



Glasgow City Council

**Economy, Housing Transport and Regeneration
City Policy Committee**

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

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Item 4

7th March 2023

**GLASGOW CITY REGION CITY DEAL: ACCESSIBLE AND INCLUSIVE
DESIGN FORUM**

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on progress of the Accessible and Inclusive Design Forum (AIDF), with a focus on the outcomes of the first two live workshops, focusing on the positive impact the forum has had on the design approach to large scale infrastructure works, such as the City Deal funded Avenues Programme.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that Members:

- (i). Consider the contents of this report;
- (ii). Note that further updates on progress of the Accessible and Inclusive Design Forum will be brought back to committee for consideration.

Ward No(s): 10

Citywide:

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

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on progress of the Accessible and Inclusive Design Forum (AIDF), with a focus on the outcomes of the first two live workshops, focusing on the positive impact the forum has had on the design approach to large scale infrastructure works, such as the City Deal funded Avenues Programme.
- 1.2 The report will provide information on the role and remit of the AIDF, including details on membership and key findings from recent workshops.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The concept of the Accessible and Inclusive Design Forum (AIDF) was originally conceived to support Glasgow City Council's plans for investment in relation to place-making and connectivity, and the role that the City Deal Infrastructure Programme is playing in driving forward change in these areas (particularly the City Centre Avenues Programme, an ambitious project to redesign and regenerate the city centre environment which is part of the City Deal Infrastructure Programme).
- 2.2 The City Council wishes to ensure that the city's streets and public spaces are designed so that they are safe and comfortable for disabled people and people who walk, wheel and cycle – in other words, people who are particularly vulnerable as road users. The AIDF provides a means of working with disabled people and people who walk, wheel and cycle to ensure that their needs are reflected in designs for streets and public spaces.
- 2.3 Prior to the establishment of the AIDF, engagement with disabled people and people who walk, wheel or cycle has been on a case-by-case basis for specific designs or projects. This proved difficult to resource for the organisations involved; it has made balanced dialogue difficult, particularly in the absence of a bigger plan for how different projects will fit together; and it has not been the most effective way of building trust between the City Council and organisations which represent disabled people and people who walk, wheel and cycle.

3 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

3.1 The AIDF was established to provide an opportunity for disabled people and people who walk, wheel and cycle (who may also be disabled) to articulate the challenges they face when using the city's streets and public spaces to the City Council's design and engineering teams. Other purposes of the AIDF include:

- (i) To act as a reference body for the Council on issues relating to accessible and inclusive design of streets and public spaces.
- (ii) To enable open and transparent discussions amongst organisations working for disabled people and people who walk, wheel and cycle in Glasgow, and with the City Council, in relation to ongoing design work.
- (iii) To make recommendations in relation to accessibility and inclusivity to inform Avenues designs and wider infrastructure schemes for the city's streets and public spaces, including how proposals are consulted upon.
- (iv) To receive feedback from the Council on how the AIDF's recommendations on draft designs have been incorporated into finalised designs. Individual member organisations will not be identified as supporting designs unless this is clearly stated in the note of the meeting.
- (v) To provide an opportunity to reflect on what works well, and what could be improved in relation to lessons from completed schemes.
- (vi) To receive progress updates from the Council on progress with project designs, implementation timescales and delivery progress.
- (vii) To support the overall public engagement process for the Avenues Programme and other infrastructure works being delivered by the Council.

3.2 Accessible and Inclusive Design Forum has therefore been established to support the overall engagement for infrastructure works, such as the Avenues Programme, by performing a crucial role as an advisory group. Its aim is to provide a mechanism for engaging with disabled people and to act as a sounding board which can make recommendations on proposals, expect feedback on those recommendations, and be informed on design and delivery progress - initially in relation to the city centre Avenues, but with the expectation of expanding to include proposed schemes elsewhere in the city.

