

Economy and Fair Work Committee
Wednesday 5 February 2025
5th 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, 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 scrutiny work but this was put on hold when the Scottish Affairs Committee launched its own similar inquiry. Due the dissolution of the UK Parliament in 2024, the Scottish Affairs Committee 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. [Forty responses were received](#).

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

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

Evidence Session

8. Today is the sixth and final evidence session of this inquiry. The Committee will hear from—
 - Kate Forbes, Deputy First Minister of Scotland and Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Gaelic;
 - Kate Bryson, Head of East and West of Scotland Growth Deals;
 - Kimberley Daly, Head of Highlands, Islands, Edinburgh and South of Scotland Growth Deals; and
 - Anne-Marie Martin, Deputy Director for Regional Economic Development, Scottish Government.

Clerks to the Committee
January 2025