



Innovate
UK



Scottish Enterprise



GLASGOW
CITY REGION



Glasgow City Region Innovation Action Plan

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Foreword

By Indro Mukerjee



Innovate UK is the UK's innovation agency. We work to drive productivity and economic growth by supporting businesses to develop and realise the potential of new ideas.

Innovation is at the heart of our future economy. Through innovation, we create opportunities for businesses, enable high quality jobs, and drive prosperity for our people. Innovation is key to how we protect our planet and environment, and how we underpin the health of our society. These benefits are global and national, and increasingly important to the places where we live.

Place and levelling up is a key strategic priority for Innovate UK, galvanising our support of innovation clusters across the UK and our City Regions. It is one of the three axes by which we organise ourselves at Innovate UK, which also includes the Domains we support and the Products and Services we offer from start-ups to scale-ups.

We are delighted to launch this Local Action Plan for Glasgow City Region, which we have co-created in partnership with leaders of the Councils that make up the Glasgow City Region partnership and with Scottish Enterprise, Scotland's national economic development agency. The Plan

is a step-change in how Innovate UK will support and collaborate to realise the innovation ambitions of this inspiring City Region.

As the first of our Action Plans for Scotland, this Plan forms the basis of our work together to serve and support Scottish innovative businesses so that we continue to fuel economic growth and drive societal change. This is a blueprint for how we will work together to build an even more successful economy with the skills, infrastructure and investments needed to boost our Glasgow City Region innovation ecosystem.

Indro Mukerjee

Innovate UK CEO



Foreword

By Susan Aitken



Glasgow City Region is the thriving metropolis at the heart of Scotland's economy, increasingly recognised internationally as an inventive and pioneering place.

Our world-leading universities and Further Education institutions have helped nurture one of the most highly skilled populations on these islands while also attracting talent from across the world. Home-grown entrepreneurs and our proven ability to attract global business and investment are clear demonstrations both of the growing strength of the regional innovation ecosystem and of rich partnerships across all sectors. And our reputation for successfully hosting international events, a world-class cultural offer, quality of life and affordability make Glasgow City Region a truly exciting place to be.

Over the past year or so, the £110million secured from the UK and Scottish Governments for both the City Region Investment Zone and the Innovation Accelerator programme has affirmed those strengths and cemented the centrality of innovation to the Glasgow, Scottish and UK economies. That is why partnership and collaboration are ever more crucial to delivering the first ever Regional Innovation Action Plan.

Ours is a region with a rich heritage, a titan of the Industrial Age once synonymous with quality and ingenuity. Today, that same spirit of industry and creativity is helping to build a dynamic economy, embracing emerging challenges and opportunities ahead.

Our ambition is to create a world-leading, low carbon, knowledge economy, where all citizens can share in the opportunities and prosperity.

This Action Plan sets out a route map to accelerate the innovation economy and, working in partnership with Innovate UK, Scottish Enterprise and all partners, unleash the creativity and economic potential across our region.

Councillor Susan Aitken

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

Foreword

By Adrian Gillespie



At Scottish Enterprise our purpose is to help businesses innovate and scale to transform the economy. We work with industry, partners, investors, and companies to drive up levels of innovation, internationalisation, and investment in the economy.

Glasgow City Region is a place where ideas flourish and where international investment lands. It is a place of renewed confidence, with a growing international reputation as a leading innovation region.

Scottish Enterprise will work with others to maximise benefits from the region's strengths, its people, its businesses, its universities and colleges and its connected eco-system. It is innovation that will deliver the shared ambition to build a sustainable and inclusive economy.

The region has an international reputation and industrial heritage as an innovative place. It has firm foundations to build upon.

Innovation will shape the region's future. From Clyde Gateway in the east, through the city innovation districts and out west to the Advanced Manufacturing Innovation District a corridor of innovation is creating new jobs, new industries of the future and acting as a magnet for investment.

Whilst there is much to build on, we recognise there is much more to be done. The region needs its stakeholders to work together, pushing in the same direction with determination and purpose. Scottish Enterprise will be an active partner, co-investor, and international advocate for the region.

We are looking forward to being a partner in the delivery of the Glasgow City Region Innovation Action Plan.

Adrian Gillespie

Scottish Enterprise CEO

Executive Summary

Glasgow City Region, and the communities that make it, were pioneers of the first industrial revolution. It was their creativity, determination and resilience that led to a global reputation as an industrial hub.

Today, it is still the powerhouse of the Scottish economy, and it is evolving to fully embrace the opportunities of the future.

This action plan looks to capitalise upon the momentum created by the Glasgow City Region Innovation Accelerator Programme and the strong partnership working that it developed.

Innovate UK, Glasgow City Region and **Scottish Enterprise** are therefore working together to ensure the Region is at the forefront of our innovation nation. Glasgow City Region already has a thriving innovation ecosystem, but the potential for further economic growth and productivity gain cannot be ignored. This is why we are reaffirming our commitment to achieve a coordinated approach in meeting our aligned goals and identify further areas to work together to create greater opportunities for the region.

Each of us recognise the importance of innovation to our economic ambitions, and this plan sits within the context of the **Glasgow City Region Economic Strategy, the Scottish Government's National Innovation Strategy** and the **UK Government's Innovation Strategy**.

This collective ambition means that it is essential to draw on strengths from all our assets. A key factor in achieving this has become clear: embedding 'Place' in our operations to grow, develop and commercialise products, services, and processes. Our actions are underpinned by a commitment to building an inclusive, sustainable, productive, and innovative economy. Through strong partnership working across a broad range of stakeholders, we will ensure that Glasgow City Region's exceptional innovation offer is recognised, and better competes, globally; that we have the networks, the space, and the culture to foster growth; and that the proceeds of that growth are felt equally across our communities and businesses. The aim of this Action Plan is to draw on current regional strengths and provide

a strategic focus for innovation. With significant input from key regional stakeholders, this Action Plan highlights our shared ambition to grow stronger innovation clusters and exploit cross sectoral growth opportunities emerging from our cluster specialisms.

Through this plan, we are committing to actions across **6 core areas** to build a sustainable and inclusive economy:

Ecosystem: where Innovators are part of a thriving, vibrant, and world-leading ecosystem.

Identity: where our City Region is recognised as a world-leading place in which to live, work and innovate.

Skills: where our talent base is growing and empowered.

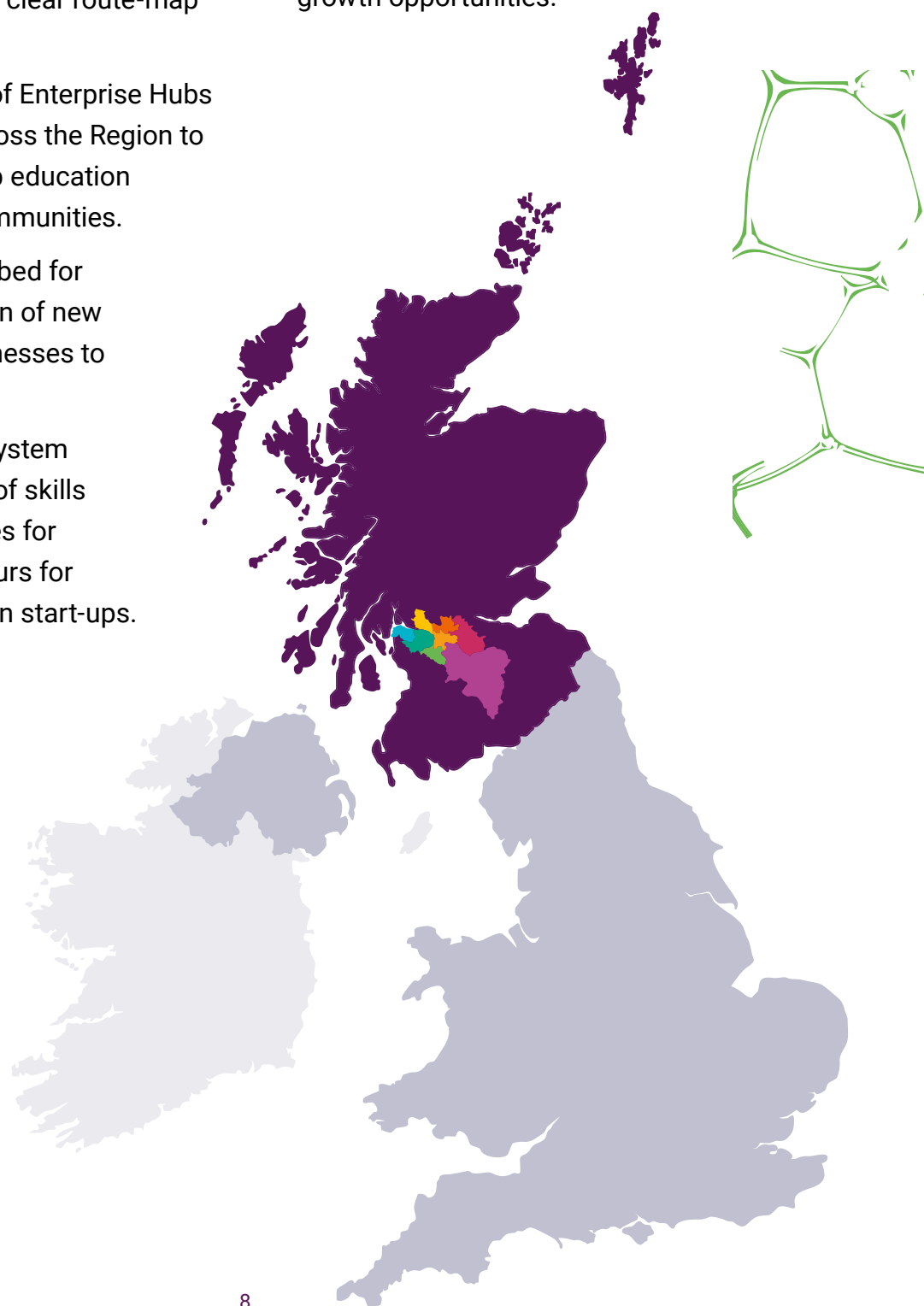
Inclusive Growth: where prosperity is shared equitably across all our communities and businesses.

Investment: where greater funding and investment is attracted to the Region by our strong innovation offer.

Infrastructure: where our vibrant places nurture and drive innovation.

Actions to deliver this include:

- Developing an investor roadmap to steer investment opportunities and maximise the impact of that investment for early-stage companies, scale up activities and innovation infrastructure.
- Improving the journey for businesses, by working with central Governments and external partners, to better join up the innovation support available across the Region and develop a clear route-map to what is on offer.
- Developing our network of Enterprise Hubs in underserved areas across the Region to support entrepreneurship education for underrepresented communities.
- Nurturing a Regional testbed for the adoption and diffusion of new technologies within businesses to improve productivity.
- Working across the ecosystem to improve the provision of skills development programmes for founders and entrepreneurs for technology and innovation start-ups.
- Aligning existing marketing and communication activity across the Region by developing a sustained, Regional resource for marketing and promotion and a plan to 'sell' our distinctive innovation vision.
- Maximising the potential and expanding the reach of the existing Innovation Districts to build on cross-sectoral growth opportunities.





