Item 7

13th November 2026

Glasgow Community Planning Partnership.

North East Area Partnership.

Report by Head of Policy and Corporate Governance

Contact: Tony Martin Email: Anthony.martin@glasgow.gov.uk

2025/26 AREA BUDGET: EVALUATION REPORT.

Purpose of Report:

To inform the Area Partnership of the details of projects selected to complete an Evaluation Report.

Recommendations:

The Area Partnership is asked to note the report in relation to the North East Area Budget in 2025/26.

Background

1. The City Administration Committee on 13th February 2025 allocated £88,194 to the 2025/26 North East Area Budget.

2. The partnership received approval from the City Administration Committee on 19th June 2025 to carry forward £2,900 from the 2024/25 Area Partnership budget, giving a total allocation of £91,094.

Expenditure

3. £91,094 (100%) of the allocation has been awarded for projects that were delivered by 31st March 2026.

Evaluation

4. Projects funded through the Area Budget are required to comply with the Council's Standard Conditions of Funding which states that organisations must comply in full with evaluation requirements.

5. 10% of projects funded during 2025/26 were identified and asked to complete an Evaluation Report. Details of the projects and of the evaluations are included in Appendix 1.

Recommendation

6. The Area Partnership is asked to note the report in relation to the North East Area Budget 2025/26.

Appendix 1

North East Area Partnership Budget 2025/26

Budget: £91,094	**Allocated: £91,094**	**Unallocated: £0**

Total Number of Awards: 34	**Awards under delegated authority: 7**	**Awards to GCC/ALEOs: 6**

Client/Project	**Evaluation Submitted by Deadline Y/N**	**Summary Findings** (please include how the project contributed to the investment priorities, the impact on the community and the wider area and the number of beneficiaries). Please also include any information relevant to breach of conditions of grant e.g. non/late submission of documentation or amendments.
St Benedicts Primary School Active Pupils to Encourage Cycling	Y	<u>Summary of Project</u> As a school we implemented a Balance Bike programme for Primary 1 to 3 children (typically ages 5 to 8) which provided an exceptional foundation for traffic safety, and long-term cycling competence. Balance bikes completely removed the distraction of pedals, allowing our children to master the most difficult part of riding first: balancing and steering. This programme took place in our school playground and around 120 children participated. The Glenburn Centre, recognised as a UK wide Award-Winning Community Cycling provider implemented this programme and provided the infant bikes and coaches. Their coaches were highly qualified and delivered to small groups of 8 children, taking account of their cycling ability. They further provided a cycling after school club for the children to continue to practise and in addition free access to community cycling coaches within their own facility.

		Impact of Project The programme successfully targeted core gross motor skills, coordination, and spatial awareness. Using balance bikes rather than bikes with training wheels has proven highly effective at teaching fundamental balance. Through teacher observations, the children demonstrated an increase in confidence and enthusiasm for cycling. Spend The funding was fully spent (£5,520) and the project delivered on time
Fuse Comicon Event		Summary of Project – **Overview of Delivered Work and Services** **1. Creative Workshops & Community Outreach** • **Workshops Delivered:** 8 dedicated comic-inspired creative workshops were conducted across local community during October. • **Activities & Services:** Sessions focused on zine creation, caricature drawing, and prop and costume making, enabling children, young people, and families to design their own items for the main event while promoting the festival locally. **2. Cinema Screenings & Interactive Sessions** • **Film Screenings:** 3 free cinema performances were hosted to make film and screen culture accessible to all local families regardless of financial circumstances. • **Special Guest Feature:** Included a dedicated film performance accompanied by a live Q&A session with featured actors such as Etienne from Beats of War and local writer Chris McQueer.

		• **Additional:** not part of the fund but new band from Glasgow Kelvin College Music workshops played at the event too, the band known as Toothless Aggression. **3. Main Glasgow East Comic-Con Event** • **Artists' Alley & Vendor Stalls:** Provided a platform showcasing local and national comic creators, illustrators, and local vendors selling graphic novels, comics, and collectibles. • **Interactive Panels & Cosplay Showcase:** Hosted engaging discussion panels alongside a community cosplay showcase celebrating character design and fandom. • **Live Entertainment & Special Attractions:** Featured professional caricaturists, balloon artists, and makeup artists, alongside interactive props and character appearances, including sci-fi figures (Daleks) and Alba Ghostbusters. **Dates and Locations** • **Preparatory Workshops & Screenings:** Delivered throughout **October** across various local community project spaces and venue facilities. • **Main Event Date & Venue:** Held on **25th October** at **Platform** in Easterhouse. • **Geographical Coverage:** Focused on delivering services directly within the **Shettleston (Ward 19)**, **North East (Ward 21)**, and **East Centre (Ward 18)** local partnership areas. **Participation and Attendance Figures** • **Total Target Engagement:** Reached an estimated total of **1,150 community members** across the east end wards (based on ticket sales/free distributed tickets via local projects) • **Shettleston (Ward 19):** 500 participants. (est) • **North East (Ward 21):** 500 participants. (est) • **East Centre (Ward 18):** 150 participants. (est) <u>Impact of Project –</u> The Glasgow East Comic-Con project provided meaningful personal, social, and creative outcomes for children, young people, and local families across the North East:

		• **Inclusivity & removal of financial barrier:** By offering free pre-event workshops, free cinema screenings, and heavily subsidised/complimentary festival tickets distributed through partner organisations, local families facing financial hardship could participate fully in a high-profile cultural event without cost being a barrier. • **Creative Expression:** Across 8 dedicated workshops, young service users acquired practical skills in zine creation, caricature drawing, prop building, and costume making. These sessions encouraged self-expression, confidence, and imaginative learning. • **Social Connection:** The project provided a safe, welcoming, and inclusive space where young people and fans of all ages could celebrate shared passions, express their identity through cosplay, and connect with peers and professional creators. **Benefits to the Wider Area and Local Community** The festival brought tangible cultural and social benefits directly to the Glasgow East community: • **Community Cohesion & Engagement:** Brought together residents across multiple wards (Shettleston, North East, and East Centre) to share in a celebratory community event. • **Local Cultural Access:** Brought a commercial-grade, fan-convention experience directly to local venues (Platform and local community hubs), ensuring East End residents did not need to travel outwith their local area or pay steep commercial event fees to access high-quality arts and culture. • **Promoting Local Talent & Venues:** Showcased local and national comic creators and illustrators in the Artists' Alley, while driving footfall and raising the profile of Platform as a vibrant community cultural hub in Easterhouse. **Alignment with Area Partnership Investment Priorities** The project directly fulfilled the investment priorities of the Glasgow Community Planning Partnership Area Partnerships: • **Priority Addressed:** *Activities in community facilities*. • **How Priorities Were Met:**

		○ **Utilisation of Local Assets:** Maximised the use of key community assets, hosting 8 prep creative workshops across local community project spaces and holding the main festival at Platform. ○ **Community-Led Activity:** Delivered locally accessible arts, cinema, and fan-convention activities designed specifically around the needs of North East Glasgow families. ○ **Cross-Ward Collaboration:** Demonstrated partnership working between Fuse Youth Café and Platform to deliver shared community outcomes across Wards 18, 19, and 21 <u>Spend</u> The funding was fully spent (£6,925) and the project delivered on time
St Paul's Youth Forum Blackhill's Growing Outreach Project	Y	<u>Summary of Project</u> **Description of Work Undertaken and Services Provided** Over the past year, our project has delivered a consistent and impactful programme of activities aligned with Area Partnership priorities, particularly those promoting the use of community facilities and improving local health and wellbeing. With the support of this funding, we employed a sessional Community Gardener, who has led and promoted a range of activities at various locations across Ward 21, with two out of the three sessions being open to the general public. We have worked with the R&A's community orchard at 1240 Cumbernauld Road, the Blackhill Community Farm at 31 Robroyston Road and St Philomena's Primary School. Each site had a block of 4 months of intense weekly growing support including the improvement of any existing facilities and expert consultancy on the future development of their growing space. **Community Growing Sessions** We held weekly community growing sessions, open to the general public, with the aim of encouraging local people to spend time in nature, learn about food growing, and engage with others in a supportive environment. We did this at two sites for an intensive four month period both at Golf It Community Orchard and at Blackhill Community Farm. These sessions were designed to be inclusive and accessible, supporting those facing high

