set of priorities which are informed and guided by extensive research and intelligence gathering work carried out by our Intelligence Hub throughout 2019/20 and through the work of the Commission on Economic Growth to develop the Futures Report which sets out the Region’s future challenges and opportunities. Further information and progress updates are available on www.glasgowcityregion.co.uk

The Programme Risk Register was refreshed throughout 2019/20, with the Chief Executives participating in a risk workshop. The impact of COVID-19 has changed the risk profile and the Programme Issue Log more recently with delays in the development and approval of business cases, procurement, design and construction activity all subject to delay. The PMO is in liaison with the Scottish and UK governments to keep them abreast of COVID-19 related issues as they continue to develop and to agree recovery and mitigation.

The PMO is funded by the eight member authorities and this contribution is managed within each authorities’ financial resources. The PMO budget is set and recharged to member authorities annually and on the grounds of materiality the long-term funding of the PMO is currently not considered to be a major financial risk.

Financial Performance

The cost of running the PMO is the main item of expenditure of the Cabinet. Salary costs and any administrative expenses incurred by the PMO are re-imbursed in full from the participating authorities.

The total gross budget for the PMO was set at £1,289,002 and along with a funding carry forward from previous years of £80,412 this provided total financial resources of £1,369,414 in 2019/20. There was an underspend of £4,019 on the total gross budget for 2019/20 mainly due to savings in marketing costs.

Expenditure of £1,365,395 was incurred for the period and was re-charged in total to the participating authorities on the basis set out in the Joint Committee Agreement. There was a nil balance of funds as at 31 March 2020. The accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis.

Councillor Susan Aitken
Council Leader and Chair
Glasgow City Region Cabinet

6 October 2020

Annemarie O’Donnell
Chief Executive
Glasgow City Council

6 October 2020

Martin Booth
Executive Director
of Finance

6 October 2020

❖ **Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts**

1. The lead authority's responsibilities

The lead authority is required:

- To make arrangements for the proper administration of the financial affairs of the Joint Committee and to ensure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In Glasgow City Council, that officer is the Executive Director of Finance.
- To manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of the resources and safeguard its assets.
- Ensure the Annual Accounts are prepared in accordance with legislation (the Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014), and so far as is compatible with that legislation, in accordance with proper accounting practices (section 12 of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003); and
- Approve the Annual Accounts for signature.

I certify that the Annual Accounts have been approved for signature by Glasgow City Region City Deal Cabinet at its meeting on 6 October 2020.

Councillor Susan Aitken
Council Leader and Chair,
Glasgow City Region Cabinet
6 October 2020

2. Responsibilities of the Executive Director of Finance, Glasgow City Council

The Executive Director of Finance in Glasgow City Council is responsible for the preparation of the statement of accounts of the Joint Committee , in accordance with proper practices as required by legislation and as set out in the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom ('the Code').

In preparing the Annual Accounts, the Executive Director of Finance has:

- Selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently;
- Made judgments and estimates that were reasonable and prudent;
- Complied with the legislation; and
- Complied with the Code (in so far as it is compatible with legislation).

The Executive Director of Finance has also:

- Kept proper accounting records which were up to date; and
- Taken reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

I certify that the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of Glasgow City Region City Deal Cabinet Joint Committee as at 31 March 2020 and the transactions for the year then ended.

Martin Booth BA, FCPFA, MBA
Executive Director of Finance
Glasgow City Council
6 October 2020

3. **Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended 31 March 2020**

| 2018/19 £ | Service | Note | 2019/20 £ |
|--------------|--|------|--------------|
| 1,177,623 | Gross expenditure | 3 | 1,365,395 |
| (1,177,623) | Gross income | 3 | (1,365,395) |
| 0 | Cost of Services | | 0 |
| 0 | Interest and investment income | | 0 |
| 0 | Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure | | 0 |
| 0 | (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services | | 0 |
| 0 | Other Comprehensive (Income) and Expenditure | | 0 |
| 0 | Total Comprehensive (Income) and Expenditure | | 0 |

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement – shows income and expenditure incurred in the year relating to the provision of services for the Joint Committee.

4. Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2020

| 31 March 2019 £ | | Note | 31 March 2020 £ |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|------|--------------------|
| 0 | Short-term debtors | 6 | 2,390 |
| 334,188 | Cash and cash equivalents | | 261,006 |
| 334,188 | Current Assets | | 263,396 |
| (334,188) | Short-term creditors | 6 | (263,396) |
| (334,188) | Current Liabilities | | (263,396) |
| 0 | Net Assets / (Liabilities) | | 0 |
| 0 | Usable Reserves | | 0 |
| 0 | Unusable Reserves | | 0 |
| 0 | Total Reserves | | 0 |

Balance Sheet – The balance sheet of the Joint Committee shows that there were no reserve balances as at 31 March 2020.

The unaudited accounts were issued on 11 June 2020 and the audited accounts were authorised for issue on 6 October 2020

Martin Booth BA, FCPFA, MBA
Executive Director of Finance
Glasgow City Council
6 October 2020

5. Cash Flow Statement for the Year ended 31 March 2020

| 2018/19 £ | Revenue Activities | 2019/20 £ |
|--------------|---|-----------------|
| 0 | Surplus or (Deficit) on the Provision of Services | 0 |
| | Adjustments for non-cash items: | |
| | (Increase) / decrease in debtors | (2,390) |
| (58,512) | Increase / (decrease) in creditors | (70,792) |
| (58,512) | | (73,182) |
| (58,512) | Net cash inflow / (outflow) from activities | (73,182) |
| 392,700 | Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period | 334,188 |
| 334,188 | Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period | 261,006 |

Cash Flow Statement – details the changes in cash and cash equivalents of the Joint Committee.

❖ Notes to the accounts

The main objective of these notes is to provide further explanation for certain aspects of the core Financial Statements.

1. Statement of accounting policies

- 1.1 The financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2020 have been compiled on the basis of recommendations made by the Local Authority (Scotland) Accounts Advisory Committee (LASAAC) and have been prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2019/20 (the Code). The Code is based on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) with interpretation appropriate to the public sector. The statements are designed to give a 'true and fair view' of the financial performance and position of the Joint Committee.
- 1.2 The accounting concepts of 'materiality', 'accruals', 'going concern' and 'primacy of legislative requirements' have been considered in the application of accounting policies. In this regard the materiality concept means that information is included where the information is of such significance as to justify its inclusion. The accruals concept requires the non-cash effects of transactions to be included in the financial statement for the year in which they occur, not in the period in which the cash is paid or received. The going concern concept assumes that the Joint Committee will not significantly curtail the scale of its operation. Wherever accounting principles and legislative requirements are in conflict the latter shall apply.
- 1.3 Suppliers' invoices received up to 31 March 2020 have been included in the accounts. In addition, expenditure has been accrued, in accordance with the Code, where the goods or services were received prior to 31 March 2020. Salaries and wages earned to 31 March 2020 are included in the accounts for 2019/20 irrespective of when the actual payments were made.
- 1.4 Income includes all sums due in respect of contributions from participating authorities. No interest was earned on fund balances for the year ended 31 March 2020.
- 1.5 There were no complex transactions or potential future uncertainties requiring critical judgements or estimations of uncertainty in preparing the 2019/20 accounts.
- 1.6 Cash and cash equivalents represent monies held at the bank for short-term commitments.
- 1.7 Events after the balance sheet date are those events, both favourable and unfavourable, that occur between the end of the reporting period and the date when the statement of accounts are authorised for issue. Two types of event may be identified and this firstly includes those events that provide evidence of conditions that existed at the end of the reporting period – the Financial Statements are adjusted to reflect such events. Secondly, it includes those events that are indicative of conditions that arose after the reporting period – the Financial Statements are not

adjusted to reflect such events, but where this would have a material effect, the nature and estimated financial impact of such events is disclosed in the notes.

