



Glasgow City Council

Environment and Liveable Neighbourhoods City Policy Committee

**Report by George Gillespie, Executive Director of Neighbourhoods
Regeneration and Sustainability**

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**OUR DEAR GREEN PLACE: A VISION FOR GLASGOW'S PARKS AND
GREENSPACES – UPDATE**

Purpose of Report:

To update members on the progress of Our Dear Green Place – a vision for Glasgow's parks and greenspaces and to update on the Scottish Government Play Renewal Fund.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that Committee:

- Notes the outcomes to date for Our Dear Green Place – a vision for Glasgow's parks and greenspaces;
- Notes the updated consultation methodology for the Scottish Government Play Renewal Program, with individual projects prioritised to reflect the Councils approach to Child Poverty;
- Notes initiatives currently being developed to enhance our parks estate;
- Note the updated details of the Review of Parks Lighting;
- Notes our renewal of the current Parks Management Rules;
- Notes the sponsored trial of app-based borrowing of sports equipment;
and
- Notes our support to Voluntary Groups.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

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

1 Background

- 1.1 Our Dear Green Place – a vision for Glasgow’s parks and greenspaces was approved by the City Administration Committee on 7 February 2019. Updates were thereafter provided to Environment, Sustainability and Carbon Reduction Committee and subsequently to this committee on [24 November 2024](#). The document can be accessed [here](#).

The Parks Vision outlined a new approach to Glasgow’s greenspaces which was focussed on ensuring that communities were involved in planning and managing the greenspaces which are important to them, and which affect their everyday lives. The report to the City Administration Committee noted:

‘The Vision for Parks and Greenspaces commits to the delivery of the Strategic Plan by –

- Creating more opportunities for citizens to become involved in local decisions that affect their neighbourhoods, on how money is spent and how services are delivered.*
- Supporting partnership working.*
- Supporting active and healthy Glaswegians.*
- Supporting access to and promoting the city’s history, heritage and culture.*
- Supporting excellent and inclusive education by developing our parks and greenspaces as outdoor learning opportunities for all ages and abilities.*
- Supporting active travel, including walking and cycling.*
- Enhancing the connectivity of greenspaces, improving and connecting habitats and making greenspaces accessible for people and wildlife.*
- Support the development of Glasgow as a Sustainable Food City.’*

- 1.2 [Glasgow’s Open Space Strategy](#) was adopted in February 2020 and sets out a long-term vision for Glasgow’s open spaces to ensure they meet the city’s needs in years to come.

In addition, both an Ecological Emergency and a Climate Emergency have been declared since the publication of the Parks and Greenspaces Vision, with measures being agreed by committee and included within the scope of our [Climate Plan](#)

The Parks and Greenspaces Vision encompasses the delivery of our two statutory functions: food growing and biodiversity duty. Actions for both are agreed within the [Food Growing Strategy](#) and the [Local Biodiversity Action Plan](#) and [Pollinator Plan](#)

Our response to the strategies, and related action plans and emerging delivery plans, highlighted has been enhanced further with priorities for our parks and greenspaces within the following topics:

- Development and delivery of the [Glasgow Tree Plan: Forestry and Woodland Strategy and Glasgow Tree Plan](#)
- Development and delivery of the Green Connectors project: [Grassland Management: Green Connectors](#)
- The Play Area Renewal Programme
- Supporting outdoor learning, including early years and out of school care, following the Scottish Government Policy in the delivery of 1140 hours: <https://www.gov.scot/policies/early-education-and-care/outdoor-play-and-learning/>

2 Update on Actions

The actions associated with the Parks and Greenspaces Vision are delivered by a range of services within NRS with input across a wide range of stakeholders including Friends of Groups, local schools and community groups and organisations such as the Conservation Volunteers.

Key achievements over the last year include the undernoted, with a full schedule of planned works citywide set out within Appendix 1.

