



Glasgow City Council

City Administration Committee

Item 2

24th April 2025

Report by Councillor Richard Bell, Depute Leader of the Council, City Treasurer and City Convener for Financial Inclusion

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Glasgow's Holiday Programme – Summer 2025 - Spring 2026

Purpose of Report:

To provide recommendations for funding to organisations to deliver Glasgow's Holiday Programme during Summer and October 2025 and Spring 2026.

Recommendations:

Committee is invited to:

- Note the report;
- Approve the recommendations for funding from Glasgow's Holiday Programme for Summer and October 2025 and Spring 2026 in Appendix 1;
- Note the number of projects delivering to service users from each Ward in Appendix 2;
- Note the organisations not recommended for funding in Appendix 3; and
- Note the monitoring information from the Summer and October 2024 programmes in Appendix 4.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

Local member(s) advised: Yes ☐ No ☐ consulted: Yes ☐ No ☐

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Council has allocated a budget of £2,000,000 for Glasgow's Holiday Programme for 2025/26.
- 1.2 This report seeks approval of funding recommendations in relation to the delivery of Glasgow's Holiday Programme during the Summer and October 2025 and Spring 2026 school holiday periods by third sector organisations.

2. Background

- 2.1 Glasgow's Holiday Programme provides funding to organisations to deliver a programme of engagement, activities and nutritious food to Glasgow's nursery, primary and secondary pupils (ages 0-18 years) during school holiday periods. It is intended that the programme complements existing activities by third sector organisations and that the majority of allocated funding goes towards food costs.

3. Review of the Programme

- 3.1 As part of the commitment to regularly review the programme, an online session was held on 30 October 2024 with 2024/25 service providers to consider 3 topics:-
 - Reflection on the 2024/25 programme;
 - Discuss and explore any potential improvements in the planning and delivery of the 2025/26 programme; and
 - To facilitate a platform for sharing information and learning amongst the providers.
- 3.2 14 organisations attended the session from across the city. A summary of the discussion and outcomes is provided below:-
 - 3.2.1 Several suggestions to improve the application form have been incorporated into the 2025/26 process, including a return to a separate budget template and anticipated service user information provided for each holiday period, rather than for the full programme. There was strong support to continue using the Survey tool for the application and monitoring processes.
 - 3.2.2 All organisations supported the proposed timetable which would allow for funding decisions to be made earlier, and provide more time for organisations to plan their programmes. The providers welcomed the project visits from the Grants and Monitoring team, regarding them as an opportunity for officers to gain a better understanding of the programmes.
 - 3.2.3 The session concluded with an 'information share', enabling organisations to share best practice and learn from each other. Discussions included providers exploring making better use of social media and press to promote the programme and celebrate its successes.

4. Glasgow Food Policy Partnership

- 4.1 Colleagues from the Glasgow Food Policy Partnership have offered to host a session with successful providers to share information and tips in healthy and sustainable food provision. The objectives of the session would include:
- To increase awareness of current guidelines on children's nutrition and food sustainability;
 - To provide examples of programmes/projects involving nutritious, sustainable food that is popular with young people, and within budget; and
 - To provide an opportunity for participants to share examples of good practice and to discuss common challenges in providing nutritious food during school holidays.
- 4.2 Officers from the Grants and Monitoring team are currently liaising with the Food Policy Partnership to deliver this session in May 2025, all successful providers will be invited to attend.

5. All Age Childcare System

- 5.1 Members will be aware of the Scottish Government's commitment to develop an All Age Childcare system.
- 5.2 An oversight group was established comprising officers from the Council's Early Learning and Childcare and Grants and Monitoring teams, as well as colleagues from GCVS and Inspiring Scotland. This group undertook a co-design project to support citizens to contribute to a future all age childcare system that incorporates childcare, activities and food provision. The project was conducted across 3 Early Adopter Communities – Drumchapel/Anniesland, East Centre and Southside Central. GCVS facilitated the consultation, involving local organisations taking a lead to consult with local families in these wards.
- 5.3 The project ran from January 2024 to January 2025 and the findings from the report will be shared, when available, with decision makers at both local and national levels. The Grants and Monitoring team will continue to support this group and consider how best any emerging framework might complement Glasgow's Holiday Programme.

6. Application and Assessment

- 6.1 Applications for the 2025/26 programme were sought from third sector organisations on 11 November with a closing date of 9 December 2024. 80 applications were received, one applicant subsequently withdrew their application.
- 6.2 The total requested from the 79 applicants is **£2,931,253**, broken down for each holiday period as follows:

- Summer 2025 £2,004,104
- October 2025 £ 333,366
- Spring 2026 £ 593,783

6.3 There was no change to the application criteria from last year. Applicants were advised that funding recommendations would likely not exceed £100,000 per annual programme, as was the case in 2024/2025. Applicants were also advised that they may be offered grants at a lower level than applied for.

