

River Clyde – Motion as adjusted approved.

15 Councillor Mitchell, seconded by Councillor Kelly, moved that:-

“Council notes the importance of the River Clyde's past and future to Glasgow and Scotland: and recognises the desire of Glaswegians to have our river placed back at the heart of our city's life and economy once again.

Council agrees that the river should play a central part of our 850th anniversary celebrations and welcomes Clyde Chorus, a three-day music featuring performances across multiple venues highlighting Glasgow's vibrant music scene and celebrating its status as a UNESCO City of Music.

Council further notes the Clyde has been a crucial waterway for trade and transportation from pre Roman through to medieval times, facilitating connections between Scotland and Europe and the wider world, being both connected to periods of inequity like slavery and empire, and innovation, welcoming migrants many of whom were Irish, and the means of exporting Scottish innovation and people across the globe.

Council acknowledges that communities close to the river are among the most disadvantaged in Scotland, with 18% of the population living within the 500 metre buffer in the top 5% SIMD areas, and that these communities also face issues with connectivity and proximity to Vacant and Derelict Land, but that after decades of neglect the Clyde has been recognised as an asset critical to the health and wellbeing of riverside communities living well locally, the economic potential of the region, and vital to Scotland' sustainability and goals.

However, Council also recognises the strides that the riverside has made in recent years, with investments made in the Govan / Partick bridge that has reconnected two of our most ancient burghs; the Renfrew bridge that connects close to Yoker and the new Yoker Wharf development; plans for the Glasgow Riverside Innovation District that will see our future economy literally built on the site of our industrial past in Govan; the Barclays Tradeston Campus that brough hundreds of millions of pounds of investment and thousands of jobs into the city while also unlocking development in that part of the city; investments by BAE Systems in a ship build hall and Applied Shipbuilding Academy on either bank; and the upgrading the tidal weir at Glasgow Green spanning the Calton and Gorbals areas - vitality and investment returning to the river for its whole Glaswegian course.

Council commends the interest in the Clyde being raised through the work of writer & University of Glasgow Professor Louise Welsh and architect and director at Collective Architecture Jude Barber in their podcast "Who owns the Clyde". Council notes its examination of river ownership, exploring how privatisation of formerly public assets has created a disconnect with the interests of local people.

Council welcomes the inclusion of Clyde Mission in National Planning Framework 4 by the Scottish Government as advocated for by Climate Ready Clyde, the Council and others as a national, place based Mission a collective, cross-sector effort and partnership working to take forward assets and sites that are ready for repurposing,

reinvigorating brownfield and supporting local living as well as adapting the area to the impacts of climate change, where nature-based solutions are particularly supported.

Council notes also that NPF4's overarching spatial principles include an emphasis on 'compact urban growth' and 'rebalanced development' that the River Clyde is able to provide in abundance: acknowledging that the surest way to regenerate and revitalise our river is to make it as liveable, as productive and as sustainable a place for as many people as possible.

Council further notes the publication of Scottish Government guidance on Masterplan Consent Areas (MCAs) from January this year, which provides a broader framework and expanded powers to work within NPF4: Council hope that these will allow GCC and our partners in the City Region and neighbouring municipalities to show place leadership, taking a proactive approach, streamlining consenting and facilitating investment in existing and new communities along the river.

Council further recognises that this strategic approach to the river is being taken by Clyde Mission, a £40 million regeneration programme by the Scottish Government, which recognises the river as a national, strategic asset, and administration of which is now led by Glasgow City Region. Council welcomes this handover to the eight local authorities of the responsibility to progress what it believes is the greatest untapped development opportunity in western Europe, provides many of the levers we need to address growth, productivity and the wellbeing of the 1.8 million citizens of the City Region like the city and region's Innovation Districts, to tackle the ingrained social and economic inequalities within many of Scotland's most deprived communities.