Glasgow City of Science and Innovation-led consultation

Principles and Core Areas

In 2021, Glasgow City Region announced its aim to have the most innovative, inclusive, and resilient economy in the UK by 2030. Underpinning this aim, it set out three grand challenges to be met: creating an inclusive economy, enhancing productivity, and addressing the climate emergency.

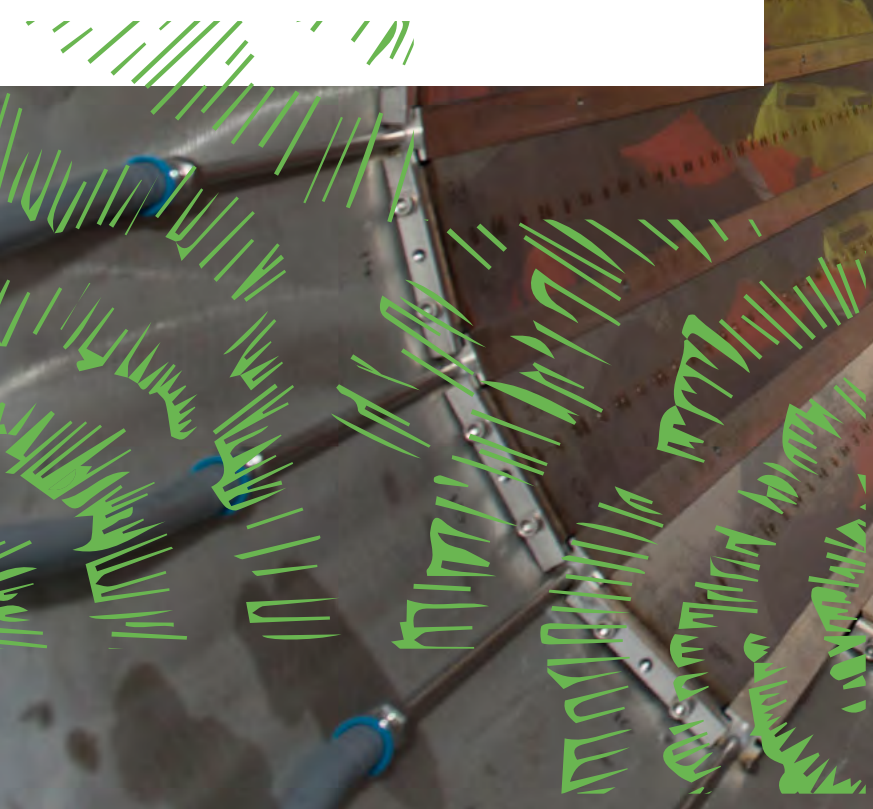
To help deliver on this mission, a Regional Planning Group, made up of representatives from Colleges, Universities, Innovation Districts, and the Catapult Network alongside **Glasgow City of Science and Innovation** curated a series of roundtable sessions. These brought together 120 senior voices from business, academia, the third sector, the investor community, and local and national government and its agencies. These sessions supported the development

of this plan by identifying common issues our stakeholders are facing and highlighting how we can best accelerate the performance of our regional innovation ecosystem.

Through weekly meetings with stakeholders and numerous in-person workshops and sessions, this action plan has been a truly collaborative effort which represents the needs and ambition of the innovation agenda and ecosystem within Glasgow City Region. Our collaborative approach is rooted in the belief that our economy must be inclusive and sustainable, with growing productivity and world-leading innovation at its heart. This plan allows us to harness available opportunities and lay out a route map for how we will work together to deliver on our shared ambitions.

National Innovation

To meet the UK Government's ambition for the UK to become a global hub for innovation by 2035 and consolidate the UK as a science and innovation pioneer, it is investing in research and development (R&D) at record levels, with an explicit focus on increasing investment outside of London and the Greater Southeast of England. Driven by the Levelling Up White Paper's vision, innovation is recognised as a key ingredient to increase the level of private sector investment in R&D.



Innovate UK is committed to working with local and national partners to build greater coherence between national economic plans and local industrial strategies. **Innovate UK's Plan for Action** sets out how Innovate UK will help businesses grow through developing and commercialising new products, processes, and services, supported by an outstanding innovation ecosystem that is agile, inclusive, and easy to navigate. It also underpins Innovate UK's pledge to embed Place and Levelling Up across activities as a key foundation for growth by catalysing local strengths to support UK capabilities and increase local impact.

Scottish Enterprise is Scotland's national economic development agency. It has been supporting Scotland's economy and businesses for over 30 years. Its purpose is to help businesses innovate and scale to transform the economy. Scottish Enterprise deliver the greatest impact where they focus on the core capabilities around innovation, investment and internationalisation and where they work alongside industry and in partnership with academic and public

agencies. Scottish Enterprise supports the delivery of the Scottish Government's **National Strategy for Economic Transformation (NSET)** and the vision set out in the **National Innovation Strategy for Scotland** to become one of the most innovative small nations in the world by 2033.

Scaling innovation, productivity and entrepreneurship are priorities for Scottish Enterprise. Their ambition is to see more companies growing and taking advantage of high growth markets and the opportunities that come from the transition to net zero.

In line with the UK Government's innovation strategy, and the Scottish Government's National Innovation Strategy, Innovate UK and Scottish Enterprise have helped co-create this regional plan in collaboration with the leadership of the Glasgow City Region and a range of the Region's key stakeholders.

Glasgow City Region is the first Scottish region to have a collaborative Action Plan with Innovate UK and Scottish Enterprise and will contribute towards ensuring the wider benefits and legacy of the recent Innovation Accelerator Pilot are felt throughout the Region.





Glasgow City Region's Perspective

River Clyde- Glasgow City

Home to a third of Scotland's economic output, business base, research power and employment, Glasgow City Region is the powerhouse of the Scottish economy.

For 250 years, Glasgow City Region has grown and flourished, owing to the strength, resilience, and creativity of its communities. All attributes that made the Region a pioneer of the first Industrial Revolution. When Glasgow City Region and its people have been tested and buffeted by the waves of global economic change, they have more than risen to the challenge. That spirit exists today in meeting the challenges and opportunities of this century, and those same communities are playing a leading role in developing the industries of the future.

It is a Region internationally recognised for its openness, trust and friendliness, and its

reputation as an innovative and emerging region built on its young, growing and educated population. It is lauded for being home to four world-leading universities, six modern high-performing super colleges and two top-ten institutions in the **Glasgow School of Art** and the **Royal Conservatoire of Scotland**. Glasgow is the only city in the UK outside of London to have two universities ranking in the top 40 nationally.

Amongst UK cities, Glasgow ranked first for producing the highest number of students and graduates in engineering and advanced manufacturing, which is why the Region is home to 3,000 manufacturing companies, including a broad spectrum of globally recognised companies from **BAE Systems** and **Rolls Royce** to **Merck Life Sciences** and **M Squared Lasers**.



The Region also has the highest employment levels in the Creative Industries sector in Scotland – which helped to attract one of Channel 4’s creative hubs and supported the spin-out of multi-award-winning animation and VFX studio Axis Studios and leading digital agencies, including **Screenmedia**, **After Digital**, **MadeBrave** and **Dog Digital**.

And these strengths are complemented by a Fintech ecosystem growing at an unprecedented rate, anchored by investment by JP Morgan, Morgan Stanley and most recently Barclay’s £400million Northern European Hub located on the banks of the river Clyde. This has supported the growth of companies like **BlackArrow**, **Previs** and **Bellrock Technology**.

In 2014, the eight local authorities which make up Glasgow City Region secured a £1.13 billion City Deal with both the UK and

Scottish Governments, allowing record investment in people and place. It has a highly skilled workforce of 1.2 million people, across a wide range of industries, and is well-connected globally, with access to two international airports, and nationally, by extensive rail and road infrastructure.

Its strength lies, in part, in the diverse economic base and unique strengths spread across its eight local authorities. The Region has gained global recognition for the strength and depth of its sector base in health technology, digital, financial, and business services, software and IT, energy transition and decarbonisation of transport, food and drink innovation and space. Together, they form a global destination for leading-edge businesses to contribute to the local economy by transforming their organisations and adding value to society.



Paisley town centre- Renfrewshire

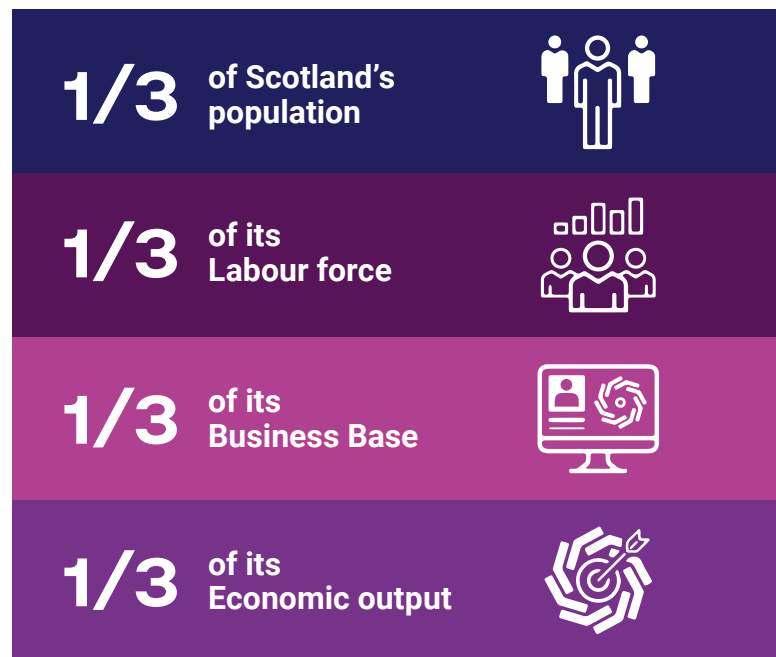
The friendly Glaswegian spirit, excellent work-life balance and affordability means Glasgow is increasingly seen as a “place to call home”, a “place to return to”, and a “place to rediscover what matters”. High-quality amenities and high levels of satisfaction make Glasgow one of the UK’s most cosmopolitan and family-friendly cities, which globally attracts the next generation of freelancers and remote workers seeking out high quality live-work-play experiences.

Glasgow City Region aims to have the most innovative, inclusive, and resilient economy in the UK by 2030. Like other major UK City Regions, it is working to unlock the potential of all its people, close the productivity gap and ensure that its future is sustainable. Raising the levels of R&D investment and building the innovation eco-system is central to that aim.

Glasgow City Region is an exciting and dynamic global hub that is embracing the opportunity to increase the share of

its citizens benefitting from economic prosperity. In building an economy for the 21st century, the Region seeks to address this mission to create opportunity and prosperity across all its communities.

**Glasgow City Region is Scotland’s metropolitan region.*
It is home to:**



*The numbers range from 28-34%

The Regions Attributes

One of the region's strengths is its diverse economic base - due in part, to the wide range of unique strengths spread across our eight Glasgow City Region member authorities.

Some of these strengths include:

West Dunbartonshire

- Manufacturing, financial, and insurance industries produce high economic output.
- High concentration of high-level occupations.
- Key organisations located in the area including Chivas and Aggreko.
- Home to the Golden Jubilee Hospital - which features world class centres for heart and lung services, orthopaedics, ophthalmology, and diagnostic imaging.

