

COMMITTEE:	East Lothian Council
MEETING DATE:	28 October 2025
BY:	Executive Director for Place
REPORT TITLE:	Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal: Annual Report 24/25 and Update
REPORT STATUS:	Public

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To summarise the key findings on the appended City Region Deal Annual Report (Appendix 1) (approved by the City Region Deal Joint Committee on 5 September 2025).
- 1.2 To provide an update on the date for the Annual Conversation.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are recommended to:

- 2.1 To note the summary findings of the seventh Annual Report.
- 2.2 To note the date for the next Annual Conversation.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Edinburgh and Southeast Scotland City Region Deal was signed by the First Minister, Prime Minister, and City Region Leaders on 7 August 2018.
- 3.2 Each year the City Region Deal partners are required to produce an Annual Report to assess how well the City Region Deal is aligning towards the overall vision and inclusive growth outcomes for the city region. The first Annual Report was approved by the City Region Deal Joint Committee on 3 September 2019. The seventh and the most recent Annual Report was approved on 5 September 2025.

Annual Report – Overview

3.3 The Annual Report for 2024/25 is an overall progress report for the City Region Deal Programme between 1 August 2024 and 31 July 2025. The Annual Report contains the following:

- a City Region Deal overview (Page 11 of the Annual Report);
- a Financial Statement, covering the financial year 2024/2025 (Page 16 of the Annual Report);
- a short summary of progress on each project and programme and expected milestones to be achieved in the next year. Included in the report are seven case study videos (Page 19 of the Annual Report); and
- an update on Benefits Realisation (Page 68 of the Annual Report); and
- an update on the Regional Prosperity Framework Delivery (Page 73 of the Annual Report);
- the Year Ahead (Page 80 of the Annual Report).

3.4 The Annual Report demonstrates significant progress across all City Region Deal projects and programmes. While cost inflation has impacted some project budgets during delivery, all projects remain within acceptable time parameters and all but one (not the Edinburgh Innovation Hub) are within acceptable budget parameters.

£41.9 million of Government money was drawn down in 2024/25, with £37.9 million on Capital projects and £3.9 million on the Revenue programme.

3.5 Some key achievements in the last 12 months:

- The launch of the Strategic Sites Programme Prospectus in October 2024;
- The shortlisting of the Regional Prosperity Framework at the Scottish Public Service Awards in December 2024;
- The topping out ceremony at the Edinburgh Innovation Hub in December 2024;
- The publication of the second edition of the Social Business Directory in March 2025;
- The official opening of the Edinburgh Futures Institute in April 2025;
- The official opening of the Usher Institute in June 2025;
- The approval of the Blindwells Strategic Outline Business case in June 2025; and
- The launch of the South East Regional Delivery Alliance Knowledge Hub in June 2025.

3.6 In addition, the report highlights key achievements through the Deal, which include:

- £3 billion added to Scottish and UK economy (Gross Value Added)
- 22,000 job opportunities created or supported
- 900 micro, small and medium enterprises supported
- 550+ apprentices and internships supported

- £11 million of additional funding leveraged through our Integrated Regional Employability and Skills programme; and
 - £100,000+ donated to regional good causes.
- 3.7 As well as delivering on the projects in the Deal, the Annual Report demonstrates that the governance structure, established to manage City Region Deal activity, has also enabled effective and strong regional partnership working on important cross-regional activities. Future activities associated with this, and other project delivery dates are noted at Page 80 of the report.

East Lothian Council Engagement

- 3.8 East Lothian Council is represented through the City Deal governance, both through Elected Member representation and senior officer engagement on respective Boards. During 2024/25 some specific achievements aligned to East Lothian include:
- Completion of Edinburgh Innovation Hub in October 2025 which is subject to a separate report on the Council agenda, and is part of a flagship ambition to create a nationally significant facility to support innovation-led enterprise in East Lothian and the wider Lothian region.
 - Following the submission of the Blindwells Strategic Outline Business Case in summer 2025, a positive acknowledgment by both governments, with a notification from Scottish Government to work with East Lothian Council to explore further the potential for wider Blindwells.
 - Ongoing engagement through the City Region Deal to unlock the full potential of upgrading the A720 Sheriffhall Roundabout, and wider strategic transport opportunities.

Annual Conversation and Future Opportunities

- 3.9 The Annual Report is followed up in a conversation between the Scottish City Region Deal Delivery Board and the senior representatives of the deal, where progress and concerns are discussed. The Annual Conversation for this year will take place on 11 December 2025.
- 3.10 The report summaries key priorities for 2025/26; however, more wider discussions progress around the future of regional discussions and indeed the wider opportunities.
- 3.11 The City Region Deal has a comprehensive and well-established governance structure supported by officer boards and groups of which East Lothian is well represented. As part of this governance structure, the chair of these groups rotates on an annual basis with East Lothian taking on the chair of these groups during 2025/26.
- 3.12 Council will continue to be kept updated in relation to to the work programmes agreed through the City Region Deal to ensure work is progressing aligned to the strategic direction of the Council and to maximise future opportunities to work collaboratively across the region.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None

5 RESOURCE AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Finance: There is no financial impact relating to the Annual Report and Annual Conversation for East Lothian Council.

5.2 Human Resources: There is no Human resource implication relating to the Annual Report and Annual Conversation for East Lothian Council.

5.3 Other (e.g. Legal/IT): There is no other implication relating to the Annual Report and Annual Conversation for East Lothian Council.

5.4 Risk: There is no Risk relating to the Annual Report and Annual Conversation for East Lothian Council.

6 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

6.1 **Select the statement that is appropriate to your report by placing an 'X' in the relevant box.**

An Integrated Impact Assessment screening process has been undertaken and the subject of this report does not affect the wellbeing of the community or have a significant impact on: equality and human rights; tackling socio-economic disadvantages and poverty; climate change, the environment and sustainability; the Council's role as a corporate parent; or the storage/collection of personal data.

or

The subject of this report has been through the Integrated Impact Assessment process and impacts have been identified as follows:

Subject	Impacts identified (Yes, No or N/A)
Equality and human rights	
Socio-economic disadvantage/poverty	
Climate change, the environment and sustainability	
Corporate parenting and care-experienced young people	

Subject	Impacts identified (Yes, No or N/A)
Storage/collection of personal data	
Other	

[Enter information on impacts that have been identified]

The Integrated Impact Assessment relating to this report has been published and can be accessed via the Council's website:

https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/210602/equality_and_diversity/12014/integrated_impact_assessments

7 APPENDICES

- 7.1 Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Annual Report 24/25.

8 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 Edinburgh and Southeast Scotland City Region Deal (ESESCRD) – Annual Report, Annual Conversation and Regional Growth Framework Update – 29 October 2019.
- 8.2 Edinburgh and Southeast Scotland City Region Deal – Annual Report, Benefits Realisation Plan, and Food and Drink Innovation – Update 27 October 2020.
- 8.3 Edinburgh and Southeast Scotland City Region Deal – Annual Report and Queen Margaret University Update – 27 October 2021
- 8.4 Edinburgh and Southeast Scotland City Region Deal – Annual Report and Innovation Hub – October 2022
- 8.5 Edinburgh and Southeast Scotland City Region Deal – Annual Report and Innovation Hub – October 2023
- 8.6 Edinburgh and Southeast Scotland City Region Deal – Annual Report - October 2024:

<https://esescityregiondeal.org.uk/new-blog/2025/9/10/annual-report-202425-published>

9 AUTHOR AND APPROVAL DETAILS

Report Author(s)

Name	Catherine Molloy
Designation	Project Manager
Tel/Email	Cmolloy1@eastlothian.gov.uk
Date	8 th October 2025

Head of Service Approval

Name	Keith Dingwall
Designation	Head of Development
Confirmation that IIA and other relevant checks (e.g. finance/legal) have been completed	Yes
Approval Date	10 th October 2025



CITY REGION DEAL

Edinburgh
& South East
Scotland

ANNUAL REPORT 2024 – 2025





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Executive Summary

Key Achievements



£3bn of Gross Value Added to the City Region, Scottish and UK economy.



Over **22,000** job opportunities created or supported by City Region Deal activities.



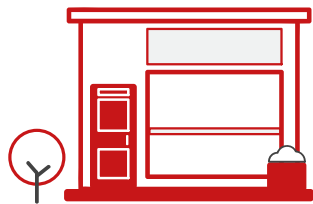
100% of our government funding was utilised for 24/25.



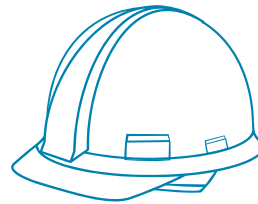
Over **124,000** students have completed data courses.



DDI Driven Innovation projects have secured over **£360m** in research funding.



More than **1000** local businesses supported by deal activities.



Over **550** apprenticeships and internships supported.



City Region Deal construction projects retain over **75%** of labour and of spend locally.



Over **£100,000** donated to regional good causes.



Our skills programme has leveraged an additional **£11m** of funding.



Executive Summary

Timeline



ESES City Region Strategic Sites Programme launched



Regional Prosperity Framework shortlisted at the Scottish Public Service Awards



Topping out ceremony at Edinburgh Innovation Hub



Next Generation Deal proposal shared with Governments



ESES **Regional Innovation Action Plan** launched



Second edition of the **Social Business Directory** published



Official opening of Edinburgh Futures Institute



Official opening of Usher Institute



Outline business case approval for Blindwells strategic site



Launch of **Regional Delivery Alliance** Knowledge Hub



Executive Summary

Video Highlights

A showcase of the diverse and innovative initiatives supported by the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal, featuring the people and organisations behind the projects, their delivery partners across the region, and those who are benefiting.

City of Dunfermline Strategic Growth

Through the Housing Infrastructure Fund, Dunfermline will see enhanced transportation infrastructure, reducing congestion, improving connectivity and making commuting more efficient and environmentally friendly. New schools, parks, and community amenities will enhance quality of life and support a vibrant, inclusive community. Dunfermline's strategic growth will benefit the local area and contribute to the broader regional and national economy.



SE-RDA: Affordable Housing

The South East Regional Delivery Alliance (SE-RDA) was established in 2024 to support the delivery of new build affordable housing through aggregating demand, promoting higher performing homes towards net zero carbon, enabling more efficient procurement and knowledge sharing.



Tweedbank Expansion

Expansion at Tweedbank is delivering premium business space through the Borders Innovation Park, while the adjacent Lowood Estate is one of the city region's seven strategic sites, delivering much-needed housing. This is attracting inward investment, strengthening local businesses, and tackling inequality by providing quality employment and affordable housing. The site is well-connected via the nearby Borders Railway terminus.



Supporting Individuals at Risk of Homelessness

Through close collaboration with NHS Lothian, the DataLoch team has improved the data underlying the Cyrenians InReach service that supports individuals at risk of homelessness. By allowing address data to be updated more accurately and reliably every month – which hadn't been possible previously – the latest information about emergency-accommodation locations allows Cyrenians to better prioritise where they focus their efforts.



Fife Industrial Innovation Investment

The Fife Industrial Innovation Investment (i3) Programme is a £58 million, ten-year programme delivered by Fife Council with funding support from the Edinburgh and South East of Scotland City Region Deal. The investment delivers new business premises and immediately available serviced employment land. These are located within existing business clusters in mid and south Fife, adjacent to the M90 and A92 growth corridors.





Executive Summary

Granton Waterfront Regeneration

Over the next 10-15 years, the Granton Waterfront regeneration programme will create a new residential-led mixed-use community, home to around 8,000 people on Edinburgh's waterfront. It will deliver around 3,500 net zero carbon homes, a low carbon heat network, a primary school, a health centre, commercial and cultural space and a new coastal park.



Data Skills Gateway Pathways and Progression

The partnership between Data Education in Colleges and the third sector is embedding clear progression pathways for learners. Access to Industry shares how this collaboration has enabled them to offer new SQA accredited data skills courses, creating opportunities that previously didn't exist for their learners. We also hear from students themselves, as they reflect on their journeys into further and higher education and employment, demonstrating the transformative impact of these pathways in helping them reach their full potential.



CTTS Telecoms Academy Programme

The pilot CTTS Telecoms Academy was launched in the Scottish Borders, providing entry-level telecoms training to six local jobseekers. Previously only available in the South of England, this new centre aims to support Scotland's telecoms workforce through upskilling while also creating opportunities for local jobseekers. Following the pilot's success, CTTS has expanded training delivery across the region and beyond.





1. Forewords

Councillor Jane Meagher

Convener, Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Joint Committee

The Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal is delivering exceptional results. Now worth over £1.6 billion, it generates the greatest additional investment of any Scottish city region or growth deal. The programme is driving economic growth, enhancing critical infrastructure and creating sustainable communities, while ensuring benefits reach all parts of the region. To date, it has created over 22,000 job opportunities and delivered more than 5,500 homes and supported over £2.8 billion in Gross Value Added.

These achievements reflect the strength of our regional partnership, which brings together six local authorities, four universities, six colleges, and the Regional Enterprise Council in a coordinated approach to regional development.

The official openings of the Usher Institute and the Edinburgh Futures Institute were particular highlights last year. The Usher Institute brings together researchers, healthcare professionals to address population health and social care challenges and to position Edinburgh and South East Scotland as a global leader in data-driven health innovation. The Edinburgh Futures Institute is one of the largest interdisciplinary teaching institutes in the United Kingdom and, working with industry government and the third sector, seeks to develop new solutions to major global issues.

The Edinburgh Innovation Hub adjacent to Queen Margaret University will be operational in November. Fife's flagship Industrial Innovation Investment (i3)



Councillor Jane Meagher

programme has delivered new facilities and serviced sites in three locations. The new office building opposite Tweedbank Railway Station built in the first phase of the Borders Innovation Park is fully occupied. It hosted the Joint Committee meeting in June which approved Phase 2 of the programme.

The award-winning Integrated Regional Employability and Skills Programme continues to deliver transformational outcomes across the region, supporting over 8,300 individuals into employment and delivering over 127,000 skills improvements. This programme is essential in ensuring that everyone can benefit from the opportunities created by the Deal and is critical to the region's future prosperity and inclusive growth. Innovation is crucial to addressing our existing challenges, adapting to new ones and ensuring we can continue to grow the economy.



To address the rapid population growth in the region, we have developed a Strategic Sites Investment Prospectus. As well as being a fundamental human right, housing cannot be divorced from economic policy. Building sufficient homes will benefit workforce mobility, reduce inequalities, drive productivity growth and deliver a huge economic return.

The Regional Innovation Action Plan that partners developed jointly with Innovate UK and Scottish Enterprise can drive inclusive growth through its focus on skills, innovation and entrepreneurship.

Greater detail about each project in our deal can be found in Section 4 of this report, and seven new case-study videos have been produced to highlight the positive impact that projects are having on our residents' lives.

We are in active discussions with the Scottish and UK Governments on how best to build upon the success of the City Region Deal and to enable the region to address delivery challenges and accelerate growth. Our Regional Prosperity Framework Delivery Plan focuses on four delivery programmes: housing delivery; implementing the Regional Innovation Action Plan; skills; and transformational regional transport and net zero infrastructure.

I want to thank all our partners, stakeholders, and community members who have contributed to these achievements and to driving inclusive growth for everyone across the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region.



1. Forewords

It has been a great pleasure to see the excellent progress made in Year 7 of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal. The **Regional Enterprise Council (REC)** was formed in November 2018 to advise the Deal's decision-making body, the Joint Committee, on the delivery of projects across the city region and to encourage further investment opportunities. We work directly with the Joint Committee and Elected Member Oversight Committee, representing businesses, social enterprises, and community groups to make sure the Deal delivers real benefits for everyone. REC members bring a broad range of experience, expertise and wide networks to best represent business, social enterprise and wider third sector across the city region.

Over the past year, REC members have visited the Edinburgh Futures Institute and Usher Institute, both of which formally opening during the period. We visited these alongside the National Robotarium and the Dunard Concert Hall construction site. These are all major projects that have only been possible through partnership working and joint funding, and they will bring significant benefits to people across the region. We encourage anyone interested in the Deal to watch the case study videos embedded in this annual report, which bring the projects to life.

The Data Driven Innovation Hubs continue to surpass expectations on all their targets for Talent, Research, Adoption, Data, and Entrepreneurship "TRADE" and the Regional Innovation Action Plan launched in March 2025 will help to coordinate future innovative activity across the region.

The City Region Deal is supporting the delivery of the Fife Industrial Innovation Investment (i3) programme. In the past year,

Garry Clark
Chair, Regional
Enterprise Council



Neil McLean
Vice Chair, Regional
Enterprise Council



new business units have opened in three locations, including **Levenmouth Business Park**, which is now occupied with a range of business tenants. The Deal investment and recently opened Levenmouth Rail link have created a particularly strong catalyst for the local area and region.

The REC also look forward to the completion of the Edinburgh Innovation Hub this November. Located next to Queen Margaret University, it will provide lab and office space for small and medium businesses in life sciences and food & drink sectors, creating opportunities for existing and new businesses.

Inclusive Growth is a key part of the Deal. In January, universities and colleges across the region signed the **Community Wealth Building pledge**, committing to:

- Support local SMEs through procurement
- Strengthen community-based ownership and resilience
- Promote fair employment practices and accessible career pathways

The REC previously helped develop the Regional Prosperity Framework vision as well as shape the related **Delivery Framework** in 2023. We are pleased to see the ongoing attention given to evaluation and review, with a refreshed plan under development.