Council notes that Glasgow City Region is currently moving at pace in discussions with Scottish and UK Governments around devolution and city deals that will place Clyde Mission and our river back at the heart of spatial planning and development of our city. Council hopes that in progressing discussions, both Scottish and UK Governments' ambitions will match those of our City and our City Region partners.

Council therefore instructs the Executive Director for Neighbourhoods and Regenerations Services to report to the Economy, Housing, Transport and Regeneration Committee on delivery of the River Strategic Development Framework in due course, including an update on use of Masterplan Consent Areas to facilitate rebalanced development and compact urban growth along our river."

Councillor Turner, seconded by Councillor Carson, moved as an amendment:-

(1) after the fifth paragraph insert the following 2 paragraphs:

"Council also notes Peel Land & Property's recent planning consent to develop Yorkhill Quay and recognises this significant opportunity to revive the historic home berth for Anchor Line vessels, one of Glasgow's most iconic shipping companies. Council encourages officers to commission a feasibility

study into a heritage tramway shuttle along Yorkhill Quay, using existing quayside tram track, to connect the Riverside Museum to the Clydeside Distillery, similar to the Glasgow Garden Festival 1988 tramway and Summerlee Museum's tramway, to enhance Glasgow's national historic transport offering and permanently revive heritage trams.

Council also notes the recent launch of the B-Neatpump system by Glasgow-based firms Malin Marine and Star Refrigeration to deploy river-source heat pumps on floating barges. Council asks officers to explore how they could enable rapid deployment and integration of this technology as part of the city's district heat networks strategy and support export-led manufacturing.”;

- (2) at the seventh paragraph after “change, where nature-based solutions are particularly supported”, insert the following 2 paragraphs:

“Council encourages officers to engage with Peel Ports Group and Scottish Enterprise to promote further development of the Clydeport cluster and upper Clyde as an operational harbour, including investigating a berth for smaller cruise ships at the SEC, operationalising Govan Graving Dock No.1 for ship repair, developing a marina at Pacific Quay, restoring the Millennium Bridge and Broomielaw pontoon, and improving dredging operations to ensure safe navigation to the tidal weir.

Council expresses concern at Peel Ports Group's proposal to impose an annual conservancy fee of £120 on leisure vessels between 6m and 24m, covering waters from Glasgow Green to Arran. Council regards this as an unaccountable private levy lacking public benefit, notes the absence of a published investment plan for the upper Clyde, and calls on the Scottish Government to review the Harbours Act 1964 and Clyde Port Authority Order Confirmation Act 1969 to ensure public accountability for the development of Clyde infrastructure.”;

- (3) after the eleventh paragraph insert the following paragraph:

“Council notes the limited public access along the southern embankment from the Gorbals to Govan and instructs officers to report on the feasibility of establishing a riverside right of way at Springfield Quay, Mavisbank Quay and Plantation Quay. Council further regrets the abandonment of the Windmillcroft Quay improvement due to cost, and asks officers to engage with residents and explore alternative financing methods, including a potential land sale at Shearer Street for high-density development to support quay wall reconstruction.”; and

- (4) after the last paragraph insert the following:

“Council notes that LED lighting on George V Bridge, Glasgow Bridge, St Andrew's Suspension Bridge and Victoria Bridge, installed in 2003, is no longer fully functioning. Council further notes issues with buddleia overgrowth and paint defects, particularly on the Albert Bridge. Council asks officers to

prepare a maintenance and lighting upgrade programme to restore these landmark bridges and enhance the city's riverfront appeal.