East Dunbartonshire

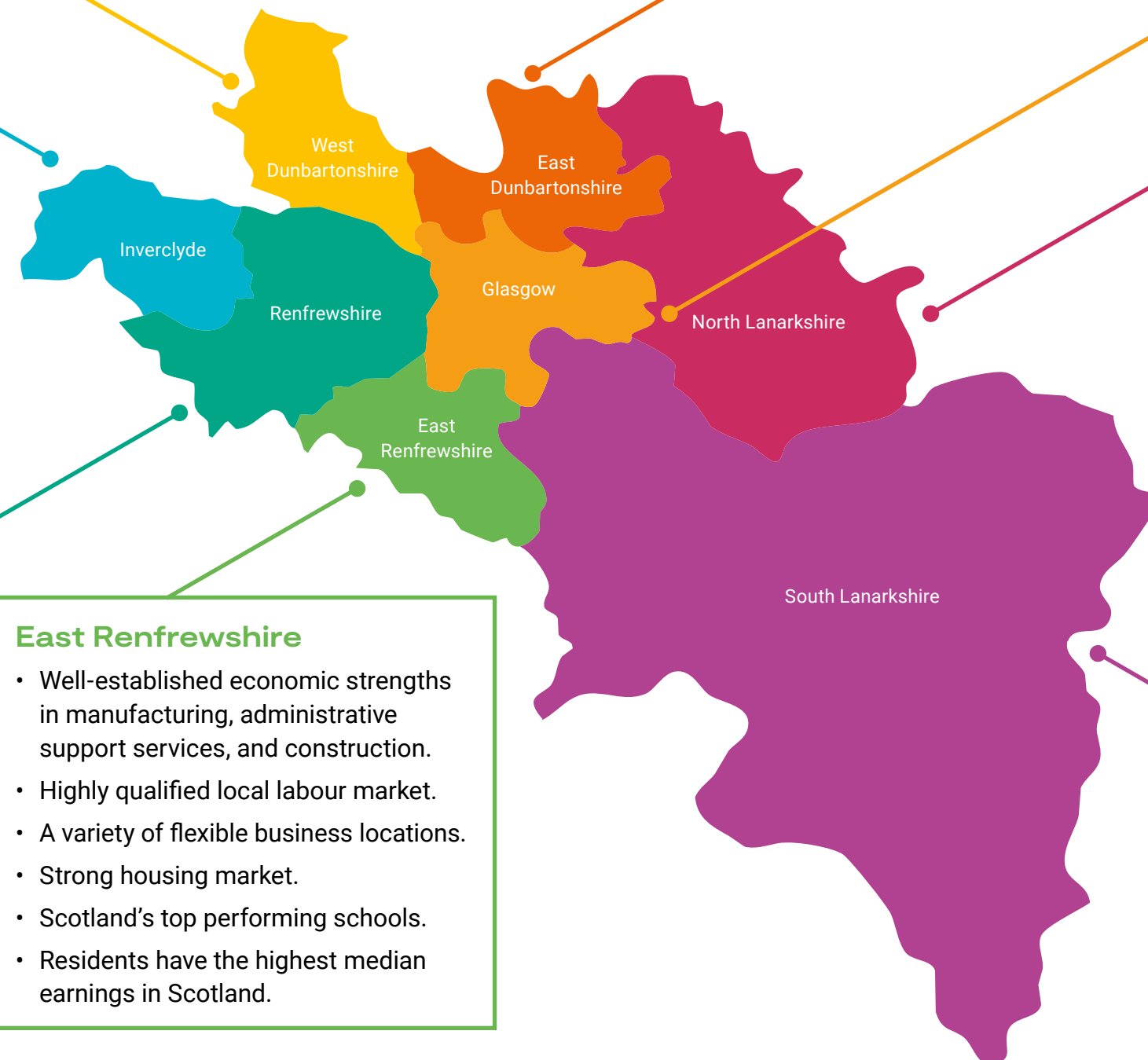
- Sustainable and resilient local economy.
- Vibrant town centres, business parks and enterprise centres.
- Tourism centres on an outstanding natural and historic environment.
- Home to some of the most desirable residential neighbourhoods in Scotland.
- Home to some of the highest earners in Scotland.
- Above-average life expectancy.

Glasgow

- Global leader in industries such as precision medicine, quantum technologies, and advanced manufacturing.
- Home to five world-class higher education facilities.
- Features a large business base.
- Recently ranked as one of the top green cities in the UK to work and live.
- Important tourism and culture destination.

Inverclyde

- A proud history in manufacturing and heavy engineering.
- Unique coastline.
- Riverside heritage.
- Deep water port which boosts the local leisure economy.
- City Deal infrastructure projects such as Inchgreen and Ocean Terminal helping to create long-term local employment opportunities and increasing economic production.



North Lanarkshire

- Home to the Region's most productive workforce (using GVA/hour worked).
- Strengths in human health and social work, manufacturing, and construction.
- Major growth within the local economy in digital connectivity and sustainability specialisms.
- Major rail freight hub.
- Great connectivity to the rest of Scotland via motorways.

Renfrewshire

- Plays a significant role in the Region's goods and services exporting economy.
- Long-standing strengths in retail, construction, transport and storage, and creative industries.
- Home to the Advanced Manufacturing Innovation District Scotland (AMIDS).
- Home to Glasgow Airport, Scotland's principal long-haul airport and largest charter hub.

East Renfrewshire

- Well-established economic strengths in manufacturing, administrative support services, and construction.
- Highly qualified local labour market.
- A variety of flexible business locations.
- Strong housing market.
- Scotland's top performing schools.
- Residents have the highest median earnings in Scotland.

South Lanarkshire

- A large and vibrant SME base.
- The local economy is ranked as having the highest proportion quality Jobs in Scotland.
- Key sectors of strength include information and communication, and professional, scientific and technical activities.
- Access to exceptional natural, cultural and historic sites.

Our Innovation History

Industry and innovation are part of Glasgow City Region's DNA. Ranging from James Watt's efficiencies to the steam engine that drove the industrial revolution, the development of antiseptic, the legacy of building and exporting Clyde-built ships and locomotives globally, and the foundations of the North British Locomotive Company.

World-leading innovation is the catalyst which propelled Glasgow to the global stage. Its story encompasses a proud past of industrial pre-eminence, a challenge to adjust to its loss, and a contemporary sense of renewed confidence in our capacity to build a better future.





Ashton Lane- Glasgow West End

Today, the communities that make up the Region build on that legacy of hope, optimism, and Glaswegian bravado. Leading to Glasgow being ranked as the second-best UK city for innovation outside of London, due to its strong start-up community, entrepreneurial spirit and excellent innovation infrastructure.

Glasgow City Region has an incredibly active and engaged set of partners ranging from its world-class universities to globally recognised companies and innovators. The Region has brought its strategic partners together to bring structure, support, and scale to the innovation mission which led to the first Innovation Districts in Scotland, arrayed along the banks of the River Clyde in an 'innovation corridor'. To date, almost £0.5 billion has been invested and/or committed to support the Innovation Districts across the Region. Innovation districts are dense urban clusters of hyper-connected

economic, academic, cultural, creative and entrepreneurial activity which influence the national economy as much as they support their immediate locality.

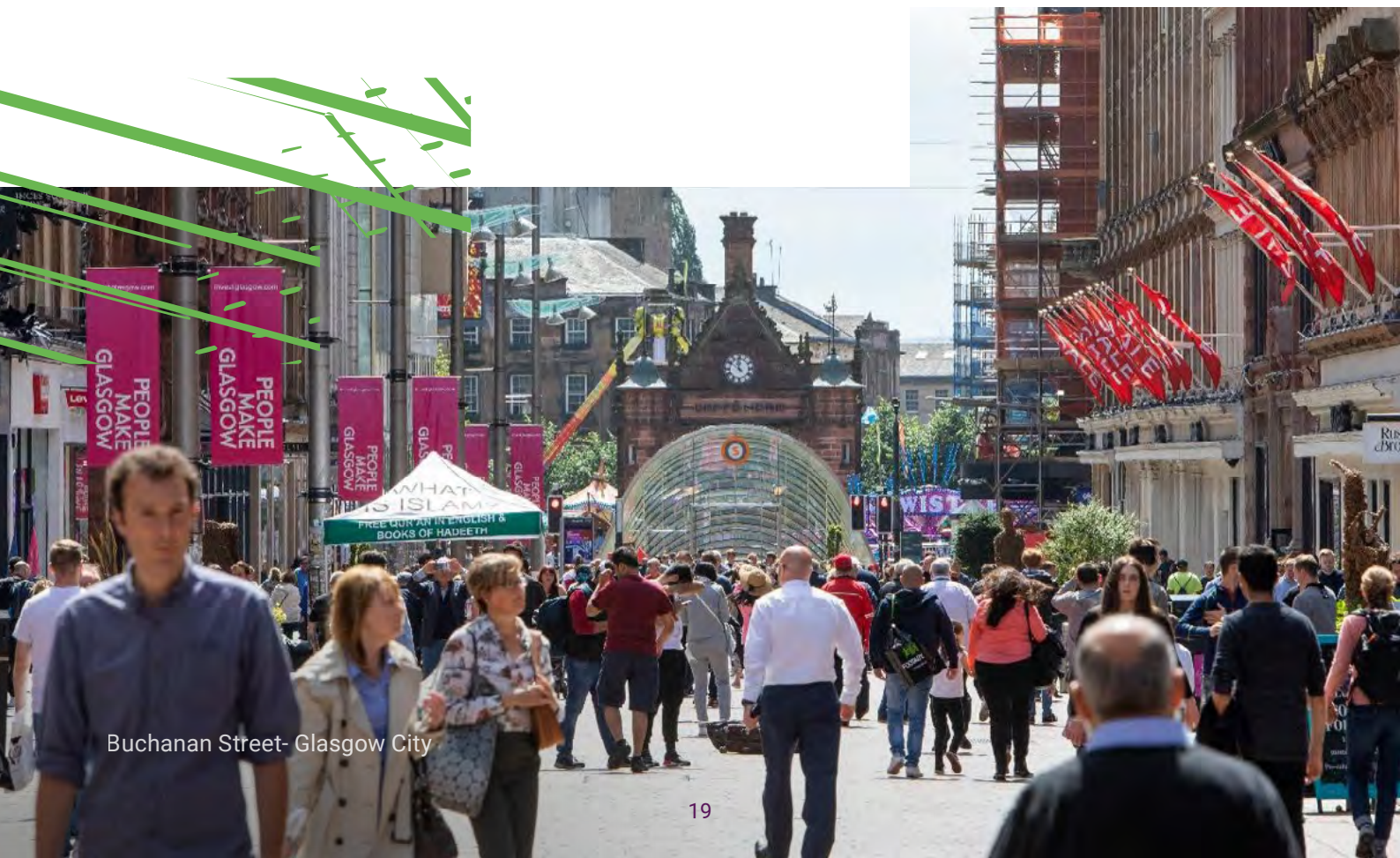
- **Glasgow City Innovation District (GCID)** launched in 2019 with the **University of Strathclyde** at its heart. It is a hub for entrepreneurship, innovation, and collaboration and builds on Scotland's rich tradition of scientific excellence and industrial collaboration.
- **Glasgow Riverside Innovation District (GRID)**, anchored by the **University of Glasgow**, is home to: (i) the world-leading **Clinical Innovation Zone** based around the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, one of the largest teaching hospitals in Europe, (ii) an emerging cultural quarter based around **Kelvingrove Museum and Art Gallery**, (iii) the **Scottish Events Campus** and (iv) the media hub at Pacific Quay, including STV and BBC national broadcasters.