6.4 Applications were assessed, reviewed and scored by officers within the Grants and Monitoring team against pre-determined criteria outlined in the application documentation, as follows:

- Organisation/Governance
- Project Development/Delivery
- Project Outcomes and Impact
- Organisation and Project Finance

Detailed guidance was available to support assessors throughout the assessment process. Tables (a) and (b) below show the scoring methodology, the assessment criteria and score weighting applied:-

Table (a) Scoring methodology

Score	Score Key Assessment	Interpretation
5	Excellent	Satisfies and demonstrates excellent understanding of criteria required. Response identifies factors that will offer potential added value
4	Good	Satisfies the requirement with minor additional benefits
3	Acceptable	Satisfies the requirement with no reservations
2	Minor reservations	Satisfies the requirement with minor reservations e.g. limited evidence
1	Serious reservations	Some attempt has been made to provide information but lacks detail
0	Unacceptable	Unsatisfactory – no information provided

Table (b) – Assessment Criteria and Weighting

Criteria	Weighting (%)
Organisation/Governance	10
Project Development/Delivery	30
Project Outcomes and Impact	40
Organisation and Project Finance	20

A maximum score of 5 against all criteria would result in a weighted score of 100, whereas a score of 1 for all criteria would result in a weighted score of 20.

- 6.5 A Log was created to capture all relevant information from the application form, including the assessment score, proposed ward coverage, number of service users, number of programme spaces, percentage food costs and venues.
- 6.6 Applications were assessed and the outcome of each initial assessment was captured on an Assessment Template. To ensure consistency of approach, 19 peer reviews were undertaken.
- 6.7 Officers then identified potential gaps in provision across the city, using the information on anticipated service users, to ensure a geographical spread of provision.

This was boosted by using data from the Child Poverty Programme on a Ward basis that showed where there were higher numbers of children living in poverty, as below:-

- Ward 1 – Linn
- Ward 3 – Greater Pollok
- Ward 5 – Govan
- Ward 8 – Southside Central
- Ward 9 – Calton
- Ward 13 – Garscadden/Scotstounhill
- Ward 14 – Drumchapel/Anniesland
- Ward 16 - Canal
- Ward 17 – Springburn/Robroyston
- Ward 18 – East Centre

- 6.8 Consideration was also given to Free School Meals and Clothing Grants data that showed a further 3 wards with a higher number of children living in poverty:-

- Cardonald
- North East
- Newlands/Auldburn

- 6.9 Other factors taken into consideration as part of the process were local and equality impact, ensuring that provision in local areas was as wide as possible and that provision for black and minority ethnic (BAME) and those with additional support needs (ASN) were factored into the recommendation process.
- 6.10 As part of their application, applicants were required to sign a declaration to indicate that they will meet the relevant policy and practice requirements, including safeguarding policies, insurance, PVG checks for staff and

volunteers, compliance with Care Inspectorate regulations around day care of children/young people and compliance with Environmental Health and Food Hygiene legislation.

- 6.11 Applicants were also asked to identify their project delivery locations and which Wards the beneficiaries would come from. Information on actual take-up and profile of beneficiaries will be gathered as part of the monitoring process.
- 6.12 Applicants were also encouraged to adopt sustainable practices and were encouraged to use local food suppliers and use food surplus organisations.
- 6.13 Applicants were further asked if they were willing to offer outreach opportunities for the Council's "Glasgow Helps" service. They were also asked if they would like more information about the Council's "No Wrong Door" initiative, aiming to improve service delivery and promote stronger collaboration among organisations. Of the 79 applications received, 72 organisations were willing to participate with Glasgow Helps and 69 organisations wanted more information about the No Wrong Door initiative.