- Delivery towards the [Forestry and Woodland Strategy and Tree Action Plan](#) with 14,274 trees planted in 2024/25
- Implementing the GCC response to Ash Dieback Disease
- 167 new species of flora & fauna identified in Glasgow for the first time and captured within the [Local Biodiversity Action Plan](#), with ongoing associated communications activity
- Delivery of further measures arising from [Review of Parks Lighting](#) and implementation of the associated actions.
- Increasing our Local Nature Reserves with 5 new (Cranhill Park, Croftfoot, Early Braes, Garscadden Burn, and Castlemilk Park, which was Scotland's 100th Local Nature Reserve) and 1 extended Local Nature Reserves (Cathkin Braes) declared in December 2024, This brings us to 22 LNR's in total located across the city.
- Development of new food growing plots across the City including those funded by Place Fund, Westhorn Allotments Extension and the distribution of the Let's Grow Together Fund for 2025/26.
- Supporting the Friends of Glasgow Parks and Greenspaces Forum

3 Scottish Government Play Renewal Fund

- 3.1 A paper was presented to Environment and Livable Neighbourhoods on [22 August 2023](#) which provided an update on how the above fund would be received and distributed across the city.

3.2 Engagement

The report outlined our engagement with Glasgow Schools Forum with and provided background in relation to the then-emerging Play Sufficiency Assessment.

A paper was subsequently brought to a meeting of City Administration Committee [6th June 2024](#) approving the Glasgow Play Sufficiency Assessment, submitted to Scottish Ministers as part of the City Development Plan 2 process, with an update on how the consultation findings will inform our Play Area Renewal projects included as part of an earlier update to this committee.

3.3 Projects will also be informed by findings shared with us by local community groups and Friends of Parks Groups.

3.4 Programmed Delivery

It is noted that the above Scottish Government funded programme has been supplemented Glasgow City Council with funds from the Parks and Open Spaces Fund and Neighbourhood Improvement where approved by Area Partnerships, with a number of individual projects supplemented with Developer Contributions. With a significant volume of funding in place to invest in a substantial number of play areas, it is important to arrive at a rationale for programme delivery. This will allow the available resources, including Neighbourhoods, Regeneration & Sustainability (NRS) GCC Corporate Procurement Unit (CPU) staff time, to be aligned to the Council's strategic priorities. Communities wishing to nominate Childrens Play, Amenity Greenspace and Food Growing projects for consideration for use Developer Contributions can do so by contacting parksdevelopment@glasgow.gov.uk

Glasgow City Council's approach to addressing Child Poverty can be found [here](#), with the goal of strategic alignment which places eradicating family poverty at the very heart of the city's shared agenda.

This has highlighted the opportunity to align our data for play area investment against that held in relation to Child Poverty. This ensures play areas serving higher numbers of children in poverty are prioritised and can be refurbished first. Examples of this approach include the refurbishment of Tobago Street which was informed by feedback from the Calton Child Poverty Network as well as our engagement with Calton Community Association.

In addition, the recent capital and revenue investment for Parks & Open Spaces as outlined within the recent 2025-2026 Council budget has provided the opportunity for additional recruitment to be facilitated within the NRS, Greenspace & Biodiversity, Landscape Design Team. The recruitment process is now complete with a further four additional landscape technicians

now in post to accelerate the work outlined within the approved budgets, with this now reflected in the dates set out in paragraph 3.5 and 3.6.

In our November 2024 update to this committee, we noted that work was progressing at different project stages for the first 16 projects, with a full list of projects set out in Appendix 2.