- **Advanced Manufacturing District Scotland (AMIDS)** is an internationally recognised centre for innovation, research and manufacturing located next to Glasgow International Airport. AMIDS is led by Renfrewshire Council in partnership with Scottish Enterprise and the Scottish Government, with the University of Strathclyde as an anchor academic partner and the **National Manufacturing Institute of Scotland (NMIS)** at its hub. NMIS supports manufacturing, engineering, and associated technology businesses of all sizes - helping them to become more productive, tap into emerging markets, embrace new technologies and achieve net-zero targets. Also located within AMIDS is the **Medicines Manufacturing Innovation Centre (MMIC)**. The £88 million Centre brings world-leading science and technology expertise under one roof. A unique collaboration between technology innovation catalyst CPI

and 23 partner organisations to help accelerate state-of-the-art solutions to some of the biggest challenges in medicines development and manufacturing. Combined, AMIDS aims to be a major stimulus for the country's economy, skills development, and prosperous, sustainable, communities.

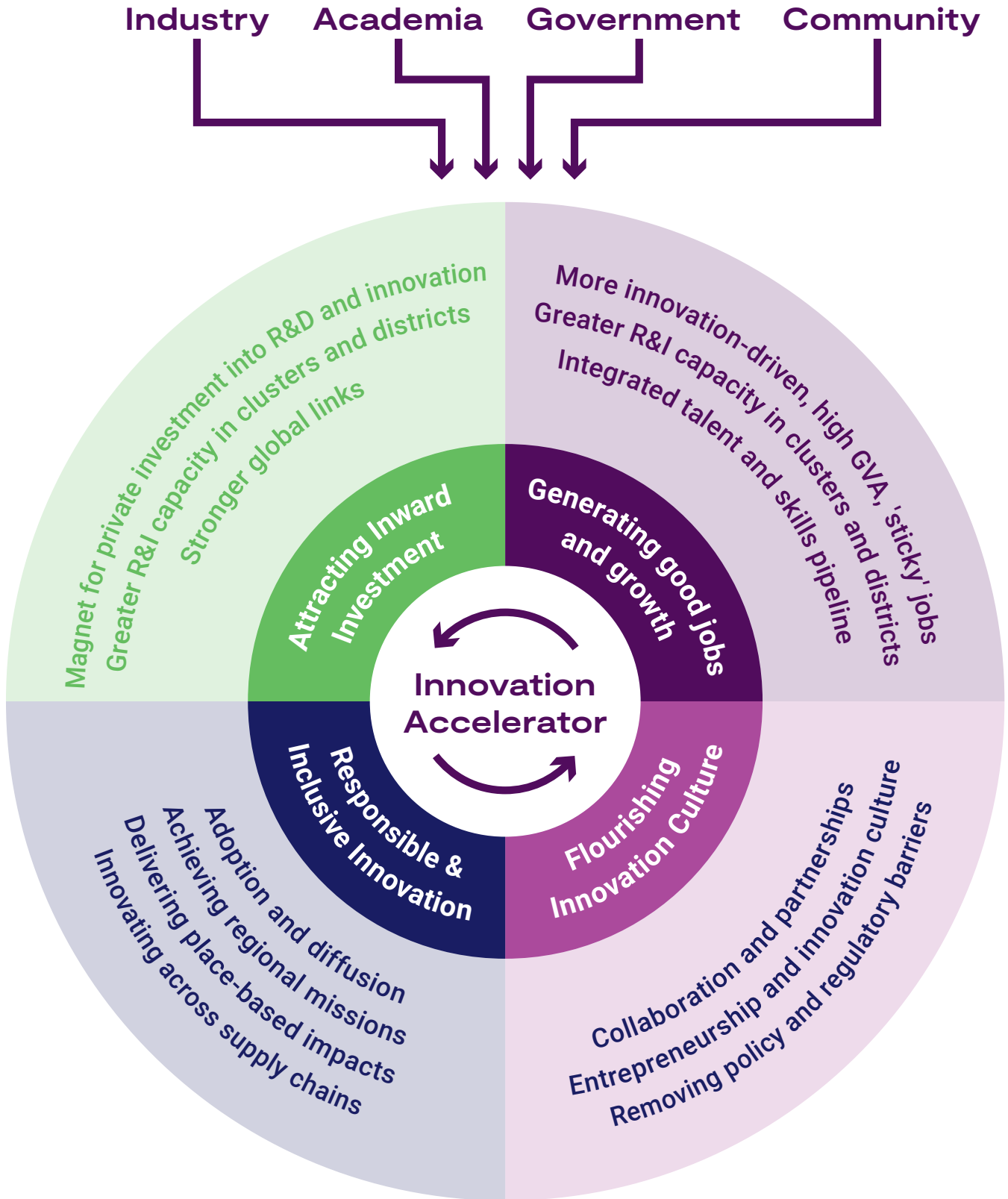
These districts act as powerful levers to support our innovation agenda, building communities of innovators and supporting the journey to commercialisation. And they have demonstrated enormous success in leveraging in additional private sector funding to new businesses, creating high-quality and well-paid jobs across the Region.

Glasgow City Region is also home to five innovation Centres, four Catapults and three Public Sector Research Establishments which support the transformation of great ideas into valuable products and services.



Buchanan Street- Glasgow City

Building an Innovation Powerhouse: Vision and Outcomes





Glasgow City Region Innovation Accelerator

Sensor Enabled
Automation Robotics and
Control Hub (SEARCH)-
University of Strathclyde

During 2022-23, the UK Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) announced the £100m Innovation Accelerator (IA) programme providing a boost across 3 city regions to grow jobs, skills, and the economy. With its delivery led by Innovate UK on behalf of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), the programme is pioneering a new model of R&D decision-making that empowers local leaders to harness innovation in support of regional economic growth. The Levelling Up White Paper named Glasgow City Region as one of the pre-selected Innovation Accelerator pilots, sharing an investment

of £100m over three years. This recognises the strength of the Region's assets, the maturity of its offer and the reputation that the City Region holds as a world-leader. Eleven ambitious projects spanning a range of our key sectors were selected by a local innovation partnership of business, public sector and academic institutions. Each of the projects involves a wide range of industry partners and is anchored by our two leading institutions: the Universities of Glasgow and Strathclyde. They encompass projects focused on new products, on new processes and on new enabling technology.

The Innovation Accelerator sends a clear signal that Glasgow City Region is of national and international significance. This backing is catalysing greater investment, creating high-value jobs across the entire Region, and ensuring that the Region continues to flourish. It will ensure that Glasgow realises its ambition to be Scotland's economic powerhouse and one of the most important centres of research, development, and innovation in the UK.

The programme has drawn on strong local assets and partnership working in the City Region and has led to further collaboration to develop this Regional Innovation Action Plan. This seeks to build on the momentum generated by the Glasgow City Region's approach to the Innovation Accelerator programme and to set a clear route map to unlock the significant innovation potential in the City Region to build a greener, healthier and more prosperous place.



Chemify, a University of Glasgow spin-out company, aims to revolutionise the field of chemistry through digitisation, speeding up the development of drugs and medicines by automating the process of designing new molecules and materials for partners.

Built upon 15 years of research from Professor Lee Cronin's Digital Chemistry group at the University of Glasgow, Chemify's platform consists of proprietary synthetic chemistry robotics, the largest and continuously growing database of validated chemical reactions, and AI-enabled tools for the design, manufacturing, and validation of molecules of unprecedented complexity.

Founded in 2019, Chemify plans to expand to more than 100 people within the next 12 months as it starts building

scalable pilot plants capable of becoming chemical 'giga factories' for the discovery and manufacture of trillions of chemicals on demand for use in pharmaceuticals, high value chemical manufacturing, new materials, farming, and green energy solutions. Chemify is already generating millions of pounds in revenue locally and is exploring the acquisition of facilities in Glasgow to continue its commercial expansion; training local R&D and manufacturing talent and attracting a global workforce to the Glasgow area.

In August 2023, Chemify announced it had raised over £33m in series A financing from US and Scotland based investors, building on investment through the Levelling Up Innovation Accelerator programme, aimed at helping transformative R&D projects to accelerate their growth and support new clusters of activity across the city region.

National Contribution to Regional Growth

Innovate UK and Scottish Enterprise have recognised the innovative capacity within the city region and have been committed to developing that capacity through support and investment in companies, innovation assets and strong partnership working.



Driving business innovation

National support for business is a combination of funding, expertise and connections that help business to achieve their ambitions to grow and internationalise.

Since 2020, Scottish Enterprise has supported businesses in the Glasgow City Region with £195 million of grant support. Annually, Scottish Enterprise manages circa 450 business accounts from high-growth

start-ups, SMEs and large businesses, and provides them with wrap around support to help them grow and explore new market opportunities. £49m has been invested in innovative early-stage companies through equity and loan finance. Scottish Development International also works closely with City Region Partners to secure inward investment for the Region – bringing



University of Strathclyde

significant scale to inward investment projects and jobs to the region annually.

In the five years since 2018/19, Innovate UK has invested £195 million into organisations and innovation infrastructure into Glasgow City Region, which is a hot spot in Scotland for Innovate UK funding.

£101 million of this, representing over half, has enabled national research and innovation infrastructure including the Advanced Forming Research Centre, part of the High Value Manufacturing Catapult, and the Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult.

In that same time period, more than £47 million of Innovate UK funding has gone directly to businesses in the City

Region. Plus over £46 million to academic and research organisations for supporting business innovation and strengthening the relationship between industry and academia. This is particularly important for SMEs who are less likely to have the research capability in-house and need external research organisations to help progress new ideas to commercialisation.

Innovate UK and Scottish Enterprise actively foster innovative businesses, facilitating their inception, expansion and access to global markets. Ensuring businesses receive the appropriate support to realise their aspirations and achieve sustainable growth remains paramount.

Innovate UK EDGE is Innovate UK's national business growth and scaling support service that accelerates its ambitious clients on their growth journeys with one-to-one support from 350+ innovation and growth specialists embedded in every UK region and nation. Its specialists' tailored advice helps over 8,000 clients per year realise the maximum value from their IP (Intellectual Property), raise game-changing investment and take their businesses onto the global stage.

Innovate UK EDGE's service in Scotland has been delivered in partnership with Scottish Enterprise since February 2023. Since the start of the 23/24 fiscal year, Innovate UK EDGE supported 37 companies within Glasgow City Region. Of which, many were successful in grant funding applications, with a total of over £250,000 being awarded. Additionally, support was secured for some of these companies to access the resources and facilities of Research and Technology Organisations and the Catapult network to help test and develop their new product ideas.



One of these businesses is **Infix Support**, a Scottish clinician-led software innovation company that has developed a suite of new products and services to address today's rapidly evolving healthcare needs. Infix was founded by consultant anaesthetist Dr. Matthew Freer in 2019, recognising that the current under use of NHS operating theatres could be optimised with a data-driven, patient-centred, digitally transformative solution.

