

**Item 5**

30th September 2025

**Glasgow City Council****Economy, Housing, Transport  
and Regeneration City Policy Committee****Report by George Gillespie, Executive Director of  
Neighbourhoods, Regeneration & Sustainability****Contact: Mandy MacDonald****Ext: 78503****CITY CENTRE IMPROVEMENT GRANT FUND (IGF) & RAPID REPAIRS:  
PROJECT UPDATE****Purpose of Report:**

To update Members on the progress of the City Centre Improvement Grant Fund and Rapid Repairs project.

**Recommendations:**

It is recommended that Committee:

- (i) Consider the contents of this report.
- (ii) Note progress made to date and anticipated future delivery.
- (iii) Note that a final update and review will be provided in April 2026

Ward No(s): 10

Citywide:

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

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Members will recall that the City Centre Improvement Grant Fund (IGF) and the Rapid Repairs project were approved by CAC committee on [5 September 2024](#), and [21 November 2024](#) respectively.
- 1.2 Both projects support delivery of the [City Centre Strategy](#) (CCS) which comprises three strategic pillars intended to address the various challenges facing the city centre. The three pillars are:
  - **Magnetic Experience**  
The development of more compelling reasons to visit, shop and enjoy the city centre, with the power to surprise and inspire visitors.
  - **A Place to Live**  
A place-based approach to regeneration which responds to climate issues and respects planetary boundaries, and which promotes an inclusive, balanced and connected urban centre with amenities to support a growing population.
  - **Front Door to Innovation**  
The creation of promotion of opportunities to welcome digital, life sciences, climate science and creative industries into a mix which converges with arts, engineering, and business.
- 1.3 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on progress made to date and anticipated future project delivery in respect of both IGF and Rapid Repairs.

## 2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The City Centre Improvement Grant Fund (IGF) contains two funding streams:
  - [Minor Improvements](#): improving the look and feel of the city centre
  - [Meanwhile Use](#): exploring productive uses for vacant properties
- 2.2 The Minor Improvements scheme facilitates organisations and communities seeking to make small, but impactful improvements to the city. The fund is designed to support activity that will have a positive effect on the city centre by making it more attractive and welcoming. Projects that mitigate anti-social behaviour and blight, as well as increasing footfall are actively encouraged to apply to the fund.
- 2.3 The Meanwhile Use category is designed to help organisations and communities in Glasgow city centre make use of empty or vacant properties. The fund aims to support projects that reduce blight and increases footfall. The success of the Meanwhile Use Fund is dependent on a degree of cooperation between interested occupiers and property owners. As such, there is an inherent element of “matchmaking” involved in the process, whereby suitable vacant units must be identified and agreement reached with owners to permit short-term occupancy.

- 2.4 The Rapid Repair project is designed to address urgent and small-scale repairs in the public realm that detract from the city centre experience. These include issues such as damaged street furniture, broken paving, and other minor but impactful defects that contribute to perceptions of neglect and blight.
- 2.5 Both funds are aligned with the objectives of the City Centre Strategy (CCS) and are intended to be responsive, flexible, and targeted in their delivery. They are managed by the City Centre Regeneration team in collaboration with relevant council departments and external partners.
- 2.6 Approved funding for these projects total £1.8m:

Rapid Repairs (£400k)

- £200k NRS City Centre Strategy capital funding
- £200k Developer Contribution capital funding

Improvement Grant Fund (£400k). £400k NRS City Centre Strategy capital funding (split as):

- £200k Meanwhile Use
- £200k Minor Improvements

NRS City Centre Strategy capital funding (£1m) approved in the 2025-26 budget for Investment in a Rapid Repairs Fund and the City Centre Improvement Grant.

### **3 PROGRESS TO DATE: IMPROVEMENT GRANT FUND (IGF)**

- 3.1 To date, IGF has received a total of 55No. applications, of which:
- 13No. have been approved
  - 27No. were unsuccessful
  - 15No. are currently under review.
- 3.2 Unsuccessful applications generally fell out with project scope i.e. they lay out with the city centre boundary, and/or were actually requests for other forms of business support not covered by IGF. Such cases have been shared with colleagues in Economic Development for further engagement as appropriate.
- 3.3 Total committed funding currently amounts to £211,964. Viable projects in the pre-application stage will bring the committed spend up to £497,206.
- 3.4 Approved projects have included e.g. façade improvements, installation of new and improved signage, and enhancements to related infrastructure. These interventions have contributed to enhanced visual appeal and increased footfall in targeted areas, such as within the Trongate. For example, Bo Peep's received funding through the Minor Improvements Fund to carry out external shopfront repairs. Following completion of the works, it has been reported that there is an increase in their footfall, supporting the fund's objective of revitalising and improving the city centre experience.