Council resolves to:

1. Engage with other cities across the UK to explore collaborative opportunities for the development of urban waterfronts, sharing best practices and innovative approaches for riverside regeneration.
2. Commit to ensuring the River Clyde remains a central focus in any future City Deal follow-up initiatives, recognising that key projects, such as the new bridges and Custom House Quay, are already part of the City Deal framework.
3. Explore the development of a comprehensive riverside path network, including the enhancement and connection of existing routes, and work towards creating a heritage trail from the People's Palace to the Riverside Museum to improve public access, heritage education, and tourism potential.
4. Prioritise the creation of a proper River Activation Strategy that incorporates sustainable development, increased public engagement, and the promotion of vibrant cultural and recreational uses of the riverfront.
5. Organise a summit to bring together key stakeholders, including representatives from the UK Government, Scottish Government, Peel Ports, and community groups (such as those behind "Who Owns the Clyde?"), to discuss and agree upon a unified, long-term plan for the future development and stewardship of the River Clyde."

Councillor Reid-McConnell, seconded by Councillor Massie, moved as an amendment that:-

- (1) after the first paragraph insert the following paragraph:

"Council recognises that while this motion pertains only to Glasgow City Council, that the River Clyde exists as an indivisible whole to which we are custodians of much of its lower stretches. That the Clyde is a key ecosystem that provides nutrient and sediment deposition which supports key industries on the Firth of Clyde including farms on its banks and coasts and a significant fishing industry. We reaffirm our recognition of the Clyde as a life-giving resource and a key environment that virtually all of the thousands of species in the region depend on and without which, our city would not exist.";

- (2) after the third paragraph insert the following 2 paragraphs:

"Council notes and pays tribute to generations of Glaswegians who relied on the River Clyde as a source of food and water as well as for travel, industry and leisure. Council also recognises that our inherent right as Glaswegians to

enjoy and utilise the River Clyde sustainably has been profoundly disrupted by years of private, fractured and inactive ownership. While historical and contemporary human pressures mean the river is too sensitive to use in some of the ways past generations have, Council recognises that the Clyde still has a vital role in Glaswegian society for the purposes of education, leisure, travel and as a natural landscape.

Council recalls the historic role of Bailie of the River and Firth of Clyde, who had responsibility for enforcing regulations, resolving disputes, and ensuring the smooth operation of the river and harbour. Council believes that a modern equivalent could be an important figurehead in steering the course of the modern Clyde, and agrees to create the role of a River Clyde Champion to prioritise and support the ongoing discussions and developments concerning the Clyde.”;

- (3) after the fifth paragraph insert the following paragraphs:

“Council notes that the Council have taken positive steps in activating the riverbanks, notably at Clyde Place Quay, Yorkhill Quay, Water Row, and with future works planned for Clyde Place and Carlton Place. Council reaffirms its support for the further development of the Clyde River Park. Council notes the ongoing consultation on the Visitor Levy proposal and notes calls for levy proceeds to be spent on riverside activation, investment in communities along the Clyde and delivery of the River Clyde Development Corridor Strategic Development Framework.

Council notes the long term inactive ownership over significant sections of the Clyde, including two sectors of the Clyde’s north bank at Thornwood/ Whiteinch, including next to the Riverside Museum and calls on the owners to allow safe access to the sites and asks Council officers to explore means of making this compulsory.

Council acknowledges that Glasgow is one of the few European river cities which has not utilised leisure space on the riverside fully. Council commits to considering opportunities for promoting water sports along the river, take steps towards realising a river bus, and notes that funding is required to repair the East Boathouse and weir at Glasgow Green so that rowing clubs can use it once again. Council further agrees to carry out a review of existing water sporting activity, commits to creating an action plan to meet current demand and to create a unique water sport strand of the recently agreed Physical Activity and Sport Strategy. Council supports the creation of a lido on the river Clyde within the Glasgow City boundary and commits to considering locations and opportunities for taking this forward.”;

- (4) after the seventh paragraph insert the following paragraph:

“Council notes the substantial work that has already gone into revitalising the Clyde catchment and commends the efforts of various individuals and organisations who help reduce pollution, support the river ecosystem and advocate for accessibility to the river for all peoples, including work via the

River Activation Programme and the creation of Glasgow's first ever Legal Graffiti Wall and commits to continuing these efforts to create/ support opportunities at our riverside. Council reaffirms its support for the Circular Economy Action Plan item to seek funding from the Marine fund to install a River Clyde fence boom and commits to exploring other funding resources should that be unsuccessful, given the importance of preventing waste entering the Firth of Clyde.”;

- (5) at the end of the last paragraph insert the following:

“Council requests that this report includes what steps can be put in place to ensure that new developments coming forward on and near to the river contains plans to improve pedestrian experience and amenities, and does not restrict existing access.”