4. MEMBERSHIP

4.1 Membership of the Forum encompasses organisations who represent diverse disabled people and people who walk, wheel and cycle in Glasgow. Membership is by invitation from the City Council to an organisation's Chief Executive Officer.

4.2 Forum members are listed below in alphabetical order. Additional organisations may be added to the Forum by agreement.

Full members

- (i) Bike for Good
- (ii) Free Wheel North
- (iii) GoBike
- (iv) Glasgow Access Panel

- (v) Glasgow Disability Alliance (GDA)
- (vi) Glasgow City Council (GCC): Centre for Sensory Impairment
- (vii) Glasgow City Council (GCC): City Centre Regeneration / City Centre Avenues
- (viii) Guide Dogs Scotland
- (ix) Living Streets Scotland
- (x) Mobility & Access Committee Scotland (MACS)
- (xi) National Federation of the Blind UK (NFBUK)
- (xii) RNIB Scotland

Support (to be invited as appropriate)

- (xiii) Glasgow City Council: Corporate Services
- (xiv) Glasgow City Council: Outdoor Access
- (xv) Glasgow City Council: Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability (Roads, Maintenance, Technical Services and Transport Strategy)
- (xvi) Sustrans

- 4.3 Lead contacts may send a representative in their place if they are unable to attend the Forum.

- 4.4 All representatives attending the Forum must live, work, volunteer or have ongoing active experience of moving around Glasgow's roads, streets and public spaces. Representatives may bring a companion or carer if required to take part in meetings.

- 4.5 Membership of the Forum resides with the organisations identified rather than any individual person. Representatives are required to represent the views of their organisation where they differ from their own personal views.

- 4.6 The organisation and overall management of Forum meetings will be undertaken by the Council, initially the City Centre Avenues Team in the City Council's Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability department. Representatives from other City Council teams (such as Roads, Maintenance, Technical Services and Transport Strategy), together with Sustrans, may be invited to meetings in a supporting role. Meetings will be facilitated independently to encourage fair and open dialogue.

5. WORKSHOPS, KEY FINDINGS AND LESSONS LEARNED

- 5.1 The first two workshops were held at Townhead Village Hall on 16 August and 4 October 2022. The venue was chosen due to its accessibility and close proximity to the city centre and other nodes of transportation.
- 5.2 The workshops provided an opportunity for members to meet in a public setting and discuss designs and design related principles. Items discussed at these workshops and some key findings include:
 - (i) ***Interpretation of UK guidance on tactile paving at non-right angled (skewed) side street junctions*** – The Council presented a preferred layout based on current design guidance and best practise. However, members collectively disagreed on elements of the proposed design. As a result, the layout has been amended. The new layout will now form part of the Council's standard design approach to uncontrolled crossing points, where possible. An example of the before and after layouts can be viewed for reference at **Appendix A**.
 - (ii) ***Holland Street and Pitt Street technical design detail*** – discussions were focussed on the layout of uncontrolled junctions. This provided a good opportunity to demonstrate that design principles can't simply be applied in every location and that local context/geometry had to be taken into consideration. As a result, compromises were made between members and design layouts were agreed for all junctions. The Council also agreed to provide a 60mm minimum segregation between cyclists and pedestrians.
 - (iii) ***Argyle Street (east), Trongate, Glasgow Cross, St Enoch Square and Dixon Street concept design detail*** – discussions remained focussed on 'floating bus stops'. As a result, a standalone agenda item on 'floating bus stops' will be brought back to the next AIDF for discussion – the outcomes of which will be used to inform the developed design detail for Argyle Street East.
- 5.3 The lead designer is invited to present on emerging designs, providing a full justification for design progression and alignment with national design guidance etc. Members are then invited to ask questions before breaking away into smaller groups for more targeted discussions.
- 5.4 Members were invited to send any comments by email that they were unable to articulate at the meeting. This allowed members of the AIDF to consider the contents of the meeting thoroughly and discuss with members of their organisation before responding.
- 5.5 Feedback received both during and after the workshops is then considered by the lead designer and the Council before a final decision is taken on whether changes are appropriate. Internal decisions are formalised through the Avenues Forum before being fed back to members of the AIDF.
- 5.6 Feedback from members have identified the following lessons which must be addressed for all future workshops:
 - (i) The contents of the agenda should be reduced to allow more thorough discussions to take place