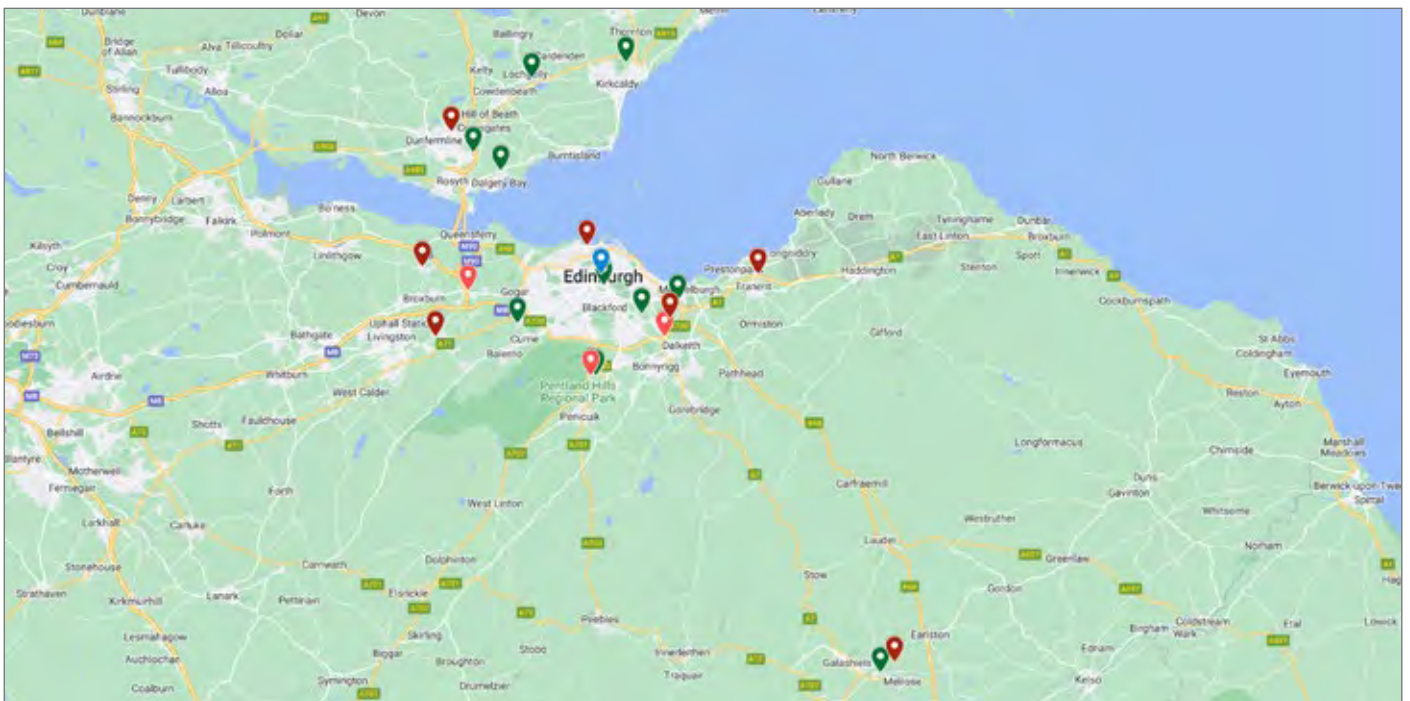
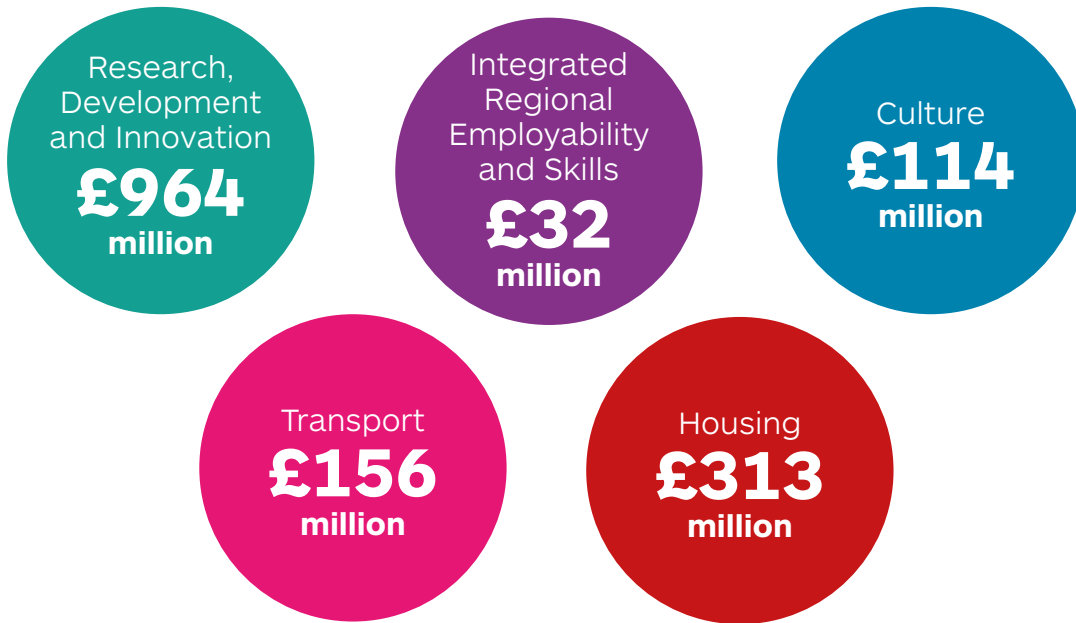
We have previously stated that the Integrated Regional Employability and Skills (IRES) programme represents the red blood cells in the City Region Deal, carrying oxygen to the rest of the programmes. IRES has already far exceeded its overall targets at the six-year point of the eight-year programme. The REC commend the work taking place producing propositions for the continuation of the IRES programme for the full 15 years of the Deal and intend to play our part in developing these and important work on a second generation ESES City Region Deal to build on the successes to date.



2. City Region Deal Overview

Status of Projects and Finances

The Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal is now a **£1.6 billion, 15-year programme** aimed at driving productivity and reducing inequalities through five key themes:



This map shows where the projects are located across the region

Integrated Regional Employability and Skills (IRES) activity spans the whole City Region and is integrated into all projects.

-  Research, Development and Innovation
-  Transport
-  Culture
-  Strategic Housing Sites



2. City Region Deal Overview

The City Region Deal projects are listed in the Table below. More detail on the projects, including their current status in **Section 4**.

Table 1: Status of Programmes and Projects – July 2025

Theme/Programme/Project	Location	(Expected) Business Case Approval	Stage	On Time?	On Budget?
Research, Development and Innovation					
Edinburgh International Data Facility	Edinburgh/Midlothian	Dec 18	3. Deliver		
Bayes Centre	City of Edinburgh	Dec 18	3. Deliver		
National Robotarium	City of Edinburgh	Dec 18	3. Deliver		
Edinburgh Futures Institute	City of Edinburgh	Mar 19	3. Deliver		
Usher Institute	City of Edinburgh	Sep 19	3. Deliver		
Easter Bush (Road)	Midlothian	Mar 21	2. Implement		
Easter Bush	Midlothian	Mar 21	3. Deliver		
Edinburgh Innovation Park (Food and Drink Innovation Hub)	East Lothian	Jun 21	2. Implement		
Fife Industrial Innovation Investment	Fife	Mar 19	2. Implement		
Borders Innovation Park	Scottish Borders	Mar 19	2. Implement		
Integrated Regional Employability and Skills	Cross-Regional	Dec 18			
Integrated Knowledge Systems	Cross-Regional	Jun 19	3. Deliver		
Labour Market Analysis and Evaluation	Cross-Regional	Jun 19	3. Deliver		
Integrated Employer Engagement	Cross-Regional	Jun 19	3. Deliver		
Intensive Family Support	Cross-Regional	Mar 19	3. Deliver		
Data-Driven Innovation Skills Gateway	Cross-Regional	Mar 19	3. Deliver		
Housing and Construction Infrastructure Skills Gateway	Cross-Regional	Mar 19	3. Deliver		
Workforce Mobility	Cross-Regional	Jun 19	3. Deliver		

Table continues overleaf



2. City Region Deal Overview

The City Region Deal projects are listed in the Table below. More detail on the projects, including their current status in **Section 4**.

Table 1: Status of Programmes and Projects – July 2025

Theme/Programme/Project	Location	Business Case Approval	Stage	On Time?	On Budget?
Transport					
West Edinburgh	City of Edinburgh	Jun 24	2. Implement		
A720 (Sheriffhall Roundabout)	Edinburgh/Midlothian	TBC	1. Define		
Culture					
Dunard Centre	City of Edinburgh	Mar 22	2. Implement		
Regional Housing Programme	Cross-Regional	Sep 19 (work prog report)			
Affordable Housing Programme	Cross-Regional	N/A	3. Deliver	N/A	N/A
Seven Strategic Sites	Cross-Regional	Winchburgh: Aug 18 Dunfermline: Jun 21 Others TBC	2. Implement		
Regional Delivery Alliance	Cross-Regional	N/A	2. Implement		N/A
Housing Company	Cross-Regional	N/A	3. Deliver		

Project Stages

Stage no.	Definition
1. Define	Business case being developed, and not yet approved by Thematic Board and Joint Committee.
2. Implement	Business case has been approved by Thematic Board and Joint Committee, and is being implemented. In a capital project, this may be construction; for skills projects this may be establishing a course or system.
3. Deliver	Project is in place and benefits realisation framework to assess if it is achieving its objectives.
4. Legacy	Project has resulted in mainstreaming or improvements to business as usual (impact) that is generated beyond the funded period.

T: Timeline B: Budget

RAG Status	Definition – Timeline	Definition – Budget	Mitigation
	Progressing in line with Implementation Plan or complete.	Project is in sound financial health. No significant financial concerns. Spending largely in line with profile.	No mitigation required
	Moderate Delay.	Project is financially stable. Some low to moderate financial concerns. Spending is for the most part in line with profile.	Project team must have actions in place for improvement. Project should be closely monitored by senior management and relevant boards.
	Delay is significant.	Project has some moderate to high financial concerns. Significant concerns with slippage.	Project team must have actions in place to establish a strategy to urgently address issues, with oversight from senior management and relevant boards.



2. City Region Deal Overview

Stages

As of August 2025:

1 Projects are in



Define, which means that the project's business case is yet to be completed

8 Projects are in



Implement, which means that the project's business case has been approved by Joint Committee and is in the process of being implemented

15 Projects are in



Deliver, which means that the project has been implemented and is working towards delivering its objectives

Time and Budget

16 Projects

are considered to be on target to be completed on time (green score) or have been completed on time

7 Projects

are delayed, but considered to be within an acceptable range, with management action in place to address the issue (amber score)

16 Projects

are considered to be in sound financial health, with spending largely in line with profile (green score)

4 Projects

are considered to be financially stable, but with some low to moderate financial concerns (amber score)

1 Project

considered to have some moderate to high financial concerns (red score)

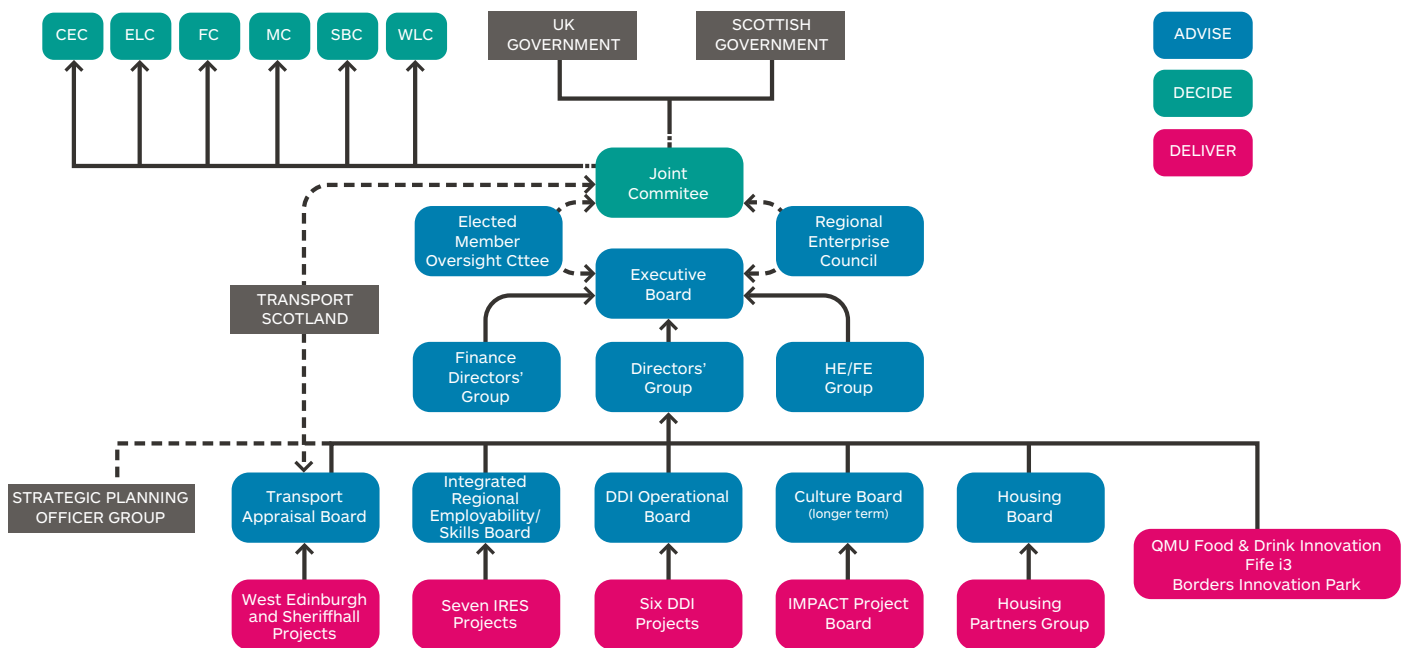


2. City Region Deal Overview

Governance

The City Region Deal has a comprehensive governance structure as shown below. This is summarised in the diagram below. There is more detail on the Boards and Groups in Section 3 of the **Deal Document**:

Functioning Governance





3. Financial Statement

This City Region Deal identifies new and more collaborative ways that partners will work with UK and Scottish Governments to deliver change to the city regional economy. The Governments will jointly invest £600 million over the next 15 years and regional partners committed to adding in excess of £700 million, overall representing a deal worth £1.3 billion. Since the Deal was signed, partner investment projections have increased by over £200m. As a result, the value of the Deal is now £1.6 billion. A summary of the City Region Deal total over a fifteen-year period is shown in the Table 2.



Table 2: Edinburgh and South-East Scotland City Region Deal Financial Summary

Project	SG (£m)	UKG (£m)	Partner Capital (£m)	Partner Revenue (£m)	Total Funding (£m)
Bayes Centre	2.2	30.3	12	48.4	92.9
Borders Innovation Park	15.0	0.0	14.1	0.0	29.1
Easter Bush	1.3	16.1	27.3	19.2	63.8
Easter Bush Link Road	0.0	10.9	57.1	0.0	68.0
Edinburgh Futures Institute	2.2	55.7	145.7	130.0	333.6
Edinburgh Innovation Hub	1.4	28.6	27.6	0.0	57.6
Edinburgh International Data Facility	0.7	78.9	2.7	36.7	118.9
Fife i3 Programme	35.0	0.0	23.5	0.0	58.5
National Robotarium	1.4	21.0	0.0	0.0	22.5
Usher Institute	0.7	48.5	22.0	47.4	118.7
Total Research, Development & Innovation	60.0	290.0	332.0	281.7	963.6
Dunard Centre	10.0	10.0	94.0	0.0	114.0
Total Culture	10.0	10.0	94.0	0.0	114.0
Integrated Regional Employability & Skills Programme	25.0	0.0	0.0	11.2	36.2
Total Integrated Regional Employability & Skills	25.0	0.0	0.0	11.2	36.2

Table continues overleaf



3. Financial Statement

Project	SG (£m)	UKG (£m)	Partner Capital (£m)	Partner Revenue (£m)	Total Funding (£m)
A720 Sheriffhall Roundabout*	120.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	120.0
West Edinburgh Public Transport Improvement Programme	20.0	0.0	16.0	0.0	36.0
Total Transport	140.0	0.0	16.0	0.0	156.0
New Housing Partnership – Edinburgh Living**	15.0	0.0	248.0	0.0	263.0
Housing Infrastructure Fund**	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0
Total Housing	65.0	0.0	248.0	0.0	313.0
Grand Total	300.0	300.0	690.0	292.9	1,582.8

*Includes £120m for Sheriffhall roundabout to be delivered by Transport Scotland.
 ** Funding issued by Scottish Government (Housing). Partner contribution of £248m relates to CEC on-lending.



3. Financial Statement

The City Region Deal Financial Summary for the period of April 2024 to March 2025 is set out in Table 3.



Table 3: Edinburgh and South-East Scotland City Region Deal 2024/25

Project	2024/25	Cumulative (2018/19 - 2024/25)	
	CRD Expenditure (£m)	CRD Expenditure (£m)	CRD Expenditure as % of Funding
Bayes Centre	0.0	32.5	100%
Borders Innovation Park	0.2	3.0	20%
Easter Bush	0.0	17.4	100%
Easter Bush Link Road	0.5	2.0	18%
Edinburgh Innovation Hub	20.7	25.3	84%
Edinburgh Futures Institute	0.0	57.9	100%
Edinburgh International Data Facility	10.1	75.4	95%
Fife i3 Programme	5.7	25.5	73%
National Robotarium	0.3	22.5	100%
Usher Institute	0.0	49.2	100%
Total Research, Development & Innovation	37.6	310.7	89%
Dunard Centre	0.0	12.1	60%
Total Culture	0.0	12.1	60%
Integrated Regional Employability & Skills Programme	3.9	19.7	79%
Total Integrated Regional Employability & Skills	3.9	19.7	79%
A720 Sheriffhall Roundabout*	0.0	6.4	5%
West Edinburgh Public Transport Improvement Programme	0.3	0.7	3%
Total Transport	0.4	7.1	5%
New Housing Partnership – Edinburgh Living**	0.0	15.0	100%
Housing Infrastructure Fund**	0.0	0.0	0%
Total Housing	0.0	15.0	23%
Grand Total	41.9	364.6	61%

*Scottish Government funded. Transport Scotland taking forward scheme delivery.
 ** Funding issued by Scottish Government (Housing).

Across the Deal programme, £364.6 million of the £600 million government funding has been drawn down to March 25.

This includes funding issued by Transport Scotland and Scottish Government Housing Department.



4. The Deal – summary of progress

This section summarises the themes, programmes and projects within the City Region Deal. It details the progress that has been made in line with the Implementation Plan.



Quarterly performance reports are shared between the Project Management Office (PMO) and Governments throughout the year and are published at each Joint Committee meeting.



4. The Deal – summary of progress

Data-Driven innovation

The Data-Driven Innovation (DDI) initiative is a 15-year, £661 million investment and innovation programme launched in August 2018. It secured £270 million in capital funding from the UK and Scottish Governments as part of the Edinburgh and South-East Scotland City Region Deal.

The initiative developed a network of six hubs bringing together academic disciplines and external partners to solve some of the world's most pressing issues.

The hubs connect private, academic, and public organisations to foster innovation opportunities around technology and data. For researchers and innovators, this presents an opportunity to benefit from the scale and resources of large organisations through collaboration, while delivering economic and social benefits in the regions where they reside and work.

The hubs are based at the University of Edinburgh and Heriot-Watt University and contribute 55,000 square metres of innovation space to the city region. Critically, they also provide a focus for increased collaboration across Higher Education Institutions in the region, as evidenced by the joint leadership of the National Robotarium, based at Heriot-Watt University, as well as partnership working with Further Education Colleges, aligned to the Data Skills Pathway.