During the debate Councillor Mitchell, Councillor Turner and Councillor Reid-McConnell, with the agreement of their seconders, agreed to combine their motion and amendments resulting in the following adjusted motion:-

“Council notes the importance of the River Clyde’s past and future to Glasgow and Scotland: and recognises the desire of Glaswegians to have our river placed back at the heart of our city’s life and economy once again.

Council recognises that while this motion pertains only to Glasgow City Council, that the River Clyde exists as an indivisible whole to which we are custodians of much of its lower stretches. That the Clyde is a key ecosystem that provides nutrient and sediment deposition which supports key industries on the Firth of Clyde including farms on its banks and coasts and a significant fishing industry. We reaffirm our recognition of the Clyde as a life-giving resource and a key environment that virtually all of the thousands of species in the region depend on and without which, our city would not exist.

Council agrees that the river should play a central part of our 850th anniversary celebrations and welcomes Clyde Chorus, a three-day music featuring performances across multiple venues highlighting Glasgow's vibrant music scene and celebrating its status as a UNESCO City of Music.

Council further notes the Clyde has been a crucial waterway for trade and transportation from pre Roman through to medieval times, facilitating connections between Scotland and Europe and the wider world, being both connected to periods of inequity like slavery and empire, and innovation, welcoming migrants many of whom were Irish, and the means of exporting Scottish innovation and people across the globe.

Council notes and pays tribute to generations of Glaswegians who relied on the River Clyde as a source of food and water as well as for travel, industry and leisure. Council also recognises that our inherent right as Glaswegians to enjoy and utilise the River Clyde sustainably has been profoundly disrupted by years of private, fractured and inactive ownership. While historical and contemporary human pressures mean the river is too sensitive to use in some of the ways past

generations have, Council recognises that the Clyde still has a vital role in Glaswegian society for the purposes of education, leisure, travel and as a natural landscape.

Council recalls the historic role of Bailie of the River and Firth of Clyde, who had responsibility for enforcing regulations, resolving disputes, and ensuring the smooth operation of the river and harbour. Council believes that a modern equivalent could be an important figurehead in steering the course of the modern Clyde, and agrees create the role of a River Clyde Champion be added to the remit of the City Convener for Housing, Development, Built Heritage and Land Use.

Council acknowledges that communities close to the river are among the most disadvantaged in Scotland, with 18% of the population living within the 500 metre buffer in the top 5% SIMD areas, and that these communities also face issues with connectivity and proximity to Vacant and Derelict Land, but that after decades of neglect the Clyde has been recognised as an asset critical to the health and wellbeing of riverside communities living well locally, the economic potential of the region, and vital to Scotland's sustainability and goals.

However, Council also recognises the strides that the riverside has made in recent years, with investments made in the Govan / Partick bridge that has reconnected two of our most ancient burghs; the Renfrew bridge that connects close to Yoker and the new Yoker Wharf development; plans for the Glasgow Riverside Innovation District that will see our future economy literally built on the site of our industrial past in Govan; the Barclays Tradeston Campus that brought hundreds of millions of pounds of investment and thousands of jobs into the city while also unlocking development in that part of the city; investments by BAE Systems in a ship build hall and Applied Shipbuilding Academy on either bank; and the upgrading the tidal weir at Glasgow Green spanning the Calton and Gorbals areas - vitality and investment returning to the river for its whole Glaswegian course.

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tackle the ingrained social and economic inequalities within many of Scotland's most deprived communities.

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The motion, as adjusted, was unanimously approved.