The team at Innovate UK EDGE and Scottish Enterprise have provided support to Infix as they continue to grow. Testament to the wrap around nature of the coordinated approach, Infix's journey started with SMART funding, extending initial seed funding to develop the scheduling solution and continuing with

extensive innovation support, giving them the ability to build their second product. Innovate UK EDGE has helped Infix identify and secure several sources of external funding, helping them to build the skills and capacity which led to a £100k Scottish EDGE win. The company is growing organically through revenue generating contracts with the health service and is likely to seek external investment in the last quarter of 2024.

Dr. Freer, CEO and founder of Infix Support said, "I can safely say that without the support that Scottish Enterprise has given us, we would not be in the position that we are now. With people like (the team at Scottish Enterprise and Innovate UK EDGE) we have been given such good opportunities for ongoing support."

Infrastructure Investment



Innovate UK, Scottish Enterprise, Glasgow City Region and regional partners have invested in innovation infrastructure to support and scale innovative businesses. Working with Regional Partners has contributed to the creation of the Technology & Innovation Centre (TIC) at the University of Strathclyde. Developing the regions' assets helps to focus future development for existing regional strengths and to support entrepreneurs and innovators through the Smarter Things Accelerator and Tech Scaler.

Another key resource in fostering future development is the UK network of Catapults and Scottish Innovation centres. Catapults are physical centres with cutting-edge R&D infrastructures including hubs, laboratories, testbeds, factories and offices, as well as technical experts that prove and adopt breakthrough products, processes, services and technologies. By bridging

the gap between research and industry, catapults are taking an active role in removing industry-wide barriers to innovation and commercialisation. They manage innovation risks through the provision of R&D infrastructure, specialist knowledge and expertise, partnership and collaboration-building capabilities, and business support. There are nine Catapults with centres covering more than 50 locations across the UK, four of which are within Glasgow City Region:

- **High Value Manufacturing Catapult: NMIS**
- **High Value Manufacturing Catapult: CPI Glasgow**
- **Compound Semiconductor applications Catapult: Glasgow**
- **Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult: Glasgow**

High Value Manufacturing (HVM):

Two out of the Catapult's seven HVM centres have a presence in the Glasgow City Region through NMIS and the CPI which represents another major partnership investment of national partners into regional infrastructure.



The Scottish Government's commitment to manufacturing support drove the investment of £75m leading to the establishment of NMIS' world-class flagship facility which opened in June 2023 in Renfrewshire. During the 5-year period finishing in March 2023 the Advanced Forming Research Centre- a specialist centre within NMIS received over £95m in core funding from Innovate UK to support the development of national capability and the delivery of innovation support activities in Scotland.



CPI's £88m Medicines Manufacturing Innovation Centre is accelerating state-of-the-art solutions to some of the biggest challenges in medicines development and manufacturing. The centre is forecast to generate £200m in advanced technologies over the first five years and create over 100 high-value jobs.



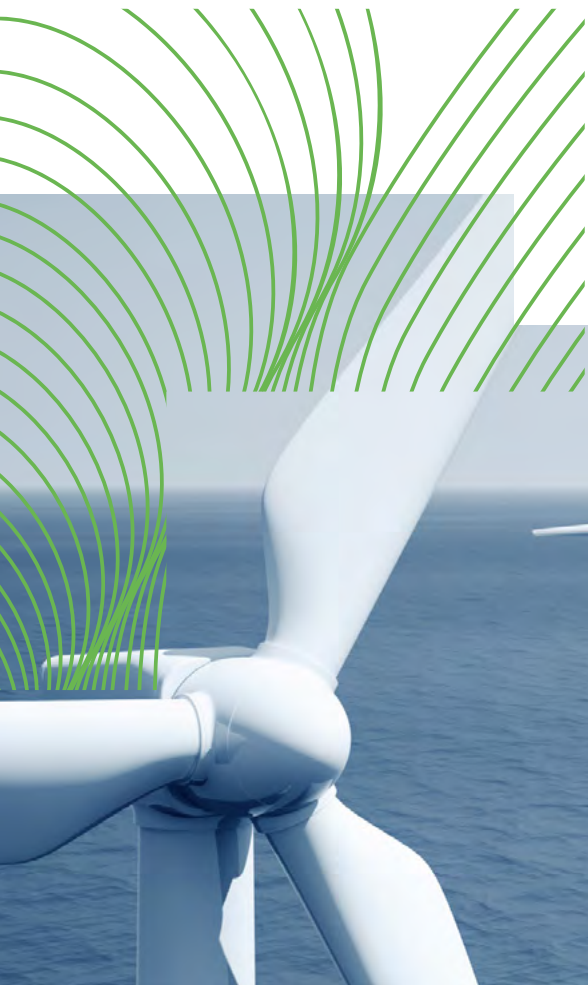
Stratellite: Transforming space and photonics manufacturing

Led by the Lightweight Manufacturing Centre, part of the National Manufacturing Institute Scotland, which is operated by the University of Strathclyde, Stratellite is an Innovation Accelerator Project which will develop a flexible space and photonics manufacturing facility in conjunction with the Glasgow site of Thales UK. The partnership will deliver a combined manufacturing engineering and testing facility, fully supported by a collaboration space that helps the workforce of today and tomorrow advance their skills in data-driven manufacturing. Companies in the space and photonics sectors will be further assisted by the development of a business and technical support programme. The project will promote the growth of the regional supply chain in these areas, and fund researchers' time to engage and develop capability projects to ensure the Glasgow City Region and Scotland's suppliers are leading the way in advanced, cost-effective manufacturing.

The **CSA Catapult** Scotland office, working in partnership with the University of Strathclyde and NMIS, will offer an improved design optimisation and manufacturing process for power electronics and packaging, with a specific focus on high power industries such as transport and energy. The work undertaken will focus on power module design and manufacturing scale-up processes, enabling seamless transitions from research to design to development and reducing the time for products and innovations to reach market.

The **ORE Catapult** chose Glasgow City Region for its headquarters in 2013 due to its formidable offshore energy resources, industrial capability and academic power. Located in the University of Strathclyde's Technology and Innovation Centre (TIC), it provides a base for over 100 engineers, analysts and technical specialists working across a rich portfolio of collaborative projects, together with the majority of ORE Catapult's leadership team.

ORE Catapult has an annual investment in Glasgow City Region's economy of £8.5 million, while their collaboration with the University of Strathclyde on cutting-edge research has delivered a further £500,000 over the past five years. Their engagement with universities extends to the provision of mentoring, internships, and graduate opportunities, whilst their wide-ranging initiatives across schools encourage hundreds of young people to consider STEM careers.





Whitelee Windfarm- East Renfrewshire/South Lanarkshire

With a mission to help UK innovators develop and commercialise their products, ORE Catapult supports multiple Glasgow City Region-based companies to create marketable solutions to offshore renewables challenges, attracting investment and creating high-skill technical jobs.

These include:



Synaptec developed game-changing cable failure technology via a year-long trial at ORE Catapult's Levenmouth Demonstration Turbine followed by a demonstration at the European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre in Aberdeen, enabled via an ORE Catapult-Vattenfall collaboration. This led to investment, UK and export commercial success, and a doubling of both its workforce and revenues.



Ilosta's first of a kind autonomous technology, providing an accurate 3D model of a wind turbine's structural health to identify defects and predict their extent, has been developed, validated, and commercialised with support from the Launch Academy and Offshore Wind Growth Partnership programmes delivered by ORE Catapult.



Advanced Research Centre - University of Glasgow

Innovative Places

Scottish Enterprise in partnership with other agencies seeks to improve Scotland's innovation performance and reputation to help make Scotland the leading innovation nation in the UK. It supports an integrated approach to delivery built around economic opportunities and the creation of innovative places across Scotland. Scottish Enterprise has been an active partner supporting the introduction of Innovation Districts into the Region's place-making agenda, with £92 million of support provided across multiple projects and interventions. This includes part funding roles, funding for infrastructure development and the utilisation of strategic sites. Scottish Enterprise will continue to work with and support the acceleration and delivery of the districts and increasing their reach to benefit more companies.

Smart City Development

Innovate UK's £24m Future Cities award, the largest single award in Scotland at the time, helped promote Glasgow's position as one of the leading smart and sustainable cities of the world, with a return on investment reaching over £144m to the benefit of local people and businesses. The project demonstrates how technology and data can create integrated digital public services that meet the changing needs of citizens, communities and businesses. Through community engagement, over 400 open datasets were established which are freely available to the public and can be used by anyone to create new and innovative solutions in the future. The use of data sets has allowed new products to be created resulting in jobs and revenue.

Aligned Support

Through collaborative effort, Innovate UK, Scottish Enterprise and others are working to enhance complementarity and connectivity of products and services offered within the innovation support landscape.

Innovate UK and Scottish Enterprise also provide wrap around business support to help companies to fully capitalise and commercialise innovation investments. Our work helps to ensure that companies are tapping into the right mix of products and services across providers to meet their innovation needs.

Innovate UK KTN has played a pivotal role in nurturing the innovation ecosystem

within the Glasgow City Region. It has formed numerous partnerships with the Region, participating in joint initiatives funding calls, scoping sessions and surgery sessions. Innovate UK KTN's sector experts consistently engage with companies, research institutions, public entities, and community-led organisations, supporting their innovation endeavours.

As part of the offer, Innovate UK KTN provide local support for Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTP). KTP connects

businesses with innovative ideas to research-based expertise, fostering projects that enhance competitiveness, productivity, and performance through the effective utilisation of knowledge, technology and skills. In the past 10 years, KTP has supported over 247 projects in Glasgow City Region.

The ongoing support to the National Manufacturing Institute of Scotland (NMIS) is a significant example of the collaborative, triple-helix partnership approach, that has come to symbolise Innovate UK and Scottish Enterprise's work in furthering innovation activity across the Region.



DEMOLA
Your contribution for
positive change

A partnership led by the **University of the West of Scotland** and including the City of Glasgow College and the University of Strathclyde, are adopting best practice from Finland to build an innovation ecosystem of businesses, public, third sector organisations and universities to increase the absorptive capacity for innovation in the Scottish economy.

The **Demola Scotland programme** brings together industry's most interesting questions about potential positive futures and teams of interdisciplinary students to come up with insights and possibilities to help industry achieve those positive futures.

The first cohort of projects began in May and the Centre for Engineering Education and Development, CENSIS, Glasgow City of Science and Innovation and Interface are

interested in supporting the innovations that come from the cohorts so that they can help them add value to the region's economy. There is also a partnership with **CONVERGE CHALLENGE** to create a pipeline for near market opportunities to commercialise.

The Demola programme will be key to inspiring entrepreneurship across the City Region and will be an integral part of achieving the vision within Scotland's National Innovation Strategy which states: "Our vision is for Scotland to rank alongside Denmark, Norway and Finland in being recognised as one of the most innovative small countries in the world. Innovation and the ecosystem of businesses, organisations universities and talent that promote and deliver it, will drive future national and regional economic success."

Current Strengths and Future Outlook

For Glasgow City Region to have the most innovative, inclusive, and resilient economy in the UK by 2030, the Region's key strengths must be exploited to maximise spillover effects and support prosperity in the wider economy.