Over the past year, DDI has concluded its investment phase, with two final Hub headquarters completed. The Edinburgh Futures Institute has been transformed from the Victorian Royal Infirmary building on Lauriston Place into a centre for modern-day contagion of ideas and dialogue around real-world challenges. It is home to a suite of interdisciplinary centres, external partners,



Bayes Centre



Edinburgh International Data Facility



Easter Bush Agritech Hub



Usher Building



4. The Deal – summary of progress

new companies, and students. The new Usher Building has also opened; based in Edinburgh's BioQuarter Health Innovation district, this Institute brings together specialists working at the intersection of data, health, artificial intelligence, social care and public health.

A key goal for this past year was ensuring the six hubs work together to maximise their impact as a single outward-facing DDI 'platform'. By leveraging this innovation platform, the University has enhanced the capacity of the institution and the city region to drive inclusive economic growth, share experience and knowledge, and avoid competition over external engagement.

DDI's key performance indicators are based on Talent, Research, Adoption, Data, and Entrepreneurship (TRADE). The most recent verified KPIs were signed off by University of Edinburgh Court in June 2025.

This marked a successful year for CPD (Continuing Professional Development) and MOOC (Massive Open Online Courses) programmes under the Talent stream, representing 89% of DDI's total activity to date. The programme has now exceeded its end target by 130%.

£160 million in research activity was recorded with a 24% increase compared with 23/24. The initiative delivered £589million of activity in total, which represents 60% of DDI's total research target.

In the Adoption stream, £73.9 million income was generated, exceeding the end of programme target by 35%.



Edinburgh Futures Institute



National Robotarium

Finally, DDI supported 47 early-stage data-centric companies in the first half of 24/25, and has surpassed its end of programme target by 42%. The programme has also exceeded its follow-on funding targets by 311%.



4. The Deal – summary of progress

This year, the **Bayes Centre** has welcomed nine new companies to its community, including three international companies who have chosen it as their location for their UK base, taking the number of Members and Partners to 37. Several academic collaborations with companies based in Bayes have focused on local and societal impact. These include: using data science & AI to improve cycle routes in Edinburgh; track endangered Scottish seabirds; and monitoring biodiversity through birdsong. By the end of Q3, Bayes had led two and supported 13 strategically significant R&D and consultancy projects across the College of Science & Engineering, achieving an expected income of £9.2 million, far exceeding its target of £1.2 million.

Working with Schools from the College of Science and Engineering, Edinburgh Futures Institute and Edinburgh Law School, the Bayes Centre established a new programme of Space Bridges Courses, to bridge the gap in key short to medium space workforce skills in partnership with Fife College and on behalf of the UK Space Agency. This saw 145 enrolments onto the five university-led courses which focussed on helping people progress or transition into careers within the space sector and for professionals working alongside the sector.

Bayes continued to increase its support for entrepreneurial activity at the university and across the region supporting 90 founders, startups and scale ups across entrepreneurial programmes and events: the **Venture Builder Incubator**; **AI Accelerator**; and **EIE25**.



The AI Accelerator cohort 8

Photograph by Stewart Attwood



The Venture Builder Incubator cohort 5

Photograph by Neil Hanna



4. The Deal – summary of progress

Headline achievements in the past year

- The Bayes Centre hosted its largest ever Academic and Industry Meeting Day (**AIMDay**) with over 100 delegates participating in discussing 25 industry challenges. Five of these challenges went on to successfully secure up to £10,000 of EPSRC project funding each.
- **EIE** returned this year, bigger and better, showcasing emerging innovation and companies from Scottish Universities to a unique audience of 276 investors, founders and members of the Scottish tech ecosystem. By co-hosting the event with Tech Tour Growth Deeptech 25, EIE25

brought together 120 global investors with 42 deep tech startups and scaleups from across Europe.

- A new self-paced **online course** was launched for professional services staff at the University of Edinburgh on Generative AI. In the first two months, over a 1000 staff enrolled to upskill and became familiar with using GenAI to support their work.

Next milestones

Due Date	Milestone
Q2 25/26	Venture Builder Incubator (VBI) is partnering with Techscaler , funded by the Scottish Government, to grow VBI into the national tech incubator for Scottish Universities. The ambition is to support up to 20 additional researchers or postgraduate students, from any Scottish University, to start or grow their tech business. By Q2 25/26, the cohort will include researchers and postgraduate students from at least four other universities in Scotland.
Q4 25/26	Redesign, write and launch an updated version of the flagship online Data Science MSc with a development focused on a coherent curriculum that emphasises careers and practical applications of Data Science. The programme will begin recruiting students to start in September 2026.
Q4 25/26	Introduce opportunities for new industry and public sector organisations to hold their Away Day at Bayes, to curate bespoke away days at the university with specific input from an academic on a themed topic. Five away days will be held by Q4.
Q4 25/26	Bayes community to be grown to 45 co-located organisations and/or units, including Student Enterprise and other University units with a presence in the building, maximising their visibility and collaboration across University Schools.

Strategic added value

- Introduction of the Bayes Lounge, including **e-zone**, to the Bayes Centre building. The public access ground floor extends opportunities to external partners including founders, investors, companies, mentors and ecosystem builders to seamlessly engage with university teams working in entrepreneurship, enterprise and commercialisation alongside academics.
- **InnoConnect** funding of £50,000 enabled nine companies of various sizes, to access interdisciplinary expertise and specialist research facilities at the university to support the growth and innovation of their business.



4. The Deal – summary of progress

The **Easter Bush Agritech Hub**, continues to leverage world-class research and commercialisation facilities to establish itself as a global leader in Agritech excellence, fostering collaboration between researchers and companies.

Experts are utilising data to advance genetics and health innovations in agricultural science and business, as well as initiatives and novel systems designed to enhance production traits and other factors within food systems. Investment in Engineering Biology and Aquaculture capabilities has been secured, capitalising on strengths in data innovation. In the past year, a new DNA encoding method has been developed at the Hub, further aiding data-driven research and enhancing data insights and impact.

With the recent appointments of Maria Forlenza and Nick Wade to the aquaculture team, aquaculture offerings have been strengthened and expanded to include both genetic and immunological capabilities. This development has enabled the Hub to join industry alliances focused on tackling disease resistance within the sector and secure a prosperity partnership with a key local industry partner.

The DDI investment is transforming the scale and impact of agricultural technology, both in teaching and entrepreneurship. A new online data-driven breeding postgraduate programme has been approved, trained policymakers on the future of farming science, while Animal Health, Agritech, and Aquaculture (A3) companies continue to attract significant equity funding for their next stages of growth.

The Agritech Hub fosters an interactive community that brings together researchers and industry participants. This is exemplified



by the Industrial Doctoral Landscape Award application this year, where 23 companies formed a consortium to support 21 PhD studentships with the Roslin Institute, ensuring the delivery of essential skills for the bio-economy. Additionally, an A3 company is leading a large UK consortium initiative with DEFRA.



4. The Deal – summary of progress

Headline achievements in the past year

1. Securing leverage strategic investment of over £5 million from the BBSRC, Roslin Foundation and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to strengthen the Engineering Biology for Animals and Food Systems via a new Engineering Biology Hub.
2. Strengthened and in the process of expanding the aquaculture offer with a wide range of industry alliances and partnerships: £8.5 million for Prosperity Partnership with Mowi; forming Industry Alliance to protect oyster production; contributing to Genome Map for Mussels; undertaking research vital for aqua industry; and helping industry to improve Mussel productivity.
3. New data methods and data-driven research that increase insight and impact:
 - Experts examine DNA changes that shaped life on Earth.
 - DNA encoding method aids data-driven genetics research.
 - Genetic insights inform manta ray conservation
4. Gene-edited technology developed by Roslin Scientists making pigs resistant to a virus has now been approved for use in food supply in USA – demonstrating the impact of the hub’s research on food production.
5. Spinout **Rhizocore Technologies Ltd** won £1 million to lead a consortium focused on tackling agricultural pollution. Roslin Innovation Centre continues to support companies to secure funding to grow their business: **Cytomos**; **Dyneval**; **Betabugs** and **Raygonal**.

Next milestones

Due Date	Milestone
Ongoing	Continue to take a leadership role in the animal component of UK Engineering Biology initiatives through the newly established engineering biology hub for precision breeding in animals. Collaborate effectively with the engineering biology hub for health, also located at the University of Edinburgh, to strengthen partnerships with other UK institutions and industry partners. This collaboration will significantly enhance the precision breeding capabilities, ensuring that the region remains at the forefront of agricultural science and innovation.
Ongoing	Maintain the goodwill established within the Roslin Innovation Centre consortium, which includes 23 industry and public bodies supporting 21 studentships. This will help foster collaborative initiatives beyond the initial studentships. Additionally, aim to expand the consortium through industry-focused events.
Ongoing	Enhance the aquaculture capabilities on campus to support the growing activity in this area, which will include investing in specialised equipment for disease-resistant aquaculture.
Ongoing	Advance plans for a new veterinary first opinion practice to provide the next generation of veterinarians with a learning experience tailored for the future. This practice will ensure greater access to first opinion clinical practice materials for teaching students and, importantly, offer a dedicated programme focused on the financial and practical business skills necessary for graduates to thrive. This initiative will also expand access to first opinion facilities in the Midlothian area and facilitate increased outreach and research opportunities.



4. The Deal – summary of progress

Edinburgh Futures Institute (EFI) aims to ensure that the next generation of technologies are developed and used with social good and human flourishing at their core, baking in solutions rather than running to catch up with unintended consequences. This is done by connecting technical expertise with an understanding of human culture and society, forging partnerships beyond academia, offering a futures-focussed portfolio of training and education, and providing a space where new ideas are incubated, interrogated and translated into real-world impact.

Research at EFI is characterised by being radically interdisciplinary, impactful and in partnership. EFI supports innovation by bringing together diverse disciplines, communities, and data-driven approaches to co-create solutions for societal and global challenges. While working across all disciplines in the university, a strong concern with the human and the social is central to the work with technology.

Undergraduate and postgraduate students at the EFI work with practitioners on live projects focussed on the great global challenges. Open and bespoke executive education opportunities equip professionals at all stages of their careers with skills and understanding across technical capabilities, ethical considerations and practical applications.

Co-location and convening is central to the EFI's mission. With more than 300 people from over 50 organisations working in the building alongside students, researchers and academic colleagues, EFI convenes and catalyses cross-sector conversations and collaboration to enable newly integrated solutions. EFI engages the public in its work through its events programme, website and podcasts, ensuring an understanding of



Performers from *In the Shadow of Tomorrow* from EFI's Making Waves events season

Photo: Chris Scott



The Edinburgh Seven Tapestry at EFI

Photo: Chris Scott



Molly Danter from Scottish Dance Theatre and the CoSTAR Realtime Lab team work together to blend live performance with virtual production

Photo: Alan Richardson

what it does and how it contributes to the city, region and world.



4. The Deal – summary of progress

Headline achievements in the past year

- Official opening of the building in April 2025 by the Chancellor of the University, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal. Attendees included Scottish, UK and local government representatives alongside those involved in building and working in the Edinburgh Futures Institute.
- Fourth Creative Tech Gathering brought together over 140 creative tech and data-driven innovation practitioners from across the creative industries to share, network, showcase their work and explore innovation within creative technology.
- Centre for Net-Zero High Density buildings based at EFI, with a £4.5 million funding boost from UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), launched in May 2025. The Centre aims to transform the way urban buildings (tenements, flats, and commercial properties) are designed, retrofitted and maintained so that they are more energy-efficient, affordable to heat, and sustainable for future occupants.
- Compassion in Financial Services Hub launched to help develop a more inclusive, sustainable and compassionate financial system. Early work includes an innovative partnership with Young Scot to re-imagine and redesign financial products and services for young people that not only meet their needs but also have a positive impact on communities and the planet.
- Appointment of new Director for the Edinburgh Futures Institute and the creation of a refreshed vision which shows the ambition to support the economic development ambitions of the DDI network more broadly, through EFI’s distinctive mandate around marrying development with social and human good.

Next milestones

The Futures Institute has developed a new vision for 2025-26 with the following key objectives:

Due Date	Milestone
Q2 25/26	Develop a plan for new incubator programme to support and accelerate DDI contribution to economic development.
Q3 25/26	Undertake a holistic review of education portfolio.
Q4 25/26	Develop the futures-focused professional education portfolio in human-centred and socially responsible technology.
Q4 25/26	Develop specific plans to scale research ambition in key flagship areas where EFI has early success.

Strategic Added Value

As part of the UKRI-funded **CoSTAR network** and in partnership with Abertay University, Code Base and Chroma Developments Limited, the **Realtime Lab at First Stage Studios, Edinburgh** is a collaborative space for industry leaders, creative visionaries, and researchers to explore virtual production. Looking at the integration of real-time and AI technologies, this lab is a hub for experimenting with dynamic interactive experiences. Connected through the Realtime Cloud Lab to the facilities at Abertay University, it will open doors for Scotland’s creative professionals, providing them with next-generation production technologies to experiment and push the boundaries of their work. Resources are accessible through various open programmes, allowing companies and creatives to test, develop, and refine their ideas.



4. The Deal – summary of progress

Edinburgh International Data Facility (EIDF)

Achieving the aims of the DDI initiative requires a powerful, high-capacity, and flexible data infrastructure capable of responsive and secure delivery of an ever-expanding range of complex and bespoke data and analytical services. These activities also demand a level of service (e.g., resilient to the loss of power, redundancy of equipment to mitigate the impact of sudden failures) that is not normally required for research computing applications and was not supported by previous facilities.

The **Edinburgh International Data Facility (EIDF)** City Region Deal investment was made up of four complementary components:

- **EIDF computer room:** a new high resiliency computer room (CR4) at the EPCC's Advanced Computing Facility in Midlothian, to complement the pre-existing three computer rooms, focused on supercomputing system provision for research users;
- **Data and software Infrastructure:** the underlying Data Science Cloud computing and data infrastructure to support the DDI initiative. As part of this component open source, and paid-for advanced data analytics, compute and other software infrastructure is being deployed;
- **Internet of Things (IoT) Service:** a regionally focused IoT network is being deployed across the City Region area, supporting both school-pupil engagement, as well as wider research and industry development;
- **Regional Data Haven:** the capacity for a regional data repository, with data provided by City Region Deal Partners, created to support a smart data generation infrastructure, aligned to work at a national level, such as Research Data Scotland, COG-UK, the Smart Data Foundry, and the Regional Health DataLoch Service.



Archer2



Advanced Computing Facility from the air



Nvidia H100 AI Processors



Apollo Server (housing GPU Processors)



4. The Deal – summary of progress

Headline achievements in the past year

EIDF’s focus in 2024/25 was to upgrade existing services to meet the growing demand and to provision storage solutions that enable easy integration of these services. Upgrades included: a major software upgrade; 160 units added to the **EIDF GPU Service**; an upgrade to the latest **Cerebras** hardware (doubling its capacity); adding 144 GPUs to the **Safe Haven Services** to meet the rising demand for AI research and innovation on sensitive data held in Trusted Research Environments. This enabled the EIDF to act as a regional AI Factory.

EIDF received 11 (up 30% from last year) applications for access each month, which included a steady stream of regional companies, and some from wider afield, seeking access to EIDF expertise and resources.

The target of five out of six City Region Deal Local Authorities signing up to a full deployment of the IoT in Schools Service was also achieved.

The first year of the NERC-funded **Soprano** eco-acoustic EdgeAI research project was completed, which is using the Internet of Things Service network during development. This has already generated four further collaborative projects working with the Bat Conservation Trust, Forest Research and the Natural Capital Ecosystem Assessment Programme, the James Hutton Institute and, locally, the Pentland Land Managers Association.

View all **EIDF services**.

Date Delivered	Milestone
Aug 24	Launched EIDF Edge to enable EIDF projects to host research web services from EIDF Virtual Desktops .
Aug 24	IoT in Schools Memorandum of Agreement with Fife Council in place.
Sep 24	Added 144 A100 NVIDIA GPUs to the Safe Haven Services . This was to meet the demand for AI research and innovation on sensitive data in Trusted Research Environments.
Oct 24	Launched EIDF Gitlab service to enable EIDF projects to collaborate on source code and project management globally.
Jan 25	IoT in Schools Memorandum of Agreement with Midlothian Council in place.
Feb 25	IoT in Schools Memorandum of Agreement with The City of Edinburgh Council in place.
Mar 25	Major upgrade to EIDF Cerebras Service from two CS-2 units to four CS-3 units. This was to enable research with even larger Large Language Models, reducing energy use.
Mar 25	Added SteatoSITE as the eighth Safe Haven to be hosted through EPCC Safe Haven Services . The focus of this Trusted Research Environment is on Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Disease in partnership with industry.
Mar 25	EIDF Engagement Manager started. They will increase use of EIDF and improve service offerings. Post is fully funded by HPE.



4. The Deal – summary of progress

Date Delivered	Milestone
Apr 25	IoT in Schools Memorandum of Agreement with Scottish Borders Council in place.
Apr 25	Major upgrade to the GPU Service to incorporate features requested by users. Added 80 NVIDIA H200 and 80 H100 NVIDIA GPUs to bring the total GPUs in EIDF to 576. This was to meet the growing demand for GPUs for AI research and innovation.
May 25	Launched CephFS as the shared file system across EIDF GPU, Virtual Desktop and Notebook services.
Jun 25	EIDF received 30% more project applications between Jan - May 2025 than between Jan - May 2024. In 2025, 10 per cent of applications were from commercial organisations.
Jun 25	EPCC was reconfirmed as the host for the next UK Supercomputing Service. Working with DSIT and UKRI on the development of the revised Business Case for the Next National Supercomputing Service , with work on the procurement of the system and enabling works at the ACF to follow in early 2026.
Jun 25	Rollout of the IoT in Schools Service to all primary and secondary schools in Midlothian Council completed.

EIDF maintains its focus on **enhancing engagement and collaboration** with our DDI partners while expanding our services to ensure sustainability into the future.

In the coming year an **EIDF Container Registry Service** will be introduced – a digital storage space for users’ software packages. Data science tutorials will also continue to be developed. To provide users, and EPCC, with a clear understanding of operational costings, an updated system of cost estimates based on expected usage, will be implemented.

EPCC will also be undertaking a **series of targeted EIDF events and activities** to foster community interaction and support the ongoing refinement of EIDF services to meet user needs. This approach has proven successful to date. EIDF will collaborate with DDI hubs, coordinating activities to enhance service offerings and attract further users and partners.