- 3.5 It was initially anticipated that property owners would engage readily with the Meanwhile Use Fund, given the potential benefits including capital investment in ground-floor units and possibly support the transfer of rates liability to the occupying organisation. However, engagement with property owners has proven more challenging than originally envisaged.
- 3.6 In response, a targeted promotional campaign has been launched to raise awareness and encourage participation. This includes boosted and strategically targeted posts on LinkedIn, alongside the commissioning of short promotional videos to market the fund.
- 3.7 Officers have also undertaken direct engagement with property owners, developers, and property managers to promote the fund and explore opportunities for collaboration. These efforts are ongoing and will continue to be refined to improve uptake and visibility.
- 3.8 A summary overview of project activity either completed or currently ongoing through IGF is available in **Appendix A**.
- 3.9 A map of project activity, either completed or currently ongoing is available in **Appendix B**.

#### **4 PROGRESS TO DATE: RAPID REPAIRS**

- 4.1 The previous Committee report outlined Rapid Repairs project scope:
- Targeted remedial public realm works to enhance perceptions of place
  - Prioritisation of commercial areas, transport hubs and stations, and principal office/retail routes
  - Support inward investment and regeneration opportunities
  - Public space only – not private land or property
- 4.2 NRS City Centre Regeneration are coordinating the pilot project - with service support from NRS Roads Operations who manage the works delivery.
- 4.3 Early engagement with key stakeholders, developers and potential investors was carried out in December 2024. This involved a series of site visits to understand and capture areas of concern i.e. the initial basis for works delivery.
- 4.4 A map of relevant sites was generated and has been updated ever since in line with ongoing requests received. It remains the primary tool for related monitoring and reporting mechanisms. Coordination meetings take place on a weekly basis.
- 4.5 The most recent project data (15 September 2025) is as follows:
- 613No. jobs raised
  - 382No. jobs completed (i.e. 62% completion)
  - Current estimated pilot completion: February 2026
  - Current estimated spend to date: £225k
- 4.6 This is despite the following challenges which we continue to mitigate against:
- Resource availability

- Complexity of works (e.g. granolithic concrete)
  - Issues related to site access
  - Materials sourcing and supply
  - Inclement weather
- 4.7 Liaison is also being conducted with British Telecom to explore options towards removing redundant telephone boxes which negatively impact perceptions of place. Though intended to be a linked activity, the scope and extent of potential delivery (as well as associated timelines) is yet to be ascertained.
- 4.8 Targeted interventions took place in Royal Exchange Square in support of local stakeholders, related business interests, and the developing city centre BID.
- 4.9 Steps are also being explored to:
- Clean/refurbish existing benches in the “Golden Z” area
  - Remove unnecessary/superseded street furniture (i.e. “declutter”) in various high footfall areas
  - Address issues raised in St Enoch Square through more targeted interventions and support a potential local action plan

## **5 NEXT STEPS**

- 5.1 The City Centre Regeneration team will continue to monitor and evaluate ongoing applications and delivery in respect of both projects. Further refinements to related mechanisms will continue to be made towards maximising effectiveness as appropriate.
- 5.2 Engagement with stakeholders will be intensified to ensure that project delivery remains responsive to emerging needs and opportunities.
- 5.3 A project review will be brought to EHTR Committee in April 2026 to assess progress/delivery and inform recommendations for any future activity.

## 6 POLICY AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

### Resource Implications:

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| <i>Financial:</i>   | Existing CCS capital funding, Developer Contributions and additional funding made available. |
| <i>Legal:</i>       | None   |
| <i>Personnel:</i>   | None   |
| <i>Procurement:</i> | None   |

### Council Strategic Plan:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <i>Specify which Grand Challenge (s) and Mission (s) the proposal supports. Where appropriate the relevant Commitment can also be listed.</i> | <b>GRAND CHALLENGE TWO – Increase opportunity and prosperity for all our citizens</b><br>MISSION 2: Support the growth of an innovative, resilient and net zero carbon economy  |
|   | <b>GRAND CHALLENGE THREE – Fight the Climate Emergency in a just transition to a Net Zero Glasgow</b><br>MISSION 1: Deliver sustainable transport and travel aligned with the city region<br>MISSION 2: Become a net zero carbon city by 2030   |
|   | <b>GRAND CHALLENGE FOUR – Enable staff to deliver essential services in a sustainable, innovative and efficient way for our communities</b><br>MISSION 1: Create safe, clean and thriving neighbourhoods<br>MISSION 3: Enable staff to deliver a sustainable and innovative council structure that delivers value for money |

### Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <i>Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25? Please specify.</i> | Enhancements to the public realm improve access and increase active travel opportunities, especially for those with mobility issues. Measures to encourage inward investment bring associated employment opportunities.<br><br>Outcome 1 – Contributing to continued and inclusive economic success and a dynamic, world class city<br>Outcome 6 – Developing liveable neighbourhoods for all, regardless of mobility or income |
| <i>What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?</i>                | Positive impacts are anticipated. An EqIA screening process can be implemented if deemed appropriate.   |

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

As noted above, interventions to enhance the public realm can indirectly bring associated socio-economic benefits.

### **Climate Impacts:**

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

Enhanced public realm indirectly encourages the positive use of public space, thereby promoting active travel and general inclusivity:

**Climate Plan Theme 1:** Communication and Community Empowerment  
Aim: To foster participation and collaboration.

**Climate Plan Theme 2:** Just and Inclusive Place  
Aim: Ensure that the transition to a net-zero society is a catalyst for building a fairer, healthier, prosperous, resilient, and greener city for all.

**Climate Plan Theme 3:** Well Connected and Thriving City  
Aim: Support decarbonisation of transport systems by helping to improve infrastructure for walking, cycling, wheeling, and reducing the need to travel.

**Climate Plan Theme 4:** Health and Wellbeing  
Aim: To support equitable access to good quality open space and green infrastructure in the city.

**Climate Plan Theme 5:** Green recovery  
Aim: Supporting improved infrastructure for walking, cycling and remote working.

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

The measures outlined in this report are not anticipated to have any direct climate impacts.

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

This is not anticipated.

**Privacy and Data Protection impacts:**

Project scope does not involve the collection of personal data, so no impacts are expected. Online forms are compliant with GDPR guidance.

*Are there any potential data protection impacts as a result of this report Y/N*

## **7 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1 It is recommended that Committee:
- (i) Consider the contents of this report
  - (ii) Note progress made to date and anticipated future delivery
  - (iii) Note that a final update and review will be provided in April 2026



## APPENDIX A: IMPROVEMENT GRANT FUND (IGF) - PROGRESS TO DATE

| Minor Improvements (Completed)     |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Name                               | Details   |
| Bo Peep's                          | Shop front repairs, graffiti removal, and vegetation clearance.   |
| St George's Tron Church            | Signage repair to support wayfinding and deter anti-social behaviour.   |
| Minor Improvements (Committed)     |   |
| Name                               | Details   |
| Tron Theatre                       | Installation of roller shutters and a mural to prevent anti-social behaviour and visual blight.   |
| Scottish Civic Trust               | Installation of a gate and small-scale greening to mitigate anti-social behaviour, including drug use.  |
| Dalhousie Lane                     | Implementation of greening measures and interventions to reduce blight and anti-social behaviour.   |
| Buccleuch Lane                     | Similar interventions to Dalhousie Lane, focusing on greening and safety.   |
| George Wyllie Foundation           | Restoration of the Running Clock public art installation, including graffiti removal and cleaning.  |
| Renfield Lane                      | Graffiti removal, cleansing, exterior painting, and bollard replacement.  |
| Friends of Glasgow Royal Infirmary | Implementation of the Royal Bee Trail to increase footfall in the Cathedral District and refurbishment of the historic sentry box.  |
| Civic Engineers                    | Creation of a rain garden at Virginia Court, providing usable green space and educational opportunities in partnership with the University of Strathclyde.                |
| West Regent Hope                   | Repainting of a blighted building opposite the Lion Chambers, graffiti removal, and installation of gates and fencing to deter anti-social behaviour.                     |
| Aproxima Cathedral                 | Renovation of the Cathedral Well to enhance the walking trail and support the Glasgow 850 celebrations.   |
| Meanwhile Use                      |   |
| Name                               | Details   |
| Chest, Heart and Stroke Scotland   | Occupation of a vacant unit at the Tontine for a boutique café and media store, complementing the adjacent Guitar Guitar shop and activating a currently underused space. |

## APPENDIX B: IMPROVEMENT GRANT FUND (IGF) – PROJECT MAP