Glasgow City Region's Intelligence Hub conducted a thorough analysis to consolidate the Region's key clusters and sectors. These are defined as sectors in which the Region has a competitive advantage, aligned with national priorities, and have the potential for further export growth. The evidence baseline utilised drew upon data from the Data City AI-driven platform¹, Dealroom investment data², HESA skills data and ONS (Office for National Statistics) data. To determine the sectoral strengths of Glasgow City Region, the analysis examined three ecosystems:

- **Business Ecosystem**
- **Investment Ecosystem**
- **Skills and Enabling Infrastructure Ecosystem**

The analysis of these ecosystems involved considering business count, business growth, productivity, funding, connection to UK and Scottish Government/ Scottish Enterprise investment initiatives, the number of foreign-owned firms, university graduates, graduate retention rates and research on the infrastructure assets that persist across the Region.

The analysis shows that Glasgow City Region demonstrates strengths in 38 emerging sectors; 21 horizontal (market) sectors and 17 vertical (enabling technology) sectors. The sectoral strengths were grouped into 9 broad cluster groups based on sectoral

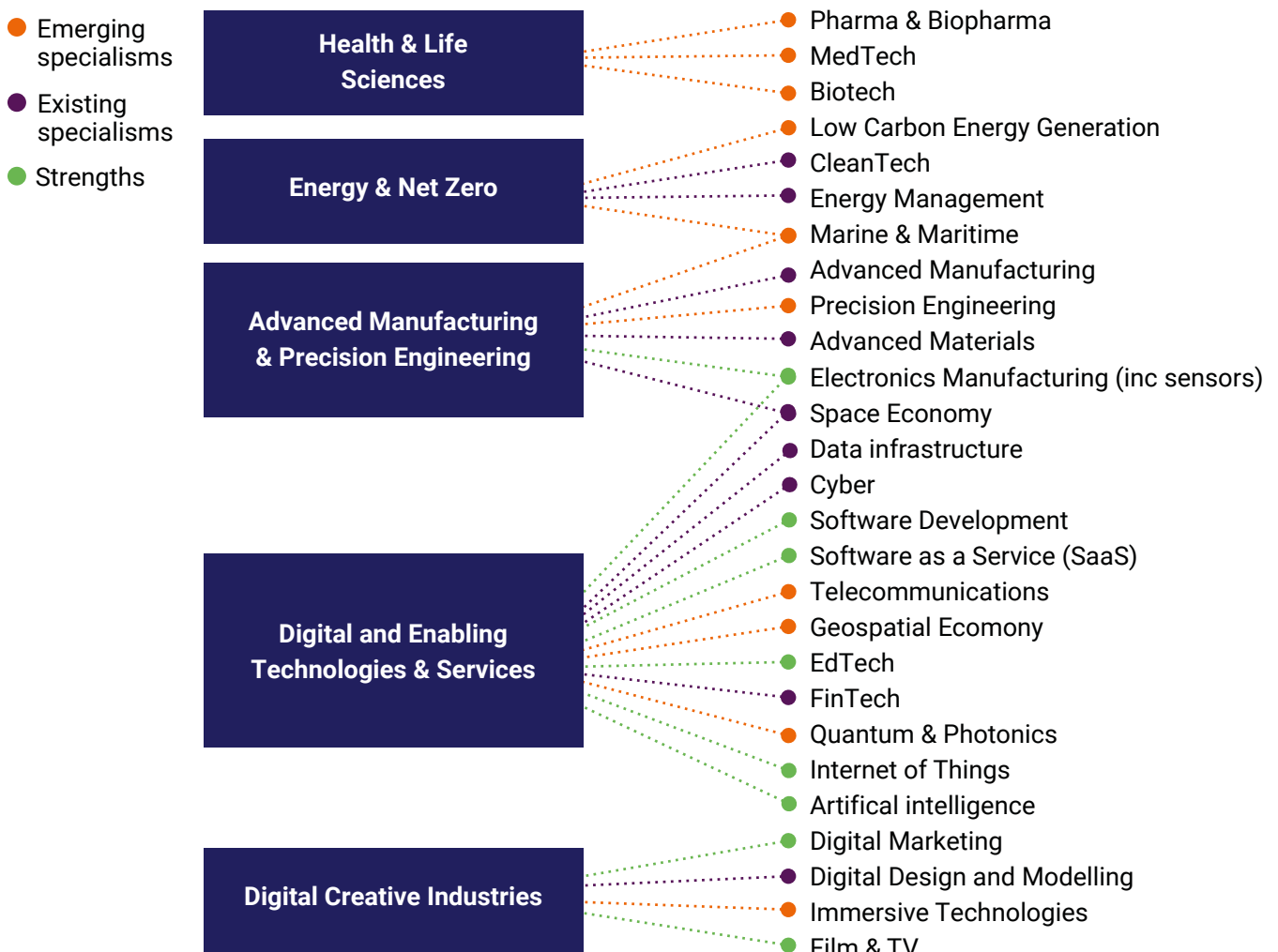
relatedness analysis. A bottom-up firm-level review has then led to further refinement of initial subsectors and identification of five priority clusters, and associated sectors as illustrated in the graph below. The analysis identifies two categories of specialisms for Glasgow City Region: existing specialisms and emerging specialisms.

- 1 thedatacity.com/blog/introducing-our-company-innovation-measure/#:~:text=Making%20the%20innovation%20score%20available%20to%20you.&text=Zero%20stars%20mean%20that%20we,60%25%20to%20over%2090%25
- 2 glasgow.dealroom.co/intro?applyDefaultFilters=true

Due to the nature of the analysis, 'key' sectors will evolve over time. Publication of the clusters analysis is forthcoming and readers should access [this weblink](#) to keep up to date with this work.

The 5 broad cluster groups identified are:

- **Health and Life Sciences**
- **Energy and Net Zero**
- **Digital Creative Industries**
- **Advanced Manufacturing and Precision engineering**
- **Digital and Enabling Technologies and Services**





Health and Life Sciences

Queen Elizabeth University Hospital

Glasgow City Region has a thriving Health and Life Sciences cluster. Since 2020, the Life Sciences cluster has received over £59m in private sector investment. Alongside this, significant investment has come to the sector through the Industrial Centre for Artificial Intelligence Research in Digital diagnostics (**ICAIRD**) and targeted investment in the **Imaging Centre of Excellence (ICE)** to drive the next generation of health imaging and diagnostics.

The cluster includes Queen Elizabeth University Hospital which is the largest

critical care complex in Western Europe and includes specialisations in renal medicine, transplantation, and vascular surgery. Glasgow City Region has established itself as a global leader and business-friendly hub for precision medicine and imaging, with the prestigious University of Glasgow playing a significant role in this achievement.

The Health and Life Sciences cluster has strengths in areas such as biomedical research, drug discovery, medical technology, and healthcare innovation. The most innovative companies across Pharma/



University of the West of Scotland Student

BioPharma, MedTech and Biotech include **Aurum Biosciences, Bioclavis, Aridhia Informatics, Orion Health, OhMedics, Intelligence Clinical, Communicare247, DxCover, InnoScot, Sartorius, Antibody Analytics** and **TC Biopharm**.

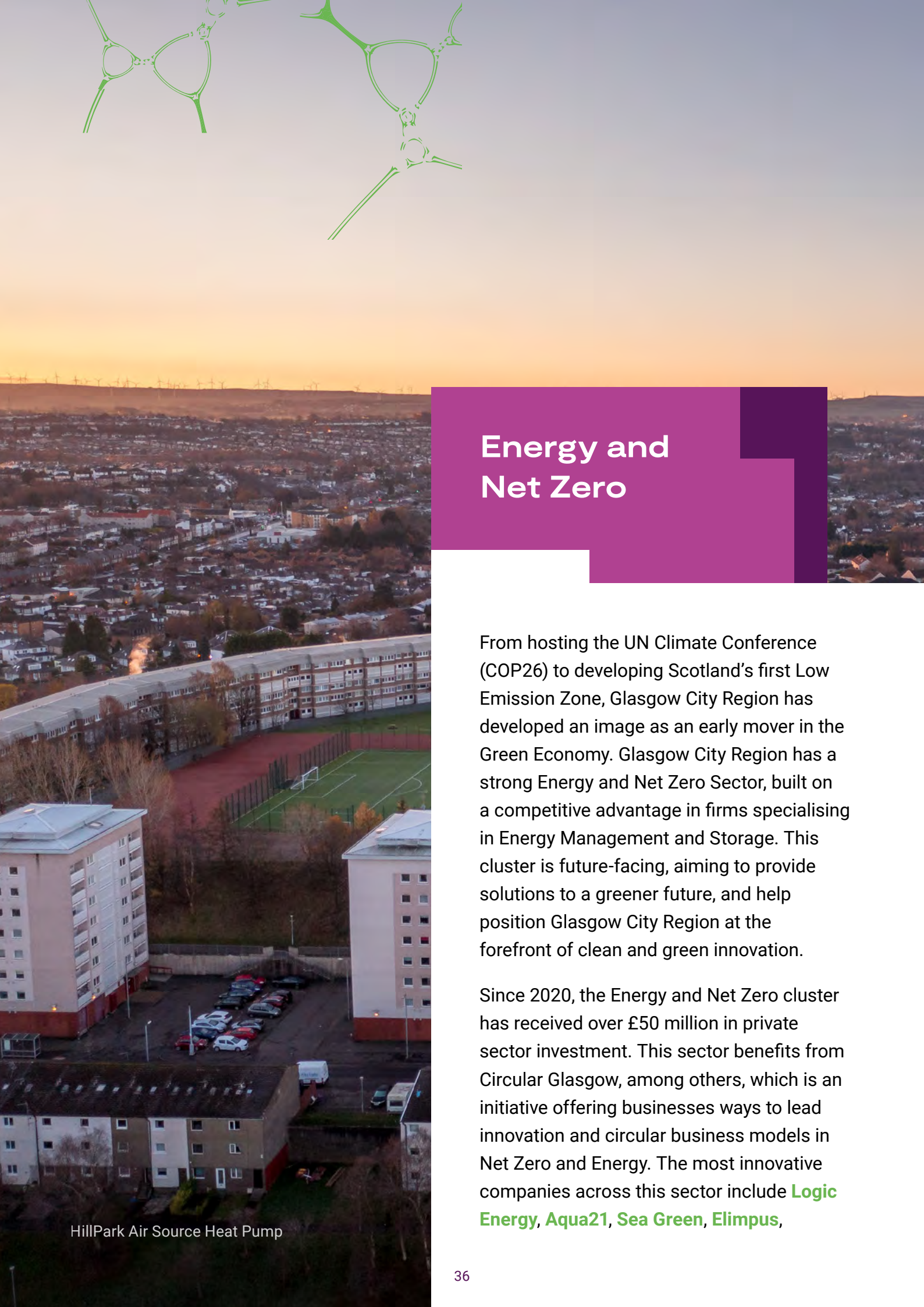
A strong network of physical infrastructure supports the businesses in the Life Sciences cluster including: the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, the **Precision Medicine Innovation Centre, CENSIS, Wolfson Centre** and the **Clinical Innovation Zone**.

Frog Systems accelerate the development of a pioneering mental health and wellbeing platform

Frog Systems has begun a quarter of a million-pound project with the University of the West of Scotland (UWS) to use Artificial Intelligence and advanced data science techniques to accelerate the development of its pioneering mental health and wellbeing platform. The 30-month project is part of a Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) funded by UKRI through Innovate UK.

Frog Systems' unique online platform showcases videos of people sharing their life experiences to direct users to support services. Over the next two and a half years, UWS will help Frog Systems develop its content streaming capabilities through an intelligent recommendations engine and dynamic video content delivery process.