This **collaborative environment** will extend service capabilities to ensure they align with client requirements and evolving industry

demands. Such synergy is crucial to maintain EIDF’s position as a key player in advancing regional Digital, AI, and Data expertise. The IoT Programme will **complete its rollout of the IoT in Schools service** to all schools within the City Region Deal local authorities that have signed up to the service. It will also commence engagement with local authorities in the region regarding the long-term continuation of the IoT in Schools service.

Finally, the activity in support of preparing the Advanced Computing Facility as the hosting location for the UK’s **next National Supercomputing Service**, as announced in the Spending Review, has been re-started. In addition, EPCC was announced as the first UK National Supercomputing Centre in the Compute Roadmap in July. Work to support the delivery of this and to support the actions set out in the UK Government’s Artificial Intelligence (AI) Opportunities Action Plan, particularly around access to **AI compute infrastructure**, are being undertaken.



4. The Deal – summary of progress

National Robotarium

The **National Robotarium** is the UK's centre for robotics and Artificial Intelligence. The state-of-the-art facility at Heriot-Watt University's Edinburgh campus is home to cutting-edge research and technology, which bridges the gap between science and industry, developing robotic solutions that address global challenges driven by sectoral and societal need.

With a core team of 30 full-time staff, the centre is also home to world-renowned researchers working with partners across Scotland, the UK and beyond to advance knowledge and drive innovation to ensure the ethical and responsible adoption of robotics and AI technologies. The centre is now home to over 140 people engaged in Robotics and AI.

Since its official opening in September 2022, the National Robotarium has solidified its position as a leader in the UK robotics sector, testing and developing new robotic applications to address real-world challenges. The centre has achieved significant success in growing its profile, particularly with policymakers from the UK and Scottish governments, including: hosting First Minister John Swinney for a national announcement around healthcare technology; continued discussions with Neil Gray around robotics for NHS Scotland; and the Deep Tech supercluster pilot launch with Scottish Enterprise. The UK Government's commitment of £40 million for regional robotics hubs demonstrates the centre's influence in shaping national robotics policy.

With a thriving portfolio of live projects, the National Robotarium advises industry—from SMEs to global conglomerates—on how they can catalyse their business through the adoption of robotics, engineering and



Ameca humanoid robot



Scotland's First Minister launches public services innovation plan at The National Robotarium



Industry event at National Robotarium



4. The Deal – summary of progress

automation to solve current and future challenges, and improve safety, efficiency and productivity.

Through its dedicated engineering and project management teams, experts in the facility work with organisations to explore, develop, design, implement and test robotic and AI solutions for deployment. In addition, the Business Development team offers expert advice and guidance on robotics strategy development, workforce training, investment case development, funding sources and infrastructure needs for effective robotic applications.

The centre also has a thriving outreach and engagement programme, which is committed to raising awareness of the benefits that robots, AI and automated systems can have on our everyday lives, building robotics skills and capabilities in the workforce, and inspiring the next generation of roboticists. This past year this outreach has expanded to have UK national reach with involvement in three national programs, one led by The National Robotarium. Total engagement numbers are now in excess of 27,000.

The facility also provides business acceleration and incubation support for entrepreneurial technology and robotics companies and is currently at capacity with a dozen start-ups and spinouts utilising the facility's labs, office spaces, equipment, and engineering expertise to develop their ideas, attract inward investment, and shape the future of robotics. In addition further support is given to 10 robotics companies not located in The National Robotarium but working closely with it. The early residents are now progressing to production and manufacturing, the main aim of the support given.



Robot petting zoo for Edinburgh Science Festival



Robotic arms project



4. The Deal – summary of progress

Launch of Blue Robotarium

The International Blue Economy Robotarium (**Blue Robotarium**) represents a groundbreaking expansion of the National Robotarium’s capabilities, leveraging Orkney’s unique marine environment and renowned technology expertise to advance the global blue economy. With a team of 400 service specialists, the Blue Robotarium harnesses the combined strengths of established Orkney-based companies alongside the National Robotarium to deliver innovative robotics, AI and autonomous systems solutions. Based in Orkney’s distinctive archipelagic setting—with its strong focus on renewable energy, oil and gas, fisheries, aquaculture, and marine conservation—the facility provides an ideal testing ground for robotic and automated solutions across diverse marine sectors. The Blue Robotarium’s mission centres on exploring, developing and applying robotics, AI and data management technologies to facilitate the safe and sustainable growth of the global blue economy, delivering benefits to island and coastal communities whilst advancing priority programmes including offshore wind automation, decommissioning robotics, and geographical digital twinning for critical marine infrastructure.

Headline Achievements in the past year

- **10** live industry projects.
- **20+** new partnerships formed.
- **140** people working in robotics and AI at the facility on a daily basis.
- **8,000 young people and 1,000 adults** engaged with the National Robotarium through school visits, competitions, outreach activities, bespoke work experience programmes for learners from across the UK, and science events/festivals, promoting the benefits of robotics and AI, and encouraging greater participation and diversity in computer science, data,

engineering and other STEM subjects across the UK. The total number of people engaged since the launch is now **over 27,000**.

- Pipeline of **100+** companies engaged in discussions to explore robotics solutions for their business
- **2** ongoing research collaborations.
- The successful expansion of **UKRAS-STEP**, a joint initiative with The University of Leeds to grow the UK’s network of RAS (Robotics and Autonomous Systems) technicians and support their professional development, with multiple events hosted and increased visibility of RAS technical capabilities at the National Robotarium. The partnership has delivered two events—in London in June and Leeds in September last year—bringing together technicians from around the UK. The Centre have also offered placements to technicians which took place this year.
- **20+** companies, start-ups and entrepreneurs utilising business incubation support, with access to labs, equipment, engineering expertise and wider networks
- Implementation of the **Robotics Revolution policy plan**, which led to the UK Government’s £40 million commitment for robotics adoption hubs, following the successful launch at Westminster and ongoing conversations with Department for Science, Innovation & Technology and Department for Business & Trade.
- **572** PR and media hits across national and international TV, radio, online and print.
- Sustained social media and digital engagement – **2422** new followers on LinkedIn (total **9098**) and **27,503** website visitors;
- The launch of The National Robotarium’s **Instagram account**, accumulating 24,000 impressions since launching in October 2024.



4. The Deal – summary of progress

Next milestones

Due Date	Milestone
Sep 25	First UK Robotics Expo launch.
Oct 25	Secure exhibition space in members area of Scottish Parliament to engage with MSPs ahead of 2026 Scottish Parliamentary Elections.
Dec 25	Lead the UK-level discussions for the establishment of a network of robotics adoption hubs across the UK.
Jan 26	Establish Robotics Scotland with the Scottish Government as a catalytic change programme for economic development and growth.
Mar 26	Establish engagement partners for enhanced regional and national outreach.
Apr 26	Funding to launch regional UK robotics adoption hubs begins.
Aug 26	Launch of robotics and AI capability maturity model programme for business-readiness.

Strategic Added Value

As a Global Research Institute at Heriot-Watt University, the National Robotarium leads world-class research that addresses global challenges and delivers benefits for industry, society and the environment. The centre delivers on its themed objectives, which are aligned to the overarching strategic aims of both Heriot-Watt University and the Data Driven Innovation initiative, led by The University of Edinburgh.

The National Robotarium actively identifies opportunities with colleagues across the DDI programme. The centre has funded a role within the Data Driven Innovation to support an Events Communications Lead, which helps work the hubs together through public engagement and strategic planning. The Data Driven Innovation communications forum has hosted monthly meetings in the different hubs, enabling a richer understanding of shared resources and capabilities.

These collaborative examples include:

- **With Bayes Centre and Edinburgh Innovations:** joint activities in Robotics and Autonomous systems across the

University of Edinburgh and Heriot-Watt University, and both DDI hubs, including events, funding applications and cross-institutional support to start-ups and spinouts from Heriot-Watt University and University of Edinburgh, most notably via the **Venture Builder Incubator** and **Deep Tech Launchpad**, including co-hosting Tech Tours with Edinburgh Innovations.

- **With Edinburgh Futures Institute:** joint activities and events around developing trustworthy robotic and AI systems for greater accessibility and adoption, including co-hosting the sold-out EFI launch event in October 2024, featuring humanoid robot Ameca and Head of Robotics Dr Ingo Keller being interviewed by writer Jeanette Winterson.
- **With the Usher Institute:** exploring and developing opportunities for joint collaboration and enterprise opportunities.
- **With the Edinburgh International Data Facility:** encouraging collaboration and facilitating access to advanced computational technologies for academic and industrial partners, e.g. EIDF GPU Service for data processing and industrial AI.



4. The Deal – summary of progress

Public engagement and outreach are integral parts of the National Robotarium's activities, providing a leading and socially conscious voice that encourages and inspires people of all ages to enhance their skills and knowledge to better understand the positive benefits robotics can bring to their lives and work.

Through the delivery of a sustained programme of engagement focused on robotics and artificial intelligence, the in-house engagement team puts audiences at the heart of its activities, increasing public understanding and critical appreciation of robotics and AI.

Through its own engagement strategy and its ongoing collaboration with the Heriot-Watt Engage team, the National Robotarium has been focused on the delivery of an ambitious Community Benefits plan, creating inclusive growth through youth and school engagement, work experience placements and job creation.

In the past 12 months, the centre has hosted and supported activities that are beneficial to the local community including robotics clubs, national robotics competitions for young people in school, further education and higher education (including UK-wide robotics competitions such as the **FIRST Tech Challenge**), events at Panmure House with Heriot-Watt's Computer Science and Robotics Engagement Lead, Dr Alistair McConnell.

Notable commercial achievements for tenant companies include **Frontier Robotics** making their first commercial sale to the **Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult**, and **Bioliberty** launching their first commercial product and branching out by establishing office space in the US where they are working to further advance the product with clinicians. These successes demonstrate the centre's effectiveness in supporting spinout companies from concept to market readiness.

Engineers at the facility have also been at the forefront of developing new innovations in soft robotics, harnessing expertise from both Heriot-Watt and The University of Edinburgh, to develop soft tentacle-like manipulators to improve sensing capacity and inspection of offshore units for a global energy company.

The National Robotarium also provides space for students in the Edinburgh Centre for Robotics, a collaboration between Heriot-Watt University and the University of Edinburgh, which delivers CDTs (Centres for Doctoral Training) for Robotics and Autonomous Systems (CDT-RAS) and Dependable and Deployable AI for Robotics (CDT-D2AIR), including hosting the first annual Robotics Summer School with Edinburgh Centre for Robotics.

The National Robotarium is fully engaged in informing policy on robotics and AI, advising government through a number of high-profile visits. The facility's success in driving Scotland and the UK's innovation and technology agenda includes developing a holistic policy plan that considers elements from ethics and regulation to economic growth and public perception.



4. The Deal – summary of progress

Robotics Readiness

The National Robotarium's Robotics Readiness programme has successfully delivered six workshops since April, engaging organisations across various industry sectors in comprehensive assessments of their robotics capabilities and strategic adoption pathways. Four additional workshops are scheduled for the remainder of the year, alongside three bespoke workshops tailored to specific client requirements—one completed and two forthcoming. The programme continues to build strong awareness and understanding of robotics opportunities across industry, with participants gaining valuable insights into how robotics can enhance their operations. Enhanced follow-on support mechanisms are actively being developed to facilitate the transition from assessment to implementation, with encouraging early engagement from clients exploring proof-of-concept opportunities.

The National Robotarium continues to assess and develop robotics capabilities across industry, providing comprehensive support to organisations seeking to understand and implement robotic solutions. Through detailed capability assessments and readiness evaluations, the centre helps businesses identify opportunities for automation and develop strategic approaches to robotics adoption.



4. The Deal – summary of progress

Usher Institute

The **Usher Institute** is transforming health in society by working with people, populations and data.

It has been a big year for the Usher Institute, working up to the official opening of the Usher Building on 26 June 2025. Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organisation opened the Usher Building alongside the Rt. Hon. Ian Murray MP and Maree Todd MSP.

Ahead of the **official opening**, a number of key events and conferences have been held in the building, bringing together public, private and third sector colleagues to collaborate and enable data-driven improvements to the delivery of health and social care. Over 100 organisations have been welcomed into the building to engage in meetings and events exploring research priorities and real-world challenges.

The Usher Institute continues to champion the role that data and digital technologies have to improve outcomes for individuals and populations, and brings together expertise from across multiple disciplines as diverse as social scientists, engineers, machine learning/AI experts and clinicians and other health and care professionals. Professor Cathie Sudlow OBE took up the role of Director in May 2025, shortly after publishing her independent review of the UK's health data landscape.

DataLoch, based at Usher, is a partnership between the University of Edinburgh and NHS Lothian. It brings together data collected as part of people's day-to-day use of health and social care services. After successful application, researchers from diverse organisations can securely access



The Usher building

Image: Craig Nicholl



Usher building interior social area

de-identified data extracts to investigate a wide range of issues and work on innovative solutions that ultimately improve care services and address health inequalities.



4. The Deal – summary of progress

Headline achievements in the past year

- **Official opening ceremony** led by Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organisation, alongside the Rt. Hon. Ian Murray MP and Maree Todd MSP in June 2025.
- Kathy Harrison, Programme Lead for DataLoch won **Digital Leader Award** at the 2025 Holyrood Connect Digital Health and Care Awards.
- **Research** led by Dr Ahmar Shar concluded NHS Scotland must boost treatment by a fifth to cut backlog exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic
- Data scientists and clinical researchers are working with high street opticians for the first time to develop a digital tool that can predict a person’s risk of dementia from a routine eye test.
- The Usher Building featured in **Doors Open Day** in September 2024, when members of the public were treated to a curated programme of science activities and engagement.

Next milestones

Due Date	Milestone
Autumn 2025	Build and grow stakeholder relationships coming out of events, conferences and activity in the Usher Building.
Autumn 2025	Complete onboarding of partners into office space in Usher Building in final available neighbourhoods.
Ongoing	Deliver public events in the Usher Connects programme , including annual lecture in McEwan Hall on 25 September 2025.
Ongoing	Continue to deliver education programme, including new short courses on the newly launched University short courses platform.



4. The Deal – summary of progress

Edinburgh Innovation Hub

The **Edinburgh Innovation Hub** is a £40m flagship development by Queen Margaret University (QMU) and East Lothian Council (ELC). Development of the Hub signals the project partners' ambition to create a nationally significant facility to capture, support and grow innovation-led enterprise in East Lothian and the Edinburgh region. Located next to Queen Margaret University on land owned by East Lothian Council the Hub will be a catalyst for the development of the wider Edinburgh Innovation Park.

The Hub will be a best-in-class innovation facility developed as the first phase of Edinburgh Innovation Park, a new and unique development for innovation-led enterprise adjacent to QMU and minutes by train from Edinburgh City Centre. The Hub will significantly enhance the already successful offering of the Edinburgh region for innovation and tech-based enterprise by providing serviced and fitted commercial laboratory and office space for high growth tech and innovation-based businesses.

The Hub will become a vibrant innovation cluster where high growth SMEs and innovation-led businesses co-locate with research and business networks under one roof to deliver a specialist service offering for commercial innovation. The Hub will provide a nucleus where people will congregate to network. It will provide high quality meeting space that can be configured for conferences, seminars, meetings, training and social events.



Edinburgh Innovation Hub: Development Site



Edinburgh Innovation Hub: Development Site

The Hub will be a regional and national resource that will enable cross-sector collaborations and interactions at all levels. Businesses will benefit from a network of business support and people and businesses will be brought together to share knowledge and skills at the 'crossing point' between R&D and commercialisation.

Companies locating to the Hub will benefit from facilitated access to the University, its social and intellectual capital and to its business support services. Co-location will encourage mentoring and peer support. Close access to business development staff and business support intermediaries will enhance the support on offer, facilitating connections with investors and enabling business collaboration.



4. The Deal – summary of progress

The close linkages and proximity to the University Departments, their students and expertise is an important aspect of this initiative.

Target markets for the Hub will be companies and enterprises that are innovation-led. In particular, the Hub will target companies in important growth sectors with specialist needs, including Life Sciences, Food & Drink, Technology, Startups, Spins outs and Enterprise initiatives.

Strategic Added Value

- The Hub forms a key part of an ecosystem of Innovation themed projects promoted by the ESES City Region Deal.
- Collaboration across the Higher Education and Further Education network within the ESES City Region Deal has been ongoing. QMU has been, for example, through its existing collaborative partnership with Edinburgh Napier University assessing the opportunity for Edinburgh Napier University to contribute to the EIP development in terms of supporting Innovation support for SMES additional to or supplementary to the QMU service offering. Arising out of this, QMU has, with Edinburgh College, adopted the Bright Red Triangle model of entrepreneurial support first developed at Edinburgh Napier University. This means that more students, graduates and researchers in Scotland will have the opportunity to access an entrepreneurial education and to view entrepreneurship as a viable career path.
- QMU continues to liaise with other Scottish City Region Deals that have Innovation focussed activity to ensure alignment and collaboration in the national context.

The Hub is phase 1 of the development of a wider Edinburgh Innovation Park (EIP).

Headline achievements in the past year

Date	Milestone
Jan 2024	Commencement of construction.
Dec 2024	Topping Out Ceremony.

Next milestones

Due Date	Milestone
Oct 2025	Handover of the construction of the Hub.
Nov 2025	Hub operational.

- The Hub will generate job opportunities in the sector for highly skilled graduates both through the innovation led growth of the businesses located there, and through providing access to the space, facilities and services for graduate start-up companies.
- The wider project will contribute to job density improvement for the wider city region by making available infrastructure/ construction opportunities and employment opportunities within the Hub and the EIP.
- The Joint Venture structure created by the Hub partners enabled them to reclaim VAT on the Hub construction. These amounts were reinvested in the project budget to enable further positive impacts to the facility and the strategic business case.
- Linking in with the Capital City Partnership to capture through the procurement process a range of community benefits.



4. The Deal – summary of progress

The Fife Industrial Innovation Investment (i3) Programme is a £58 million, 10-year programme delivered by Fife Council.

The investment is delivering new business premises and immediately available serviced land. The new business accommodation is located within existing business clusters in mid and south Fife, adjacent to growth corridors (M90 and A92). It aims to facilitate more joint working between the region's universities and Fife businesses, to drive up productivity and to deliver higher value, skilled, permanent jobs from data driven innovation.

The new industrial and commercial stock will ensure that Fife's industrial estates provide flexible space for innovative manufacturing industries with cutting-edge digital and energy capabilities. Five sites have been developed in Glenrothes, Kirkcaldy, Dalgety Bay, Lochgelly and Dunfermline during the first six years of the Programme. 6.59ha of employment land has been unlocked for private sector development and 6,209 m² of new business accommodation has been delivered. Demand remains high for new business units.