3.5 We note the following status as at October 2025, in order of Child Poverty figures:

- In Ward 8, Govanhill Play Area (Scottish Government funded work complete) Glasgow City Council funded works to be carried out as a second phase- Tender documents to be prepared by June 2026
- In Ward 14, Southdeen Play Area- Tender documents to be prepared by February 2026
- In Ward 19, Beardmore Park Play Area (complete)
- In Ward 9, Bridgeton Community Centre Play Area - Tender documents to be prepared by CPU June 2026
- In Ward 18, Greenfield Play Area - Tender documents to be prepared by June 2026
- In Ward 2, Kilmuir Play Area (contractor appointed)
- In Ward 22, Glenconnor Play Area - Tender documents to be prepared by November 2026
- In Ward 1, Millennium Play Centre (Machrie Drive) Play Area - Tender documents to be prepared by June 2026
- In Ward 13, Daisy Park Play Area- Tender documents to be prepared by April 2026
- In Ward 16, Ruchill Park Play Area - Tender documents to be prepared by November 2026
- In Ward 8, Riccarton Street Play Area - Tender documents to be prepared by November 2026
- In Ward 6, Maxwell Square Play Area - Tender documents to be prepared by June 2026
- In Ward 5, Cairnban Street Play Area - Tender documents to be prepared by February 2026
- In Ward 16, Fruin Street Play Area (on site)
- In Ward 9, Bernard Terrace Play Area - Tender documents to be prepared by April 2026
- In Ward 1, Holmbyre Road Play Area - Tender documents to be prepared by April 2026
- In Ward 21, Aberdalgie Road- planning application submitted, and other funding bids submitted, by Community Partner
- In Ward 19, Downfield Street Play Area- Tender documents to be prepared by November 2026
- In Ward 4, Bonnyholm Avenue Play Area (complete)
- In Ward 9, Helenvale Flats- Tender documents to be prepared by November 2026
- In Ward 17, Robroyston Park Play Area- Tender documents to be prepared by November 2026

- In Ward 7, Rose Knowe Play Area- Tender documents to be prepared by November 2026
- In Ward 7, Glenmore Avenue Play Area- Tender documents to be prepared by November 2026
- In Ward 2, King George V Park Play Area, Carnwadric (at tender)
- In Ward 13, Knightswood Play Area- Tender documents to be prepared by November 2026
- In Ward 15, Glenavon Road Play Area- Tender documents to be prepared by November 2026
- In Ward 18, Lethamhill Road Play Area (contractor appointed)

3.6 And in addition to the above, note the following progress, with the undernoted projects being ones where project development had commenced prior to August 2023, in order of Child Poverty figures:

- In Ward 4, Penilee Play Area (complete)
- In Ward 9, Tobago Street Play Area (complete)
- In Ward 16, Skirsa Street- tender documents being developed by external partner as part of wider Cadder Woodland Management Works
- In Ward 8, Cavendish Street Play Area (complete)
- In Ward 2, Pollok Country Park Play Area (complete)
- In Ward 9, Helenslea Park Play Area (contractor appointed)
- Ward 8, Balvicar Street Play Area at Queens Park- Tender documents to be prepared by February 2026
- In Ward 4, Craigton Primary School Play Area (complete)
- In Ward 2, Ashtree Park Play Area (1st Phase) (complete)
- In Ward 10, Taylor Place- Tender documents to be prepared by November 2026
- In Ward 1, Linn Park Adventure Play Centre (complete)
- In Ward 22, Coll Place Play Area- Tender documents to be prepared by January 2026
- In Ward 18, Budhill Park Play Area (complete)
- In Ward 23, Dowanhill Park (complete)
- In Ward 3, Raeswood Road (Leverndale) (complete)
- In Ward 20, Laurelbank Play Area (contractor appointed)
- In Ward 12, Victoria Park Pump Track (tender awarded)
- In Ward 11, Kelvingrove Park Play Area (1st Phase) (complete)
- In ward 23, Dorchester Avenue Play Area (complete)
- In Ward 20, Garrowhill (Under 5's) Play Area (complete)

3.7 An additional £3 million was committed to Parks as part of Glasgow City Councils budget setting process for 2025/26 to support investment in Parks. In line with the Councils approach to Child Poverty we will supplement Scottish Government to as to extend the scope of the 16 Play Areas which serve the highest number of children living in poverty locally, and to complement this Play Area investment with other Parks Investment to support Physical Health, Active Travel and Community Wellbeing, implement Safer Parks guidance and 'Make Space for Girls'-informed approaches