Dr Stuart McKay, Senior KTP Manager at UWS, said, "As an employer committed to the health and wellbeing of our staff and students, Frog Systems' message is one that resonates with us. Our award-winning AI and Machine Learning knowledge are being applied to develop the next generation of Frog Systems' wellness software platform; streamlining both content production and service delivery, providing greater insight for platform adopters and, critically, an enhanced end-user experience."



Energy and Net Zero

From hosting the UN Climate Conference (COP26) to developing Scotland's first Low Emission Zone, Glasgow City Region has developed an image as an early mover in the Green Economy. Glasgow City Region has a strong Energy and Net Zero Sector, built on a competitive advantage in firms specialising in Energy Management and Storage. This cluster is future-facing, aiming to provide solutions to a greener future, and help position Glasgow City Region at the forefront of clean and green innovation.

Since 2020, the Energy and Net Zero cluster has received over £50 million in private sector investment. This sector benefits from Circular Glasgow, among others, which is an initiative offering businesses ways to lead innovation and circular business models in Net Zero and Energy. The most innovative companies across this sector include **Logic Energy, Aqua21, Sea Green, Elimpus,**



Glasgow City Centre

So Energy, Flex Marine Power, Rekkrecycling and Smarter Grid Solutions.

Glasgow City Region has several assets enabling this sector including: the **Power Network Demonstration Centre** - a research and testing environment helping regional innovation in energy systems. Glasgow City Innovation District exemplifies the Region's goals by leading an ambitious project to be a 100% renewable, climate neutral and climate resilient area within the district. The project aims to integrate heat, power, transport, climate adaptation and wellbeing solutions that will benefit everyone within the area of the Innovation District. ORE Catapult is a key Glasgow-based technology organisation, well connected not only in the UK but in many countries globally and provides a unique offering for many companies in addressing the energy transition and developing or deploying new technology.



Statkraft: Europe's largest generator of renewable energy

In September 2023, Statkraft launched its new sustainable Scottish headquarters in Glasgow located in the heart of the Glasgow City Innovation District, and announced a new strategic partnership with the University of Strathclyde to help develop Scotland's future talent and accelerate the growth of the renewables sector.

Iain Robertson, Head of Statkraft Scotland, said: "Scotland is already seen as a leading centre for renewable development. But physical infrastructure needs people with the skills to build it. That's why we are very pleased to be joining forces with the University of Strathclyde, to foster research and collaboration, to help develop the next generation of talent, and ensure Scotland continues to lead the way in renewables."



Museums in the Metaverse Project

Digital Creative Industries

Glasgow City Region has key strengths in the Digital Creative Industries cluster such as Film and TV and Digital Marketing. Both BBC Scotland and STV have located their headquarters at Pacific Quay on the River Clyde. The cluster has already benefited from the reinvention of workspaces to co-working spaces like **The Garment Factory**, **Skypark** and **Clockwise**. These creative hubs are offering spaces for creatives to utilise groundbreaking technology to innovate

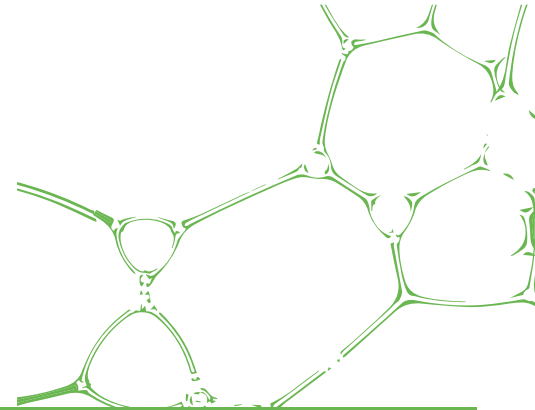
collaboratively through the digital and creative industry, exemplified by Channel 4 choosing to locate one of two creative hubs in The Garment Factory.

The School of Simulation and Visualisation at the Glasgow School of Art looks at innovative ways of using 3D visualisation and interactive technologies. Its studios are regularly used by production companies, and industrial clients for sound dubbing and 3D

data capture. **BBC Studioworks** also launched a purpose-built studio in the heart of the West End which offers spot bookings for a range of media and is supporting investment in local talent through training programmes.

The cluster's strengths include advertising, immersive technologies, digital design and modelling technologies and entertainment and performing arts. The most innovative companies across this sector include: **Efomi, Thrive Digital, Add Studios, Hopscotch Film, Axis Studios, Aconite Productions, BBC Studios, and Prop360.**

Glasgow's Innovation Districts enable this sector by bringing together researchers and technology, with creative, to help bring about collaboration in innovation for instance with Glasgow City Innovation District housing **Tangent Graphic** and **ISO Design** which offer a globally marketable service from Glasgow City Region.



Museums in the Metaverse

Museums in the Metaverse is an ambitious new £5.6 million project to develop Virtual Reality museums, funded by the UK Government's Innovation Accelerator programme. The project builds on Scotland's reputation for cultural regeneration and innovation by creating a ground-breaking Extended Reality (XR) Culture and Heritage platform.

One side of the platform is for visitors to gain access to a rich array of museums, sites, objects, and novel and dynamic experiences. The other is for virtual curators to build enriching and entertaining storytelling using objects and virtual environments that have never been placed together in the real world.

The project will empower online visitors to explore vast cultural assets in engaging new ways; enable expert

and novice curators to create new content; and explore models of use to support sustainable economic and cultural growth.

It will harness the University of Glasgow's global reputation for research in digital cultural heritage and XR, together with key cultural heritage and immersive technology partners, to develop an innovative solution to constraints that can limit physical museum exhibitions to less than 10% of the objects held in collections, and limit audience reach by cost, distance, and accessibility.

The University of Glasgow, together with leading immersive learning platform Edify, Historic Environment Scotland, National Museums Scotland and The Hunterian, hopes to unleash the potential of traditional museums to allow visitors to experience collections in a new and exciting virtual world.

Advanced Manufacturing and Precision Engineering



Glasgow City Region boasts a top-tier advanced manufacturing and precision engineering ecosystem. This cluster has strengths in a range of specialist sectors including Satellite Manufacturing, Electronics Manufacturing and Shipbuilding and Marine Energy. AMIDS includes:

- **The Lightweight Manufacturing Centre.**
- HVM Catapult's National Manufacturing Institute Scotland
- Advanced Forming Research Centre.
- Medicines Manufacturing Innovation Centre (MMIC)

The MMIC brings world-leading science and technology expertise under one roof to help accelerate state-of-the-art solutions to some of the biggest challenges in medicines development and manufacturing.

The most innovative companies across this sector include **Prestige Fabrications, Red Rock Automation, Analog Devices, Sanmina-sci, Chemco International, Dumbarton Precision Engineering, Hollingsworth Precision Engineering, GenusWave, BAE Systems, Spire Global** and **Craft Prospect**.

Glasgow is a thriving centre for world-class companies involved in the space industry and makes more small satellites than anywhere in the world outside California.

Since 2020, the Advanced Manufacturing and Precision Engineering cluster has received over £87 million in private investment. Glasgow's universities have long been a hub for driving innovation in the advanced manufacturing sector with the University of Glasgow's **James Watt School of Engineering** delivering a world-class engineering education for more than 150 years and now running a bespoke course on Advanced Manufacturing. The University of Strathclyde's **Faculty of Engineering** is one of the largest in the UK and offers a non-traditional pathway to an engineering degree through the Engineering Academy. Glasgow Caledonian University's **School of Computing, Engineering and Built Environment** has an excellent reputation with its Howden Academy combining specialist engineering skills with teaching expertise and world-class learning facilities.



National Manufacturing Institute Scotland - Renfrewshire

The Critical Technologies Accelerator: Design and Prototyping across Photonics, Semiconductors and Quantum

Huge growth is predicted for the photonics and quantum markets over the coming decades. The Critical Technologies Accelerator programme aims to build an engineering capability, led by the University of Glasgow's **James Watt Nanofabrication Centre (JWNC)**, to design and prototype devices across several critical technologies. It will appoint design, manufacturing and test engineers to build on the embedded expertise and skill of the JWNC alongside senior University of Glasgow researchers, and enable industry to deliver innovative products that open up new markets.

The project provides a critical mass of resource and expertise to take on projects that are too risky for any one company to invest in alone, opening up

volume market opportunities and helping local companies achieve faster growth in sales, exports and high value jobs.

This Critical Technologies Accelerator will partner with several key industrial organisations to deliver 5 specific projects identified by the local cluster, each addressing applications and sectors with huge growth potential. The funding creates a Centre with a management and engineering structure designed for long term sustainability.

The Critical Technologies Accelerator would act as a front door for global industry to engage with UK quantum expertise and position Glasgow as a world leader in quantum technology, serving as a beacon for further inward investment into the region.



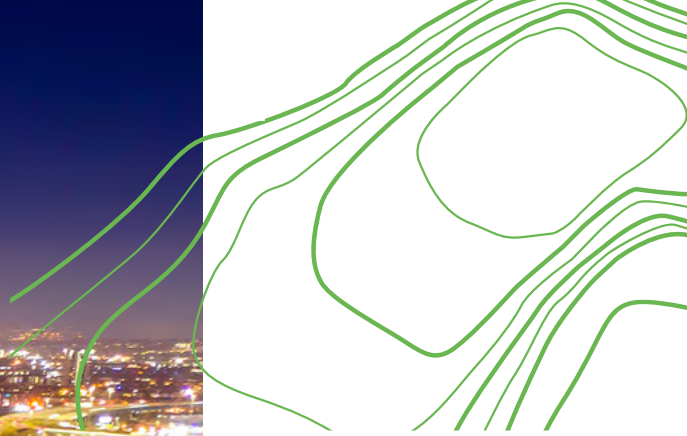
Digital and Enabling Technologies and services

Glasgow is ranked as a top 10 UK digital tech city. The Region stands out as a top UK investment location for multinationals and tech startups in the areas of: fintech, data science, software engineering, the 'internet of things', digital media, and cloud computing. Glasgow's transformation to a leading digital tech cluster is highlighted by the reinvention of traditional locations now providing a home to a new breed of tech start-ups. These incubator and co-working spaces include **Rookie Oven**, **The Whisky Bond** and **Collabor8te**.

Since 2020, the Digital and Enabling Technologies and Services cluster has received over £247 million in private sector investment. Glasgow produces the highest number of digital tech graduates from the largest student base of all the UK's Core Cities. **The University of Glasgow** is one of the UK's top-ten universities for Computer Science and is home to the **Urban Big Data Centre**, a research centre, and national data service. Glasgow Caledonian University has partnered with **IBM** and **CGI** to offer work-based programmes.



Glasgow Science Centre and Media Quarter



Krucial: Space Technology to provide digital solutions.

Krucial, founded by space experts Allan Cannon and Kevin Quillien, provides digital solutions that enable access to mission-critical data for industries with remote and hard-to-reach assets. Using a combination of state-of-the-art satellite and cellular technology combined with internet of things (IoT) devices and cloud services, it offers a full end-to-end digital infrastructure to connect operations from anywhere on earth.

Co-founder and CEO Allan Cannon said: "We know that tackling the most important issues of our time – from climate change to food security – requires innovative thinking and big ideas. This latest investment will unlock a host of new opportunities both in the UK and internationally in the \$400 billion enterprise Internet of Things market. While we're a Scottish-based company, we're global in outlook, and are aware of just how excited international partners are by our solution."