Headline achievements in the past year

- Tranche 2 and 3 of the Fife i3 Programme are in delivery.
- Construction completed for Levenmouth Task Force Units.
- Construction completed for Fife Interchange North, City of Dunfermline.
- Construction started at Levenmouth Phase 2.
- Construction started at John Smith Business Park, Kirkcaldy.
- Construction started at Flemington Road, Glenrothes – refurbishment//new build business units.
- Three sites totalling 5.1ha sold to private sector for investment.



Fife Industrial Investment Innovation



Easy Living Development Artist Impression, The Avenue, Lochgelly



Fife Interchange



Levenmouth Units



4. The Deal – summary of progress

Next milestones

Due Date	Milestone
Q2 25/26	Construction starts at Tranche 3 Levenmouth Site Servicing Project.
Q2 25/26	Construction starts at Tranche 3 John Smith Business Park, Kirkcaldy Site Servicing Project.
Q2 25/26	Flemington Road, Glenrothes Business Units – construction completes.
Q2 25/26	Plot 7a & 7b, The Avenue purchase concludes.
Q2 25/26	Levenmouth Business Units Phase 2 – construction completes.

Strategic Added Value

The Fife i3 Programme works closely with Scottish Borders Council to share Lessons Learned. It has engaged with the DDI Programme around innovation opportunities. These linkages will deepen through the implementation of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Innovation Action Plan.

Work continues to develop and refine the Programme's approach to sustainable construction and social value on a project-by-project basis.

Fife Council's inclusive growth priority is the Mid-Fife Area. However, all projects contribute to inclusive growth. The investment projects were selected on these criteria:

- Ability to support strategic business clusters;
- Location / connectivity to strategic growth corridors (M90, A92);
- Fit with existing predominant land use;
- Potential impact on sensitive or incompatible land uses; and
- Potential to deliver lower-cost business space.



4. The Deal – summary of progress

Borders Innovation Park

The Borders Innovation Park, situated next to the Borders Railway terminus at Tweedbank, will deliver much-needed high quality business space to the Scottish Borders.

Costing £29 million and being constructed in three phases, the programme is intended to stimulate growth for local businesses and inward investors together with associated job creation.

As with many other rural economies, the Scottish Borders must overcome the problem of market failure caused by a combination of remote locations and poor infrastructure, a lack of supply of modern business premises and the increasing obsolescence of existing stock.

The first building to be completed in Phase 1 of the Borders Innovation Park opened in July 2022 having been delayed owing to the COVID-19 pandemic. The IT firm, CGI, has leased one floor in the building while Inspire Learning, a trading digital learning programme, occupies part of the other floor. The rest of the building is occupied by Mainetti, a manufacturing business.

The pandemic also impacted on the programme in that the aspirations to build out speculative office space in Phases 2 and 3 were exposed by changes in market conditions for this type of accommodation. This led to a review of the planned mix of developments in these phases. The development of road and service infrastructure to unlock the land for Phase 3 development has been undertaken.



Borders Innovation Park

Approval has now been given for Phase 2, which will extend the existing office facility from Phase 1 with the construction in 2025-26 of another 1,141 m² of office space designed for flexible division into four separate offices to accommodate future tenant needs.

In summary, the Borders Innovation Park will greatly enhance the inward investment offer in the Scottish Borders, particularly to high value sectors, as well as assisting existing businesses to improve their competitiveness. It will also help to address inequalities in the area through providing access to better quality, higher paid jobs.



4. The Deal – summary of progress

Headline achievements in the past year

Date	Milestone
Nov 2024	Submission of Stage 1 Hub report for Phase 2.
May 2025	Submission of Stage 2 Hub report for Phase 2.
May 2025	Approval of Phase 2 Change Control by Scottish Borders Council.
Jun 2025	Approval of Phase 2 Change Control by City Region Deal Joint Committee.

Next milestones

Due Date	Milestone
Aug 2025	Start of construction of Phase 2 office building.
Jun 2026	Phase 3 FBC to Joint Committee.
Jun 2026	Completion of construction of Phase 2 office building.

Strategic Added Value

Scottish Borders Council is working with strategic partners including Fife Council, the University of Edinburgh, Heriot-Watt University and South of Scotland Enterprise to maximise the benefits of data-driven innovation and its potential to increase the number of innovation-active businesses, both regionally and locally. This work is taking place within the context of both the Borders Innovation Park programme and the relevant strands of the Regional Prosperity Framework.

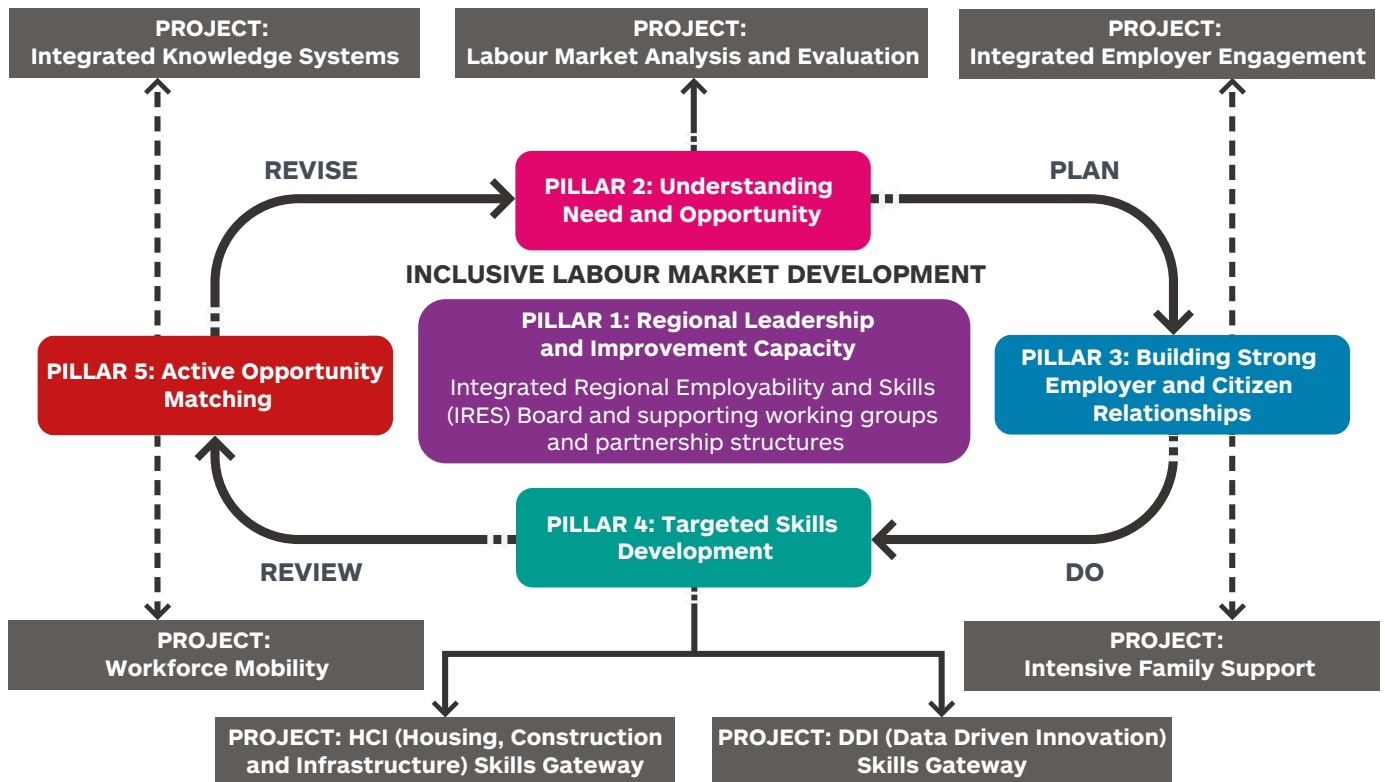
Scottish Borders Council is also working with South of Scotland Enterprise to maximise the business support and advice available to businesses as well as other aspects of the Borders Innovation Park programme. As a participant in the City Region Deal Housing, Construction and Infrastructure (HCI) Skills Gateway, the Council will look to develop new talent through utilising the construction opportunities during the build phases of the innovation park.



4. The Deal – summary of progress

Integrated Regional Employability and Skills

The Integrated Regional Employability and Skills (IRES) Programme and its cross-sector partnership seeks to evolve regional labour market policy and practice to help drive inclusive growth. The programme continues to focus on five improvement pillars targeting known areas of weakness or opportunity.



The IRES partnership is funded by £25 million investment (over eight years) and has a target of delivering an additional 14,700 skill improvements; 5,300 people into employment; and a further 500 career enhancements through its 7 themes:

1. Integrated knowledge management systems
2. Labour market analysis and evaluation
3. Integrated employer engagement
4. Intensive family support service
5. Housing construction and infrastructure (HCI) targeted skills gateway
6. Data-driven innovation (DDI) targeted skills gateway
7. Workforce mobility

The IRES programme has already delivered 127k skills improvements, achieved 8,300 job outcomes, supported 622 people to progress in their career and secured an additional £11.2m funding to enhance IRES activity.

The IRES programme continues to evolve, streamline, and integrate the region's employability and skills system to enhance our capacity and capability to drive inclusive growth and create added value for stakeholders.



4. The Deal – summary of progress

Headline achievements in the past year

1 Integrated Knowledge Systems (IKS)

- Midlothian Council migrated to **Helix** bringing their employability data and their work under Community Learning and Development (CLD) into the system.
- All the work was completed to allow West Lothian Council to migrate at the very beginning of 25/26, with a test system, data mapping, training and extensive engagement.
- Helix functionality and usage was expanded to include Grant Applications - with pilot use for City of Edinburgh Council No One Left Behind commissioning, work to show a Provider Directory and new delivery across the different partners.



2 Labour Market Analysis & Evaluation (LMAE)

- Delivery of regional research into economic inactivity and the skills system's potential response.
- Delivery of research into supply and demand of skills in key sectors.



3 Integrated Employer Engagement (IEE)

- In 2024 IEE Employer Fund supported 49 businesses with their 'growth' phase across the region. Through engagement with Business Gateway, the eligibility criteria has been widened to businesses who have been trading for under 24 months from 18. The follow-up engagement has reported the creation of 25 jobs, 20 jobs retained, 22 people upskilled, 19 businesses were able to develop their net zero delivery, and 33 businesses have requested support with fair work.
- Through the Regional Energy Masterplan, IEE has led the 'Skills Supply' component which has resulted in analysing the qualification landscape within the region for curriculum options across heat decarbonisation and retrofit. The second phase saw a priority list of qualifications created with comprehensive specifications for each new proposed award, including costs and possible awarding bodies. Early testing is underway with one of the proposed qualifications; IBT (Insulation Building Treatments) through an experienced worker route and having engaged with SQA, supporting making the SVQ SQA route available in Scotland.
- IEE supported the launch of the **CTTS Academy** (Cable Telecoms Training Services) in the Scottish Borders, allowing local businesses to access accredited utility training previously only available in England. An IEE-funded pilot saw six employability clients complete training and move into local employment.





4. The Deal – summary of progress

Headline achievements in the past year

The model has since been replicated in the Scottish Borders using UK Shared Prosperity Funding and expanded into East and Midlothian, with potential rollout in Edinburgh through **Capital City Partnership's Vocational Training Framework (VTF)**. CTTS, based in Lincoln, owns a UK-wide City and Guilds framework for cabling and utilities - also a route into offshore wind - and is in talks with Skills Development Scotland to adapt it into a Scottish apprenticeship model, with IRES involved in early discussions.

4 Intensive Family Support Service (IFSS)

- Building on the anti-Stigma Charter workshop co-designed with families across the region, the commitment has evolved into a regional campaign - Change the Story, developed throughout 2024–25. The campaign aims to challenge negative attitudes and discrimination towards people experiencing poverty. Organisations across the region are invited to sign the commitment and take meaningful action to end poverty-related stigma. A dedicated website, campaign materials, and a regional launch event are being planned to extend campaign's reach and lay the foundation for long-term impact.
- Discussions with The City of Edinburgh Council and Fife Council have helped shape local implementation of the campaign. In Edinburgh, a partnership approach has emerged, with council staff receiving training on poverty-related stigma awareness. The campaign has also supported the development of a series of animated videos to raise awareness and promote understanding across services.
- Following the successful funding of a joint research proposal with Strathclyde University, PhD researcher Rose Watson has begun a three-year study exploring the scope and impact of the Intensive Family Support Service. The research, which focuses on relational approaches within whole family support, is now underway, with fieldwork taking place across multiple local authority areas. Early findings will be shared through webinars and conferences, contributing to the wider evidence base on effective family support interventions.
- Scottish Borders Council has used Whole Family Wellbeing Funding to extend the Intensive Family Support Service model into the region, establishing a new team of eight dedicated staff. This represents a significant step forward, as no formal whole family support infrastructure previously existed in the area. The investment has enabled earlier, more coordinated intervention for families experiencing multiple and complex challenges, laying the groundwork for long-term, place-based support.





4. The Deal – summary of progress

Headline achievements in the past year

5 Housing, Construction, and Infrastructure (HCI) Skills Gateway HCI Skills Gateway – YouTube



- A consortium including HCI Skills Gateway successfully bid for £4.5 million to establish the **Centre for Net Zero High Density Buildings** to support civic and industry partners in Edinburgh and Glasgow City Regions and in partnerships across the UK. The submission was selected under the UKRI (R&D) Call for Green Economy Centres. £750,000 will be utilised to progress skills-based net zero projects.
- Edinburgh Napier University, hosts of HCI Skills Gateway, secured a multi-million-dollar renewal of the **Trimble Inc Technology Lab** in Edinburgh. HCI's work with Trimble – including COP26, Timber TED, and the Global Infrastructure qualification – has been intrinsic to securing this investment.
- Four HCI Further Education Partners – Borders College, Edinburgh College, Fife College and West Lothian College – have achieved over 5,000 enrolments to HCI-funded net zero and sustainable construction short courses, including installation of EV-charging, insulation and building treatments, and waste management.
- Pioneering **Timber TED** delivery partners **NMITE** celebrated the announcement of a new £2 million Future of Work Skills Hub, together with a further £111,000 in UK Shared Prosperity Fund support specifically for HCI programme Timber TED.
- Thanks to HCI funding, over 20 secondary schools in Edinburgh and South East Scotland joined the Powering Futures SCQF Level 6 Metaskills challenge, with 1,500 S5 and S6 pupils solving real-life sustainability challenges set by business partners.

6 Data-Driven Innovation (DDI) Skills Gateway



- As of June 2025, the **Data Education in Colleges** programme has achieved a significant milestone, reaching a total of **10,000 learner participations**.

Key participation demographics include:

- 1,893 learners self-identified as having a recorded disability.
- 256 learners were classified as women returners.
- 361 learners reported care-experienced backgrounds.
- 996 enrolments were from students identifying as Black, Asian, or Minority Ethnic (BAME).
- This continued growth reflects the programme's commitment to widening access and supporting underrepresented groups in data education.
- In 2025, the Data Education in Colleges team has made significant progress in learner achievement across the progression pathway of SQA Data Science qualifications at SCQF Levels 3 to 8. The following table outlines **achievement rates** by course and level:



4. The Deal – summary of progress

Headline achievements in the past year

Course	Level	Achievement (%)
NQ Data Skills	3	91%
NQ Data Skills	4	90%
NPA Data Science	4	90%
NPA Data Science	5	91%
NPA Data Science	6	73%
Python for Data Science	6	100%
NPA Data Science	7	75%
NPA Data Science	8	79%

7 Workforce Mobility (WFM)

- A new data analysis tool was delivered for Local Authorities across Scotland that enables them to fully analyse their bus services data quickly and in a way that provides more detailed information to allow quick and informed decision making. The data dashboards utilise graphs and charts as an effective communication tool for senior officers, Elected Members and the public.
- Through work with **SEStran** and **Scottish Futures Trust**, approval was gained across nine Local Authorities to investigate regional collaboration for EV charging expansion delivery and the creation of a common set of contract and procurement documents.
- The **'Bus Driver Careers' website** went live in May 2024 on **Helix.scot** and has received positive feedback from bus operators. A series of recruitment events took place across the region in collaboration with bus operators.
- The East Lothian Council **Journey Hub** and Active Travel Plan were delivered in May 2024, which is based on various data sets provided by Workforce Mobility Project and a comprehensive community consultation.





4. The Deal – summary of progress

Next milestones

Dec 2025	<p>IRES programme strategic development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work is progressing to co-create a proposition for a regional skills programme post-March 2027 when the current IRES programme is scheduled to finish. Skills bootcamp pilot activity will take place in December to test the model in one of the key sectors ahead of implementing more widely during second generation phase. The proposal for the second-generation IRES programme will be submitted to ESES CRD Joint Committee for approval in December, after which liaison with Scottish and UK Government colleagues will be increased regarding possible funding for Second Generation IRES Programme, or component project elements.
Dec 2025 Ongoing Ongoing	<p>Integrated Knowledge Systems (IKS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fife Council data transferred into Helix with site and data language mapping. • Expand use of Helix to include CLD for Scottish Borders and East Lothian Council. • Develop and roll out new functionality across Helix including Community Benefits tracking, grant applications and management.
Mar 2026	<p>Labour Market Analysis & Evaluation (LMAE)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete new research to be agreed.
Jul 2025 Jul 2025 Aug 2025 Aug 2025	<p>Integrated Employer Engagement (IEE)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote small grants programme through regional Business Gateway teams to support the development of innovative skills projects. • Conduct industry consultation to understand local employer needs for ongoing employer engagement enabling support through a future IRES, this consultation also identifies curriculum gaps. • Launch community benefit schedule of delivery for the Dunard Centre with the awarded contractor, Balfour Beatty. • Launch community benefit schedule of delivery for the Borders Innovation Park (Phase 2/3) with the awarded contractor; Morrison Construction.
Oct 2025 Oct 2025 Oct 2025	<p>Intensive Family Support Service (IFSS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver the official regional launch of Change the Story, including an event, public release of the campaign website, and coordinated communications activity across City Region partners to promote the commitment and drive organisational sign-up. • Publish initial findings from the Strathclyde University PhD research on relational approaches in whole family support, and research on families’ perceptions of change, capturing how those directly supported by the service understand and experience progress in their lives, alongside The Improvement Service’s Social Return on Investment (SROI) and impact evaluation reports for Intensive Family Support services, providing robust evidence to inform future policy and commissioning decisions. • Ongoing engagement with service delivery partners and families will remain a priority throughout 2025–26. This includes facilitating a regional reflective event for all IFSS partners to support peer learning and continuous improvement, providing regular reflective practice opportunities for frontline staff, and continuing to offer storytelling opportunities for families to share their lived experiences and influence future service development.



