

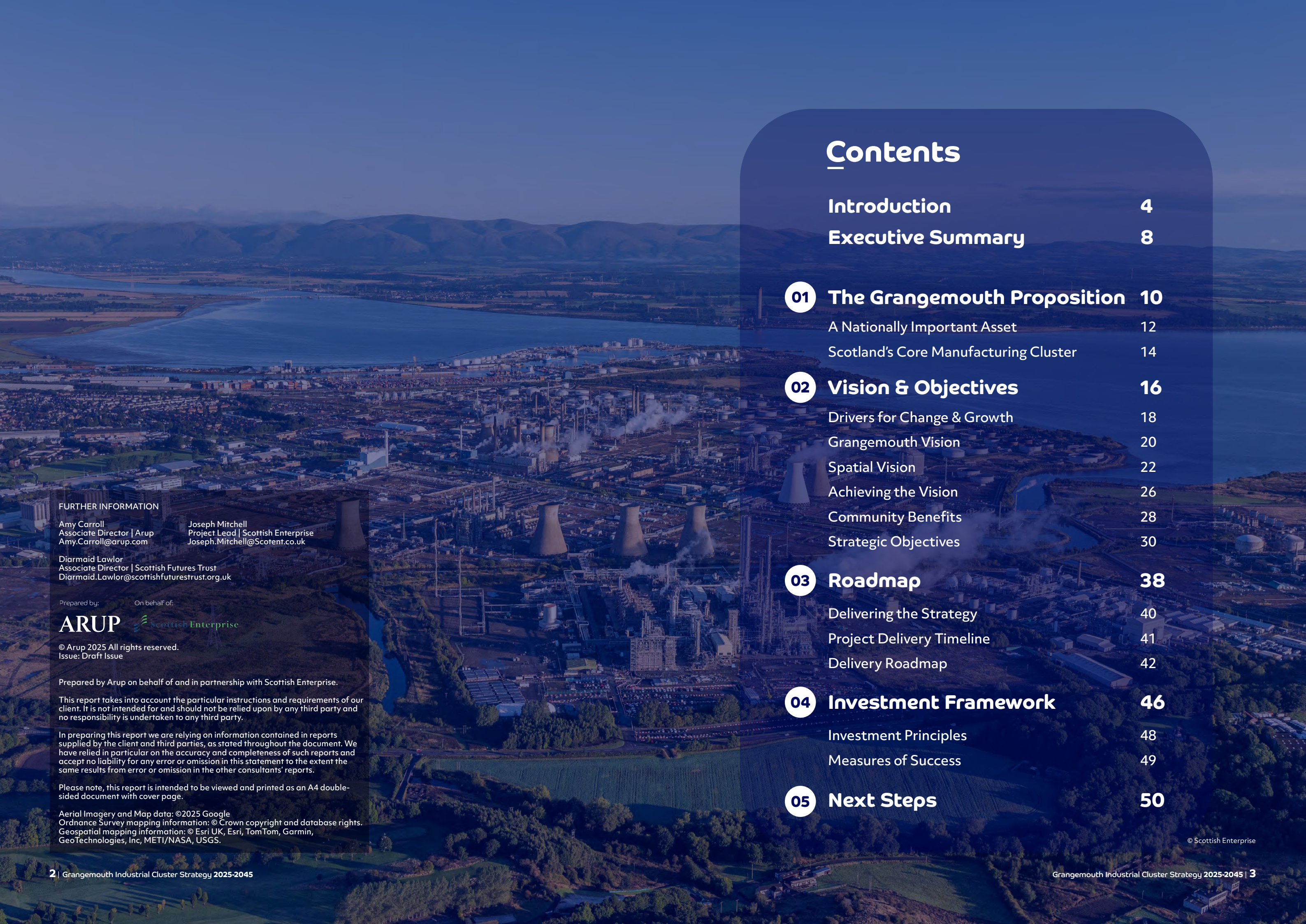
Prepared by:

ARUP

On behalf of:

Scottish Enterprise

Grangemouth Industrial Cluster Strategy 2025-2045



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Introduction

Purpose of this Strategy

The Grangemouth Industrial Cluster Strategy outlines the intended ambition for the cluster and the ideal future outcomes, aiming to inform future funding asks and business case development.

The Grangemouth Industrial Cluster (GIC) finds itself at a pivotal juncture, with the closure of the refinery, consideration of the future options as outlined in Project Willow, achievement of Green Freeport status, and recent publication of the Scottish Government’s Grangemouth Industrial Just Transition Plan. There is growing appetite for a coherent Grangemouth Industrial Cluster Strategy (GICS) that establishes a clear roadmap to maximise the economic potential for Grangemouth. The GICS was developed in partnership with Scottish Enterprise and the Grangemouth Future Industry Board (GFIB), led by the project team (Arup, The Partnership Lab, and Etasca) and through extensive engagement, building on the valuable work done to-date.

This strategy establishes a bold, forward-looking vision for Scotland’s leading economic and industrial hub. The purpose of the GICS is to guide the development and transformation of Grangemouth into a globally competitive, net zero industrial cluster that supports inclusive economic growth, and a just transition.

The GICS sets out a vision for a cohesive cluster in Grangemouth aligned to, and building on, the Just Transition Plan. This describes the need for the GICS and sets the direction for the strategy and framework for investment.

Objectives

The GICS outlines five strategic objectives to enable achievement of the future vision and to provide a framework for investment intended to drive decision making.

■

Five Strategic Objectives

Achieve the future vision and drive investment decisions.



Place & Investment



Connection



Innovation Ecosystem



Cohesion



Sustainable Growth

Under each of the strategic objectives, projects and programmes have been identified – some of which are already in train. These are set out in the GICS roadmap which details the short-, medium- and long-term priorities for investment.

Measures of success have been set to ensure progress towards meeting the strategic objectives and delivering the GICS.



Introduction

Wider Context

The publication of this GICS comes at a pivotal moment of local, national and global policy transformation. Scotland has committed to achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045, five years ahead of the UK target; some Grangemouth operators have more ambitious targets, for example Syngenta are targeting net zero global operations by 2030. These targets are not just environmental imperatives, but a strategic opportunities to drive economic growth, create high-quality jobs and address the economic challenges that come with industrial change. This ambition is supported by a suite of forward-looking strategies, including the [Grangemouth Just Transition Plan](#), the [UK's Industrial Decarbonisation Strategy](#), the [UK's Modern Industrial Strategy](#), and the [Scottish Government's Green Industrial Strategy](#). Together, these initiatives position net zero as a catalyst for industrial renewal, innovation, and inclusive economic development.

Grangemouth's ecosystem is complex and multi-layered, involving a wide range of stakeholders across the public, private and third sectors. Ensuring effective collaboration between stakeholders in industry, government, academia, environmental organisations, workers, unions and the community is critical to ensure an economically viable and socially and environmentally responsible transition.

The recent closure of the Petroineos refinery marks a significant change for the cluster. There is a strong ambition to reduce reliance on carbon-intensive industries and encourage the growth of low-carbon manufacturing. Project Willow identified areas where policy and regulation could better support this ambition, with high industrial energy prices in particular creating a need for solutions. Addressing these challenges offers an opportunity to strengthen competitiveness and attract new investment to the cluster.

The transition towards more sustainable practices is supported by both longstanding operators at Grangemouth, such as Syngenta and INEOS, as well as novel start ups and SMEs, such as Celtic Renewables, alongside many others. With the right investment and development, Grangemouth has the potential to become the powerhouse of Scotland's energy transition and sustainable **chemicals manufacturing industry**, leading in speciality polymers, active pharmaceutical ingredients and crop protection chemicals.

Grangemouth will connect into nationally important infrastructure including carbon dioxide networks connected to storage sites in the North Sea, being developed by [Project Acorn](#), and the UK's hydrogen network, [Project Union](#) developed by National Gas. These, alongside other critical local developments, such as Project Willow, act as key enablers for this strategy and support long term prosperity at Grangemouth.

The UK and Scottish Governments are committed to supporting Grangemouth, with £200 million of investment through the National Wealth Fund, £100 million through the Falkirk and Grangemouth Growth Deal and an additional £25 million Grangemouth Just Transition Fund. This funding is allocated to support jobs, unlock private investment and drive growth. Funding has already been committed to Project Willow to identify credible long-term industrial options for Grangemouth building on its skilled workforce and industrial experience to transition to net zero energy production.

The Grangemouth Just Transition Fund will be used to support industry, the workforce and community, kick starting the transition and supporting immediate delivery of enabling assets.

The GICS serves as a coordinating framework to align investment, innovation and infrastructure development across the cluster, unifying diverse stakeholders around a shared vision for a net zero industrial future. The strategy is designed to guide decision making, prioritise investment and coordinate action across sectors whilst recognising existing and future ambitions to enable Grangemouth to lead the UK's thriving industrial future.

Chemicals Manufacturing Definitions

GIC is a leading chemicals manufacturing cluster, from traditional petrochemicals to modern biomanufacturing.



Petrochemicals

Chemical products derived from petroleum or natural gas that serves as an intermediate material used to manufacture a wide range of everyday materials and products.



Fine Chemicals

High-purity, specialised chemical substances produced in limited quantities for specific applications in pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals, and specialty industries.



Speciality Chemicals

Compounds manufactured in larger quantities, catering to specific applications that require unique properties and performance characteristics.



Biomanufacturing

Using living systems to produce biological molecules and materials on a commercial scale – increasingly becoming its own distinct sector but can complement the traditional sectors outlined above.

Key Funding

Funds committed by the UK and Scottish Governments.