- (ii) Drawings should be clearly annotated and more user friendly – specifications required from members
- (iii) Drawings and other supporting materials should be circulated in advance of the meeting and with sufficient time to allow for a full internal review – timescales to be confirmed by members
- (iv) Facilitation techniques should be revised to make it easier for people with a visual impairment to know when they have an opportunity to speak

6 Next Steps

- 6.1 The project team have been focused on developing the Argyle Street East design and securing internal agreement on the key features, before engaging with stakeholders. That process is almost complete and the team are now exploring options to procure the independent consultant, Nick Wright Associates, which will allow a schedule of AIDF events to be established for 2023. All recommendations for change outlined above should be adopted in time for this third workshop.
- 6.2 However while the AIDF has been developed by the Avenues project team, it requires a permanent home within GCC that will enable all relevant projects to access it and by extension, support the costs and resource requirements. Discussions are currently ongoing within GCC about this specific issue and Members will be updated on any changes of this nature in due course.

Resource Implications:

<i>Financial:</i>	There are no financial implications as a result of this report.
<i>Legal:</i>	The report raises no new legal issues.
<i>Personnel:</i>	No direct personnel issues.
<i>Procurement:</i>	Works will be procured according to Council Standing Orders.

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>	<p>The project supports the following items:</p> <p>GRAND CHALLENGE ONE – Reduce poverty and inequality in our communities MISSION 3: Improve the health and wellbeing of our local communities <i>Commitments: 2</i></p> <p>GRAND CHALLENGE TWO – Increase opportunity and prosperity for all our citizens MISSION 1: Support Glasgow residents into sustainable and fair work <i>Commitments: 1,5</i></p>
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GRAND CHALLENGE THREE – Fight the climate emergency in a just transition to a net zero Glasgow

MISSION 1: Deliver sustainable transport and travel aligned with the city region

Commitments: 3,4,10,11,16,26

MISSION 2: Become a net zero carbon city by 2030

Commitments: 9,14,15

GRAND CHALLENGE FOUR – Enable staff to deliver essential services in a sustainable, innovative and efficient way for our communities

MISSION 1: Create safe, clean and thriving neighbourhoods

Commitments: 18,19

Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25? Please specify. Yes. The establishment of the Accessible and Inclusive Design Forum will contribute to achieving Outcome 1 by providing more accessible engagement opportunities for disabled people. It also allows an opportunity for disabled people to inform the design process for emerging active travel schemes.

What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report? Positive - The Accessible and Inclusive Design Forum will encourage active engagement around emerging Council projects, ensuring that the needs of disabled people are addressed as part of the design process.

Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-economic disadvantage. The outcomes will enhance accessibility and promote a socially inclusive environment and encourage skills development and business development more generally by improving access to jobs and areas of prosperity.

Climate Impacts:

Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify: Yes. The Accessible and Inclusive design Forum will allow disabled people to inform the development of active travel schemes, helping to support citizen's behavioral change/modal shift. Supports Climate Plan Actions: 1, 2, 36,37,38, 51,56

What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal? Positive. The potential impacts are on carbon reduction, increases in active travel, and public realm that promotes well-being and empowers local communities and community wealth building.

Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target? Yes. Delivering new attractive public realm and active travel infrastructure which has been informed by disabled people will mean less reliance on carbon emitting modes of transport.

Privacy and Data Protection impacts: There are no immediate data protection impacts. However, individual names will be protected if requested.

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

7 Recommendations

7.1 It is recommended that Members:

- (i). Consider the contents of this report;
- (ii). Note that further updates on progress of the Accessible and Inclusive Design Forum will be brought back to committee for consideration.