



GLASGOW CITY INNOVATION DISTRICT

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SCOTLAND'S FIRST
INNOVATION DISTRICT



A LITTLE BIT ABOUT ME

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GLASGOW, SCOTLAND

Scotland's largest city is bursting with energy, passion and personality.

- World-class museums and galleries
- Cutting edge contemporary arts scene
- Trail-blazing food and drink
- Stunning architecture
- UNESCO City of Music
- Diverse neighbourhoods to explore
- Scotland's economic powerhouse





GLASGOW'S TECH ECOSYSTEM

Glasgow's regional ecosystem is currently one of the fastest growing in the UK and now represents a collective enterprise value of £4.1B.

- There are over 950 startups and scaleups in Glasgow.
- Leading academic institutions have continued to support innovation, with nearly 30% of the total enterprise value coming from regional university spinouts.
- Early-stage investment is on the rise with breakout stage in particular at an all-time high of £99M, up 50% from 2022.
- The HealthTech sector drew more than 50% of all investment through 2023 highlighting the importance of med-tech to the city region.



GLASGOW CITY INNOVATION DISTRICT

Scotland's global hub for entrepreneurship, innovation, collaboration and investment. Anchored by the University of Strathclyde and located in the heart of the city.

GCID is Scotland's first Innovation District and is home to innovative companies and organisations, who locate here to nurture and accelerate inclusive growth, improve productivity and develop world-class talent, research and technology within a vibrant **'live, work, play, innovate'** environment.





GCID INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM

Innovation Districts



National and Regional Support



Accelerators & Incubators



Ecosystem and Meetup Builders



Innovation Hubs



UK Catapults



Technology Institutes





STRATEGIC PLAN 2025-2030

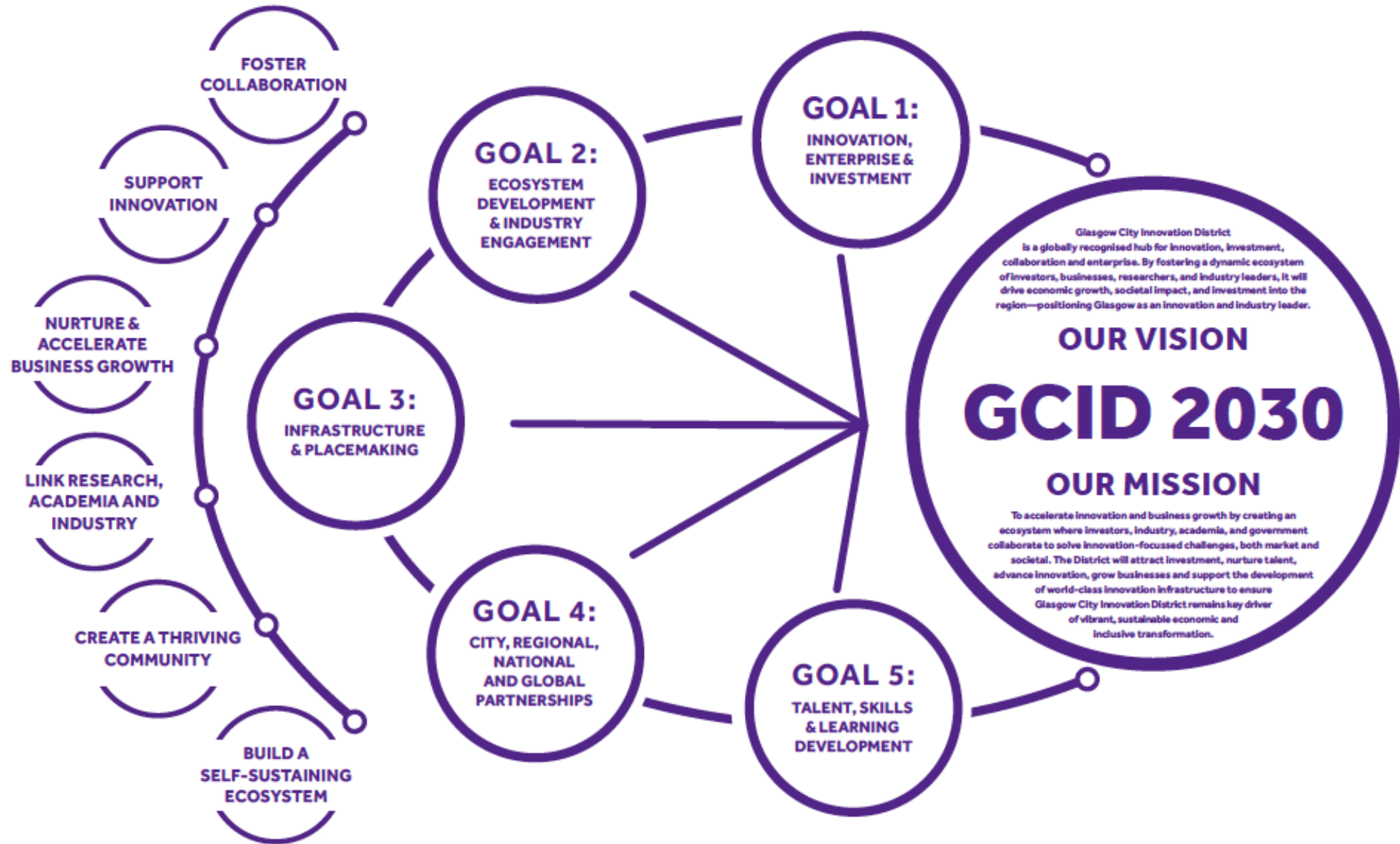
Since GCID's creation, there has been a significant growth in attracting inward investment, development of the city's innovation ecosystem and scaling company formation.