£ 100m Falkirk and Grangemouth Growth Deal

£ 200m National Wealth Fund

£ 25m Grangemouth Just Transition Fund

Key Enablers

Connections to nationally important infrastructure and key local infrastructure.

① **Project Acorn**

② **Project Union**

③ **Grangemouth Flood Protection Scheme**

④ **H2 Caledonia**

⑤ **Project Willow Developments**

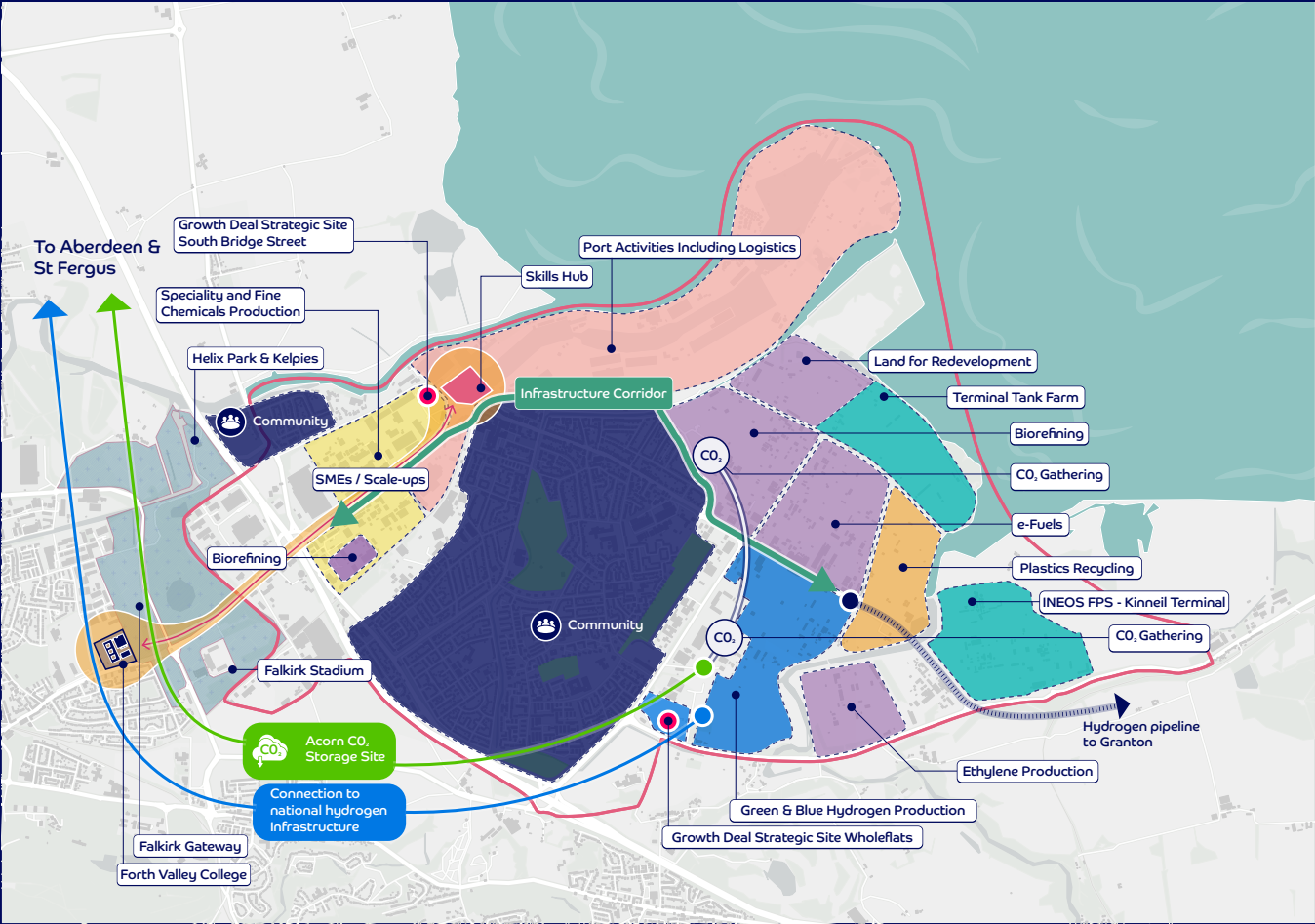
Executive Summary

The Vision

By 2045, the Grangemouth industrial cluster will be a carbon-neutral hub, aiding Scotland in achieving its net zero targets. The Grangemouth industrial cluster will become a net zero chemicals centre for Scotland and a leading production centre of the UK’s low-carbon energy industry, supporting the developing biofuels and hydrogen sectors, and playing a key role in ensuring Scotland’s energy security and economic prosperity.

Delivering the Strategy

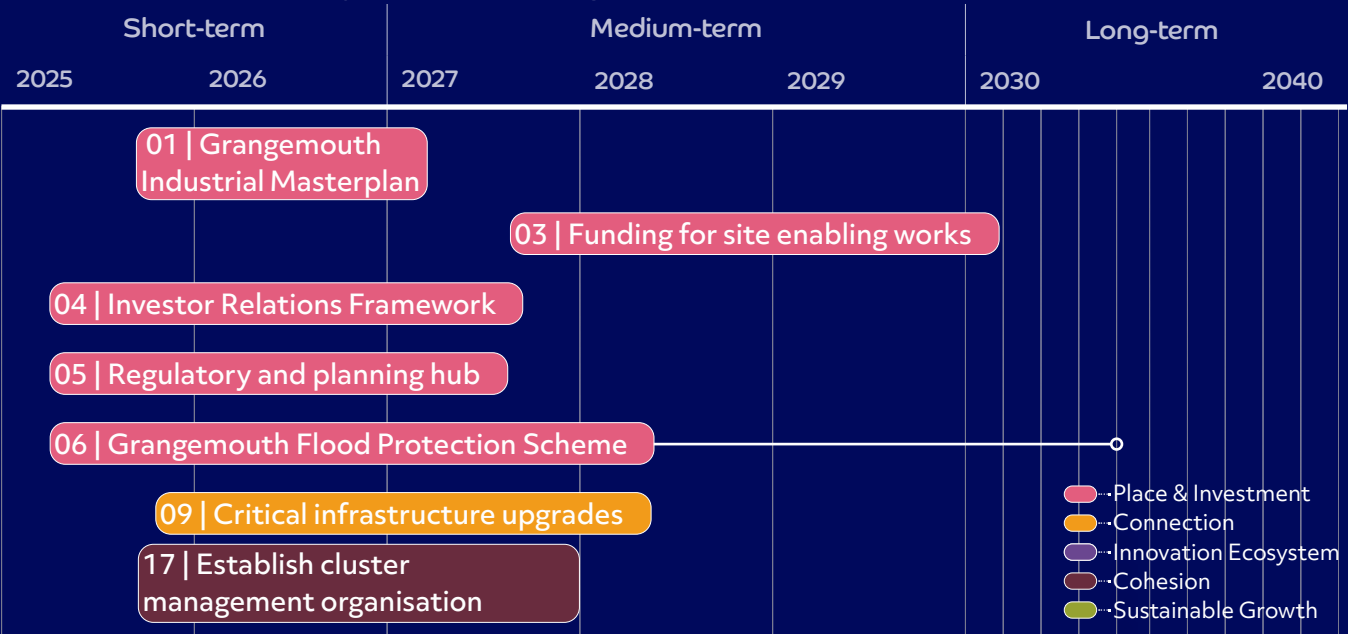
The delivery roadmap sets out the projects and activities that are required to deliver the strategy. Enabling activities will be led by GFIB partners to create a cluster that attracts investment and enables businesses to grow and thrive. Measures of success have been defined to ensure progress towards meeting the strategic objectives and delivering the GICS.



Strategic Objectives

- Place & Investment:** Establish Grangemouth as nationally and internationally recognised industrial cluster, attracting transformational scale investment with commercially successful businesses invested in the long-term future of Grangemouth and its community.
- Connection:** By 2030, implement enabling short term, cluster wide utilities and transport actions with a plan to unlock longer term investment in transformational utilities and transport infrastructure.
- Innovation Ecosystem:** By 2035, establish an innovation hub at Grangemouth, attracting new industries and investment to the cluster, facilitating greater technology pull through from academic institutions, enabling the scale up of new technologies and processes.
- Cohesion:** By 2028, establish a coordinated shared cluster management organisation with governance and leadership services and a mandate to further improve cluster connectivity, unlock potential, and realise mutual benefits.
- Sustainable Growth:** By 2045, Grangemouth is a net zero carbon emissions cluster, sustainable chemical manufacturing is flourishing, the cluster is a key part of the UK’s hydrogen economy and is connected to national CO₂ networks.

Critical Path Project Delivery Timeline



01

Setting the scene

Why Grangemouth?

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The Grangemouth Proposition

A Nationally Important Asset

Grangemouth is at the heart of Scotland's future growth, supporting industry, facilitating supply chains and enabling the transition to net zero.

As one of Scotland's leading industrial locations, with over a century of experience in petrochemical refining and chemical manufacturing, Grangemouth is strategically placed to play an important role in Scotland's transition to net zero.

Grangemouth is located in the heart of Scotland's central belt, connected to all major settlements within central Scotland, providing access to people, raw materials and markets. The proximity to population centres provides ready made access to local and regional talent pools. It offers opportunities to bring in a diverse range of feedstocks, such as municipal waste, for energy and chemical production and provides export opportunities for green products such as hydrogen and sustainable aviation fuels.

Excellent road and rail connections facilitate the easy movement of people and materials. Port of Grangemouth provides a key route for Scottish trade with £6 billion of goods passing through the port annually. Proximity to Edinburgh and Glasgow airports provide additional international transport connections.