3.8 An additional budget allocation of approximately £1.1m for Children's Play to the following locations:

- Govanhill Park Play Area- £50,000
- Daisy Park Play Area - £89,400
- Southdeen Play Area, Garscadden Burn Park and Local Nature Reserve- £54,500
- Bridgeton Community Learning Campus Play Area- £45,000
- Cairnban St Play Area - £95,000
- Maxwell Square Play Area - £60,000
- Beardmore Park Play Area- £120,000
- Greenfield Park Play Area £74,100
- Castlemilk Play Area £5,000
- Kilmuir Crescent Play Area - £120,000
- Glenconnor Park Play Area - £81,500
- Queen Mary Street Play Area - £113,000
- Fruin St Play Area- £40,000
- Riccarton Park Play Area Play Area- £80,000
- Baelloch Drive Play Area £65,000

3.9 An additional budget allocation of approximately £1,907,500 to the following locations to support wider investment in Parks and Greenspaces, linked to the above Play Areas, with measures including improvements to paths, entrances, signage, outdoor gyms, games court refurbishment, and picnic/accessible benches, and related works;

- Govanhill Park- £240,000
- Daisy Park- £50,000
- Garscadden Burn Park & Local Nature Reserve- £100,000
- Bridgeton Community Learning Campus greenspace- £240,000
- Cairnban St Greenspace- £50,000
- Maxwell Square Park- £240,000
- Beardmore Park- £150,000
- Greenfield Park £50,000
- Castlemilk Park £174,000
- Kilmuir Crescent greenspace- £240,000
- Glenconnor Park- £50,000
- Queen Mary Street greenspace- £50,000
- Fruin St greenspace- £200,000
- Riccarton Park- £240,000
- Baelloch Drive greenspace £114,500

3.10 Greenspace and Biodiversity officers continue to work closely with colleagues in NRS Business Support and the council's corporate procurement team to pursue a range of options for project procurement with the aim of further accelerating the above programme where possible.

- 3.11 Updates to committee in relation to a range of NRS capital projects have noted that, due to world events, there was an adverse impact on project delivery between 2019 and 2021, with these issues have largely been overcome with design and construction activity is progressing at pace. It should be noted that some challenges, including variability in supply chain price and capacity, persist across a range of NRS capital projects and this is being factored into the delivery programme moving forward.

Discussions chaired by Scottish Government officers, with all Scottish Local Authorities, have noted that the increase in funding, whilst welcomed, will utilise play area supply chains to their full capacity, with it being anticipated that suppliers may be supplying multiple local authorities at any one point in time. Landscape Design Officers with NRS continue to monitor the impact on the overall demands.

4. Park Initiatives

4.1 Play Area Maintenance

In support of the investment, we have delivered an App-based system to track play area inspections and resulting actions, allowing this service to most effectively allocate the existing resources. Opportunities to further align resources in support of a coordinated programme of inspection and repair are currently being explored, and further updates will be brought back to this committee.

4.2 Review of Parks Lighting

Delivery of further measures arising from [Review of Parks Lighting](#) undertaken in 2023 and 2024. and implementation of the associated actions includes the completion of NIF funded lighting measures at Castlemilk Park and a Placemaking study in support of lighting measures undertaken with community stakeholders at Househill Park, and developing contract documents in support of further lighting proposals for Queens Park.

In securing this new approach to Parks Lighting, we are working collaboratively with community groups, ward members, funders, biodiversity specialists and our supply chains, with project milestones being shared with stakeholders once confirmed, and build the learning from this into future project delivery.

Further Parks Lighting measures are under consideration at various parks city-wide via the NIF process. We estimate costs for traditional lighting columns costed at a rate of £4000, with comparable costs for solar options, with Placemaking Exercises and/or technical feasibility studies for non-standard solutions in the region of £10,000-20,000. Small-scale trials to-date of solar powered lighting have proven satisfactory, and we will continue to scale up pilot projects, at locations where technical advice indicates that local site conditions are favourable.