		levels of socio-economic disadvantage, food poverty, and poor health. Over the course of the year 184 individuals have taken part in these sessions. **Community Involvement and Reach** The development and delivery of this project were shaped by ongoing input from our local steering group of five residents, as well as support from our Board of Trustees, all of whom have lived experience of the area. This has ensured the programme remains responsive to local needs. We also built on the successful partnerships working with R&A at Golf It and with St Philomena's Primary School to work with as many local residents as possible. By working across a variety of sites we managed to reach more people directly and indirectly. **Impact and Engagement** Altogether, we directly engaged with around 590 individuals through regular sessions and schools workshops. In addition, the location of the workshops happening in high footfall areas and one on a previously vacant and derelict land plot means the improved greenspace had a positive indirect impact on an estimated additional 135,000 visitors over the last year (Golf It received a footfall of 135,000 visitors in 2024; numbers were expected to trend higher for 2025/26). We also provided practical support to ensure inclusivity, including tools, seeds, compost, and offered volunteer expenses (travel and refreshments), removing financial barriers to participation. **Timing and Location** All activities took place weekly at the different sites: Golf It Community Orchard, Blackhills Community Farm and Partnering with St Philomena's Primary School. These greenspaces, located in one of the most deprived areas of Scotland (top 2% SIMD), have been transformed into welcoming, productive environments where local people can learn, connect, and improve their wellbeing. **Conclusion** This project has successfully delivered consistent, meaningful activities that directly address local challenges,

		particularly poor mental and physical health, limited access to greenspace, and high levels of poverty and social isolation. It has empowered local people through community-led learning and supported the transformation of a public space into a valuable community asset. Impact of Project **Impact of the Project on Service Users and the Local Area** The project has had a significant positive impact on service users and the wider community, directly addressing several key priorities of the Area Partnership, including increasing access to community facilities, improving health and wellbeing, and enhancing lifelong learning opportunities. **Impact on Service Users** 1. **Improved Mental and Physical Health** Weekly community growing sessions provided service users with regular access to nature and physical activity, known to boost both mental and physical health. Participants reported feeling more relaxed, connected, and motivated after sessions, reflecting the "5 Ways to Wellbeing" framework (NEF, 2008). The inclusive, outdoor setting was particularly beneficial for individuals with disabilities and long-term health conditions - an important consideration in an area where 25.5% of residents are limited by disability. 2. **Reduced Social Isolation and Increased Community Cohesion** Many attendees expressed appreciation for the opportunity to connect with others in a welcoming and non-judgemental environment. Regular attendance helped build a sense of community and belonging, especially important in an area facing high levels of social exclusion. The sessions became a space for intergenerational learning and interaction, helping to reduce isolation across age groups. 3. **Enhanced Learning and Skills Development** The project provided hands-on learning around food growing, sustainability, and environmental stewardship. Many participants were new to gardening, and through these sessions they gained practical skills they could apply at home. The monthly workshops for children and young people also supported informal education and creativity, making environmental learning fun and engaging.

4. **Increased Access to Free, Local Activities**
   With 83% of local children registered for free school meals, cost is a major barrier to participation in extracurricular activities. This project was free at point of access, with tools, materials, and refreshments provided, ensuring inclusivity and accessibility for all.

Benefits to the Local Area

- **Improvement of Public Greenspace**
  The project transformed the Golf It Community Orchard and Blackhill Community Farm into a vibrant, welcoming, and productive community space. In an area where 10% of land is classed as derelict, and 100% of Blackhill residents live within 500m of vacant or derelict land, this visible improvement has offered a valuable, accessible green environment for the local community.
- **Environmental Benefits**
  The farm and orchard have promoted biodiversity and environmental stewardship. Native plants and trees attract pollinators and wildlife, helping to build ecological resilience in an urban setting.
- **High Levels of Community Engagement**
  The project was co-developed with a steering group of seven local residents and supported by a Board of Trustees with lived experience of the area. Their involvement ensured the project met real community needs and maintained a high level of local ownership.

Alignment with Area Partnership Priorities

- **Activities in Community Facilities:**
  The project made full use of the Golf It site as well as Blackhill Community Farm as local facilities for the benefit of the wider community, creating a consistent, accessible programme of weekly sessions.
- **Health and Wellbeing:**
  Activities directly supported physical activity, mental health, and social wellbeing, especially for those in socio-economically disadvantaged and health-challenged communities.
- **Lifelong Learning:**
  Through hands-on, informal learning opportunities, participants of all ages were able to build knowledge, confidence, and new skills in a supportive setting.