Grangemouth's location on the Firth of Forth means it is ideally placed to receive green electricity from offshore wind farms along Scotland's east coast, with over 7 GW of capacity currently operational, in construction or consented in the outer Firth of Forth and a further 6 GW planned to be installed over the coming decade.

Grangemouth is an integral part of the Scottish carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS) cluster and will utilise carbon capture technologies to support low carbon

manufacturing. Grangemouth will connect to carbon capture and storage infrastructure being developed (Project Acorn) via the proposed reuse of the Feeder 10 natural gas pipeline (SCO₂T Connect).

Additionally, Grangemouth is a key location for future hydrogen production, a key feedstock for sustainable chemicals and fuels manufacturing. Grangemouth will be a key node on the Scottish and UK hydrogen networks connecting into hydrogen pipelines being developed under Project Union and H2 Caledonia.

There is opportunity for Grangemouth to develop its sustainable manufacturing potential, inspiring innovation and attracting investment to support the green transition whilst continuing its longstanding industrial heritage.

At a Glance

Grangemouth's impact extends beyond local growth, supporting sectors and supply chains across Scotland enabling wider industry to transition to net zero.

In the heart of the Central Belt

Proximity to local & regional talent

Excellent road, rail, air & maritime connectivity

Ideally located to receive green power

Links to Scottish CCUS infrastructure

Node for future hydrogen production and transmission

Key location for international trade

Note: Offshore pipeline network inset not to scale

The map illustrates the strategic location of Grangemouth within Scotland's central belt. It highlights the Grangemouth Industrial Cluster (pink circle) and its proximity to major cities like Glasgow, Edinburgh, and Dundee. The map shows various infrastructure elements: strategic roads (M8, M9, M74, M77, M80, M90, A9, A1, A68), strategic rail (red line), airports (Glasgow, Edinburgh), and ports (Forth Green Freeport). It also depicts proposed hydrogen pipelines (Project Union and H2 Caledonia), the SCO₂T Connect (NGT) pipeline, and offshore wind farm connections. The Forties Pipeline System is shown connecting to the Firth of Forth. An inset map shows the offshore pipeline network, including the Acorn CO₂ Storage Site, Cruden Bay, and Forties Unity and Charlie. The map includes a key for infrastructure and a legend for the key.

Key

- Grangemouth Industrial Cluster
- Ports (Forth Green Freeport)
- Airport
- Strategic roads
- Strategic rail (see STPR2)

Infrastructure

- Grangemouth-Granton Pipeline
- SCO₂T Connect (NGT)
- Project Union proposed hydrogen pipeline
- H2 Caledonia proposed hydrogen pipeline
- Offshore wind farm connections
- Electrical transmission system
- Forties Pipeline System

Grangemouth: a regional perspective

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Scotland's Core Manufacturing Cluster

 All the ingredients to create a thriving net zero industrial & economic cluster.

Grangemouth is Scotland's largest industrial cluster, hosting major players in the chemical industry, strong logistical capabilities and supporting novel SMEs.

The GIC has a strong foundation to build on, possessing several distinguishing features that make it an attractive destination for operators. Valuable assets such as the rail freight terminal, accessible road network and deepwater port with Freeport status provide unique logistical opportunities. The latter of which has over 200 ha of tax land with simplified customs procedures and tax exemptions.

There is a great wealth of people resources available locally, a highly skilled local workforce, with knowledge and skills gained from working within Grangemouth's industry. Additionally, through proximity to major central belt cities, and strong ties with academic institutions nearby such as Forth Valley College, Edinburgh University, University of St Andrews, Heriot-Watt University and University of Strathclyde. Grangemouth's location within the heart of Scotland's central belt means that around 2 million workers are within commuting distance of the industrial cluster.

In terms of assets, the effluent and waste treatment facilities, large hazard consultation zone, availability of utilities, and multiple top tier COMAH licenced sites are unique within the UK and position Grangemouth as a premier location for chemical manufacturers. The Major Incident Control Committee (MICC), comprised of technical experts from various local operators, regulators and emergency services also supports both public and industrial safety at Grangemouth.

The GICS aims to maximise the value from Grangemouth's unique assets and prioritise investment in enabling assets to grow existing businesses and attract the industries of the future. The strategy seeks to secure the future of Grangemouth, driving development of clean growth sectors whilst serving the needs of existing and future operators.



At a Glance

Scotland's largest industrial cluster

Host to major chemical manufacturers

A deepwater port with Freeport status

Rail freight terminal

Strong ties with academic institutions

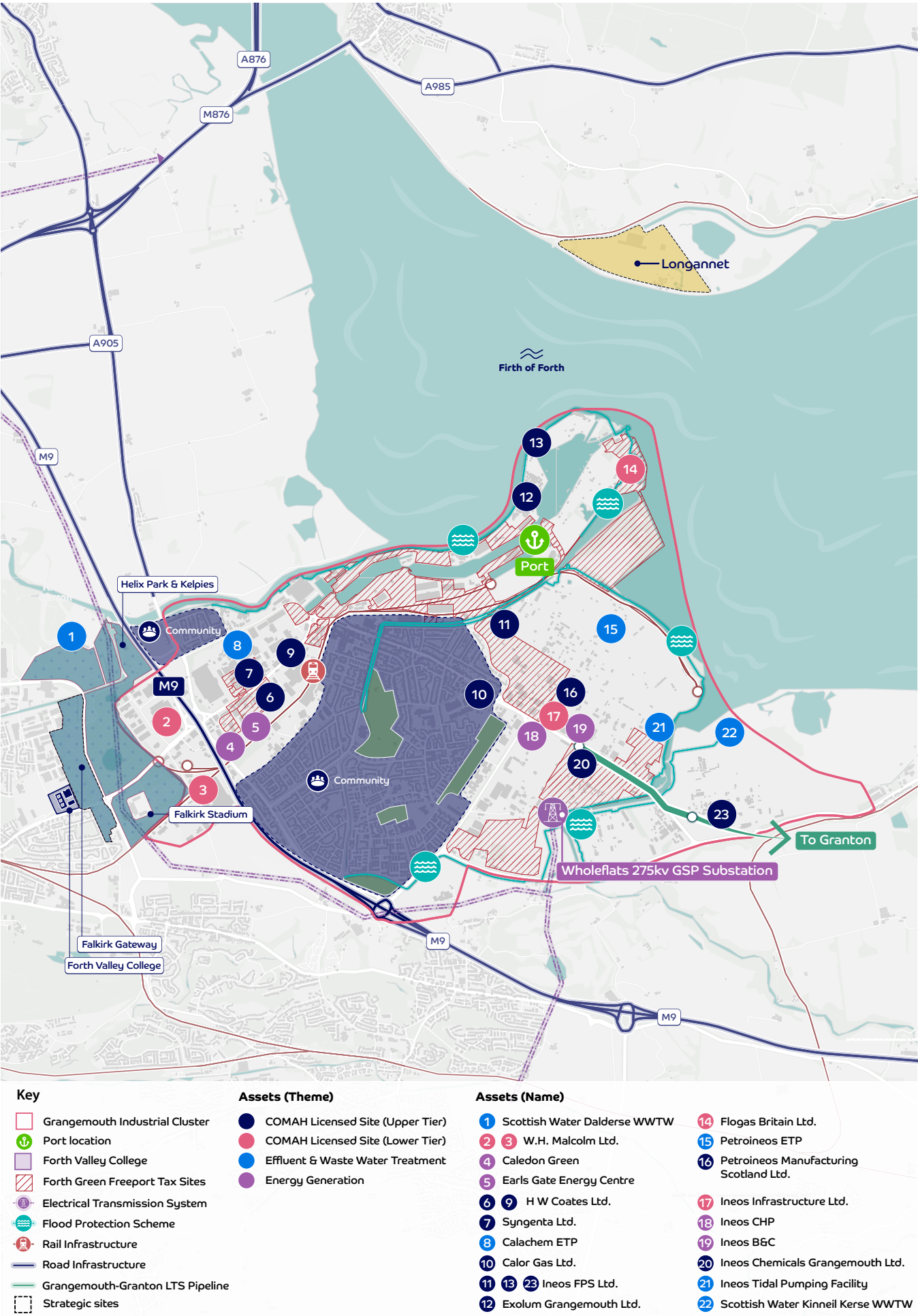
Potential pool of 2 million workers

Hazardous waste treatment facilities, large hazard consultation zone, availability of utilities, and top tier COMAH sites

Key landowners:

- INEOS
- Petroineos
- CalaChem
- Forth Ports
- Falkirk Council

For more information please see [Grangemouth Land & Infrastructure Baseline \(Ironsides Farrar\) June 2025.](#)



02

Where are we going?

A new vision of transition and growth. for Grangemouth

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Vision & Objectives

Drivers for Change & Growth Opportunities

Grangemouth's industrial future is being redefined by a convergence of economic, environmental, and policy-driven forces. For decades, Grangemouth has been the industrial cornerstone of Scotland, hosting petrochemical and manufacturing operations that have provided major economic benefit to Scotland.

Grangemouth now has the opportunity to transition to a clean energy and manufacturing hub that secures its future as a major economic contributor to Scotland's net zero future. This is backed by government and businesses providing strategic support to secure Grangemouth's future as an internationally competitive industrial cluster.

There is a significant decarbonisation opportunity at Grangemouth, as it is currently one of Scotland's largest carbon emitters. The transition to a lower carbon future reflects broader global trends in the energy sector and the need to decarbonise heavy industry. Scotland's ambitious net zero commitments, coupled with the UK's industrial decarbonisation strategy, acts as a powerful catalyst for change. This places Grangemouth at the heart of national efforts to reduce carbon emissions from manufacturing, logistics, chemicals and energy production.