Engagement with Police Scotland as part of Placemaking activity undertaken as part of this programme has built on the joint working being undertaken between our Parks Service, our Neighbourhood Liaison team and Police Scotland to make our Parks safer and more welcoming, with measures being brought forward for paths, entrances, signage and layout which encourage positive use of our parks throughout the day, and address any features associated with anti-social activity. Members of the public reporting any criminal or anti-social activity to Police Scotland allows available resources to be most effectively deployed and allows accurate data to be gathered in support of the above measures.

4.3.1 Renewal of Parks Management Rules

The Councils Parks Management Rules are due for renewal. These rules are provided for under Section 112 of the Civic Government Scotland Act 1982, which sets out that Local Authorities will renew them every 10 years. The recommendation from officers is that these Rules are renewed 'as is'. Our current [Park Management Rules](#) were enacted 27 November 2015, and NRS will now commence the process of advertising their renewal.

4.3.2 Outdoor Sports Lockers

NRS is currently exploring the potential of a 1-year trial of sports equipment lockers, in support of wider work to bring forward Glasgow's Physical Activity and Sports Strategy. These lockers will provide sponsored sports equipment use through an app across informal sports facilities in Glasgow with some sports provided at no cost to the end user (basketball, football, table tennis, fitness equipment, etc.). Multipurpose games courts, outdoor gyms, playing fields and outdoor formal sports facilities are types of facilities where lockers could be installed. A further update will be provided to committee.

4.4 Proposed additional support to voluntary groups

Officers will review how we can provide a level of financial support to voluntary groups supporting activity within our estate, with the aim of increasing the number of visits to Parks and Openspaces. A further update will be provided to committee.

It is envisaged that funded measures would address one of the following themes:

- Group Public Liability Insurance.
- Support the increase of Volunteer Activity within the park
- Supporting the creation and management of good quality, multifunctional open space to help reconnect communities with nature.
- Protect and enhance biodiversity in the city.
- Promote and supporting improved physical, mental and emotional health & wellbeing.

- Share the benefits of climate action across the community.
- Support the creation and development of urban gardening.
- Support community empowerment and participation
- Support communicating and work with communities to find out how they want to use their parks and what they want their parks to look like in the future
- Support partnership working and engage different resources to deliver
- Support how we use the green infrastructure to deliver strategic Outcomes.

4.4 Responsible Dog Walking in Parks

We will continue to contribute to campaigns with our partners at Police Scotland and animal welfare organisations promoting responsible dog ownership, and will continue to post signage in areas, such as Childrens Play Areas, where we have statutory powers allowing us to exclude dogs. Park management signs are in place within Glasgow Parks setting out the published rules.

Dog fouling issues can be reported by:

- Glasgow City Council website
<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/dogfouling>
- My Glasgow app, which can be downloaded from the Apple, Android and Blackberry app stores.
- Or by phoning 0141 287 2000.

Under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, any dog regarded as dangerously out of control, where there are grounds for reasonable apprehension that it will injure any person, whether or not it actually does so, should be reported to Police Scotland on 999, or 101 when an emergency response is not required.

If a dog is felt to be out of control, but its behaviour falls short of being reportable to Police Scotland under the Dangerous Dogs Act, it should be reported to this service by contacting:

Completing [this online form](#):

Or by phoning 0141 287 2000 and providing as much information as possible, including:

- time of day, date and location where the out-of-control dog was witnessed
- name and address of the owner where available

- description of the dog and its owner.

This will allow for investigation and consideration as to what action can be taken under the Control of Dogs Act.

5. Seven Lochs Wetland Park

Reports were taken to City Administration Committee [5th June 2023](#) and to Environment, Sustainability and Carbon Reduction City Policy Committee [15th March 2022](#) in relation to Seven Lochs Wetland Park.

