

Delivering for our members and the city region in 2025

In recent weeks, the fire on Union Street has been a sobering moment for Glasgow's city centre, impacting businesses and marking the loss of a significant historic building. Glasgow Chamber of Commerce has worked closely with partners to support affected businesses and to advocate for urgent action to support the city's recovery.

That response reflects the role that Glasgow Chamber plays every day: stepping in to champion business interests and helping shape long-term growth. Throughout 2025, this approach underpinned a year of delivery, momentum and growing confidence for Glasgow Chamber. In a challenging economic climate, our focus remained firmly on securing outcomes that matter to our members.

That meant tangible results for Glasgow: the creation of a new city Destination Marketing and Management Organisation; the establishment of a city centre Business Improvement District; dedicated support to strengthen air connectivity at Glasgow Airport; evidence-led investment in skills; and continued advancement of the Glasgow City Region Investment Zone. Sustained, purposeful engagement ensured that the voice of Glasgow business was clearly heard at local, national and international levels. Close partnership working with Glasgow City Council has been central to aligning priorities, leveraging resources and delivering impact at scale.

We also continued to invest in Glasgow's long-term growth. 2025 saw the launch of our first spin-out company, yattle, connecting young people with job opportunities while helping employers access emerging talent. With £1.2 million of backing from JPMorgan Chase, we expanded our employability programmes, supporting inclusive growth and responding directly to labour market needs. Our flagship events, Congress of Business and the Glasgow Business Awards, went from strength to strength, convening influential voices and celebrating business excellence. International trade activity also reached new levels, with impactful delegations to the United States, China, Germany and Singapore, opening new markets for members and reinforcing Glasgow's global reputation.

At the heart of everything we do is our membership community. Through a strong programme of high-quality events and training and targeted advocacy, we support businesses to connect, grow and influence the future of the city.

These achievements reflect the commitment of our members, partners, Board, Council of Directors and Chamber team. Together, we share a clear ambition: to champion business and secure a prosperous, resilient future for Glasgow.

Stuart Patrick CBE
Chief Executive of Glasgow Chamber of Commerce



10 Projects Championing the Glasgow City Region

The ten projects set out below are led by our members and partners and represent initiatives critical to the future success and growth of the Glasgow City Region economy. As a Chamber, we provide our full vocal and active support to help drive their delivery and impact.

Glasgow City Region Investment Zone

Up to £160 million in support to deliver economic growth, high-skill jobs and improved infrastructure. The Chamber championed the Investment Zone proposition and worked with partners to ensure the business voice shaped its priorities.



Glasgow City Centre Business Improvement District

Following years of campaigning for a co-ordinated approach to city centre regeneration, the Chamber led the feasibility study and business ballot for a new BID. The strength of the ballot result demonstrated that Glasgow's businesses are ready to invest collectively in the city centre's future.



Glasgow Business Narrative & DMMO

A refreshed city narrative is essential to attracting investment and talent. The Chamber led calls for the creation of a Destination Marketing & Management Organisation to shape Glasgow's economic story for a global audience.



Glasgow Airport and Air Connectivity

Direct air routes are vital for trade and tourism. The Chamber actively supported route development with Glasgow Airport and partners, particularly to the United States, and supported the case for enhanced connectivity under the airport's new ownership.



Three Innovation Districts

Glasgow's Innovation Districts are emerging as powerful platforms for growth in engineering, AI, precision medicine and advanced manufacturing. The Chamber championed innovation as a pillar of regional economic strategy.



Regional Skills Campaign

Addressing critical skills gaps requires employer-led action. The Chamber leads engagement through DYW Glasgow and other programmes, connecting employers with education providers and shaping programmes that respond to real workforce needs.



Clyde Maritime

Shipbuilding, nautical training and ship management make maritime central to Glasgow's economy. The Chamber served as honest broker between industry and government, encouraging continued investment in this strategically important sector.



Glasgow Clyde Metro

A transformative transport project to connect Glasgow's key assets and improve regional mobility. The Chamber supports the continued development of the Metro and active engagement with the city region business community, with a particular priority on securing an early connection to Glasgow Airport.



Net Zero & Green Investment

Glasgow's Green Investment Prospectus integrates sustainability with economic growth. The Chamber continues to unlock the innovation opportunities of the circular economy, provide practical business support and advance wider climate investment opportunities.



Scottish Event Campus

Celebrating four decades as a global events powerhouse, the SEC is a key asset and host venue for the 2026 Commonwealth Games. The Chamber supported the case for continued investment in Glasgow's events infrastructure.



Championing Action, Delivering Results

Our members are clear: they want a Chamber that drives action, not one that simply adds to an ever-growing stack of strategies. In 2025, that is exactly what we delivered.

- A sustained cross-party engagement programme with elected representatives at Glasgow City Council, Holyrood and Westminster, resulting in more than 40 meetings, including with First Minister John Swinney and Secretary of State for Scotland the Rt Hon Douglas Alexander MP.
- High-impact business roundtables and policy forums bringing together members, politicians and senior policymakers to address key economic and business priorities. Over 10 roundtables were convened, including sessions with Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for the Economy and Gaelic Kate Forbes, and a Westminster Parliamentary reception to promote the Glasgow City Region with regional MPs.
- Targeted policy submissions on priority areas including the economy, transport, skills and the future of the city centre.
- Co-ordinated advocacy campaigns focused on regional devolution, investment in skills, reducing business costs (including non-domestic rates), and improving transport connectivity.