Technological advancement and innovation is driving change and creating a variety of emerging technologies providing growth opportunities for Grangemouth. New supply chains need to be developed to support these pioneering technologies and local and regional workforces will be required build, operate and maintain new facilities. Advances in hydrogen

production, CCUS, sustainable chemicals and bio-based manufacturing create sustainable and economically viable novel pathways for industrial activity. The cluster's proximity to academic institutions provides a location for the development of pilot projects and demonstration facilities, positioning Grangemouth as a testbed for emerging technologies. Grangemouth's existing infrastructure, such as the Freeport, various pipeline connections, utilities, and COMAH status, provide a supportive ecosystem for deploying these technologies at scale.

This exciting transition offers the chance to strengthen community and workforce resilience, drawing on the skilled workforce available locally and providing them with high quality jobs. Investment in skills and training, particularly through Forth Valley College and their Skills Transition Centre, will ensure the local skills base is maintained and provides opportunities for the community to participate in and benefit from Grangemouth's transition.

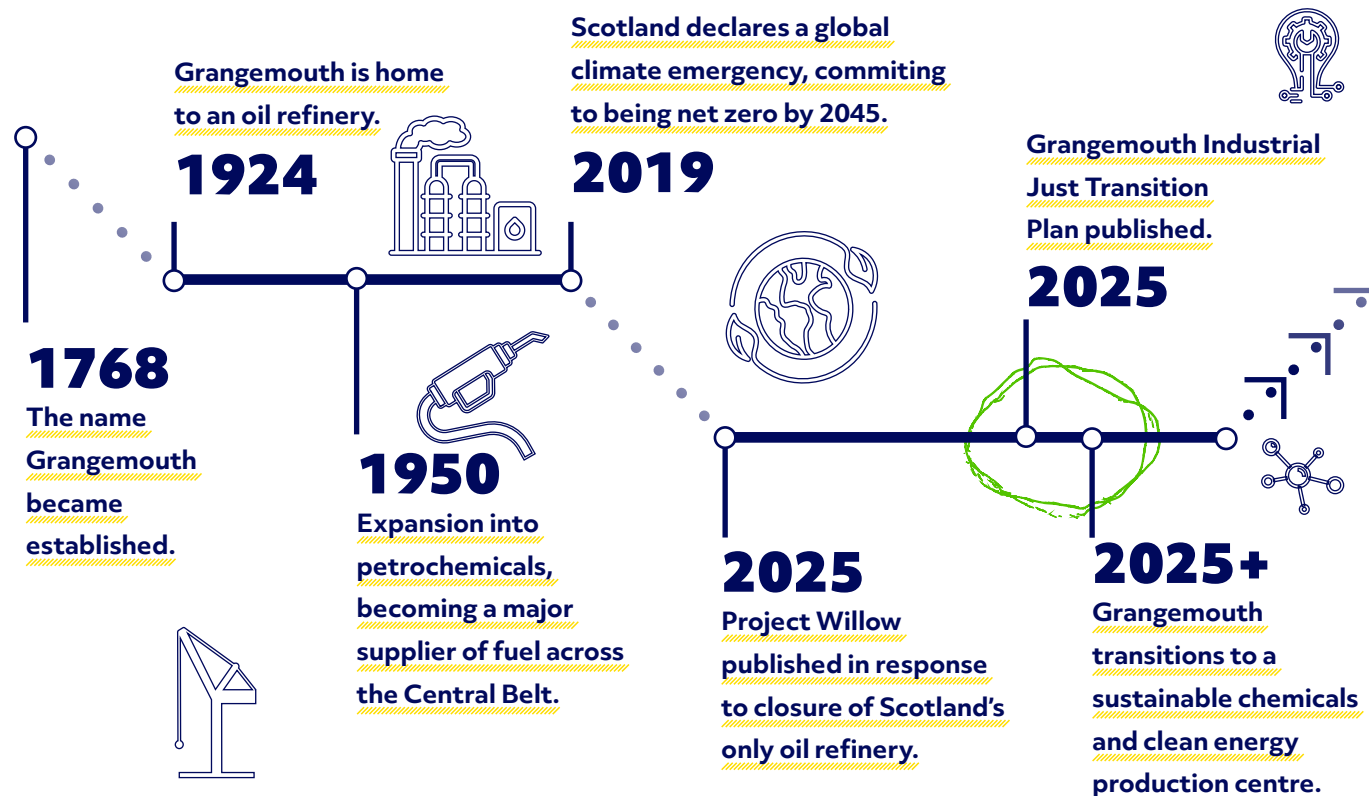
The importance of a well functioning industrial cluster

Operating as a coordinated industrial cluster allows Grangemouth companies to share infrastructure, establish internal supply chains, train and access local skilled labour and engage with local research and education institutions in an organised way. This enables cost reduction, added value, emissions reduction and attracts investment. Scottish Enterprise Industrial Cluster Best Practice Analysis identifies successful industrial clusters as those with coordinated governance, shared infrastructure, and a clear pathway to net zero. The GICS considers these opportunities to strengthen Grangemouth's long-term competitiveness.

The Vision for Grangemouth's Future

The profound changes underway at Grangemouth, driven by industrial decarbonisation, climate policy and technological innovation, create a unique opportunity to reshape the cluster's future. These drivers not only demand action but also unlock the potential for inclusive, sustainable growth. The vision for Grangemouth is outlined in the Grangemouth Industrial Just Transition Plan, which sees the cluster as a thriving industrial hub that delivers high-quality jobs, supports community wellbeing, leads in low-carbon innovation and reaches net zero emissions by 2045. This strategy is the first step in realising that vision.

Grangemouth will be sustained as a vibrant industrial cluster, aligning investment, infrastructure, and skills to ensure a fairer, greener future for all.



Grangemouth Vision

By 2045, the Grangemouth industrial cluster will be a carbon-neutral hub, aiding Scotland in achieving its net zero targets. The Grangemouth industrial cluster will become a net zero chemicals centre for Scotland and a leading production centre of the UK's low-carbon energy industry, supporting the developing biofuels and hydrogen sectors, and playing a key role in ensuring Scotland's energy security and economic prosperity.

Grangemouth Industrial Just Transition Plan: The Vision

What will Just Transition achieve for Grangemouth?



The clusters industrial partners will collaborate to produce advanced industrial processes, manufacturing and biofuels.



Global exports of sustainable chemicals supporting the Scottish and UK economy.




Through active collaboration with the public sector and community, the workforce will power the site: innovating, planning, building and managing the hub with respect and dignity.



Helping foster Scotland's circular economy that provides equitable prosperity for current and future generations.

Spatial Vision

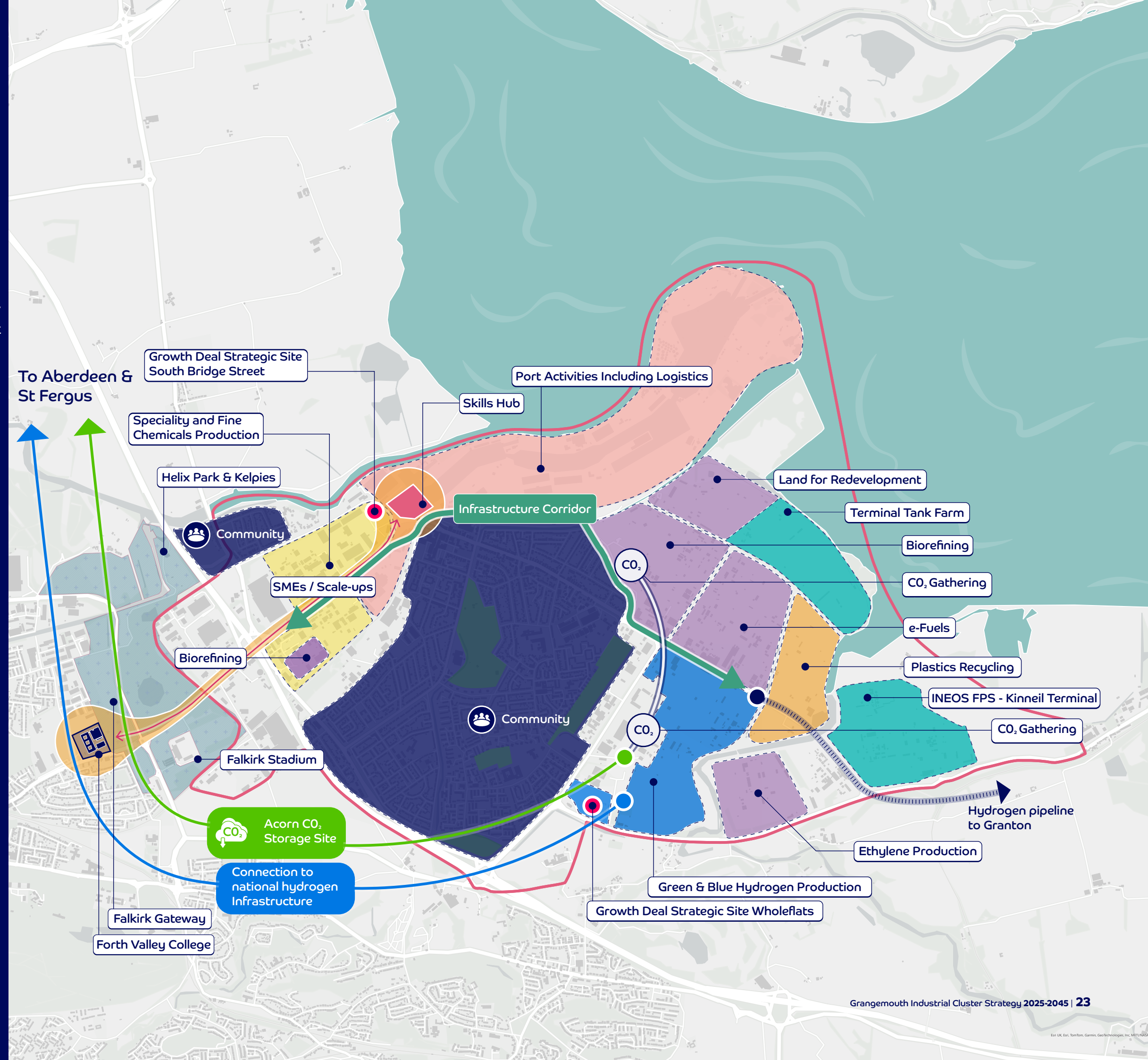
 **A net zero industrial cluster delivering low-carbon energy and advanced industrial processes.**

A spatial plan for Grangemouth provides Government, existing businesses and prospective investors with a visualisation of what the future of the industrial cluster may look like. Based on stakeholder engagement during the development of the GICS, views on future land use at Grangemouth contributed to the spatial vision for Grangemouth.