Each of the Region's Higher Education institutions has active university accelerator and incubator programmes which have supported the growth and creation of start-up and spin-out businesses. The most innovative companies across this sector include: **Encompass, Asura, Security Circle, Pelion, Vectors Photonics, Kelvin Nanotechnology, Data Clinic** and **Xeretec**.

Aligning Ambitions

Core areas and actions

In partnership, we are working to deliver our shared vision that Glasgow City Region will be one of the most innovative places in the UK, where all communities and businesses benefit from the opportunities that brings. Underpinning that vision is a commitment that the actions taken are in pursuit of an inclusive and sustainable economy.

Glasgow City Region has tremendous strengths in existing assets and a collective history of support for the innovation agenda. We will build on this to unlock greater prosperity for all who live and work in the Region.

Success will be determined by strong collaborative working across partners and sectors. It is for that reason that the Regional Planning Group has worked collectively to develop core action areas and priorities. This plan is not owned by any one institution or body. It is owned in collaboration and by those who contributed to it.

Our plan sets out six key areas in which we will concentrate our efforts and create the enabling conditions for future prosperity: Ecosystem, Identity, Skills, Inclusive Growth, Investment, and Infrastructure. Within each category, we set out several actions.



Our Vision

Glasgow City region will be one of the most innovative city regions in the UK, where all our communities and businesses benefit from the opportunity that brings.

Key Areas of Development



Ecosystem

Innovators are part of a thriving, vibrant, and world-leading ecosystem

Glasgow City Region has already demonstrated the strength of its connections between industry, Further and Higher Education and civic society. These connections are not incidental. They are the result of deliberate action to maximise our potential.

Peer-to-peer learning and a sense of community is key to supporting the commercialisation journey. It provides a forum to share challenges, and solutions, while working to break down perceived 'silos' between technologies, geographies, or people.





View west from University of Glasgow

We will grow our innovation ecosystem so that it supports a globally competitive business community and is tailored to sectoral needs.

To do this, we will:

- Improve the journey for businesses, by working with central Governments and external partners, to better join up the innovation support available across the Region and develop a clear route-map to what is on offer.
- Grow our specialist business advisory support service and align to scaling up key Glasgow City Region market and technology sectors.
- Provide an Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) education programme for all businesses that secure innovation funding.
- Enrich the mapping of the Region's innovation ecosystem to understand strengths and areas of improvement.
- Maximise the benefits of university expertise to drive spin outs, start up and knowledge transfer to existing companies by working towards a collective KT protocol/response.
- Enable more effective targeted support by ensuring all partners work together to access the right data, at the right level, at the right time.
- Regularly bring together local industry to focus on removing barriers, embracing opportunities, and ensuring a strong, business-led approach to innovation and sustainable growth.



Identity

River Clyde- Glasgow City

Our City Region is recognised as a world-leading place in which to live, work and innovate.

Glasgow City Region stands on its own two feet internationally. The Region was chosen to host COP26 in 2021 and the inaugural Cycling World Championships more recently in 2023 thanks to our international reputation. A strong emphasis on being a vibrant place and a cultural focal point continues to attract people from around the world to visit and relocate here.

Glasgow is the only city in the UK, outside of London, to have two universities ranking in the top 40 globally. Subsequently, all our universities have major global reach – attracting students from around the world. These strengths are why world-leading companies continue to seek out Glasgow and establish themselves here.

By bringing partners together, our global identity can be greater than the sum of its parts. Our innovation offer sets us apart from our competitors. It reflects successes in business and amongst our community of innovators to add further innovation and investment to our story.



We will amplify our distinctive innovation identity and vision through further promotion of our ambition, our strengths and everything that our Region has to offer.

To do this, we will:

- Align existing marketing and communication activity across the Region by developing a sustained, Regional resource for marketing and promotion and a plan to 'sell' our distinctive innovation vision.
- Build upon and evolve our distinctive innovation identity by considering learnings from comparator city regions across the UK and globally.
- Build on the success of previous events by attracting and developing nationally and globally significant conferences, events, and market square activity into the Region.
- Boost local confidence in our innovation prowess by creatively showcasing our innovation offer in the public realm, such as in transport hubs.
- Embed Innovation activity and success into Glasgow City Region promotion activity.

Skills

Our talent base is growing and empowered

Glasgow City Region has one of the most skilled populations in the UK and is growing at pace. We are ranked number one of the UK's Core Cities for the number of both students and graduates in engineering and advanced manufacturing. Over 40% of our residents are educated to degree level, the second highest across the UK's Core Cities, and the highest percentage of people in quality jobs, compared to other UK regions. A record 51% of our graduates choose to live and work in Glasgow City after graduating, and we continue to attract new talent from around the world because of our globally recognised high quality of living.

Our business partners tell us that global competition for talent is a defining feature of growth in the innovation system, and that our skill base must better match the skills that will be in demand in our emerging sectors. And we know that start-ups are a crucial component of success and driving future growth. The vibrancy and assets of Glasgow City Region represents an opportunity to both attract more talent and further nurture the skill base, especially recognising the role that our strong College offer can play in providing the technical expertise needed to unlock innovation.



Glasgow City Innovation District- Chemistry Lab

We will utilise our existing assets and their strengths to realise the opportunities we have, to attract, train, and retain our talent across the Region and beyond to address current and future innovation skills needs.

To do this, we will:

- Attract and bring together top talent in key sectors through developing for example, a 'Glasgow Innovation Fellowship', learning from the Horizon-supported Prestige Fellowships.
- Work across the ecosystem to improve the provision of skills development programmes for founders and entrepreneurs for technology and innovation start-ups.



University of the West of Scotland

- Develop our Innovation Skills for Growth Action Plan to tackle skills needs of existing and emerging clusters.
- Work with further and higher education institutions to ensure there is the capacity to meet the skills and training needs now and in the future, encompassing technical and academic skillsets.
- Develop and implement a Regional talent attraction strategy with dedicated support to help address immediate skill gaps.



Glasgow Kelvin College



Glasgow Tech Fest- April 2023

Inclusive Economy

Prosperity is shared equitably across all our communities and businesses.

Building an economy that is inclusive and sustainable is key to Glasgow City Region's work. As we reshape our economy to take advantage of the opportunities of the next industrial revolution, inclusivity and sustainability are two key principles that drive all our actions.

Different communities can face unique barriers to their participation in our innovation story, and many start-ups lack

the time and expertise to embed meaningful environmental and equality practices from the outset. Civic innovation practices allow diverse voices and solutions to be valued in tackling the key challenges facing Glasgow City Region, prompting further social innovation across the Region. Our work with the prestigious Bloomberg Foundation demonstrates the value and opportunity of ensuring that all communities are empowered to participate in our innovation economy.

Addressing these imbalances will allow all our communities to flourish. Throughout our innovation mission, **we will further our inclusive approach to Regional growth by ensuring that more people and businesses in the Region participate in, and benefit from, innovation activity.**

To do this, we will:

- Develop our network of Enterprise Hubs in underserved areas across the Region to support entrepreneurship education for underrepresented communities.
- Nurture a testbed for the adoption and diffusion of new technologies within businesses to improve productivity.
- Engage directly with underserved communities, to better understand and overcome the systemic barriers they may face when developing entrepreneurship and enterprise.
- Empower our diverse communities through further co-design opportunities within our innovation activity and scaling our civic innovation approach.
- Ensure all geographies across the Region are connected to, benefit from and add value to our innovation activity.
- Establish the Region as a test bed for social innovation and encourage greater participation in the innovation economy.



Investment

Greater funding and investment is attracted to the Region by our strong innovation offer.

Glasgow City Region frequently attracts global investment, with foreign direct investment (FDI) amongst the highest in the UK. We are one of the top three fastest-growing tech investment hubs in the UK, and have been repeatedly bolstered by Government investment, including the most recent £33 million Innovation Accelerator programme.

By co-ordinating our efforts at a Regional level, we can better support business investment needs, ensure that companies do not fall through the gaps, and secure sustained and diverse sources of funding.





We will work to increase the breadth and level of funding and investment coming into the Region in a targeted and sustainable way.

To do this, we will:

- Develop an investor roadmap to steer investment opportunities and maximise the impact of that investment for early-stage companies, scale up activities and innovation infrastructure.
- Evaluate current capital sources and funding to identify gaps and where investment can be best targeted.
- Ensure that industry sectors are supported through further infrastructure investment and development, and actively explore the potential and opportunities of business cases.
- Create a clear and persuasive 'pitch book' for potential investors into the Region.
- Explore the opportunities that come with our Investment Zone status to direct investment and innovation activity towards the development of underutilised land.
- Build pitch training into our business support offer.



Infrastructure

Our vibrant places nurture and drive innovation

Glasgow's 'innovation corridor' arrayed along the banks of the River Clyde represents an innovation platform that is of Scottish, UK and international significance. Our Innovation Districts act as powerful levers to enhance and grow innovation and have demonstrated an ability to leverage significant private investment, creating high-quality and well-paid jobs across the Region. Our national and international connectivity, as well as our status as a UK digital infrastructure leader, means that we

have strong foundations to support further growth and investment. Glasgow City Region continues to attract attention and investment to support our innovation infrastructure, with a pipeline of new development to meet growing demand.

Our infrastructure must act as a catalyst for growth, addressing the spatial and demographic imbalances we see, and match the scale of our ambitions. We will actively foster a culture of creativity and experimentation, that is tolerant of risk, to support businesses and innovators in their journey to commercialisation.



We will scale up our innovation strengths and infrastructure so that we have more places to innovate and to grow, and a culture to enable this.

To do this, we will:

- Map out and identify the innovation infrastructure needed to develop the Region's existing and emerging sectors to ensure places to innovate and scale up.
- Maximise the potential and expand the reach of the existing Innovation Districts to build on cross-sectoral growth opportunities.
- Work, particularly with public and private sector partners, to map the availability, affordability, and demand of workspaces to ensure they meet the needs of existing entrepreneurs and innovators in our emerging sectors.
- Inspire and cultivate a culture of entrepreneurship across tertiary education institutions by fostering a network of **Entrepreneurial Campuses** throughout the Region.
- Develop and implement a joint campaign across the Region which promotes a supportive environment for confident risk-taking, in partnership with the private sector.

Monitoring and Delivering Outcomes

Partnership working is at the core of this Action Plan. The actions contained within it are owned by the three contributing organisations – Glasgow City Region, Scottish Enterprise, and Innovate UK – and by the partners who have contributed to its development. The plan is intended to be an agile and evolving document, which responds to local needs and market conditions over time.

Reviews will take place annually. At each review, we will assess progress against the actions and consider a delivery plan for the subsequent year, evolving existing

and creating new actions as appropriate, in line with the principles we have laid out throughout this document.

We will continue to do this working with partners, and learning from the experiences of those supported through the Innovation Accelerator pilot.



APPENDIX: Regional Planning Group

Membership:

Glasgow City Council

Scottish Enterprise

Innovate UK

Glasgow City Region Intelligence Hub

University of Glasgow / Glasgow Riverside Innovation District

University of Strathclyde / Glasgow City Innovation District

University of the West of Scotland

Glasgow City Colleges Partnership

Glasgow City of Science and Innovation

Connected Places Catapult



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