4. The Deal – summary of progress

Next milestones

Due Date	Milestone
Dec 2025	<p>Housing, Construction, and Infrastructure (HCI) Skills Gateway</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To develop strategic next steps for a regional approach to inclusive, net zero construction skills training, in partnership with the Centre for Net Zero High Density Buildings, Regional Prosperity Framework Net Zero Skills Accelerator, FE and HE partners, and ESES Strategic Sites Programme and Investment Prospectus.
Mar 2026	
Jun 2026	
Aug 2025	<p>Data Skills Gateway</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A joint Showcase of AI Resources for Scottish Teachers is to be run by the Data Education in Schools team, in conjunction with Scottish AI Alliance and the Children’s Parliament. Professional Learning courses are to run with an AI literacy component for primary and secondary teachers. Further embedding of data and Ai content across courses at Edinburgh Napier and Queen Margaret universities. Borders, Edinburgh, and Fife Colleges are collaborating to integrate Core, Artificial Intelligence, Data, and Meta Skills into programmes at SCQF Levels 4 and 5. Edinburgh College will pilot this integrated delivery model during the 2025/26 academic year, with plans for future scaling across all SCQF Level 4 courses. Although no longer directly funded by the Data Skills Gateway, this progress has been enabled by the investment provided through the initial phase of the programme. A Data and AI community programme will be delivered as a professional learning initiative to over 20 staff members from Midlothian Community Learning. This initiative includes the pilot delivery of newly developed SQA Artificial Intelligence units at SCQF Levels 4, 5, and 6 through community-based courses. The programme aims to build staff capacity and extend access to AI education within community learning settings. Data Skills for Work to lead on the editing, designing and publishing of White Paper to illustrate the gaps in data and AI skills. This will be complemented by the development of a workshop and skills tool to assess data and Ai literacy levels and help organisations to upskill (number of organisations to be engaged with still to be agreed). Work will commence on evaluating activity across the programme and on shaping a follow-on Data and Ai skills proposition to run beyond the initial IRES funding. A range of funding sources will be targeted.
Sep 2025	
Sep 2025	
Ongoing	
Ongoing	
Ongoing	
Ongoing	
Mar 2026	<p>Workforce Mobility (WFM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue the roll-out and development of PowerBi Templates to Local Authorities to better analyse the bus services data that they receive from Bus Operators to aide proactive identification of issues and opportunities. Develop a Business Case for the continuation of the Workforce Mobility Project and gain approval of the principles through City Deal governance, with a clear plan of how a sustainable funding solution can be delivered. Work with Planning teams across the region to utilise the Transport Assessment tools that have been developed by the project to inform the next versions of Local Development Plans and any Regional Spatial Strategies.
Mar 2026	
Mar 2026	



4. The Deal – summary of progress

Next milestones

Strategic Added Value

Inclusive growth remains at the centre of the IRES Programme with the aim of supporting long term sustainable destinations for those who live and work within the ESES city region. By supporting local and regional ambition, the IRES project has contributed to national policy to help shape future investment for the region. IRES provides the key human aspect of the ESES City Region Deal, supporting citizens to upskill, reskill and progress in key industry sectors that are crucial to the growth of the region. To achieve these goals, IRES has focused on several key strategic activities:

- Bringing together a wider range of partners and stakeholders to develop new Skills Gateways and Bootcamps, as part of the co-design process shaping the IRES Programme beyond 2027.
- Establishing links to key regional economic drivers such as **Forth Green Freeport**, **Regional Innovation Action Plan**, **Seven Strategic Sites for Construction**, Net Zero and Retrofit Challenge.
- Key focus on tackling climate emergency through addressing established skills gaps in partnership with **Centre for Net Zero High Density Buildings**.
- Development of new Skills Bootcamp model to establish employer-led, integrated and inclusive pathways into key sectors.
- Driving cross cutting themes within regional networks such as **Community Wealth Building**.



4. The Deal – summary of progress

A720 (Sheriffhall Roundabout)

The Sheriffhall Roundabout is currently the only junction on the A720 Edinburgh City Bypass that is not grade separated, which means the City Bypass is at the same level as the A7 and A6106 local approach roads. This at-grade, six-way junction, often experiences significant queuing, especially during peak hours. The Scottish Government's commitment through the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal includes £120 million to support improvements to the A720 Edinburgh City Bypass for the grade separation of Sheriffhall Roundabout. The project is being delivered by Transport Scotland and is subject to Transport Scotland's normal governance procedures.

The proposed new flyover arrangement at Sheriffhall will separate local traffic, including public transport, from strategic traffic on the bypass and will improve traffic flow on the bypass at this location, improving road safety and journey times for all users. In addition, the proposed new active travel facilities, consisting of nearly two miles of segregated shared surface and five dedicated grade separated subways under the new roundabout and A720 linking the A6106 and the A7 either side of the junction, will provide cyclists and pedestrians with their own safer dedicated alternative routes, removing the existing barrier and transforming the way they cross the A720 City Bypass.



Visualisation of the proposed Scheme looking from the South-West



Visualisation of Proposed Dedicated Active Travel Facilities



Visualisation of Proposed Dedicated Active Travel Facilities



Visualisation of Proposed Dedicated Active Travel Facilities



4. The Deal – summary of progress

Headline achievements in the past year

- Continued engagement with the City Region Deal partners on progress and scheme development.
- The Reporter’s report, which sets out the Reporter’s conclusions and recommendations following the Public Local Inquiry, is currently under active consideration prior to advice being provided to and a decision being made by Scottish Ministers on the scheme.

Next milestones

Due Date	Milestone
TBC	Following detailed consideration of the Public Local Inquiry Reporter’s Report and all objections received the Scottish Ministers will make a decision on whether the Orders for the scheme should be made. Subject to a positive Ministerial decision, the next stages in the development of the proposed scheme will be to compete the statutory authorisation process. Delivery of the proposed scheme can only commence if it is approved under the relevant statutory procedures and thereafter a timetable for progress can be set.

Strategic Added Value

The project will:

- Address the bottleneck on the strategic road network by improving operating conditions and connectivity at Sheriffhall and help to reduce the traffic impact of proposed developments on the area.
- Provide high quality active travel facilities to deliver a step change in accessibility for walking and cycling.
- Support future development in the region, including the South East Wedge development, inclusive growth and the removal of physical barriers to growth through delivery of programme of construction across the region.
- Contribute towards the requirement to provide Community Benefits in line with the requirements of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014.
- Support wider skills development in the construction sector.



4. The Deal – summary of progress

West Edinburgh Transport Improvement Programme (WETIP)

West Edinburgh is recognised as a key national economic asset and perhaps the most important gateway to Scotland. West Edinburgh will offer significant economic investment opportunities with potential to be internationally competitive. The vision for West Edinburgh and the unlocking of the proposed business and residential development cannot be delivered without significant investment in an integrated package of transport intervention measures. These include a core package of sustainable transport improvement measures along the A8/A89 corridor that provide long term resilience and support strong connectivity between neighbouring authorities and communities. The transport intervention measures are centred around sustainable transport enhancements between Broxburn and Maybury and are necessary to mitigate the impacts of new developments and meet current agreed modal share/shift targets. This proposal is in line with the City Region Deal vision and is supportive of local plans and policies which look to accelerate the rate of investment and economic performance by capitalising on our existing world class assets through inclusive and sustainable growth model.



Headline achievements in the past year

Date	Achievement
March 2025	Commencement of RIBA Stage 3 (developed design) including major site investigation works.



4. The Deal – summary of progress

Next milestones

Due Date	Milestone
Autumn 2025	Conclusion of RIBA Stage 3 including commencement of Statutory Road Orders process.

Strategic Added Value

The purpose of the West Edinburgh Transport Improvement Programme is to progress the delivery of the public transport and active travel measures identified in the 2016 WETA Refresh study. Interventions will support a wide range of objectives including, but not limited to, the promotion of sustainable travel to a range of destinations; improving regional connectivity and accessibility for all to jobs, education, healthcare and leisure; and delivering an improved active travel and public transport mode share within West Edinburgh to support net zero carbon emission targets. The Programme has adopted a collaborative approach and brings together a range of key stakeholders and partners contributing to successful delivery. Key stakeholders and partners include the City of Edinburgh Council, West Lothian Council, Bus Operators, Transport Scotland, Active Travel Groups, Bus User Forums, SEStran, Sustrans, Network Rail, Edinburgh Airport, Major Developers and statutory consultees. In due course, this project will be procured as a construction project, and links with the Housing and Construction Infrastructure Skills Gateway will be established. The improvement of public transport provision in this area has the potential to unlock housing development opportunities and ease congestion in the corridor between West Lothian and Edinburgh.



4. The Deal – summary of progress

Dunard Centre

The Dunard Centre, supported by Royal Bank of Scotland, will be Edinburgh's first new purpose-built concert hall in over 100 years, opening up a new public realm in the heart of the city and delivering a world-class asset for Edinburgh, Scotland and the UK.

Designed by David Chipperfield Architects, it will be the first Nagata Acoustics hall in the UK, bringing together exceptional architecture, extraordinary acoustics and bold, ambitious programming to rival the best in the world in acoustic quality and audience experience.

Located in the heart of Edinburgh's New Town, the Dunard Centre will serve as the permanent home of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, and a new venue for the Edinburgh International Festival, supporting the exceptional quality and diversity of its festival offerings year-round and cementing Edinburgh's international reputation as a cultural capital.

Beyond its role as a premier performance space, the Dunard Centre's vision is to provide a free-to-access, inclusive hub for artistic development, lifelong learning, skills development and community engagement. Its wide-reaching community engagement programme, delivered in partnership with a network of cultural and third sector organisations, will create meaningful pathways for lifelong learning, connecting artists, audiences and communities.



The Dunard Centre auditorium
Image: Andy Smith



The Dunard Centre café terrace
Image: David Chipperfield Architects



The Dunard Centre's Caledonia Hall auditorium
Image: David Chipperfield Architects



4. The Deal – summary of progress

The Dunard Centre benefits from the generous support of the Dunard Fund — a long-term funder of the arts and music in Scotland — and is the cultural centrepiece of the Edinburgh and South-East Scotland City Region Deal. A vital investment in the city’s infrastructure, the venue will deliver wide-reaching benefits to the culture, tourism, hospitality and transport sectors as well as bolstering region-wide creative education provision, and increasing access to the arts through digital technology and regional partnerships.



The Dunard Centre’s Caledonia Hall auditorium
Image: David Chipperfield Architects



The Dunard Centre’s Caledonia Hall auditorium
Image: David Chipperfield Architects

Due Date	Achievements
Mar 2025	IMPACT Scotland welcomed four new trustees to the board: Yvette Hopkins, Shonaig Macpherson, Katherine Peskett, Roddy Hart.
Apr 2025	Jo Buckley, CEO, presented alongside First Minister, John Swinney on the importance of creativity to Scotland’s identity at Carnegie Hall as part of Tartan Week 2025.
Jun 2025	Newly commissioned Dunard Centre Economic and Social Impact reports published.
Jun 2025	Carnegie Corporation of New York awarded Dunard Centre a grant of \$1 million.
Jun 2025	IMPACT Scotland received a tender offer from Balfour Beatty for the construction of the Dunard Centre.

Next milestones

Due Date	Milestone
Aug 2025	IMPACT Scotland Stage 2 tender acceptance.
Autumn 2025	Main construction begins.



4. The Deal – summary of progress

Strategic Added Value

The Dunard Centre's mission to create a 'Hall for All' is firmly centred around inclusion and access for everyone. Our vision is to deliver a bustling creative hub which will not only boost Scotland's economy and create jobs and career pathways, but increase access to the arts for people across all ages and stages, and create a welcoming, free-to-access public space in the heart of Edinburgh.

As an insight-driven organisation, our business strategy – from audience development and engagement, to programming and operations – is underpinned by a wealth of research. This has included market research undertaken by JRS Consortium in 2023, independent public polling by Whitestone Insight in 2025 and, most recently, an independent assessment of the Centre's economic and social impact.

The reports demonstrate that the Centre's operations are projected to generate £169.4 million in gross value added (GVA) over its first 20 years, supporting 289 FTE jobs. Based on an estimated 200,000 visitors annually, the hall is projected to increase spending in Edinburgh and the surrounding region by £8.6m a year. Our social engagement plan is absolutely central to our work. Our wide-ranging community engagement programme is expected to benefit around 17,000 people each year. This includes increased opportunities for skills development leading to improved workplace pathways, as well as lifelong-learning initiatives, digital programmes and affordable programming.

The Dunard Centre is also committed to becoming a beacon for sustainable working in the 21st century. Our ambition to become a zero-carbon building within a decade of opening is supported by an assessment and strategy from environmental design consultants Atelier 10. Plans to achieve our sustainability targets include the building design itself, a circular economy approach, and an assessment of carbon performance in line with the UK Green Building Council Net Zero Carbon Framework process.



4. The Deal – summary of progress

The Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region is experiencing a housing crisis. Five of the six local authorities have declared local housing emergencies, a situation compounded by the region’s population growth rate – the fastest in Scotland.

In response to these challenges, regional partners have identified five priority areas for collective action to address the housing crisis and accelerate the delivery of affordable housing across all tenures:

- Affordable Housing Delivery;
- Retrofit;
- Strategic Sites Programme;
- Regional Delivery Alliance; and
- Innovative Funding Models and Infrastructure Delivery.

Affordable Housing Delivery

ESES continues to deliver a significant proportion of Scotland’s new affordable homes. In 2024/25 the region collectively delivered over 1,290 affordable home approvals, over 1,700 site starts and nearly 2,200 completions, with a spend of nearly £126m. This exceeded all annual targets for spend, approvals, site starts and completions. A further £4.4m funding was utilised by City of Edinburgh Council and West Lothian Council to bring 615 void homes back into occupation. Compared to last year, there are 110 fewer homes approved, site starts are very similar and completions are down by 111 homes. The funding that has been available/spent is around £60m less in comparison to 2023/24.

Regional Affordable Housing Pipeline

Through local Strategic Housing Investment Plans (SHIPs), 15,360 homes have been identified that could be completed between 2025-2030. However, this target is currently unachievable due to insufficient funding.



Local authority partners have funding available or expect to secure funding for 4,619 homes, representing 30% of the affordable housing pipeline. With increased funding beyond current levels, regional partners estimate they could complete 9,268 homes, achieving 60% of the total pipeline.

Strategic Sites

Work continues to try to accelerate delivery of the seven strategic sites at Blindwells, Calderwood, Dunfermline, Edinburgh’s Waterfront, Shawfair, Tweedbank and Winchburgh.

The **Strategic Sites Programme**, approved by Joint Committee in October 2024, highlights that the collective socio-economic impact of the seven strategic sites would:

- deliver 41,000 new homes (10,000 affordable);
- create 8,000 jobs; and
- contribute an additional £30 billion in Gross Value Added.

It would also unlock a strategic delivery pipeline and be a catalyst for at least £4.1 billion private and institutional investment and wider public benefits.



4. The Deal – summary of progress

Significant progress has been made towards the delivery of the seven strategic sites this year, and especially in recent months. On 6 June 2025, the ESES City Region Deal Joint Committee considered three key reports and made the following key decisions:

- Endorsed the **Blindwells Strategic Outline Business Case**, for submission to UK and Scottish Government for consideration;
- Approved Fife Council progressing an application to access the **second phase of funding for Dunfermline** amounting to £6.1m (in line with the approved Full Business Case); and
- Approved a **progress report** outlining progress on the preparation of an Outline Business Case to support the case for the development of a new railway station at Winchburgh and proposed approach to Scottish Government to secure gap funding.

It is also anticipated that the full business cases for Granton Waterfront and Tweedbank Phase 1 will come forward in autumn 2025.

Across the seven strategic sites over 1,000 social rent and over 3,600 market homes have been started over the last year. A total of 400 social homes, 253 mid-market rent homes and 795 market homes have been completed. A full breakdown is provided in the tables here:

Table 1 – Strategic Site Delivery – Site Approvals

Delivery (starts)	Tenure Mix			
	Social Rent	MMR	BTR	Market
Blindwells	42	0	0	93
Calderwood	0	0	0	121
Dunfermline	1396	0	0	5584
Granton Waterfront	214	173	0	470
Shawfair	85	9	0	313
Tweedbank	0	0	0	0
Winchburgh	85	0	0	223
Total	1,822	182	0	6,804

Table 2 – Strategic Site Delivery – Site Starts

Delivery (starts)	Tenure Mix			
	Social Rent	MMR	BTR	Market
Blindwells	42	0	0	93
Calderwood	0	0	0	147
Dunfermline	637*	0	0	2544*
Granton Waterfront Silverlea	92	51	0	0
Shawfair	107	0	0	348
Tweedbank	0	0	0	0
Winchburgh	134	32	0	487
Total	1,012	83	3	3,619

*numbers relate to total units approved within the relevant planning permissions which have begun on site.

Table 3 – Strategic Site Delivery – Completions

Delivery (completions)	Tenure Mix			
	Social Rent	MMR	BTR	Market
Blindwells	23	0	0	111
Calderwood	42	33	0	182
Dunfermline	0	0	0	322
Granton Waterfront (Western Villages & D1)	243	220	0	0
Shawfair	18	0	0	41
Tweedbank	0	0	0	0
Winchburgh	74	0	0	139
Total	400	253	0	795



4. The Deal – summary of progress

Regional Delivery Alliance

The **South East Regional Delivery Alliance** builds on the Edinburgh Home Demonstrator Project which aimed to deliver a new model for delivering affordable Net Zero homes. The model is centred around collaborative procurement, whole life costing, development pipeline, and increased standardisation of housing types.

The **South East Regional Delivery Alliance's Knowledge Hub** was launched in June 2025. This online resource holds key documents that are intended to streamline the delivery of affordable housing projects, including:

- A five-year pipeline of affordable housing projects, created using SHIP data;
- 18 flat and house typologies and their associated Housing for Varying Need checklists; and
- A Design & Performance Standard, which is a written specification utilising Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) and is net-zero ready.

Stronger collaboration has taken place with Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) which led to the first RSL sites being included in a collaborative feasibility study.

A Regional Pipeline was created to provide a clearer view of housing projects, including those that are funded and deliverable.

The current return of investment for collaborative Bundle 1 has resulted in a cost saving of £765 per unit for the design team fees for the feasibility and pre-construction phases of Pilot 3.