The spatial vision is an initial view on what the future of Grangemouth may look like.

Its purpose is to guide decision making on the location of investments to maximise the value of existing cluster assets, exploit synergies between businesses within the cluster, and help define the location of utilities corridors and other cluster infrastructure.

The spatial vision draws on the existing and proposed site uses and looks to maximise existing infrastructure and synergies with current operations. Alignment with statutory planning processes, such as the [Falkirk Local Development Plan 3](#) and [National Planning Framework 4](#), is a key consideration for the indicative developments shown. The spatial vision suggests gathering of CO₂ for distribution into national infrastructure, the transition from petrochemical operations towards low-carbon technologies, and upskilling of the local workforce – all of which are supported by planning processes.



The spatial vision is not a rigid plan for the cluster, but a snapshot based on current understanding and something that will be built on and developed through further work.

Projects to evolve the spatial vision and add more detail to facilitate delivery of new infrastructure are outlined in the roadmap found on pages 40 to 45 of this document. Given the early stage of this work, the location of developments and new infrastructure is flexible and will depend on when land becomes available, the nature of the development and how a development fits in with existing businesses and upcoming developments. There are presently several unknowns and so plans will evolve as more data is gathered, and there is more certainty on future developments and investment.

This spatial vision builds on the existing speciality and fine chemicals manufacturing in the east of the cluster, and the work of Project Willow to identify potential projects predominantly located in the west of the cluster, supported by the existing petrochemicals infrastructure and new hydrogen production. The existing businesses and key new developments will be the anchor businesses of the cluster around which other businesses can grow.

Complimentary businesses that use the products, provide feedstocks or add value will locate around the anchor businesses. Neighbouring businesses will provide benefits for one another, and this model will support start ups to grow as well as providing expansion opportunities for existing businesses. The location of new investment should consider the mutual benefits with existing and potential future businesses.

Innovation assets will be located within the cluster, providing spaces for research and development, supporting university spin outs, start ups and established businesses to develop and trial new technologies for bio manufacturing and sustainable chemical development. These innovation businesses will then be supported to expand and grow, connecting into the existing cluster to benefit from proximity to other businesses.

The spatial vision looks to build more connectivity between all parts of the GIC, particularly building links east to west through defined utilities corridors. This aims to provide synergistic benefits to operators across the cluster through physical linkages that build resilience and enhance competitiveness. This will enable cross-cluster flows of energy including hydrogen, carbon dioxide as well as chemical feedstocks and products; connecting to national infrastructure and local networks. Leading to maximum resource utilisation, waste reduction and increased circularity.

As is the case today, both the east and west sides of the cluster will be connected the port. This will facilitate the import and export of fuel, chemical feedstocks and products. Logistics remains a key part of Grangemouth's offering with enhanced facilities including hydrogen refuelling and increased welfare provision. Connection and cohesion across the cluster will be enhanced with cluster infrastructure including meeting spaces, a cluster hub, skills and training assets connected by active travel infrastructure.

Developing the Grangemouth spatial vision, based on the principles outlined here, is a key next step in implementing the Grangemouth Industrial Cluster Strategy. Activities to support this including spatial planning, utilities assessments and transport projects are described in more detail within the roadmap.

Aligning with the 10-year Greener Grangemouth programme ►

Greener Grangemouth

Alongside industrial transformation, it is essential that the transition delivers tangible benefits for the people and businesses of Grangemouth. The 10-year Greener Grangemouth programme provides a place-based framework that complements the GICS by embedding community benefit, environmental improvements, and resilience into the transition process.

Greener Grangemouth brings together community representatives and partners from housing, health, education, transport, and the environment to ensure that the industrial cluster's growth goes hand-in-hand with regeneration of the town. The programme is designed to:

- **Improve local quality of life** through enhanced green infrastructure, active travel and community wellbeing initiatives.
- **Support economic participation** by creating pathways for local people into new green industries, apprenticeships and training opportunities.
- **Strengthen business engagement** through the creation of Scotland's first Green Business Improvement District (Green BID), empowering local industry to shape, support and invest in sustainable economic activity.
- **Enhance environmental resilience** by promoting biodiversity, reducing emissions impacts, and creating a cleaner, healthier urban environment.

By aligning industrial decarbonisation with place-based regeneration, Greener Grangemouth ensures that the transition to net zero is not only an industrial success but also a community success. This integrated approach will help deliver a fairer, greener future for Grangemouth, demonstrating how industrial clusters can deliver for both the economy and society.

Achieving the Vision



A shared vision to attract investment and drive growth.

A shared vision for the industrial cluster is key to bringing together long-term ambitions to attract investment and drive growth. This will also drive investment decisions in Grangemouth towards a shared goal.

The vision for Grangemouth will be delivered by seizing the exciting opportunities available, investing committed Government funds effectively to unlock further capital. Likelihood of success will be enhanced by building on Grangemouth's existing capabilities, businesses and assets. Valuable assets such as its unique Green Freeport and COMAH status provide unparalleled opportunities for chemical manufacturing and export, and its connections to offshore wind and planned connections to CO₂ and hydrogen pipelines make Grangemouth the ideal location for producing green hydrogen, bio-feedstocks, sustainable chemicals and e-fuels.

Grangemouth will be a **cohesive** industrial cluster, a strong governance model will coordinate the nature and location of new **investment**, giving a sense of **place** across the cluster that acknowledges its role as an industrial site, but where decarbonisation supports the development of clean, green, accessible places for the local community. The value of existing infrastructure is maximised and new infrastructure is carefully planned to benefit all businesses and reduce impact on the community. Strategic new **connections** will join all areas of the cluster together and provide the utilities and transport infrastructure needed for businesses to operate and thrive. Green utilities and coordination of resources including waste, will enable businesses and the cluster to achieve net zero and enable **sustainable growth**.

Investors and businesses will have access to key resources, assets and services to support effective decision making and will benefit from a supportive and fit for purpose regulatory environment. There will be an ecosystem for **innovation** to flourish, attracting ambitious new companies, start-ups spun out from universities and enabling businesses to expand, diversify and grow through innovation.

To achieve this outcome five strategic objectives have been identified as foundations for unlocking growth and investment in the GIC. These five strategic objectives are intended to enable and guide the allocation of assets and resources and investment towards delivering the strategy and achieving the long-term vision for Grangemouth.

Benefits

The GICS will deliver a wide range of benefits that reinforce the region's transformation into a competitive, sustainable industrial hub. Fit for the future infrastructure, including low-carbon utilities and improved transport links, will strengthen existing businesses and attract new industries. The cluster will continue to cultivate a skilled and locally rooted workforce, supported by reskilling opportunities and strong community ties. The community will also benefit from better transport connections and better logistics in and around the cluster to reduce industrial traffic in community spaces.

The strategy will also foster a vibrant innovation ecosystem, positioning Grangemouth as a scale up location for start-ups, SMEs, and emerging technologies. This will expand Grangemouth's offering of products and services, attracting and creating new businesses and leveraging new R&D opportunities across the cluster. Coordinated leadership and shared services will streamline operations and make the cluster more attractive to investors and operators. A cohesive cluster will allow businesses to benefit from each others' operations, sharing resources and reducing costs.

Ultimately, the strategy will drive clean growth, drawing in sustainable manufacturers and green technology firms, and secure Grangemouth's place at the heart of the UK's net zero transition.

What are the community benefits ▶

Community Benefits



Shaping Grangemouth's Future Together

The Grangemouth Industrial Just Transition Plan identifies an enhanced relationship between community and industry as one of its key outcomes.

Grangemouth's future, therefore, depends on aligning the needs and aspirations of the local community with its role as a nationally important industrial cluster.

The current stage in this journey is the preparation of two complementary plans:

- Grangemouth Industrial Cluster Strategy
- Grangemouth [Spatial Vision and Town Centre Masterplan](#).

Shared Ambitions

- Deliver tangible community benefits from industrial transition: quality jobs and training, improved health, cleaner air, improved access to water and green spaces, better transport, quality housing, community regeneration, a modern and thriving town centre with linked neighbourhood centres, and new amenities.
- Position Grangemouth as a net zero industrial cluster of UK-wide significance.
- Harness Grangemouth's strategic infrastructure to support a community wealth building approach, drive local innovation and circular economic growth.

Managing Risks

- Hazardous site regulations: balancing industrial safety requirements with the community's future needs and aspirations.

- Flood risk: addressing vulnerability of industry and the community to flooding.
- Achieving objectives and meeting stakeholder expectations: balancing diverse priorities and timescales across community, industry, and government to maintain trust and confidence in delivery.

