

Economy and Fair Work Committee
Wednesday 15 January 2025
2nd Meeting, 2025 (Session 6)

City Region and Regional Growth Deals – Note by the Clerk

Background

1. City Region Deals and Regional Growth Deals are funding deals agreed between the Scottish and UK governments, and local partners. They are designed to bring about long-term improvements to regional economies, attract investment, create new jobs, and accelerate inclusive economic growth.
2. There are currently 12 [City Region and Regional Growth Deals in Scotland](#), each at different stages of their life cycles. The first Deal established in Scotland was announced in 2014 for the Glasgow City Region. The most recent is the Falkirk Growth Deal, which was signed in November 2024.

Previous scrutiny

3. The Accounts Commission and Auditor General for Scotland assessed the Scottish deals in 2020, and in June 2023, published an [update on the progress made against recommendations made in their report](#).
4. Following this, the Committee agreed to undertake some work however this was delayed when the Scottish Affairs Committee launched its own similar inquiry. Due the dissolution of the UK Parliament in 2024, the Scottish Affairs Committee's work fell.

Inquiry Remit and Structure

5. This Committee launched its inquiry in September 2024 to consider whether the deals are achieving their aims. Including—
 - The implementation and effectiveness of deals;
 - how they have contributed to addressing local issues; and
 - how they have supported development and inclusive growth.

The Committee called for written views until November 2024. [Thirty-eight responses were received](#).

6. The Committee will also consider evidence submitted to the [Scottish Affairs Committee](#).

7. The Committee visited the National Robotarium on Monday 25 November to learn more about how the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Deal has supported innovation.

Evidence Session

8. Today's evidence session is in two parts. The first session is with the Secretary of State for Scotland. The second session is with the enterprise agencies with a focus on how local supply chains are engaged with the Deals, and the economic opportunities associated with them.
9. The Committee will hear from—

Panel 1

- Rt Hon Ian Murray, Secretary of State for Scotland; and
- Alasdair MacDonald, Deputy Director for Policy, UK Government.

Panel 2

- Anthony Daye, Interim Director of Place and Enterprise, South of Scotland Enterprise;
- Zoe Laird, Head of Growth Deals and Digital, Highlands and Islands Enterprise; and
- Matt Lockley, Head of Partnerships, and Derek Shaw, Director of Scaling Innovation, Scottish Enterprise.

10. [The UK Government Scotland Office](#), [Highlands and Islands Enterprise](#), and [South of Scotland Enterprise](#) contributed to the Committee's call for views.

Clerks to the Committee
January 2025