Key achievements over the last year include:

- Increased quantity of homes – **24% increase in unit numbers** compared to target site density for Pilot 3.
- **Reduced design team costs** – A cost saving of £765 per unit for design team fees for the feasibility and pre-construction phases of Pilot 3.
- Performance – **35% reduction on space heating performance**, calculated through University of Edinburgh's Interim evaluation of Pilot 1

Innovative Funding Models and Infrastructure Delivery

With continued pressure on funding and financing for housing and enabling infrastructure, innovative funding models are playing a key role in unlocking development potential.

Partners and national agencies are actively sharing learnings and delivery models currently being utilised or under development across the region.

Three key approaches are being explored: risk-sharing models (successfully implemented at Winchburgh); outcome-based approaches (demonstrated at Granton Waterfront); and Growth Accelerator Models.

On Friday 28 March 2025, regional partners held a Strategic Sites Workshop examining infrastructure delivery mechanisms, innovative funding solutions, and examples of successful strategic site delivery from across the UK. Workshop participants included regional Chief Finance Officers, Strategic Site Lead Officers, leading academics, the National Wealth Fund, Scottish National Investment Bank, and the Scottish Futures Trust.



4. The Deal – summary of progress

Retrofit

Regional partners have agreed to deepening collaboration with a focus on sharing data and learning on standards, costs, property condition, Local Heat & Energy Efficiency Strategies (LHEES) and fuel poverty.

In May 2025, the University of Edinburgh completed a pilot archetype study to support retrofit and heat decarbonisation planning for LHEES, Work is ongoing to build upon and maintain momentum of the innovative archetype project.

Edinburgh Living

Since September 2024, Edinburgh Living has purchased a total of 141 new homes at three sites. This brings the total number of homes owned by Edinburgh Living to 715.

Headline achievements in the past year

Date	Achievement
Oct 2024	Special Joint Committee meeting to approve the ESES City Region Strategic Sites Programme . This included a socio-economic impact assessment demonstrating the collective benefits from the Strategic sites. The economic model was developed by the University of Edinburgh and the City Region Deal PMO and both Scottish and UK Government economists.
Jun 2025	Joint Committee Business case approval of Blindwells Outline Business Case and Dunfermline Phase 2 Delivery .
Jun 2025	Launch of the Regional Delivery Alliance digital Knowledge Hub resource.



4. The Deal – summary of progress

Strategic Site Headline Achievements

Blindwells

- In October 2024, the strategic context for Blindwells was further progressed by approval of the Strategic Sites Programme by Regional Partners, which was developed with input from both Governments and provides a context to address the opportunities and challenges associated with the project via business case development, including capital and revenue support;
- In December 2024 East Lothian Council decided to progress a Strategic Outline Business Case for Blindwells, and during early 2025 the Council led close joint working with Scottish Futures Trust and the landowners and developers involved to enable formation of a Project Team and the SOBC to be drafted;
- In June 2025, Regional Partners and East Lothian Council approved the Blindwells Strategic Outline Business Case for submission to both Governments for their consideration, setting out the strategic benefits and impact that the new settlement can deliver at UK, national, regional and local levels.

Granton

- Working with Government officials throughout 2024, The City of Edinburgh Council secured a commitment from Scottish Government to support Granton Waterfront Phase 1 as announced by the Cabinet Secretary in her budget announcement in December 2024.
- Gas holder park was completed Dec 2024; this included restoration of the frame and the installation of a city park. The restoration of this structure permits development of the surrounding Phase 1 housing development sites.

- 75 net zero homes for social and mid-market rent alongside three commercial units were completed at Granton Station View in January 2025. Residents have now moved in.
- 388 net zero homes for social and mid-market rent are complete at Western Villages. Residents are now moving in.
- Commencement of 143 net zero homes for social and mid-market rent at Silverlea; completion is due in late 2025.

Shawfair

- 20 kilometres of pipework and energy centre for Shawfair DHN is now in place with the first heat customers in December 2024. More homes have been added to the network, with 86 homes expected to be added by the end of the year.
- Remediation of the site for Shawfair all-through Education Campus has begun.
- Continued installation of pipework for Shawfair District Heat Network to serve 3000 homes.
- Over 900 new homes either constructed, under construction, consented or being progressed for planning permission.



Blindwells



Granton



4. The Deal – summary of progress

Strategic Site Headline Achievements

Dunfermline

- The third of the 10 sites that comprise of the Dunfermline Strategic Site commenced on site in April 2025. This site will have 1400 units, bringing the total number of consented sites that are now active to 2544 units.
- Secured support of ESES Joint Committee to progress with submitting an application for accessing Dunfermline Phase 2 Delivery.
- The second strategic transport intervention was delivered.

Tweedbank

- Strategic site master plan for 15 years was approved by CBRE – a £250 million investment.
- Initial focus is on the next five years, which is to deliver 156 homes plus and retail. CBRE also updated their market analysis report for the five-year plan.
- Major planning application for Tweedbank Care Village was submitted in September 2024. The approval process is ongoing.

Calderwood

- Now over 1,700 occupations.
- A developer funded feeder bus service is now being provided to Kirknewton Railway Station pending agreement on an expansion of the Park & Ride Facility at the station.

Winchburgh

- Now over 1,300 occupation.
- Significant progress being made towards delivery of the railway station although a funding package remains to be agreed.
- A new non-denominational primary school at Hawkhill under construction to be ready for the new academic year 2025/26.



4. The Deal – summary of progress

Next milestones

Due Date	Milestone
Summer 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Delivery Alliance: A webinar programme to aid engagement and communication with Local Authorities, Registered Social Landlords and the private sector will take place in August. Regional Delivery Alliance: A collaborative feasibility for Bundle 3 will be arranged to gain efficiencies in scale of affordable housing projects. Edinburgh Living: A further 99 homes are expected to be purchased prior to the end of September 2025.
Autumn 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Granton: Completion of 444 net zero homes for sale and rent at Western Villages. Granton: Seeking Council Committee approval in September for the Full Business Case and to enter into development agreement for phase 1 of Granton Waterfront Regeneration, 847 homes and 14 commercial units alongside mobility hub and active travel. Granton: Seeking Council Committee approval in September to enter into concession agreement for the Granton Waterfront Low Carbon Heat Network. Shawfair: Feasibility Study is currently being concluded and District Heating Network routing selection finalised to connect Royal Infirmary to the MEL Heat Network that works for NHS Lothian. Tweedbank: Strategic Site Full Business Case – Phase 1 submission. Regional Delivery Alliance: The collation, procurement and feasibility of Bundle 3, from September 2025. Regional Delivery Alliance: A whole life carbon exercise will be completed on seven of the 18 typologies.
Winter 2025/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Granton: Site start for Phase 1 and the district heat network. Granton - Completion of 143 Social Rent and mid-market rent net zero homes at Silverlea. Shawfair: Millerhill Recycling and Energy Recovery Centre (RERC), operated by FCC Environment, will capture waste heat and pipe it to 59 homes in Shawfair by the end of 2025. First heat customers expected before the end of the summer 2025. Edinburgh Living: Seeking Council Committee approval to progress next phase of 145 acquisitions. Regional Delivery Alliance: Progression of Bundle 2 into preconstruction. Seek to establish a Strategic Sites Working Group with Scottish, UK Government and national agencies with a tri-partite approach to progress delivery of the Strategic Sites Programme. Establish shared governance arrangements around the Blindwells project through the Strategic Sites Working Group Blindwells - The Project Team anticipates a Government decision on the Strategic Outline Business Case winter 2025/26. If progression to Outline Business Case is approved by Governments, the next anticipated key milestones are included below.



4. The Deal – summary of progress

Due Date	Milestone
Winter 2025/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Blindwells - on-going joint working with both Governments, Scottish Futures Trust, National Wealth Fund, Scottish National Investment Bank and the landowners and developers involved to focus on identifying 'in principle' strategic solutions for infrastructure and services, financial innovation and delivery vehicles that can feature in the development of the Outline Business Case and Blindwells Area Design Framework (non-statutory planning guidance in support of the Outline Business Case);• Blindwells - develop a draft Outline Business Case and draft Blindwells Area Design Framework targeting Winter 2025/26
Spring 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regional Delivery Alliance: A successful business case to extension of the programme beyond its current date of March 2026.• Shawfair: The remediation of the town centre site by Shawfair LLP is getting underway currently and construction on the campus is targeted to start once this is complete in 2026.
Summer 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Edinburgh Living: Acquisition of homes currently onsite (145) subject to viability criteria being met.• Blindwells – submit an Outline Business Case targeting summer 2026, which has been co-produced with both Governments and the Project Team and other as relevant.

Strategic Added Value

The Regional Housing Programme and delivery of the strategic sites can help address inequality, child poverty, improve health and wellbeing and create sustainable mixed communities and successful places that enable effective transformation and a just transition to net zero while responding to the climate and nature emergencies. This will also allow regional partners to retain, create and attract the high-quality workforce needed in South East Scotland to deliver our shared economic ambitions, which can enhance prosperity and contribute to productivity of the wider national and UK economy.

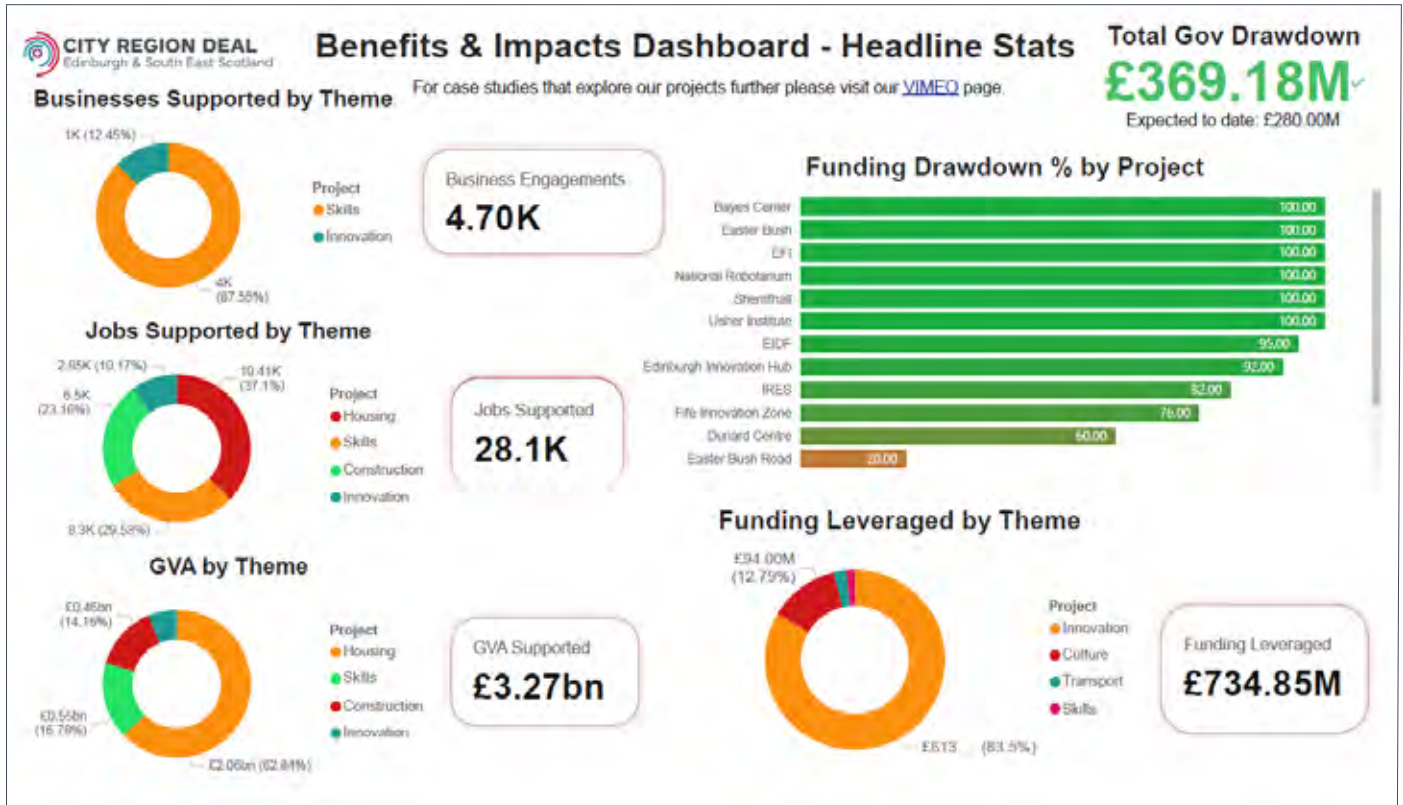
The Strategic Sites are a key part of the Regional Prosperity Framework (RPF). The RPF Delivery Plan has an ambition and vision to protect the environment and make best use of our extraordinary built and natural assets. This will ensure that our Region delivers a just transition to a net zero economy. There are three main goals of the RPF Delivery Plan: to reduce economic exclusion; sustained and increased competitiveness; and accelerate a fair transition to Net Zero.

The Strategic Site Programme and economic modelling demonstrates the collective impact of the seven Strategic Sites. They can deliver over 41,000 homes, over £30bn Gross Value Added, and support over 8,000 jobs. Together they can deliver transformational change in terms of housing supply and economic growth. For every £1 of public cost, £2.4 of GVA will be generated both in the region and elsewhere.



5. Benefits Realisation Update

In 2023/24 great progress has been made in benefit realisation monitoring and reporting.



Theme-specific benefits realisation progress:

Culture

The projected benefits to be realised over 15 years for the Dunard Centre Project have been refreshed in line with newer data, this has highlighted a higher estimation of benefits than originally estimated. Currently, the project is estimated to generate £107.5m in Gross Value Added (GVA) over its first 20 years of delivery, this is an increase of £30m in GVA from the original estimates from 2021. We continue working with our colleagues at IMPACT Scotland to improve and sophisticate our measurement of all the impacts and benefits that will be delivered by the construction and delivery of the Dunard Centre initiative.



5. Our Approach to Benefits Realisation

Integrated Regional Employability and Skills (IRES)

The IRES project has been hugely successful when examining the original KPI's for the project.

The IRES project, now in its seventh year of an eight-year programme, is exceeding its business case targets and how now achieved these ahead of schedule:



Skills improvements

127,287

Goal: 14700 (+765.9%)



Job outcomes

8,300

Goal: 5300 (+56.6%)



Career progression

622

Goal: 500 (+24.4%)

Central to the success of the IRES programme is its extensive network of partners. This collaboration has fostered a culture of cross-sector regional collaboration, driving innovative approaches to address skills demands and opportunities. As a result, an additional £11.22m in funding has been secured, representing a 45% increase on government funding drawn down by the IRES programme so far.

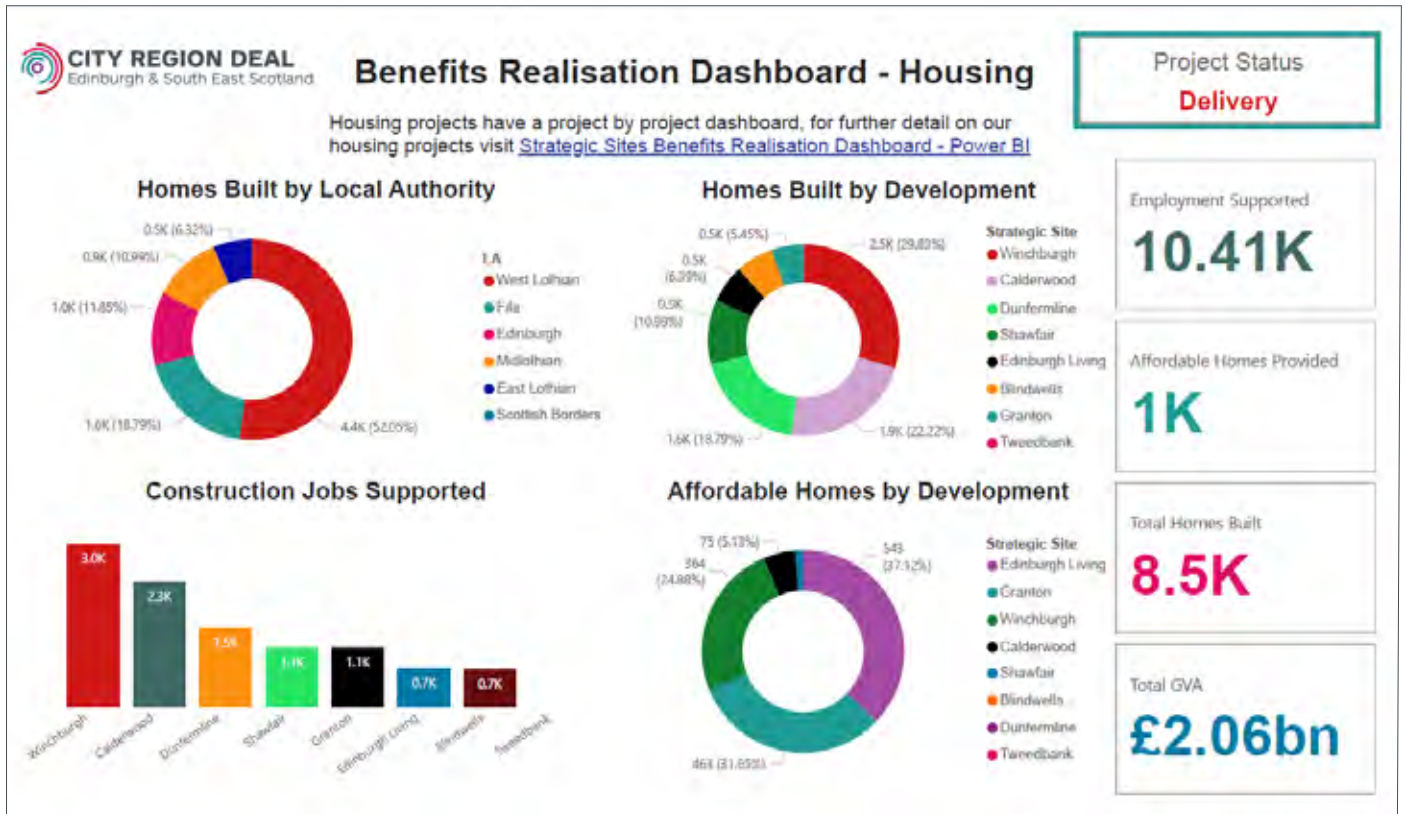
Click here to view the live **IRES Impact Data Dashboard** for more in-depth data on the projects within the IRES programme.