Delivery Approach

- The essence of a joined-up approach between industrial and community development incorporates coordinated investor and funder engagement, and complementary approaches to spatial master planning across the industrial cluster and the town.
- Joint oversight of technical appraisals of opportunities and constraints, to guide both industrial development on the cluster and community and town infrastructure investment.
- Alignment of regulatory and delivery frameworks across national agencies and local partners, potentially through mechanisms such as a Cluster Management Company, Falkirk and Grangemouth Growth Deal, Forth Green Freeport, Just Transition Plan, Skills Action Plans, National Planning Framework, Local Development Plans, and the Town Masterplan.



Place & Investment

Establishment of a cluster management organisation will support the community by:

- Providing a single point of contact between industry and community.
- Coordinating skills, environment, and cultural projects with links to the cluster.
- Provide strategic oversight with GFIB, including community representation.
- Monitor progress on jobs, emissions, and community benefit, providing transparent reporting to the community.
- Attract new investment and innovation to support local job and training opportunities.



Innovation Ecosystem

- Skills Transition Centre: Retraining for refinery workers and apprenticeships for young people through Forth Valley College.
- The development of innovation infrastructure will bring new high-quality jobs, skills development, and greener local growth driven by innovation.
- TRACE Hub: A dedicated facility showcasing technology and careers, offering advanced learning experiences and upskilling to strengthen the local skills base.
- Attracting innovative companies, promoting scale up and location in Grangemouth will protect the future of the cluster, providing green jobs for generations to come.



Connection

Ongoing work with Falkirk Council HGV traffic management solutions to reduce freight movements through residential areas.

Active travel and public transport improvements for local workers and the community:

- Improved cycle and walking routes - safer, greener travel.
- Bus priority measures - faster, more reliable public transport.



Sustainable Growth

- New industries, new opportunities: securing green jobs and training opportunities within Grangemouth for current and future workers.
- Investment in climate-resilient infrastructure (e.g. flood protection) protects both residents and industry.
- Moving to greener industries will improve local air quality and environment improving local conditions for the community.

5 Strategic Objectives



To unlock growth
& Investment...

Building on previous work and stakeholder engagement, five strategic objectives have been defined to guide investment prioritisation and deliver the vision for Grangemouth.

The objectives, their alignment to the vision, and the pathways to achieving success are detailed in the following sections. The recommendations associated with each strategic objective have shaped the development of the roadmap, which assigns priority and responsibility for delivery to ensure the objectives can be achieved.

01



Establish Grangemouth as nationally and internationally recognised industrial cluster, attracting transformational scale investment with commercially successful businesses invested in the long-term future of Grangemouth and its community.

02



By 2030, implement enabling short term, cluster wide utilities and transport actions with a plan to unlock longer term investment in transformational utilities and transport infrastructure.

03



By 2035, establish an innovation hub at Grangemouth, attracting new industries and investment to the cluster, facilitating greater technology pull through from academic institutions, enabling the scale up of new technologies and processes.

04



By 2028, establish a coordinated shared cluster management organisation with governance and leadership services and a mandate to further improve cluster connectivity, unlock potential, and realise mutual benefits.

05



By 2045, Grangemouth is a net zero carbon emissions cluster, sustainable chemical manufacturing is flourishing, the cluster is a key part of the UK's hydrogen economy and is connected to national CO₂ networks.

5 Strategic
Objectives
in detail ►



| Where are we now?

- No spatial plan for the future cluster.
- Stable planning policy framework in place, though many operators feel this needs reviewing due to the current period of change and the scale of the redevelopment required.
- Many in the community feel disassociated from, or left behind by, the cluster.

| Where would we like to be?

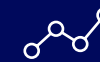
- Existing businesses feel confident and able to invest in their future in Grangemouth.
- Investment unlocked through strategic, cluster-wide planning; a clear 'spatial plan' drives the right investment at the right time in the right place.
- The cluster is more equitable and collaborative with a streamlined investor experience where investors have access to information and support in relation to locations, utilities, regulations and services.
- There is a supportive regulatory context that enables development whilst protecting the natural environment.
- Timely delivery of 'no regrets' projects as first movers, providing enabling infrastructure or support services with a robust pipeline of projects to follow.
- A pride of place is invoked in the community, as they feel better connected to the cluster, and benefit from related infrastructure developments.

| What needs to happen to deliver?

- 1 Development and implementation of a cluster spatial plan which maximises Grangemouth's existing strengths.
- 2 Development of a clear investor proposition and accompanying support for investors.
- 3 Establish a training centre of excellence at Grangemouth providing a pathway for locals to acquire skills and qualifications to find employment at Grangemouth.
- 4 Review existing regulatory context and implement new regulatory models that support development and deliver inclusive industrial growth.
- 5 Delivery of projects that support the cluster and the wider community including the flood protection scheme, transport infrastructure and skills programmes.

| Benefits of achieving the vision

The strategy will foster a skilled local workforce with strong ties to the cluster, ensuring long-term employment and economic resilience. Coherent spatial planning and meaningful community engagement will enhance land use efficiency and maintain public support. Stronger collaboration between partners and communities will reinforce Grangemouth's identity as a thriving industrial location.



| Where are we now?

- Well defined picture of current situation ([Ironsides Farrar Land & Infrastructure Baseline Review](#)).
- Businesses operating independently with potential benefits of being in a cluster not realised.
- Site infrastructure is aging and in need of investment.
- No clear cluster wide development plans creating barriers to investment.
- Transport routes to and across the cluster intersect with community spaces.

| Where would we like to be?

- All operators in Grangemouth have access to reliable and affordable utilities as part of a resilient, cluster wide network.
- Future businesses have access to 'plug and play' sites with infrastructure provision already in place.
- Infrastructure upgrades include provision for future utilities such as carbon dioxide or hydrogen pipelines.
- Greater connectivity between businesses within the cluster, with localised supply chains, one business' output or waste stream is another business' feedstock, businesses are exploiting synergies and Grangemouth is operating as a 'true cluster'.
- Low carbon transport infrastructure that effectively connects all areas of the cluster, whilst removing heavy traffic from residential areas.
- Enhanced public transport links into and within Grangemouth providing easier access for workers.
- Strategic development plans in place, based on the Grangemouth spatial plan that attract investment to build futureproof infrastructure.

| What needs to happen to deliver?

- 1 Invest in the short term to improve existing utilities and infrastructure provision for current businesses to support green industrial growth.
- 2 Assess near term and future utilities requirements, develop a utilities strategy to deliver the required utilities networks.
- 3 Complete strategic transport appraisal process and link this with Grangemouth spatial plan and deliver relevant transport upgrades.
- 4 Map businesses' inputs and outputs, and develop the Grangemouth spatial plan to maximise synergies.
- 5 Maximise the value of existing assets in and around the cluster such as port land and shared infrastructure as part of the utilities strategy and spatial plan, develop proposals for upgrading, adding new connections, and implementing proactive monitoring and maintenance.

| Benefits of achieving the vision

Exploiting synergies within the cluster will reduce costs, improve sustainability, and provide secure supply chains that enhance resilience. Reliable, low-carbon utilities and upgraded infrastructure will provide a solid foundation for green manufacturing and biotech industries. Delivering futureproof infrastructure will avoid multiple upgrades and reoccurring disruption. Improved transport and mobility, both within the cluster and to surrounding areas, will boost operational efficiency, collaboration, and worker wellbeing.

| Where are we now?

- Mature industries operate at Grangemouth.
- Grangemouth has links to academia and is suited to R&D, but needs stronger alignment between government, industry, Regional Technology Organisations (RTOs) and academia to improve innovation activities.
- Siloed innovation activities driven by individual businesses, no shared innovation services.

| Where would we like to be?

- Strong partnerships with academic institutions and RTOs where Grangemouth provides an opportunity for start up expansion and growth as well as training.
- Innovation infrastructure such as demonstration facilities, lab space and access to support services creates an attractive place for innovative companies to develop, scale up and commercialise.
- New industries such as engineering biology, industrial biotechnology and sustainable chemicals manufacturing are attracted to Grangemouth and benefit from working alongside existing cluster companies.
- Enhanced competitive advantage by unlocking cluster level investment which benefits a range of businesses.
- Grangemouth is at the heart of the UK's net zero chemicals innovation and manufacturing industry.

| What needs to happen to deliver?

- 1 Creation of a centralised innovation hub providing physical infrastructure and support services for innovation organisations.
- 2 Development of full business case for the Grangemouth Sustainable Manufacturing Campus (GSMC) to secure funding for transformational innovation infrastructure.
- 3 Develop partnerships with academic institutions, research organisations, relevant industry networks, funders and other industrial clusters.
- 4 Establish collaboration frameworks to allow new and existing businesses to work together on innovation to achieve collective goals.
- 5 Use the Grangemouth spatial plan to understand where innovation could support the cluster as a whole.

| Benefits of achieving the vision

Grangemouth will emerge as a destination for start-ups, scale ups and SMEs, supported by pilot and demonstration facilities and local reskilling opportunities. Scale up of new technologies will position Scotland as a leader in clean industry, attracting wider investment and enabling the development of new products and services that strengthen the cluster's economic output and enhance supply chains, circularity and sustainability within the cluster.

| Where are we now?

- Operations at Grangemouth are fragmented, operating as four separate sub-clusters and independent businesses.
- Lack of shared services and shared spaces for operators.
- Operators make separate enquiries to regulators and utilities providers creating additional workload.
- Unlike a typical industrial cluster, no cluster management company or organisation to support cluster businesses.

| Where would we like to be?