2. Accounting Standards Issued not Adopted

There are no accounting standards which have been issued, but not adopted, that would have a material effect on the 2019/20 Financial Statements of the Joint Committee.

3. Income and expenditure statement

The table below provides a detailed breakdown of income and expenditure of the Joint Committee during 2019/20.

| | Note | 2018/19 £ | 2019/20 £ |
|--|------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Income | | | |
| Expenditure re-imburement from participating local authorities | 4 | (1,177,623) | (1,365,395) |
| Total income | | (1,177,623) | (1,365,395) |
| Expenditure | | | |
| Employee costs | | 856,655 | 968,546 |
| Transport | | 740 | 1,427 |
| Supplies and services | | 311,998 | 387,012 |
| Third Party Payments | | 8,230 | 8,410 |
| Total expenditure | | 1,177,623 | 1,365,395 |
| (Surplus) or deficit for period | | 0 | 0 |
| (Surplus) brought forward | | 0 | 0 |
| Accumulated (surplus) or deficit | | 0 | 0 |

4. PMO Budget and Funding

Based on the initial agreement signed by participating authorities, parameters were set out to determine the method for funding of the Programme Management Office (PMO). The Contribution Sum is to be calculated as a proportion of the PMO budget, based on the population of each Member Authority's area and expressed as a percentage of the total population within the areas of the Member Authorities. In 2019/20 there was also £3,585 recharged to three member authorities in relation to training and this is included in total income of £1,365,395 resulting in a PMO recharge to all member authorities of £1,361,810.

A detailed breakdown of each member's contribution towards the cost of running the PMO is shown in the table below:-

| Local Authority | Contribution 2019/20 £ |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| East Dunbartonshire Council | 80,347 |
| East Renfrewshire Council | 70,814 |
| Glasgow City Council | 463,016 |
| Inverclyde Council | 58,558 |
| North Lanarkshire Council | 253,296 |
| Renfrewshire Council | 132,095 |
| South Lanarkshire Council | 236,955 |
| West Dunbartonshire Council | 66,729 |
| Total | 1,361,810 |

5. Employee benefits

All 13 full time members of staff of the Joint committee were employed on a secondment basis. A total of 11 members of staff were employed by Glasgow City Council and 2 members of staff by Renfrewshire Council.

In accordance with International Accounting Standard 19 (IAS 19) – Employee Benefits, the employing councils are required to disclose certain information concerning assets, liabilities, income and expenditure, of the pension scheme. As the Cabinet does not directly employ staff, the staff pension costs of the PMO will be reflected in the figures disclosed in the financial statements of Glasgow City Council and Renfrewshire Council.

The Code requires that employee benefits are recognised in the accounts when they are earned rather than when they are paid. As a result, there is a requirement to consider notional entitlements to annual leave earned but not taken as at 31 March 2020. Employees providing professional services to the PMO are contracted to Glasgow City Council and Renfrewshire Council and therefore

any notional liability will have been included within the accounts of these two Councils who hold the contracts of employment.

6. Short-term debtors and creditors

Short-term debtors are £2,390. The short-term creditors figure for 2019/20 of £263,396 comprises the following:-

| Short-term creditors | 31 March 2020 £ |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Audit Scotland | 8,410 |
| Training | 2,630 |
| National Panel and Commission | 51,455 |
| Fraser of Allander | 30,000 |
| Renfrewshire Council | 163,297 |
| City Region 19/20 Credit Recharge | 7,604 |
| Total sundry creditors | 263,396 |

7. Remuneration Report

Glasgow City Region – City Deal Cabinet is a Joint Committee comprising eight participating local authorities. The Cabinet does not directly employ any members of staff, with all services being provided by staff of the participating authorities on a secondment basis.

A remuneration report providing disclosures in respect of elected members and chief officers of the Councils, including those with authority and responsibility for the Cabinet are included in the Annual Accounts of each of the participating local authorities.