7. Budget

- 7.1 As detailed in paragraph 1.1, the Council approved a budget of £2m for Glasgow's Holiday Programme. As a result of both the withdrawal and reduction in services by 3 Glasgow Communities Fund (GCF) organisations, as detailed in paragraphs 7.2 to 7.4, unallocated GCF monies have been identified in 2025/26. Originally awarded from the GCF for the provision of services to children and young people, the holiday programme is considered the most effective way of utilising the 'one-off' unallocated funds. By enhancing provision through the established successful holiday programme, many children, young people and families will benefit across the city throughout 2025/26.
- 7.2 Reidvale Neighbourhood Centre closed in March 2023 resulting in £36,020 unallocated in the GCF North East Sector in 2025/26.
- 7.3 The funding formerly awarded to The Urban Fox Programme, is unallocated for 2025/26, £121,808 in the North East Sector and £30,452 in the South Sector. At the time of this report, a motion to dissolve the organisation is under consideration by OSCR.
- 7.4 Firhill Youth Project advised the Grants and Monitoring Team in February 2025 of a change in their operating model. As a result of this, they would not be utilising the 2025/26 GCF award of £27,828 in the North West Sector and £4,365 in North East Sector.
- 7.5 Utilisation of the GCF unallocated funds totalling £220,473 will enable enhanced provision, reaching more children and young people and families across the city. More information on this is contained within the programme recommendations in paragraph 8.

8. Programme Recommendations

- 8.1 Members will note at paragraph 6.1 that the total amount requested for the 2025/26 programme is £2,931,253, resulting in the £2m Fund being oversubscribed by 46.56%. The total funding request includes 5 applications exceeding £100,000 which were assessed on the basis of a request for £100,000 in accordance with the application guidance.
- 8.2 The amounts requested by organisations vary significantly depending on the geographical spread, the length of their programme, available spaces within the programme, the number of anticipated service users, and the number of meals and activities provided. After detailed consideration of a range of factors, it is considered that the funding recommendations set out in this report would deliver an optimum programme of activity across the city. The rationale for the level of funding proposed is detailed in paragraphs 8.3 and 8.4.
- 8.3 All organisations recommended for funding received an assessment score of 50 or over. For the applications that met this threshold, consideration was given to overall ward coverage, programme capacity, the number of spaces offered and the number of children that would benefit from the programme. The final recommendations take into account costs which were deemed ineligible and/or excessive at assessment.
- 8.4 The enhanced proposed programme for 2025/26 is reflective of three factors:-
- utilisation of 2025/26 unallocated GCF monies
 - 16 organisations requesting the same or less funding than last year
 - restricting awards for those funded in 2024/25 to a maximum 10% increase

In order to achieve the reach across the city within available budget, it is proposed that 59 organisations are supported as detailed in paragraphs 8.4.1 and 8.4.2 below.

- 8.4.1 **Providers supported in 2024/25** - 48 organisations, who were funded last year, are offered funding equivalent to a 10% increase on 2024/25 funding levels where requests have exceeded the 2024/25 amount awarded.

Where the amounts requested are either below or the same as 2024/25 levels awarded, or are below the equivalent of the 10% increase (as above), funds are recommended on the basis of the amounts applied for.

Of the 48 providers funded in 2024/25, 9 organisations have been recommended for less than applied for and less than awarded in 2024/25 following assessment of proposed delivery costs.

- 8.4.2 **Providers not supported in 2024/25** - 11 organisations that are either new to the programme or were not awarded funding in 2024/25 receive the

amount of funding recommended by the assessor. This equates to 11.8% of the proposed programme. All these applications requested less than £100,000 for the annual programme.

The table below summarises the approach detailed in paragraphs 8.4.1 and 8.4.2 above.

Level of Funding	Number of Organisations
New Organisation - recommended at the level recommended by the assessor	11
Existing Provider - recommended at 2024/25 level, plus 10% uplift	23
Existing Provider - recommended at level requested	16
Existing Provider - recommended at level recommended by assessor	9

8.5 For the 2024/25 funded projects, consideration was given to the monitoring information submitted, including anticipated and actual beneficiaries in 2024/25 and anticipated beneficiaries in 2025/26.

8.6 A compliance check with organisations in receipt of GCF funding was also undertaken.

8.7 **Appendix 1** provides a summary of recommended awards in Summer and October 2025 and Spring 2026. Committee is asked to consider and approve 59 recommended awards to the value of £2,220,473.

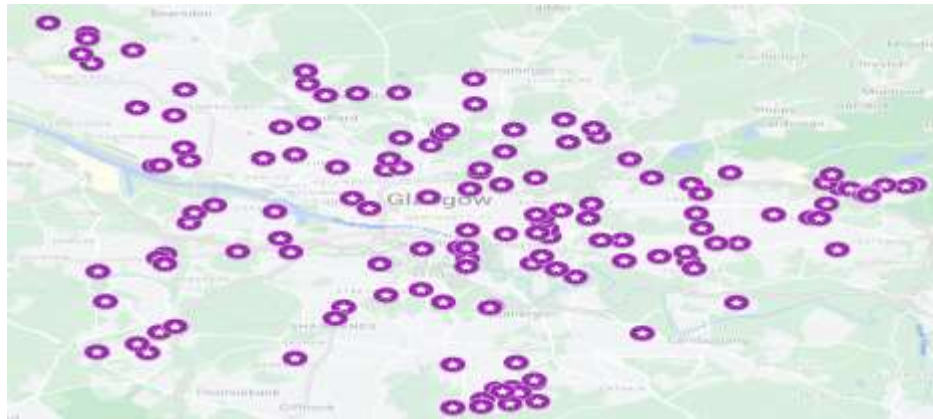
Members are asked to note that a total of 24 organisations would receive funding at the level requested which equates to 34.5% of the programme.

