
THE RENFREWSHIRE ECONOMY

Partnership Conference

Tuesday 8th September 2026 at Paisley Town Hall

INVEST
in Renfrewshire



Welcome to the 2026 Renfrewshire Economy Conference.

Dear Delegate,

We are delighted to welcome you to this year's Renfrewshire Economy Conference — an annual event bringing together key stakeholders, policy makers, business leaders, and community representatives to shape the future of Renfrewshire's economy.

The Renfrewshire Economy Conference is designed to:

- Highlight progress and showcase key economic developments across the area.
- Explore opportunities for growth, innovation, and investment.
- Facilitate collaboration between public, private, and third sector organisations.
- Engage delegates in meaningful dialogue about the challenges and aspirations of our local economy.

Through keynote speeches, expert panels, and interactive table sessions, today's event is your opportunity to contribute ideas, raise questions, and help build a more inclusive, resilient, and thriving Renfrewshire.

This year's Conference Aims are focussed on the new Community Wealth Building Act:

1. Understand the economic opportunities and challenges facing Renfrewshire.
2. Recognise the connection between economic outcomes, inequality and demand for public services.
3. Mobilise the collective power of anchor institutions to deliver greater local benefit through the resources they already control.

Delegate Requirements

To help make the most of your experience today, we ask that all delegates:

- Engage fully with the programme — your insights and questions are highly valued.
- Participate actively in table sessions and discussions — your input helps shape local policy and practice.
- Network openly — this is a unique opportunity to build relationships across sectors and communities.
- Share responsibly — if posting on social media, please use the hashtag #RenfrewshireEconomy2026 and be mindful of others' privacy and viewpoints.

We hope today inspires new connections, deeper understanding, and bold ideas to drive our shared economic future forward.

Thank you for being part of this important conversation.

Renfrewshire Economy Conference 2026

08 45 Registration, tea and coffee

AGENDA

0915 Welcome

Conference Chair: *Alan Russell, Chief Executive, Renfrewshire Council*

The national and local economy

09 20 Scotland and Renfrewshire - Economic and Fiscal Outlook *Andrew Robertson, Glasgow City Region*

09 40 Building Renfrewshire's Economy: Opportunities and Ambition *Alasdair Morrison, Renfrewshire Council*

09 55 A Wellbeing Economy: Reducing Deprivation, Reducing Demand

Professor Gerry McCartney, Glasgow University

10 20 The Renfrewshire We Want to Build

Ruth Cooper, Renfrewshire Council

10 30 Q and A to panel at www.mentimeter.com with code 6185 6303

10 50 Coffee

Table Discussions: Partnership in Action

11 10 Introduction to the session

11 15 Table session: Increasing Economic Impact

"How can we use the economic power we already have to improve outcomes for local people and reduce future demand on public services"

12 10 Table Session Feedback of key points

12 25 The Renfrewshire We Want to Build

A New Plan for Renfrewshire

Pauline Moss, Renfrewshire Council

Value Local : Local Value

Ruth Cooper, Renfrewshire Council

12 50 Plenary and Close

Cllr Andy Steel, Convenor, Renfrewshire Council Economy and Regeneration Board

Lunch and Networking

Conference Speakers

Andrew Robertson, Head of Intelligence and Innovation, Glasgow City Region

Andrew joined the Glasgow City Region team in 2019 to lead the Intelligence Hub – the Region’s economic research and insight team. The team’s primary role is strengthening the case for investment within the Region, supporting evidence-based policy development and programme design for the Region and its local authorities including Renfrewshire.

The hub has built the economic analytical capacity to support decision makers, provide high quality economic insight and reduce the reliance on consultancy. Key areas of work include the development of Regional Economic Baseline, Regional Economic Strategy, local authority benchmarking and more recently providing the evidence of the Region’s emerging economic clusters. The success of this approach has been recognised by the Scottish Government, which is investing in rolling out the similar models across other regions of Scotland.

Today, Andrew will provide a snapshot of the current socio-economic issues facing the Renfrewshire and wider Glasgow City Region, the implications for the demand on public services, and opportunities to improve economic outcomes whilst reducing demand for services.

Professor Gerry McCartney, Professor of Wellbeing Economy, University of Glasgow

Professor Gerry McCartney is Professor of Wellbeing Economy at the University of Glasgow and one of Scotland's leading experts on health inequalities, population health and the wider determinants of wellbeing. His work focuses on understanding how social, economic and environmental factors influence health outcomes and how public policy can create fairer, healthier and more sustainable communities.

A public health physician by background, Gerry has advised governments, public bodies and national organisations on reducing inequalities and improving population wellbeing. His research has explored the links between poverty, employment, economic policy and demand for public services, helping to shape thinking on prevention and long-term public sector sustainability.

Gerry is passionate about translating evidence into practical action and supporting organisations to understand the role they can play in improving outcomes for people and places.

At the Renfrewshire Economy Conference, Gerry will explore the relationship between deprivation, inequality and demand for public services, highlighting why economic outcomes matter not only for individuals and communities, but also for the long-term sustainability of public services and public finances.

Alasdair Morrison, Head of Economy and Development, Renfrewshire Council

Alasdair Morrison is Head of Economy and Development at Renfrewshire Council, leading the Council’s work to drive economic growth, inward investment, regeneration and infrastructure development across Renfrewshire.

With extensive experience in local economic development and place-based regeneration, Alasdair works with businesses, investors, public sector partners and communities to unlock opportunities, attract investment and support the delivery of major developments that strengthen Renfrewshire's economy.

Alasdair plays a key role in shaping and delivering Renfrewshire's economic vision, with a particular focus on creating the conditions for sustainable growth, supporting business confidence and improving the infrastructure and places that enable the local economy to thrive.

At the Renfrewshire Economy Conference, Alasdair will be highlighting the key economic developments across Renfrewshire over the past year and the plans for future growth.

Ruth Cooper, Economic Development Manager, Renfrewshire Council

Ruth manages the Economic Development Service at Renfrewshire Council, leading the Council's work on inclusive growth, community wealth building, people and business support. She has a strong focus on ensuring that economic growth translates into meaningful opportunities and better outcomes for local people, communities and businesses.

Ruth is a passionate advocate for partnership working and place-based approaches to economic development. She chairs the Renfrewshire Local Employability Partnership and the Scottish Local Authorities Economic Development Group, and represents Scottish local government on national employability forums and executive groups.

Ruth is the conference organiser and will be highlighting the Community Wealth Building agenda and actions for Renfrewshire to take forward to build a more inclusive, resilient and prosperous Renfrewshire.

Pauline Moss, Strategy, Planning and Insight Manager, Renfrewshire Council

Pauline leads Renfrewshire Council's Strategy, Planning and Insight team, bringing together policy, data, engagement, performance and future-thinking to help the organisation understand what matters most to people and communities.

Pauline has a particular interest in organisational culture and developed the first Cultural Assurance Model in Scottish local government, now adopted nationally. She also leads the Council's *Every Conversation Matters* programme, championing the role of meaningful human-centred conversations in driving positive change.

At the conference, Pauline will introduce the *Your Voice Matters* engagement programme, seek feedback from conference attendees and consider what those insights mean for Renfrewshire as a place.