		In summary, this project has delivered tangible health, educational, social, and environmental benefits to a community facing significant deprivation, while strengthening the local area's resilience and sense of shared ownership over its green spaces. <u>Spend</u> The funding was fully spent (£7,346) and the project delivered on time
East End Recovery Sunday	Y	<u>Summary of Project</u> Item 1- Bowling matt - the new indoor bowls matt has helped participants build confidence, reduce isolation and make new friendships. It provides a fun inclusive activity that supports wellbeing, gentle exercise and positive social interaction, giving people something enjoyable to look forward to and helping strengthen our recovery community we have an average of 8 to 10 on a sunday taking part in this. Item 2- Yoga - we ran into some difficulty with this as we had various instructors pull out and we changed activities at time but we managed to keep it going and we now have 2 instructors 1 for yoga and one for circuit training that we have managed to receive funding to continue this, Yoga sessions in the recovery cafe support participants by improving physical health, reducing stress and promoting relaxation. They encourage mindfulness, better sleep and emotional balance while offering a gentle, accessible form of exercise for all abilities. Ina welcoming recovery cafe environment, also helps build confidence, reduce anxiety and create opportunities for social interaction and connection, supporting overall wellbeing and recovery journeys. Participants often leave feeling refreshed, motivated and more connected, making yoga a valuable part of recovery support services offered. These groups ranged from 3 to 10 each week. We have continued this service due to client feedback on our evaluations. Item 3- Massage- we had 4 sessions each week through the 6 month period and in a recovery cafe massages help participants by easing muscle tension, improving circulation and reducing physical pain. They promote deep relaxation, lower stress levels and encourage emotional balance and better sleep. In a welcoming recovery cafe environment massage can be trauma-informed, accessible and supportive of all abilities. It helps build trust, reduce anxiety and foster social

		connection, supporting overall wellbeing and recovery journeys. Participants often leave feeling calmer, restored and more connected to overall wellbeing. Again we have continued this activity due to customer feedback and the need for people in addiction having high rates of poverty and wouldn't otherwise be able to access. 4-5 people received massages every Sunday. Item 4- dance fitness- Again due to participant feed back we have continued this and added another class of line dancing from the same instructor. The benefits to this are similar to previous items and we have anything between 5 and 15 people per week attending and the feedback has been great regarding not having to pay for the class as most would not be able to pay the 6 to 8 pounds which these classes would normally cost, getting out more, building confidence, getting fitter and meeting new people are the benefits of the dance fitness. Item 5- Break for volunteers- again we seen some difficulties with this due to growing numbers of volunteers and the price going up between getting the quotes and ready to book that it would have been outwith our budget, however we managed to get a break for the volunteers and several participants as well with Recovery rhythms with a wellness day/night stay with lots of therapeutic activities were the price came in at £960 and brought the volunteers and participants bond in a relaxing environment. The wellbeing day and night gave volunteers and participants a valuable opportunity to relax, recharge and step away from everyday pressures. It strengthened friendships, reduced isolation and improved confidence and wellbeing. Sharing new experiences together also strengthened peer support, teamwork and sense of community within our recovery cafe. 2 of those participants have now become volunteers thanks to the experience they had. This was for 30 people. Item 6- open day- The open day was a great day for the recovery cafe. We managed to raise over £1200 pounds which has helped us continue valuable services within the cafe. We were opened to the wider community so it gave them an insight to what we do each week and what is on offer and from this we managed to get another 2 volunteers who have started their recovery journey with us and both are from the local area and have stopped using drink and drugs. We had over 210 people attend our open day which was free for kids there was roughly 140 adults and 70 kids on the day and all the activities we put on were absolutely free we had local businesses come in with stalls we had free food for all and had other local charities come in and support us with volunteers from the Gesh and Rise- up helping out, being a local lad it was really great to see lots of local people supporting our journey and heaping praise on what we have on offer and asking our volunteers about recovery. This benefited the whole community as more and more people are asking

		questions regarding what recovery looks like and some have continued to attend the recovery cafe due to loneliness or isolation and have been making friends. With people attending and becoming in recovery it then lowers petty crime and drug taking in the area and i believe will have long term benefits with more and more local people becoming aware of us. <u>Impact of Project</u> The priorities we believe we have helped with are community safety and activities in the community and possibly services for young people. For 1 single service user we have pinpointed her into services and then with work with the Calvay centre and college we managed to get her onto a course doing health and beauty after which she applied to do a full time course at Kelvin college which she has passed she has now came back to the recovery to giver time to do facials and massages every 2nd sunday and is now starting her HND in the same field next month. Our recovery cafe has a positive impact on service users and the wider local community. It provides a safe welcoming and non-judgemental space where people affected by addiction, recovery, loneliness or difficult circumstances can connect and feel accepted. The cafe helps reduce isolation, build confidence and improving wellbeing sessions. Families and individuals can meet others, develop friendships and access encouragement in a supportive environment. For the wider community, the cafe brings people together, encourages volunteering and enables people who have lived experience of addiction/recovery to use their skills positively. It creates stronger connections, promotes inclusion and provides hope, belonging and opportunities. <u>Spend</u> The funding (£4,600) was fully spent and the project delivered on time