GCID's contribution has had a direct impact on the growth of Glasgow's innovation economy which has been quantified through the most recent Dealroom report which states that Glasgow's tech ecosystem is one of the fastest growing in the United Kingdom, with a collective enterprise value of over £4 billion.

Our Strategic Plan provides the overarching strategic framework for the next five years of GCID activity.



OUR VISION, MISSION & GOALS





GOAL 1: INNOVATION, ENTERPRISE & INVESTMENT



50 businesses supported annually



Work with 40 partners annually to deliver ecosystem events and activities



Attract £1m of new investment to scale Deep Tech and High Growth businesses



GCID participation on 5 key strategic innovation policy/industry committees/groups



GOAL 2: ECOSYSTEM DEVELOPMENT & INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT



Initiate and deliver 5 collaborative projects with innovation active partners



Engage with 4 new international innovation focused organisations per year



Introduce 10 new investors to GCID



Engage 10 industry/research organisations to work on GCID projects as formal partners



GOAL 3: INFRASTRUCTURE & PLACEMAKING



Support partners to deliver 2 new innovation, incubation and community spaces



Collaborate with 5 place-based innovation hubs to support their innovation programme delivery



Use the GCID Fusion Fund to provide a micro-fund to support up to 8 community focused projects per year



Each year support at least one community group located within GCID to access external funding



GOAL 4: CITY, REGIONAL, NATIONAL & GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS



Work collaboratively with one international innovation district per year



Deliver 3 Venture Studio Challenge programmes with an international investment component



Undertake 4 national/international ecosystem or knowledge exchange engagements per year



GOAL 5: TALENT, SKILLS & LEARNING DEVELOPMENT



Support the delivery of 4 District based skills/talent programmes



Deliver an annual GCID conference for example Fusion Fest



Collaborate with ecosystem partners to develop and deliver 3 ecosystem events /conferences per year



Deliver Glasgow Tech Week each year



OUR PRINCIPLES


* Glasgow City Innovation District

Foster Collaboration

- GCID events tailored to ecosystem needs.
- GCID championing businesses within the Innovation District at partner events.
- Collaborations with UK and international organisations.
- Promotion of Glasgow in collaboration with Innovation District partners and associates.

* Glasgow City Innovation District

Support Innovation

- Support and promote our innovation hubs:
 - South Block, Technology & Innovation Centre, Inovo, The Garment Factory, Tontine & The Met Tower.
- Offer bespoke one-to-one support to companies based within the Innovation District.
- Assist in the location of new innovative businesses to the District by finding an agile workspace.
- Development of industry-aligned innovation programmes.