Membership Support

Supporting our members to grow and connect
Glasgow Chamber of Commerce continues to grow and make a real difference for businesses in the region.

We proudly welcomed 150 new members, achieved an impressive 86% retention rate, and now represent over 1,000 businesses and more than 90,000 employees, demonstrating our strong and lasting impact across the Glasgow business community.



"Being part of the Chamber community feels like being in a supportive family and our experience suggests that all businesses would benefit from being part of Glasgow Chamber whether they operate in the commercial, public or third sectors."

**Laurie Monaghan, Managing Director,
Clyde Bergemann Ltd**

Events and Training & Business Support

Events & Engagement

We delivered an outstanding 144 events this year, including networking opportunities that welcomed 6,000 delegates and creating meaningful connections across the Glasgow business community.

We also hosted two award shows, celebrating the achievements of local businesses across 27 categories.



Skills, Training & Advice

Our commitment to developing business talent included 52 training courses, successfully upskilling 150+ participants. We also launched an AI Training Series, enhancing skills for 40 businesses in this fast-growing sector.

Focus areas:

- Leadership
- International Trade
- Climate
- Artificial Intelligence
- Digital Communications



International Trade & Global Connections

A Global Review

- **7 trade missions: Germany, New York, China, Singapore, and inbound missions to Glasgow**
- **79 businesses supported to export and trade through dedicated missions**
- **15,000+ trade documents processed**

We led a trade mission to Bremen for Space Tech Expo, joining over 30 Scottish companies at Europe's leading B2B space event.

Two trade missions to Shanghai delivered multiple MOUs with Chambers of Commerce, industrial districts, universities and airports, strengthening collaboration and supporting Glasgow's economy.

During our New York Mission, Tots United secured a milestone partnership with City of Glasgow College.



"If we've ever had any issues - the Chamber's certifications team has always been on hand to guide us through the process. They provide a fast, efficient, and reliable service. We're never disappointed."

**Eni Stevenson, Production Manager,
Brave New Spirits Ltd**

Supporting young people into the labour market



“Through the placement our participant who started off very shy and withdrawn has grown so much as a person and has made continued impact.”

Employer, Sense Scotland

Developing the Young Workforce

DYW Glasgow supports young people and employers to connect the next generation with the world of work and help address the skills agenda. Over the past year, we have supported 549 businesses, delivered more than 1,900 activities, and hosted 17 events, engaging over 33,000 young people across the city.

Work Aware

Work Aware connected 24 young people with 20+ businesses and 12 project partners, giving them city-wide employer visits and insight into a range of roles and career paths.

Construction Aware

This initiative brings industry stakeholders together to inspire young people to pursue careers in construction. In November, it won the BE-ST Accelerator Award for Skills Impact, and secured additional funding from B&CE. It has engaged 200+ young people through 95 site visits with 19 businesses.

Glasgow Regional Opportunities for Work (GROW)

GROW secured £1 million in funding from JPMorgan Chase, making it one of Scotland's largest regional employability initiatives.

Supporting business to recruit and find talent

Paid Work Placements

Paid Work Placements gives Glasgow residents the chance to undertake 26-week, Real Living Wage roles, with ongoing support and training to help them move into sustained employment. The programme has worked with 66 businesses and supported 43 people to gain new qualifications.

yattle

Glasgow Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with Glasgow Futures, launched yattle, a new youth-focused recruitment app designed to transform how early-career talent connects with opportunities across Glasgow. yattle has now been downloaded onto 30,000 iPads across 35 schools in the Glasgow City Council area.

Enabling actions to tackle climate change

The Chamber builds on over a decade of circular economy leadership through Circular Glasgow, with Climate Chamber supporting members to advance the city's climate ambitions.

Through bold climate leadership, Glasgow Chamber became an affiliate of Sustainable Markets Initiative, founded by King Charles III. The Chamber also led a sector-based approach to develop the ACTS Toolkit, a business-led, Actionable Climate Toolkit for Scotland.

798 businesses engaged across climate activity

523 Circular Glasgow Mixer sign-ups

137 ACTS Toolkit sign-ups

100 businesses supported through Step Up to Net Zero

Launched the Circular Economy Leadership Programme

Step Up to Net Zero

Step Up to Net Zero supports Glasgow SMEs in their efforts to reach net zero by funding 16-week work placements, helping businesses take action towards circular goals. Over 26 participants completed placements with Glasgow businesses.

Phase 3 Impact:

- 79% positive destinations (including 36% retention)
- 91% of short-term actions delivered
- 64% of businesses unlikely to achieve similar Action Plans without Step Up to Net Zero



“I came away with more confidence and a boldness to push through, to be the change we need, supported by a new team of friends who have become my biggest champions.”

Fiona Ellis, Head of Business Support, DF Concerts & Events