8.8 Discussions will take place with relevant organisations around submitting revised programme delivery information in line with the grant amount awarded. Therefore, the amounts detailed for each holiday period (Summer, October and Spring) are indicative at this stage and may vary once the revised programme delivery information has been submitted. The overall total award to each provider will not change.

8.9 **Appendix 2** details the number of projects delivering to service users from each Ward and the associated anticipated number of service users, however, there is an expectation that programmes may need to be adjusted in line with the approved awards, as above. Members are asked to note the following:

- All Wards are covered by the projects recommended for funding
- 19,233 children are projected to benefit from the 2025/26 recommended applications. This number may be adjusted following the submission of revised programme delivery information in line with the approved awards.

- 200,679 funded spaces are expected to be offered across the city during 2025/26.
- An interactive map (illustration provided below) indicating where the 2025/26 Holiday provision is being delivered across the city will be available later in June 2025 on the [Glasgow's Holiday Programme webpage](#).



- 8.10 **Appendix 3** provides a summary of the 20 applications which are, following assessment, not recommended for funding. Each of these organisations will receive specific feedback on why their application was not recommended for funding on this occasion.

9. Equality Impact Assessment

- 9.1 An Equality Impact Assessment screening of Glasgow's Holiday Programme process has been undertaken and can be found [here](#). This Assessment sets out considerations and improvements incorporated in the process.

10. Compliance and Monitoring

- 10.1 All awards for the holiday programme will be subject to compliance with the [Council's Standard Conditions of Funding](#).
- 10.2 Funded organisations will be monitored through the established monitoring arrangements. Organisations will be required to report on the following:
- progress towards achieving the aims and objectives set out in their application
 - food and activities available
 - match funding received towards overall project costs
 - project spend
 - whether the organisation specifically targets elements of its service towards minority groups in the city
 - number and profile of service users, including from equalities groups

11. Reports on the Summer 2024 and October 2024 programmes

- 11.1 Committee is invited to note the monitoring data submitted by providers for the Summer and October 2024 programmes as set out in **Appendix 4**.
- 11.2 As part of the monitoring framework, a commitment was made to visit each funded organisation at least once during the programme year. Of the 49 organisations supported in 2024/25, 33 were visited in Summer and 13 in October 2024, the remaining 3 will be visited during Spring 2025.

12. Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

Financial: Outcomes will be maximised through targeted use of resources and joint working and resourcing with partners

Legal: No new legal issue

Personnel: No direct personnel issues

Procurement: No procurement implications

Council Strategic Plan: The proposed holiday programme for Summer and October 2025 and Spring 2026 supports the Council's Strategic Plan, specifically:- **Grand Challenge 1 - Mission 1:** End child poverty in our city using early intervention to support families; and **Grand Challenge 2 - Mission 3:** Raise attainment amongst Glasgow's Children and Young people

Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25? Please specify. Yes, the proposal has the potential to impact on the council Equality Outcomes in relation to the following improvement aims: Improve economic outcomes for people with protected characteristics; and Improve access to Council Family services by people with protected characteristics.

What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report? The programme aims to address food poverty and insecurity.

Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-economic disadvantage.

It is anticipated that funding recommendations will have a positive impact on third sector jobs, skills, local communities, social and community cohesion. Further, the programme aims to tackle barriers to adequate nutrition intake during school holidays.

Climate Impacts:

Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify:

Sustainable delivery has been encouraged

What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal?

None

Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target?

No

Privacy and Data Protection Impacts:

No privacy or data protection impacts identified

13. Recommendations

Committee is invited to:

- Note the report;
- Approve the recommendations for funding from Glasgow's Holiday Programme for Summer and October 2025 and Spring 2026 in Appendix 1;
- Note the number of projects delivering to service users from each Ward in Appendix 2;
- Note the organisations not recommended for funding in Appendix 3; and
- Note the monitoring information from the Summer and October 2024 in Appendix 4.