- Grangemouth operates as a true industrial cluster facilitated by a cluster management organisation with a clear framework to support cluster businesses.
- Grangemouth has a central cluster hub with a physical location and dedicated cluster management resources providing support to existing and future cluster businesses.
- There is a clear cluster vision, strategy, spatial plan and governance framework driving decision making that delivers the best outcomes for Grangemouth.
- A clear programme of funded developments to deliver the GICS.
- Enhanced reputation and profile creating a positive brand that attracts investment.
- Effective intra-cluster communication, supporting effective marketing and promotion to raise the cluster's profile and bolster confidence.

| What needs to happen to deliver?

- 1 Establish a cluster management organisation with a clear mandate, agreed with cluster businesses, to develop and deliver cluster infrastructure and services.
- 2 Effective collaboration and cohesion enabled across the cluster, partners and programmes, facilitated by the cluster management organisation.
- 3 Secure dedicated resources to manage and support the cluster, delivering a range of activities that support delivery of the GICS.
- 4 Clear criteria that ensures investment is fit for purpose and enables delivery of the strategy and spatial plan, providing a seamless and coordinated offer for prospective operators.
- 5 Collaboration that harnesses public and private sector strengths to attract investment drive strategic partnerships.

| Benefits of achieving the vision

A recognised cluster management organisation will provide leadership, streamline business interactions, and drive collective outcomes. Shared services and governance will make Grangemouth more attractive to prospective businesses, while a supportive business environment will encourage innovation and growth.

| Where are we now?

- Historically, the cluster has focussed on petrochemical activities with Grangemouth being one of Scotland's major sources of industrial emissions.
- Emerging green growth projects at various stages of development.
- Significant untapped potential and good proximity to infrastructure supporting net zero industry.

| Where would we like to be?

- The cluster has transformed to a green industrial cluster, reducing emissions to net zero, supporting sustainable business that provide employment opportunities for future generations.
- Multiple clean power generation sites within the cluster, able to meet the peak power demands of the cluster and provide power export capability.
- Blue and green hydrogen production on site, supplying cluster businesses and national hydrogen networks.
- CCUS capability within the cluster and physical infrastructure linking to Project Acorn for carbon storage.
- Production of various clean bio- and e-fuels for use onsite and for export to regional and nation ports, airports and refuelling stations.
- Low-carbon utilities available to all businesses that enable achievement of individual entities net zero and sustainability commitments.

| What needs to happen to deliver?

- 1 Continued development of Project Willow opportunities within the cluster spatial plan, considering the development and opportunities of the cluster as a whole.
- 2 Development of a specific strategy for the east cluster (speciality and fine chemicals) in the context of sustainable chemicals
- 3 Policy framework to support sustainable industry (hydrogen CCUS, sustainable aviation, sustainable chemicals), including subsidies, funding, targeted aids, and incentives.
- 4 Electric or e-fuel powered vehicle fleets and supporting infrastructure within the cluster.
- 5 Development of a cluster sustainability framework to explore wider sustainable and environmental enhancements (beyond emissions reduction).

| Benefits of achieving the vision

The strategy will attract substantial investment in clean growth sectors, drawing in sustainable manufacturers and green technology firms. Grangemouth's evolving capabilities and position within the hydrogen and carbon capture ecosystem will make it a magnet for businesses seeking to align with net zero goals, reinforcing its role in Scotland's green industrial future. Improvements in local air quality and the environment resulting from less air pollution, creating a more pleasant local environment.



03

How do we get there?

A roadmap for short-medium-long term priorities and investments.

Delivering the Strategy

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Project Delivery Timeline

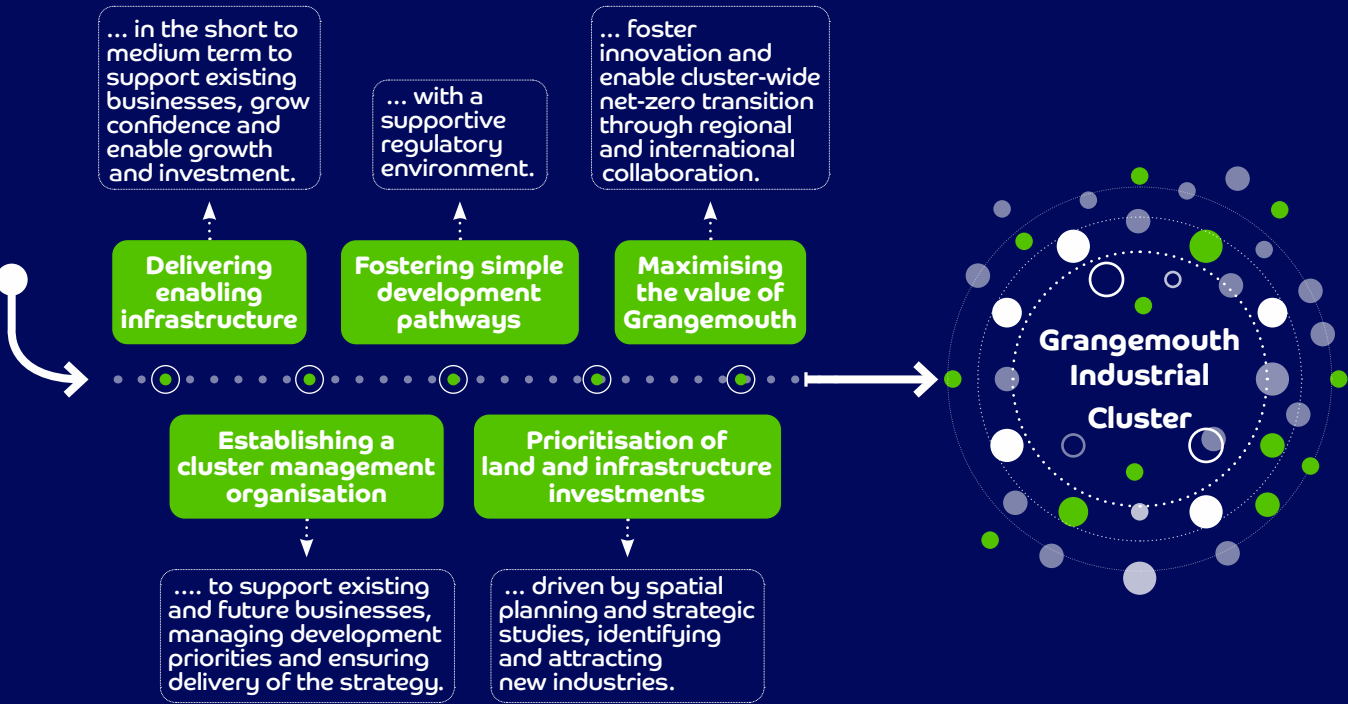
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Delivery Roadmap

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Roadmap

Delivering the Strategy



Delivering the Strategy

This strategy sets the direction for Grangemouth over the next decade to become a net zero hub delivering energy security and prosperity for Scotland. The delivery roadmap sets out the activities required to deliver the strategy.

Project Prioritisation

The delivery roadmap takes the recommendations required to deliver each strategic objective and maps these into tangible projects with assigned responsibilities and timelines. All projects are critical to the successful implementation of this strategy, with a number of short term projects already ongoing. Longer term projects have been included to show what is needed over the medium and long term to realise the vision set out in the strategy.