8. Related Parties

Glasgow City Council is the administering body responsible for the Joint Committee. The Joint Committee uses the administering body's financial and payroll systems and banking facilities. The related party transactions between the Joint Committee and Glasgow City Council are shown in the table below. The cash and cash equivalents balance for the Cabinet represents amounts held on the Cabinet's behalf by Glasgow City Council and is the difference between amounts received and amounts spent.

| Related Party transactions and balances | 2019/20 Expenditure £ | 2019/20 Income £ | Cash and Cash Equivalents at 31 March 2020 £ |
|---|--------------------------|---------------------|---|
| Related bodies | | | |
| Glasgow City Council | 463,016 | 463,016 | 261,006 |

9. Auditor remuneration

Audit Scotland has agreed with the Joint Committee that the audit fee would be £8,410 for the 2019/20 financial year. No fees were payable in respect of other services provided by the appointed auditor.

10. Events after the balance sheet date

There were no material events between 31 March 2020 and the date of signing that require to be reflected in the Financial Statements.

Annual Governance Statement 2019/20**Role and responsibilities**

The Glasgow City Region Cabinet is a Joint Committee established under Section 57 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, by the eight member authorities.

The lead body of the Joint Committee is Glasgow City Region Cabinet which meets six times annually. The Cabinet comprises the Leaders of the participating authorities and is responsible for the strategic direction of the organisation and for approving the annual budget and business plan. The Cabinet is supported by a Chief Executives' Group, and the Programme Management Office acts as a secretariat. The Cabinet takes advice from the Independent Commission on Urban Growth and the Glasgow City Region Economic Leadership Board.

The matters reserved to the member authorities for decision making which cannot be dealt with by the Cabinet are as follows:

- Any material financial decisions over and above what has been committed through the City Deal.
- Any amendment of the Joint Committee.
- Any requests for the addition of another local authority as member authority.
- Approval by a member authority to enter into a grant agreement in relation to a specific City Deal project.

Lead Authority

Glasgow City Council is the lead authority for the Glasgow City Region Cabinet and City Deal. As lead authority, the Council holds and disburses the City Deal grant funding through grant agreements with member authorities; manages the budget for the Programme Management Office (PMO); signs grant offers with the Scottish and UK Governments; and makes disbursements to member authorities and other bodies as appropriate under the terms of the grant agreement.

Cabinet meetings

Regular meetings of the Glasgow City Region Cabinet are held on an 8 weekly basis. Occasional ad hoc meetings are also held as required. Cabinet meeting dates are listed in the Council Diary which is available at:

<http://www.glasgow.gov.uk/councillorsandcommittees/calendar.asp>

Representation

The Glasgow City Region Cabinet is comprised of the Council Leaders (or their nominee) of each of the eight member authorities, and is chaired by the Leader of Glasgow City Council as lead authority.

Chief Executives' Group

A management group has been established comprising the Chief Executive of each of the member authorities (or their nominee). The group has responsibility on a collective basis for the overall supervision and management and for the monitoring of the performance of the PMO in delivering the City Deal. The group is chaired by the Chief Executive of Glasgow City Council as lead authority.

Programme Management Office

The PMO undertakes the administrative role required to support the Cabinet, its sub-groups and portfolios. The PMO is delivered by Glasgow City Council as lead authority, and the role includes:

- Provision of administrative and technical support services
- Preparation and circulation of meeting minutes and agendas
- Publishing the Cabinet processes and outcomes
- Facilitating engagement by the stakeholders, and
- Managing Cabinet communications including the Glasgow City Region website.

Support Groups

A number of support groups have been created to support the delivery of the City Deal and share knowledge and information. The remit of these groups has been agreed by the Chief Executives and includes the following areas:

- Lead Officers Group
- Finance Strategy Group
- Communications and Marketing Group
- Audit

Scope of responsibility

As the lead authority for the Glasgow City Region Cabinet, Glasgow City Council is responsible for ensuring that its business, including that of the PMO, is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for, and used economically, efficiently and effectively. The Council also has a statutory duty to make arrangements to secure best value under the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003.