5. Our Approach to Benefits Realisation

Housing

A great deal of work has been done to improve the sophistication of benefits reporting in housing, having worked with colleagues in the University of Edinburgh, the UK Government and Scottish Government we have developed a model for assessing the impacts of the strategic housing development, with the key benefits outlined in this dashboard:





5. Our Approach to Benefits Realisation

Innovation

Data-Driven Innovation Hubs

The DDI Hubs have continued effectively delivering above expectation against the key performance indicators outlined in the business cases for them, with a summary of these below (please note the KPI for data is still being configured and will be reported as soon as possible):

Status of Programme	Status	Commentary
Talent – Courses		Both UoE and HWU are ahead of projected targets to date, and are on track to exceed the end of programme target of 84,000 students
Talent – CPD & MOOCs		The programme is over its end-of-programme target by 130%, and generated between £6-10m of economic impact between 22/23 – 23/24
Research		The programme is currently £1m ahead of its end-of-programme target
Adoption		The programme has exceeded its actual income target for the end of the programme by 35%
Entrepreneurship – Companies		The programme has officially exceeded its end-of-programme target for the number of companies engaged by 42%
Entrepreneurship – Follow-on Funding		The programme is over its end-of-programme target for follow-on-funding received by DDI companies by 311%

Fife Innovation Zone

Great progress has been made in Fife Innovation Zone where there are now 26 innovation action companies in the industrial units. These companies have created or safeguarded 151 jobs in Fife, and are utilising innovative new approaches to energy to create more sustainable and affordable energy solutions for tenants.

Borders Innovation Park

Borders Innovation Park situated next to Tweedbank Station and in the current Lowood Estate. The initiative is predicted to ultimately create around 350 jobs and an estimated Gross Added Value for the Borders economy of over £200m. Currently, 3 businesses are operating in Borders Innovation Park, with more benefits expected to be realised as the park continues to grow and develop.

Transport

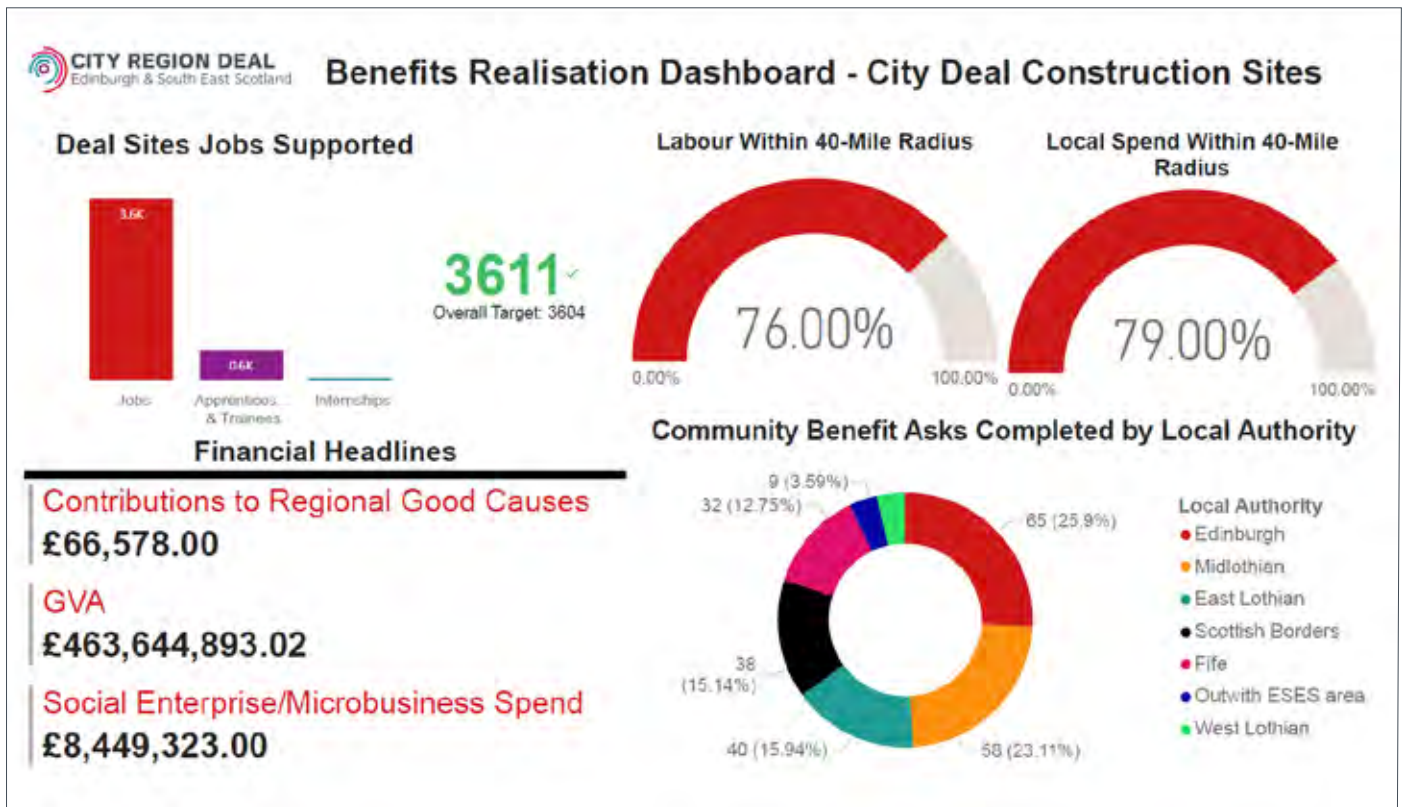
Currently Transport projects have not begun delivery. However, work has begun to research how benefits monitoring, and evaluation can capture benefits such as reduced travel times, reduced carbon emissions and improved connectivity within the region.



5. Our Approach to Benefits Realisation

Construction

City Region Deal construction sites have supported a great deal of economic activity and are engaged in inclusive, community wealth building practices. Key benefits are highlighted below:



Going Forward

Currently there is an internal audit taking place on benefits realisation, following this the recommendations will be implemented to continue improving our approach to benefits realisation. A consultation with project leads has been undertaken to revise the benefits realisation plan, the revision of this will be published this year. An evaluation of the IRES project is underway which will have a published report in September, and the Benefits Realisation Officer continues working with other deals across the UK to share learning and promote a coordinated approach to benefits realisation, monitoring and evaluation.



6. Regional Prosperity Framework

Regional Prosperity Framework

The Regional Prosperity Framework (RPF) outlines a 20-year economic vision for Edinburgh and South East Scotland and captures the regions current economic priorities to deliver inclusive growth, increased competitiveness and a just transition to net zero. The Framework is the articulation of the next phase of the development of the regional economy, building upon the successes of the City Region Deal both in terms of the programmes and in terms of regional collaboration.

The **Regional Prosperity Framework Delivery Plan** was published in April 2023, focusing on priority projects identified for implementation within the subsequent two-year period.

Over the past year, regional partners have advanced projects identified in the RPF Delivery Plan, progressing them into delivery as funding becomes available. A notable example is the collaborative approach taken with UK Government Shared Prosperity Funding (UKSPF), where the six Local Authorities pooled just over £1m of their individual allocations to deliver priority RPF projects. This funding has supported essential development work including feasibility studies, economic impact assessments, and design activities that lay the groundwork for future implementation.





6. Regional Prosperity Framework

Project Name	Funding Source	Output	Next Steps
Climate Ready SE Scotland	UKSPF (Local Authority pooled) & Scottish Government	Climate risk and opportunity assessment produced for the region. New economic analysis and coastal change modelling. Collated local knowledge and lived experience.	Developing business cases and detailed proposals for priority regional actions identified in the risk assessment and develop options for a sustainable partnership model.
Regional Energy Masterplan	UKSPF (Local Authority pooled)	Four key projects completed in 24/25 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development of regional data sharing agreement(s). 2. Climate Action Map – creation of online GIS map tool to support regional net zero planning and stakeholder engagement. 3. Pilot archetype study to support retrofit and heat decarbonisation planning for Local Heat & Energy Efficiency Strategies (LHEES). 4. Skills & training study for retrofit and heat decarbonisation including identification of skills gap, workforce capability evaluation, training needs assessment, policy alignment and recommendations. 	Identifying groups of potential collaborative energy investment opportunities; and building upon and maintain momentum of the innovative archetype project.
Net Zero Accelerator Hub	UKSPF (Local Authority pooled)	Feasibility Study has been completed which evaluates the potential for a Net Zero Accelerator Hub addressing net zero demands and future delivery needs for the six Local Authorities encompassing net zero housing new build, retrofit housing, retrofit non-domestic buildings and low carbon transport infrastructure.	The next phase of the project is to enable the NZAH to deliver on its full potential will require capital investment of circa £20-25m to create physical space 'barns' in each College in the region and provide capacity required to deliver net zero training requirements.



6. Regional Prosperity Framework

Project Name	Funding Source	Output	Next Steps
Visitor Economy and Culture	UKSPF (Local Authority pooled)	<p>Regional Visitor Economy Partnership established. 4 projects completed in 24/25:</p> <p>1. Cycling – aim of becoming a leading cycling holiday destination. Developed a Cycling Tourism Strategic Vision Framework; Conducted a Regional Cycling Tourism Feasibility Study; and Created a Destination Development Plan with prioritisation matrix.</p>	<p>Target short term low budget actions to be delivered immediately; Business case development for larger scale longer term recommendations; Summer 2025 workshop to take recommendations forward and allocate lead organisation.</p>
		<p>2. Culture – aiming to provide an enhanced cultural offer across the city region could be achieved by a new Regional Creative Content and Touring Framework. Capitalise on Edinburgh’s reputation as a world-class festival city.</p> <p>Understand current audiences for performing arts offers within the region, identifying levels of latent demand – 89% adults in the market for some form of performing arts.</p> <p>Business modelling undertaken and a feasible business model for a regional creative content and touring framework following phase one market intelligence reports.</p>	<p>In-person workshop with all Local Authority partners, current project leads and their research team, to discuss proposal in more operational and practical detail to consider implementation.</p>
		<p>3. The Forth – Developed a comprehensive strategic plan for cruise tourism in region. To maximise economic, environmental, cultural, and community benefits while managing visitor capacity responsibly.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Project Group targeting short term low budget actions to be delivered immediately. – Summer workshop to take recommendations forward and allocate lead organisation. – Business case development for larger scale longer term recommendations.



6. Regional Prosperity Framework

Project Name	Funding Source	Output	Next Steps
		<p>4. Data – Using multiple datasets to optimise the regional planning and managing of large-scale events, overlaying transport, accommodation, and event data. The work demonstrated how data integration can pinpoint transport and bed-space pinch-points, quantify worst-case overloads and generate actionable insights for planners, operators and businesses.</p>	<p>Work to secure data across short term lets, hotel occupancy, festival data, mobile network data, and more to plug gaps. Conduct scoping study into Tourism Data Commons Trust and Explore use of digital twin technology with UoE to test long-range tourism and festival scenarios across the city region.</p>
<p>Strategic Sites Programme</p>	<p>Existing Resources</p>	<p>Strategic Sites Programme developed underpinned by economic modelling undertaken by University of Edinburgh and Programme Management Office.</p> <p>Seven sites can collectively deliver 41,000 new homes, of which around 10,000 will be affordable, create 8,000 jobs, £30bn GVA and be a catalyst for at least £4.1 billion private and institutional investment and wider public benefits.</p>	<p>Work to est. a Strategic Sites with UK and Scottish Government, National Wealth Fund and Scottish National Investment Bank and others to accelerate delivery, streamline and co-produce business case solutions and ensure strategic alignment and collective action to unlock strategic sites and joint outcomes.</p>



6. Regional Prosperity Framework

Project Name	Funding Source	Output	Next Steps
SE Regional Delivery Alliance	Existing Resources	<p>Project is based on pipeline coordination, regional typologies and design and performance standards, as well as collaborative procurement, the delivery model aims to facilitate the development of affordable housing projects with Local Authorities and Registered Social Landlords for greater use of modern methods of construction to transform the performance of housing across the region and enable the move towards affordable homes built to net zero carbon standards.</p> <p>Benefits realised so far include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased quantity of homes: 24% increase in unit numbers compared to target site density for Pilot 3. • Reduced design team costs: A cost saving of £765 per unit for design team fees for the feasibility and pre-construction phases of Pilot 3. • Performance: 35% reduction on space heating performance, calculated through University of Edinburgh's Interim evaluation of Pilot 1. • Knowledge Hub Launch – https://www.se-rda.org.uk/ was launched in June 2025. This online resource holds key documents that are intended to streamline the delivery of affordable housing projects. 	<p>Procurement is ongoing for the feasibility of Bundle 2, comprising of 5 sites with 4 Clients and an estimated 218 units. Progression of Bundle 2 into preconstruction is anticipated in early 2026 with the collation, procurement and feasibility of Bundle 3, underway in September 2025. The project team is developing a business case seeking extension of the programme beyond its current end date of March 2026.</p>



6. Regional Prosperity Framework

Project Name	Funding Source	Output	Next Steps
Forth Green Freeport	Existing and External	<p>Became operational on 12 June 2024 and is set to attract new businesses and new jobs into Burntisland, Grangemouth, Leith and Rosyth.</p> <p>The Full Business Case is currently being reviewed by both the UK and Scottish Governments.</p>	<p>If Full Business Case is approved, it will unlock £25m of seed funding capital to address the key underdeveloped sites within the Freeport and attract inward investment.</p>
Regional Transport Strategy Delivery Plan	Funding required	<p>A Regional Transport Masterplan, of non-Transport Scotland infrastructure, does not currently exist for the Region, and therefore we have a gap in regional knowledge and justification for projects.</p> <p>A list of prioritised regional projects (transport services, infrastructure and innovation) has been identified with regional partners, SEStran and the lead officers from the other RPF priority projects.</p>	<p>Need funding to secure consultancy support to develop the priority projects through the appropriate design process to enable them to be ready for delivery and future funding.</p>



6. Regional Prosperity Framework

Project Name	Funding Source	Output	Next Steps
Regional Intelligence Hub	Funding required	<p>In December 2022, the Regional Economic Policy Advisory Group established by Scottish Government, published its review of regional economic policy delivery and made recommendations for how regional economic policy can be improved and delivered successfully in Scotland. A key recommendation by the Advisory Group, was for the Scottish Government to work with regional partners to explore establishing Regional Intelligence Hubs with areas prioritised to pilot Hubs.</p> <p>The University of Edinburgh, Smart Data Foundry and regional partners have developed a proposition and undertaken detailed scoping work involving a network of regional stakeholders and developed a demonstration dashboard for near-time regional data.</p>	Continue to seek funding and support to set up and resource a Hub.

A workshop was held at the end of February 2025, to provide the opportunity for RPF projects to showcase and highlight key outputs ahead of funding coming to an end for UKSPF projects in the 24/25 financial year. A RPF Impacts Document is currently under development and captures these key deliverables achieved so far.

The RPF Delivery Plan is a live document, and a review and refresh of the projects has been taking place throughout the summer 2025 to ensure projects are still relevant and deliverable. This work has been developed with the City Region Deal Directors and elected member input. Further information on future priorities can be found in the RPF Update and Two-Year Refresh report which will also be considered at the 5 September 2025 Joint Committee meeting.



7. The Year Ahead

Date	Milestone
Aug 25	Start of construction of Phase 2 office building, Borders Innovation Park.
Aug 25	Launch community benefit schedule of delivery for Borders Innovation Park and Dunard Centre construction.
Sep 25	First UK Robotics Expo launch.
Sep 25	<p>Joint Committee meeting where the following items will be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Region Deal Annual Report. • City Region Deal Benefits Realisation: Six-monthly Update. • Dunard Centre – Stage 2 Procurement update. • Internal Audit Annual Update. • Regional Housing Programme Annual Update. • Regional Innovation Action Plan – Update on Delivery Plan and Governance. • Regional Prosperity Framework Annual Update.
Autumn 25	Start of construction of Dunard Centre.
Autumn 25	Completion of 444 net zero homes for sale and rent at Western Villages, Granton.
Nov 25	Edinburgh Innovation Hub operational.
Dec 25	Complete onboarding of partners into office space in Usher Building in final available neighbourhoods.
Dec 25	<p>Joint Committee meeting where the following items will be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tweedbank Strategic Site – Full Business Case. • A720 Sheriffhall six-monthly update from Transport Scotland. • Granton Waterfront Strategic Site: Full Business Case for Phase 1 and FBC for Heat Network. • Integrated Regional Employability and Skills Annual Update and Proposal for next stage.
Winter 25/26	Site start for Phase 1 and the district heat network in Granton, and and Completion of 143 Social Rent and mid-market rent net zero homes at Silverlea.
Jan 26	Establish Robotics Scotland with the Scottish Government as a catalytic change programme for economic development and growth.
Mar 26	<p>Joint Committee meeting where the following items will be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Region Deal Benefits Realisation: Six-monthly Update. • Data-Driven Innovation Programme and Internet of Things Annual Update.
Mar 26	Construction complete at two business units in Fife: Flemington Road, Glenrothes and Levenmouth (Phase 2).
Jun 26	<p>Joint Committee meeting where the following items will be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A720 Sheriffhall six-monthly update from Transport Scotland. • Transport Programme Annual Update.
Jun 26	Completion of construction of Phase 2 office building, Borders Innovation Park.



8. Contacts and Further Information

Programme Management Office

- Andy Nichol, *Programme Manager*: andy.nichol@edinburgh.gov.uk
- Mark Baillie, *Lead Communications Officer*: mark.baillie@ei.ed.ac.uk
- David Baxter, *Senior Programme Officer*: david.baxter@edinburgh.gov.uk
- Adam Dunkerley, *Integrated Regional Employability and Skills Manager*:
Adam.Dunkerley@fife.gov.uk
- David Hanna, *Senior Programme Officer*: david.hanna@edinburgh.gov.uk
- Lisa Howden, *Accountant*: lisa.howden@edinburgh.gov.uk
- Nicola Raine, *IRES Strategy & Governance Manager*:
nicola.raine@capitalcitypartnership.org
- Graeme Rigg, *Senior Programme Officer*, graeme.rigg@edinburgh.gov.uk
- Daniel Stevens, *Benefits Realisation Officer*, daniel.stevens@edinburgh.gov.uk
- General enquiries: esescr.citydeal@edinburgh.gov.uk

Further Information

- Keep up to date with the latest news and join the mailing list at www.esescityregiondeal.org.uk
- **Data-Driven Innovation website**
- Download all Joint Committee reports including approved business cases at **The City of Edinburgh Council Committee library website**.
- Visit the **webcast library** to view recordings of each Joint Committee meeting

