

City Region Deal Joint Committee

MINUTES

MINUTES of MEETING of the STIRLING AND CLACKMANNANSHIRE CITY REGION DEAL JOINT COMMITTEE held in the COUNCIL CHAMBERS, OLD VIEWFORTH, STIRLING and by MICROSOFT TEAMS on THURSDAY 10 MARCH 2026 at 3.00 pm

Present

Councillor Martha Benny, Clackmannanshire Council
 Councillor Neil Benny, Stirling Council
 Graeme Duff, University of Stirling
 Councillor Ellen Forson, Clackmannanshire Council
 Councillor Gerry McGarvey, Stirling Council
 Councillor Susan McGill, Stirling Council (**Chair**)
 Councillor Janine Rennie, Clackmannanshire Council
 Professor Leigh Sparks, University of Stirling

In Attendance

Jane Burridge, Lead Transformation Officer, Clackmannanshire Council
 John Craig, Head of the City Region and Growth Deal Programme, University of Stirling
 Sally Dimeo, Chief Finance Officer, University of Stirling
 Professor Iain Docherty, Chair of Regional Economic Advisory Group
 Mark Easton, Lead Solicitor – Commercial & Property, Stirling Council
 Matt Francis, Communications, University of Stirling
 Emma Fyvie, Head of Economic Development, Planning & Climate Change, Stirling Council
 Neil Harman, Head of RPMO
 Mark Henderson, Communications Team Leader, Stirling Council
 Brian Roberts, Chief Executive, Stirling Council
 Lena Schelling, Senior Programme Manager, RPMO
 Jillian Schofield, Service Manager – Culture, Events and Tourism, Stirling Council
 Kevin Wells, Strategic Director of Place, Clackmannanshire Council
 David McDougall, Governance Officer, Stirling Council (Clerk)

Recording of Meeting started

Prior to the start of the meeting, the Chair of the Joint Committee, welcomed everyone and advised that the meeting was being broadcast live via the Stirling Council website and that a recording would also be made publicly available on the website following the meeting.

The Chair asked the Clerk to carry out a roll call to confirm the Joint Committee members present.



CRD52 APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were submitted on behalf of Eileen Schofield from the University of Stirling.

Apologies were also noted from Nikki Bridle, Chief Executive of Clackmannanshire Council.

CRD53 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

CRD54 URGENT BUSINESS

None.

CRD55 MINUTES – STIRLING & CLACKMANNANSHIRE CITY REGION DEAL JOINT COMMITTEE – 18 SEPTEMBER 2025

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Stirling and Clackmannanshire City Region Deal Joint Committee held on 18 September 2025 were submitted for approval.

Decision

The Stirling & Clackmannanshire City Region Deal Joint Committee approved the minutes of the meeting of 18 September 2025 as an accurate record of proceedings.

CRD56 JOINT COMMITTEE ROLLING ACTION LOG

The Joint Committee Rolling Action log was submitted for review with updates provided accordingly.

Senior officers present answered a range of questions from Joint Committee members regarding the information set out within the action log.

Actions

RPMO to combine Audit actions.

Decision

The Stirling & Clackmannanshire City Region Deal Joint Committee agreed to note the updates provided and to the combining of 2 Audit related actions into 1.

CRD57 JOINT COMMITTEE FORWARD PLAN

The Joint Committee Forward Plan was submitted for review with updates provided accordingly.

Senior officers present answered a range of questions from Joint Committee members regarding the information set out within the forward plan.



The Joint Committee highlighted their requirement for greater transparency on COG decision making and requested sight of the COG meeting minutes where possible.

Actions

COG and RPMO to review the existing planned briefings and June Joint Committee Agenda items with COG and identify opportunities to spread items across future meetings, including the possibility of Special meeting(s).

COG and RPMO to agree a suitable solution regarding request for greater transparency on COG decision making.

Decision

The Stirling & Clackmannanshire City Region Deal Joint Committee agreed to note the forward plan.