In discharging this overall responsibility, the Cabinet is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements (known as the governance framework) for the governance of its affairs and facilitating the effective exercise of its functions, which includes arrangements for the management of risk. Key elements of the governance framework are noted below. The framework was in place throughout 2019/20.

The Council has approved and adopted a Local Code of Corporate Governance (the Code), which is consistent with the principles of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) Framework: Delivering Good Governance in Local Government. A copy of The Code is available on the council's website at:

<https://glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=17539>

The work of the Cabinet is governed by the Code and by its Assurance Framework. This includes requirements for the preparation and production of a number of key policy documents including an Economic Strategy, a Procurement Strategy and a Risk Management Strategy. These documents set out the Cabinet's objectives together with the main risks facing the programme and the key controls in place to mitigate those risks. A Risk Register is maintained to facilitate detailed risk monitoring, and an Annual Implementation Plan is produced each year to support the Programme Business Case, which is the business case for

overall delivery of the Programme. Scrutiny is provided by Internal Audit and by the Cabinet’s External Auditor, Audit Scotland.

The Cabinet complies with the CIPFA Statement on “*The Role of the Chief Financial Officer in Local Government 2016*”. The Glasgow City Council Executive Director of Finance has overall responsibility for the PMO’s financial arrangements and is professionally qualified and suitably experienced to lead the finance function and to direct finance staff.

The Cabinet complies with the requirements of the CIPFA Statement on “*The Role of the Head of Internal Audit in Public Organisations 2019*”. The appointed Chief Internal Auditor has responsibility for the internal audit function and is professionally qualified and suitably experienced to lead and direct internal audit staff. The Internal Audit service generally operates in accordance with the CIPFA “*Public Sector Internal Audit Standards 2017*”.

Review of effectiveness

The Council and Glasgow City Region Cabinet have systems of internal control designed to manage risk to a reasonable level. Internal controls cannot eliminate risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives and can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of the Glasgow City Region Cabinet’s policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised.

The Assurance Framework is subject to regular review to ensure that it provides an effective governance platform for the Cabinet. A revised Assurance Framework was implemented operationally during 2019/20.

Update on Significant Governance Issues Previously Reported

There were no significant governance issues reported in 2018/19.

Internal Audit Opinion

Assurance work undertaken within the Glasgow City Region Cabinet in 2019/20 included:

- A review of arrangements in place for dealing with matters which could pose a reputational risk to the Programme or Partnership. This included pro-active and reactive reputation management and compliance with the Communication, Marketing and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy.
- A review to gain assurance that the PMO and Member Authorities comply with key aspects of the revised Assurance Framework, including Business Case requirements and the appraisal process.
- The processes for ensuring that claims submitted by Member Authorities contain only actual and eligible expenditure, in compliance with Business Cases and conditions of grant.
- The implementation of recommended actions arising from previous audit work.

Glasgow City Council’s Head of Audit and Inspection has confirmed that there are no significant governance issues that require to be reported as a result of the work undertaken by Internal Audit in 2019/20 in relation to the remit of the Glasgow City Region Cabinet, and no significant governance issues have been reported by the Internal Audit teams of the member authorities during the year. However the Covid-19 pandemic which began in early 2020 is a significant event, impacting normal business operations and risk assessments. The effect on

the control environment is being assessed and may result in changes which will be considered during 2020/21.

Certification

It is our opinion that reasonable assurance can be placed upon the adequacy and effectiveness of the systems of governance that operate in the Glasgow City Region Cabinet. We consider the governance and internal control environment operating during 2019/20 to provide reasonable and objective assurance that any significant risks impacting on the Glasgow City Region Cabinet’s ability to achieve its objectives will be identified and actions taken to avoid or mitigate the impact.

Where areas for improvement have been identified and action plans agreed, we will ensure that they are treated as priority and progress towards implementation is reviewed by the Chief Executives’ Group and the Cabinet.

We will continue to review and enhance, as necessary, our governance arrangements and will consider the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic during 2020/21.