* Glasgow City Innovation District

Nurture and accelerate business growth

- Work with our Innovation District partners and wider ecosystem collaborators.
- Identify knowledge and talent gaps within the ecosystem.
- Assist businesses with events and promotion.
- Link businesses together to promote working partnerships.



* Glasgow City Innovation District

Build a self-sustaining ecosystem

- Promote the live, work, play, innovate ethos by connecting with businesses across industries.
- Drive collaboration between businesses within the District.
- Create an engaged and inclusive community with a thriving ecosystem of support.



* Glasgow City Innovation District

Create a thriving community

- Host industry specific GCID events.
- Promote businesses and informative content on social channels, newsletter, website.
- Produce world-class talent.
- Promote the Innovation District as a place to work or host events for external businesses.
- Collaborate on events and support community meet-ups with partners and collaborators.



* Glasgow City Innovation District

Link research, academia, and industry

- Work closely with Technology & Innovation Zone, Inovo, Technology & Innovation Centre.
- Link student talent with businesses.
- Promote University of Strathclyde's unique industry-lead research sectors:
 - Advanced Manufacturing, Energy, 5G, FinTech, HealthTech, Space, Quantum and Industrial Informatics.
- Link industry with the District's innovation ecosystem and research facilities.





GCID VENTURE STUDIO

The Glasgow City Innovation District Venture Studio is a pioneering model for fostering entrepreneurship and innovation to support the city's innovation ecosystem through the development of new ideas, products, and business models for high-growth companies.

Working with key partners to deliver on four pillars - Challenge, Make, Innovate and Impact, the GCID Venture Studio invites businesses and individuals to collaborate with us and grow Glasgow's tech, digital, engineering and creative ecosystem.

Launched in 2024, the Venture Studio has supported over 60 businesses, distributing targeted funding to innovation-driven enterprises, offering industry-specific mentorship and helping startups to scale.





GLASGOW TECH WEEK

During the second Glasgow Tech Week in 2025 more than 40 events were held across the city from 26 to 31 May with over 3,000 attendees, bringing together innovators, industry leaders, founders, investors, researchers and freelancers from across the UK and beyond and provided the latest insights, innovations, and strategic discussions that are shaping the future of our critical industries.

Glasgow City Innovation District partnered with more than 80 innovation ecosystem partners hosted a wide range of activities, including techUK, BAFTA, Shepherd and Wedderburn, NHS Scotland, IBM, Accenture, JPMorganChase, Barclays, and KPMG. During Glasgow Tech Week there was a wide variety on offer, from cutting-edge demos and panel discussions to networking receptions and skills workshops, bringing the city alive with ideas, energy and opportunity.



FUSION FEST

Fusion Fest is an award-winning event where attendees have the opportunity to connect with peers, learn from others and network to make valuable connections.

The headline event of Glasgow Tech Week, Fusion Fest is a celebration of tech, digital creativity and innovation.

The event is packed with inspiring keynotes, insightful panels and genuine networking opportunities to support business development and to take careers to the next level.

Ticket sales from the event are utilised to support the Fusion Fund which will launch later this month to support grassroots organisations through micro grants.





PLACE INVESTMENT

Over £1bn of investment announced into the District - delivering a connected portfolio of space options for Startup, Spinouts, Innovation, Entrepreneurship, Hotel, Leisure, Build to Rent, Private and Student Accommodation

Build & Release Phase

- 2023/24 Love Loan (£100m): Mixed Use – Hotel, Offices, Leisure, Build to Rent and Public Realm – AC Marriott
- 2024 Candleriggs Square (£300m): Mixed Use – Hotel, Offices, Leisure, Build to Rent and Public Realm – The Social Hub, BTR
- 2024 Clydeside Market Halls (£4m) - A cultural and creative hub
- 2024 (Ph1) Tontine: Redevelopment and expansion of business innovation space
- 2025 Clyde Court (£33m): 169 Studio Apartments

Planning Phase

- 2026+ CHATIC (£30m): Digital, entrepreneurship and social innovation hub
- 2026+ Broomielaw (£300M+): Innovation Futures, Innovation Hub, Wet Lab
- 2026+ St Enoch (£800m): Starting Mixed Use – Retail, Offices, Leisure, Entertainment, Apartments



MAKING CONNECTIONS





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