CRD58 STIRLING TRAIL - WAYFINDING AND INTERPRETATION

The report sought approval of the Stirling Trail – Wayfinding and Interpretation Business Justification Case. The project requested £330,000 of City Region Deal funding to deliver an improved, connected walking route across Stirling’s historic core, supported by new interpretative panels, refreshed wayfinding signage and digital mapping. The work aimed to increase visitor dwell time, enhance navigation, and encourage movement from Stirling Castle into the wider city centre and beyond. Works were expected to complete in 2026/27. The business case had been endorsed by Scottish Government.

Senior officers present answered a range of questions from Joint Committee members regarding the information set out within the report.

Decision

The Stirling & Clackmannanshire City Region Deal Joint Committee agreed to:-

1. note the contents of the report and the Stirling Trail – Wayfinding and Interpretation Business Justification Case; and
2. approve the Stirling Trail – Wayfinding and Interpretation Business Justification Case, and note that officers will progress the project, subject to all internal Stirling Council governance approvals being obtained.

(Reference: Report by Head of Economic Development, Planning and Climate Change, Stirling Council, 17 February 2026, submitted)

CRD59 ALLOA HERITAGE & ENTERPRISE CENTRE - PROJECT

The report sought to share an overview of the Clackmannanshire CHT project, provide an update of progress to date on business case development and funding and outline next steps. The report also provided a summary of the Greenfield House Phase 1 repairs contract currently in delivery.



In March 2024 Clackmannanshire Council and the University of Stirling endorsed in principle a joint proposal to consolidate the Clackmannanshire based CRD projects into a single programme – the Alloa Innovation Campus (AIC). This included the two University led Innovation projects; Scotland’s International Environment Centre (SIEC) Phase 2 and the Intergenerational Living Innovation Hub (ILIH) and, the Council led, Culture Heritage & Tourism (CHT) and Regional Digital Hub Projects.

The proposed co-location of projects within Greenfield House (GFH) presented the opportunity to enrich the overall CRD investment, improve deliverability and create a lasting legacy. It also ensured the future of a historic building bringing it back into an innovative economic and social use and creating a catalyst for the wider regeneration of Alloa Town Centre.

Senior officers present answered a range of questions from Joint Committee members regarding the information set out within the report.

Decision

The Stirling & Clackmannanshire City Region Deal Joint Committee agreed to note the development of the Alloa Heritage & Enterprise Centre project, ongoing progress with the Greenfield House phase 1 repairs contract and associated community benefits being provided.

(Reference: Report by Strategic Director – Place, Clackmannanshire Council, undated, submitted)

CRD60 PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF JOINT COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR 2026 – 2027

The report advised the Joint Committee that the current schedule of Joint Committee meetings would end with the meeting scheduled to take place on 10 March 2026. After the March meeting, the Chair of the Joint Committee would revert to Clackmannanshire Council in line with the Joint Committee Standing Orders. The report asked Joint Committee to agree to a proposed schedule of meetings for the 2026 – 2027 term when Clackmannanshire Council would have the Chair.

Senior officers present answered a range of questions from Joint Committee members regarding the information set out within the report.

The Head of the RPMO advised of a potential issue with the proposed June meeting date which would be confirmed following further discussion. It was agreed that the proposed schedule would be agreed subject to a potential change needed to the June meeting date.

Action

RPMO to progress the scheduling of future Joint Committee meetings with Clackmannanshire Democratic Services.



Decision

The Stirling & Clackmannanshire City Region Deal Joint Committee agreed to the proposed schedule of meetings for 2026 - 2027 as set out at paragraph 1.4 of the report, subject to a potential change needed to the June meeting date which would be confirmed by the RPMO in due course.

(Reference: Report by Chief Officer - Governance, Stirling Council, 16 February 2026, submitted)

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 4.20 pm



Stirling &
Clackmannanshire
City Region Deal