**Council Leader and
Chair, Glasgow City Region Cabinet
Susan Aitken
6 October 2020**

**Chief Executive
Glasgow City Council
Annemarie O’Donnell
6 October 2020**

Independent auditor’s report to the members of Glasgow City Region – City Deal Cabinet Joint Committee and the Accounts Commission**Report on the audit of the financial statements****Opinion on financial statements**

I certify that I have audited the financial statements in the annual accounts of Glasgow City Region – City Deal Cabinet Joint Committee for the year ended 31 March 2020 under Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973. The financial statements comprise the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, Balance Sheet, Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) as adopted by the European Union, and as interpreted and adapted by the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2019/20 (the 2019/20 Code).

In my opinion the accompanying financial statements:

- give a true and fair view in accordance with applicable law and the 2019/20 Code of the state of affairs of the Glasgow City Region – City Deal Cabinet Joint Committee as at 31 March 2020 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with IFRSs as adopted by the European Union, as interpreted and adapted by the 2019/20 Code; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, The Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014, and the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003.

Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)), as required by the [Code of Audit Practice](#) approved by the Accounts Commission for Scotland. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor’s responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of my report. I was appointed under arrangements approved by the Accounts Commission on 10 April 2017. The period of total uninterrupted appointment is four years. I am independent of the Glasgow City Region – City Deal Cabinet Joint Committee in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in the UK including the Financial Reporting Council’s Ethical Standard, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. Non-audit services prohibited by the Ethical Standard were not provided to the Glasgow City Region – City Deal Cabinet Joint Committee. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern basis of accounting

I have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require me to report to you where:

- the use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the Executive Director of Finance has not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about Glasgow City Region – City Deal Cabinet Joint Committee’s ability to continue to adopt the going

concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Risks of material misstatement

I have reported in a separate Annual Audit Report, available from the [Audit Scotland website](#), the most significant assessed risks of material misstatement that I identified and my conclusions thereon.

Responsibilities of the Executive Director of Finance and Glasgow City Region – City Deal Cabinet Joint Committee for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities, the Executive Director of Finance is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with the financial reporting framework, and for such internal control as the Executive Director of Finance determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Executive Director of Finance is responsible for assessing the Glasgow City Region – City Deal Cabinet Joint Committee's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless deemed inappropriate.

The Glasgow City Region – City Deal Cabinet Joint Committee is responsible for overseeing the financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. The capability of the audit to detect fraud and other irregularities depends on factors such as the skilfulness of the perpetrator, the frequency and extent of manipulation, the degree of collusion involved, the relative size of individual amounts manipulated, and the seniority of those individuals involved. I therefore design and perform audit procedures which respond to the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud.

A further description of the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of my auditor's report.

Other information in the annual accounts

The Executive Director of Finance is responsible for the other information in the annual accounts. The other information comprises the information other than the financial statements and my auditor's report thereon. My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon except on

matters prescribed by the Accounts Commission to the extent explicitly stated later in this report.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, my responsibility is to read all the other information in the annual accounts and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If I identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, I am required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.

Report on other requirements

Opinions on matters prescribed by the Accounts Commission

In my opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Management Commentary for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and that report has been prepared in accordance with statutory guidance issued under the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003; and
- the information given in the Annual Governance Statement for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and that report has been prepared in accordance with the Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework (2016).

Matters on which I am required to report by exception

I am required by the Accounts Commission to report to you if, in my opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- I have not received all the information and explanations I require for my audit

I have nothing to report in respect of these matters.

Conclusions on wider scope responsibilities

In addition to my responsibilities for the annual accounts, my conclusions on the wider scope responsibilities specified in the Code of Audit Practice, are set out in my Annual Audit Report.

Use of my report

This report is made solely to the parties to whom it is addressed in accordance with Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and for no other purpose. In accordance with paragraph 120 of the Code of Audit Practice, I do not undertake to have responsibilities to members or officers, in their individual capacities, or to third parties.

Stephen O'Hagan
Senior Audit Manager

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