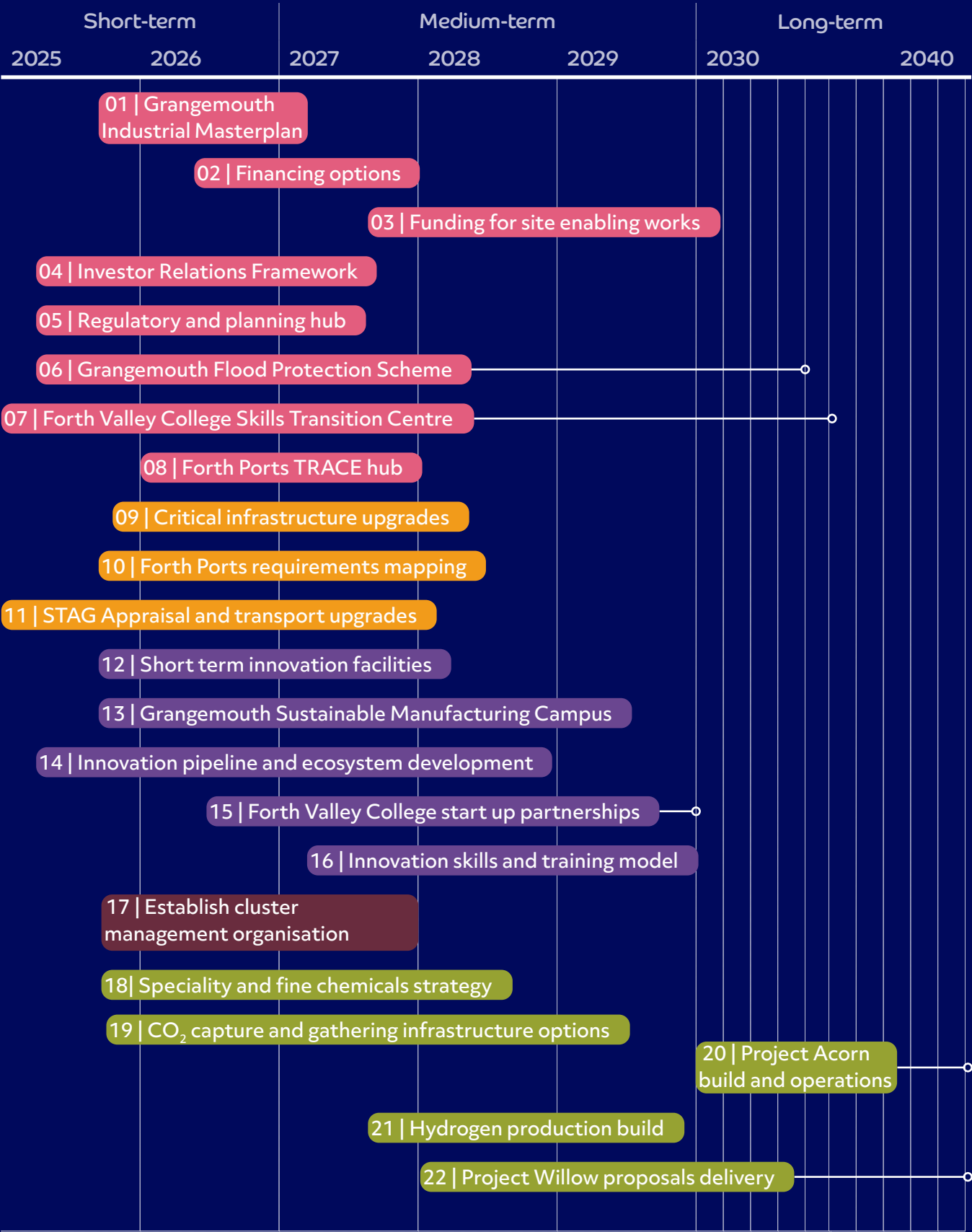
Risk Management

























The roadmap outlines the scale of work required to deliver the strategy. There are specific risks associated with none delivery of each project within the roadmap, delays in delivering projects could hinder related developments and inhibit cluster growth during this key transitional phase.

Strategic Objective	Risk
Place & Investment	No clear spatial plan and unclear routes to invest in Grangemouth
Connection	Cluster has inadequate infrastructure and physical connections and fails to attract investment
Innovation Ecosystem	Lack of novel industries to drive growth and employment opportunities
Cohesion	No overall management, synergies not realised, cluster is not competitive
Sustainable Growth	Failure to meet net zero goals, cluster cannot continue operations

Project Delivery Timeline

*Continuous monitoring and evaluation through roadmap period



Theme	Ref	Project	Description		Existing/ Proposed	Status	Short 1-5 years	Med 5-10 years	Long 10-15 years	Responsibility
	11	STAG Appraisal and transport upgrades	<u>Strategic transport appraisal for Grangemouth</u> (ongoing). The appraisal will define and prioritise local transport projects, including active travel connections.	.....	Existing					Falkirk Council
	12	Short term innovation facilities	Make existing facilities within Grangemouth available for companies for innovation, demonstration and scale up. Facilities would be focused on speciality chemicals manufacturing, engineering biology and industrial biotechnology.	.....	Proposed					Scottish Enterprise & Scottish Futures Trust
	13	Grangemouth Sustainable Manufacturing Campus (GSMC)	Falkirk and Grangmeouth Growth Deal project to develop facilities for engineering biology and chemical process technologies for the manufacture of sustainable chemicals proof of concept, piloting and scale up, based on ongoing work by Scottish Enterprise and Centre for Process Innovation.	.....	Proposed					Scottish Enterprise, Scottish Futures Trust and Centre for Process Innovation
	14	Innovation pipeline and ecosystem development	Alongside developing physical assets consideration of the policy, legislation, economic impact and engagement with key stakeholders to develop the sustainable chemicals industry and establish pipeline of businesses and projects who would use GSMC facilities.	.....	Existing					Scottish Enterprise, Centre for Process Innovation
	15	Forth Valley College start up partnerships	Establish partnerships between Forth Valley College and innovation businesses and projects in the GSMC innovation pipeline.	.....	Proposed					Forth Valley College and Centre for Process Innovation
	16	Innovation skills and training model	Develop proposals to use the GSMC as a location for training activities delivered in conjunction with skills providers.	.....	Proposed					Scottish Enterprise and Centre for Process Innovation
	17	Establish cluster management organisation	Explore models for cluster management, implement a suitable model to provide coherent and consistent management across the cluster increasing added value and supporting businesses, economic development, cluster sustainability and inward investment. The role and powers held by this organisation as well as funding avenues will be considered and established. Includes establishing and implementing a monitoring and evaluation plan, to ensure delivery of GICS and wider workstreams.	.....	Proposed					Scottish Enterprise
	18	Speciality and fine chemicals strategy	Develop a strategy, including policy, investment and spatial framework primary focused on the west of the cluster's chemical operations but linking to opportunities for added value from across the cluster.	.....	Proposed					Scottish Enterprise
	19	CO₂ capture and gathering infrastructure options	Assessment of technology and infrastructure requirements and options for CCUS.	.....	Proposed					ACORN Project Partners
	20	Project Acorn build and operations	Link up of Grangemouth to national CCS infrastructure, for the transport and storage of CO ₂ , a key enabler for net zero.	.....	Proposed					ACORN Project Partners
	21	Hydrogen production build	Construction of a hydrogen production facility at Grangemouth.	.....	Proposed					Hydrogen developers
	22	Project Willow proposals delivery	Build out of developments proposed in Project Willow.	.....	Proposed					Scottish Government with private sector partners

04

How do we deliver?

Prioritising investment and aligning aspirations to ensure success.

Investment Principles

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Measures of Success

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Investment Framework

Investment Principles

There are many opportunities for investment in Grangemouth, these investment principles have been developed to ensure alignment with the strategy when prioritising investment and land for development.

- Supporting existing businesses through their net zero transition, attracting and retaining businesses and talent.
- Maximising current infrastructure capability and logistical efficiency, unlocking potential on existing strengths to enhance the value from existing assets.
- The probability of a project or development happening. Avoid stranded assets and ensure realisation of value.
- Co-location and strategic sequencing of infrastructure and investment to maximise synergies. Create increased value for businesses.
- Alignment with the GICS and wider policies, such as the Just Transition Plan and the Infrastructure Investment Plan for Scotland.
- Providing local GVA and community benefits.
- Industry and sector leadership informed and shaped by industry and sector needs, delivering cluster wide and community benefits.

Measures of Success

Measures of success have been set to ensure progress towards meeting the strategic objectives and delivering the GICS.

More detailed Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for individual projects and workstreams will be developed within a Monitoring and Evaluation plan as part of the delivery of the strategy. The monitoring and evaluation plan will be developed as part of establishing the Cluster Management Organisation. As this organisation will have a leading role in the future of the cluster, it will be ideally placed to monitor the performance of projects, workstreams and the cluster against a specific, measurable KPIs. These KPIs will be developed as the future of the cluster takes shape through the Grangemouth Industrial Masterplan and other workstreams.



Place and Investment

Align and integrate future industry masterplanning and town masterplanning, alongside development of Falkirk Council's Local Development Plan 3 (LDP3) to achieve a plan and delivery programme by 2027 that enables industry and community to thrive together.



Connection

The cluster has clear plans for infrastructure upgrades, business cases are established and there is a detailed plan for implementation by the end of 2027.



Innovation Ecosystem

Short term innovation facilities are available and in use from 2027 onwards, to accelerate the development of Grangemouth's innovation ecosystem.



Cohesion

A cluster management organisation is established and operational by the beginning of 2028.



Sustainable Growth

All investment decisions support achieving net zero by 2045, and all planning decisions and businesses cases from now on clearly detail how the investment helps achieve this target.

05

What are the next steps?

Building an ambitious yet deliverable masterplan for Grangemouth.

Next Steps

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Next Steps

Next Steps

A key next step in implementing the Grangemouth Industrial Cluster Strategy is developing a spatial and temporal plan, the Grangemouth Industrial Masterplan. The spatial elements of the masterplan will consider the preferable locations for new businesses and investment, as well as considering infrastructure corridors, transport infrastructure and regional connections. This will build on the Grangemouth spatial vision, adding further detail and exploring specific infrastructure and economic opportunities.

The temporal element will consider when land becomes available, areas of the site will be available for development as refinery infrastructure is demolished and sites cleared, other site remediation work will also take place across the rest of the cluster. This will provide a plan for how infrastructure and operations will develop overtime.

The Grangemouth Industrial Masterplan will draw on ongoing work and analysis including Project Willow and utilities studies to bring the latest understanding together in a forward plan for the cluster.

The plan will be underpinned by maximising existing assets, exploiting synergies, enhancing competitiveness and aligning with the Just Transition Plan. This will be achieved by looking at the existing businesses as creating anchors within the cluster around which other opportunities can coalesce, looking to exploit synergies and circularity as well as clustering similar and complementary businesses. Infrastructure corridors across the cluster, providing multiple

utilities will be built into the Grangemouth Industrial Masterplan with a view to providing futureproof, net zero utilities. The plan will consider innovation, skills and training assets, meeting and social spaces. Active travel and green spaces will be built into the plan through alignment with the town masterplan and LDP3, all working towards creating a more pleasant environment for workers and the community.

Alongside this, Scottish Enterprise and GFIB will progress with defining and establishing the cluster management organisation. This is recognised as a key enabler to implementing the strategy, monitoring progress and providing accountability.

Other priority actions include development of the Forth Valley Skills Transition Centre to upskill the local community and maximise their benefits from the cluster, and to begin the critical infrastructure upgrades assessment to understand the needs of operators and provide certainty for them going forward. These developments, alongside the Grangemouth Industrial Masterplan, provide synergistic benefits to the community and industry; providing local residents with training and employment, and operators with a skilled workforce.

Scottish Enterprise, and partners, are looking to progress key infrastructure investment workstreams through the Grangemouth Infrastructure Investment Plan, delivering the roadmap projects including the Grangemouth Industrial Masterplan, funding for site enabling works, critical infrastructure upgrades, regulatory and planning hub and short-term innovation facilities.





Prepared by: On behalf of:



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