GCC continues to work in partnership with North Lanarkshire Council, The Conservation Volunteers Scotland and other local partners to deliver the Seven Lochs Project. Projects currently underway are;

- The Link, Ruchazie – working with Growing 21 Development Trust to transform 5ha of vacant and derelict land into new multi-functional greenspace.
- Blairtummock Destination Play – a partnership with Pavillion Youth café to create a new play area and cycle park.
- Rogerfield Community Wellbeing – joint project with Blairtummock Housing Association to create new community greenspace on a derelict former school site.

5.1 One initiative, undertaken in partnership with Ruchazie Community Council and Growing 21, won 2 awards at the Association for Heritage Interpretation at their 2025 Engaging People Awards;

- Community engagement award winner
- Excellence in heritage award winner

5.2 A on-going programme of community events, family activities and volunteering is delivered from the park visitor centres at Golf It Glasgow and Provan Hall in Glasgow, and Drumpellier Country park and Glenboig Life Centre in North Lanarkshire, and can be found at <https://www.sevenlochs.org/>

6. Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

<i>Financial:</i>	Current and future play area investment will be met from the £6.179M Scottish Government funding, Developer Contributions where available and any other grants secured.
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<i>Legal:</i>	The report raises no legal issues
<i>Personnel:</i>	Those actions within the Scottish Government Play Renewal Program will be undertaken within existing resources, with certain works being contracted out.
<i>Procurement:</i>	Procurement for works stated within the report will be procured mini competition on existing Frameworks and through use of Scotland Excel Frameworks.
Council Strategic Plan:	Grand Challenge 1 Mission 3: Improve the health and wellbeing of our local communities. Grand Challenge 3 Mission 2: Become a net zero carbon city by 2030. Grand Challenge 4 Mission 1: Create safe, clean and thriving neighbourhoods
Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:	
<i>Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25? Please specify.</i>	It is envisaged that this investment could contribute towards Outcome 6, by providing spaces which better support children, young people and families to meet outdoors, and contribute towards Outcome 14 by providing spaces which better support outdoor learning for disabled children and young people.
<i>What are the potential equality impacts as a</i>	Potential positive impacts from spaces which better support children, young

result of this report?

people and families to meet outdoors and which better support outdoor learning for disabled children and young people

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

Proposals set out within this report support in addressing socio-economic disadvantage through proposed investments in play areas reflecting the Councils approach to tackling child poverty.

Climate Impacts:

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

The proposals supports the following themes and actions

Climate plan Theme 1:

Communication and Community Empowerment
To engage with communities about the climate challenge.
To foster participation and collaboration the proposal supports action 27 in relation to outdoor learning and outreach biodiversity work.

Climate plan Theme 2: Just and Inclusive Place

Empower and invigorate our communities, strengthening local economies share the benefits of climate action widely

Climate Plan Theme 4:

Health and Wellbeing to protect and enhance local habitat connectivity and biodiversity in the city. To support creation and maintenance of good quality, multifunctional green space to help reconnect communities with nature. To support equitable access to

good quality, multipurpose open space and green infrastructure in the city. The proposal delivers towards action 48 by working with partner organisations to fund acceleration of the Open Space Strategy Delivery Plan and contributes to Action 51 by supporting the livable neighbourhood plan.

Climate Plan Theme 5:
Green Recovery Supporting a transition towards a circular economy. Supporting tree planting and maintenance, peatland restoration, and green infrastructure.

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

Supporting creation and development of additional canopy cover across the city will help provide essential woodland, to absorb harmful carbon emissions and sequester carbon across the long-term. That will greatly contribute to Glasgow working towards their net zero target

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

Yes

Privacy and Data Protection Impacts:

Are there any potential data protection impacts as a result of this report No

7. Recommendations

It is recommended that Committee:

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- Notes the updated consultation methodology for the Scottish Government Play Renewal Program, with individual projects prioritised to reflect the Councils approach to Child Poverty;
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