Item 2

28th February 2023

Glasgow City Council

Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring Committee

Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhoods Regeneration and Sustainability

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URBACT UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS PROJECT

Purpose of Report:

To update Committee on the approach, learning and outputs of Glasgow's participation in the URBACT Sustainable Development Goals Project.

Recommendations:

a) Committee notes the update.
b) Committee notes the next steps.

Ward No(s): Citywide: ✓

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

***PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING**:*

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1 Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update to committee on the City's participation on an URBACT Pilot network which explored the localisation of the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the context of Glasgow.

1.2 The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are accepted as 'the blueprint to to achieve a more sustainable world for all'**.** They represent a call to action to end poverty and inequality, protect the planet, and ensure that everyone can enjoy healthy, fulfilling and prosperous lives. The 17 SDGs are illustrated below for information:



Source: https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/about-us/sustainable-development-goals-sdgs-and-disability.html

1.3 The Network was funded through the European Regional Development Fund's URBACT III European Territorial Cooperation program. For the last two years Glasgow City Council has been working with other EU cities, through peer learning and integrated action planning, exploring how we can implement the SDGs in cities, with localised targets and indicators.

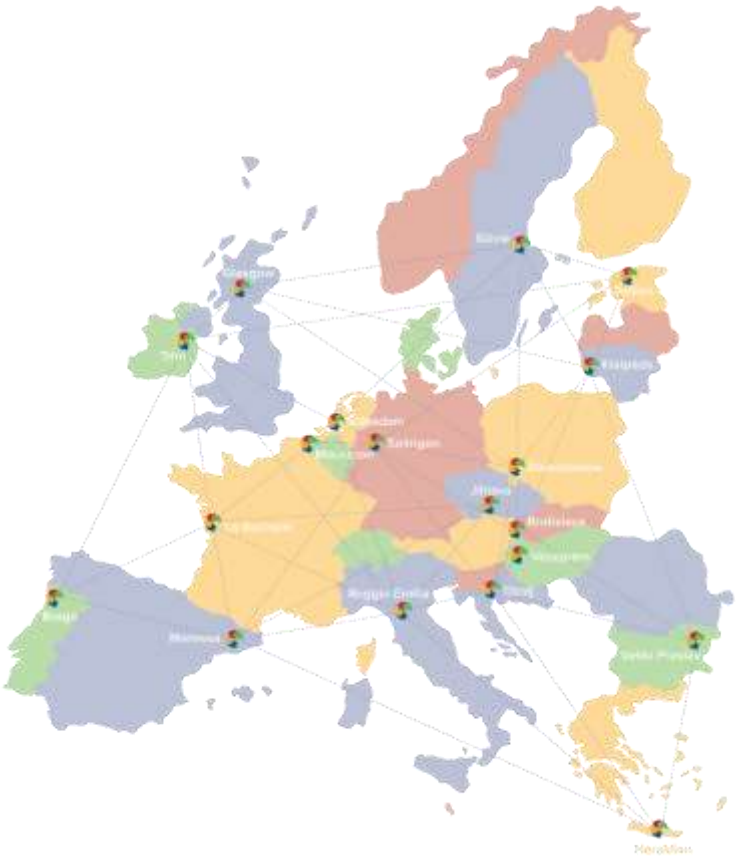
2 Background

2.1 Glasgow's Climate Plan includes a target for achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030, while addressing the key impacts of our changing climate as a result of increased rainfall and increased temperatures, and existing health and socio-economic inequalities.

2.2 There are two specific actions in the Climate Plan which link directly to this URBACT project:

- Action 11 – To set up Glasgow's Just Transition Commission to ensure the burden of climate impacts is shared equitably and that all in Glasgow have equal opportunities of access and success in our low carbon economy.
- Action 13 – Undertake a Voluntary Local Review to confirm Glasgow's commitment to the UN SDGs.

2.3 Glasgow's participation in the URBACT network, Global Goals for Cities, alongside 18 other European Cities, supported our progress towards both of these actions. The image below shows the cities involved.



The URBACT city network. Source: https://urbact.eu/networks/global-goals-cities

3 Methodology

3.1 The concept of integration of SDGs into decision-making in Glasgow was developed in collaboration with the URBACT Local Group (ULG). It included stakeholder engagement both internally within Glasgow City Council and externally with local organisations; peer knowledge exchange with all 18 partners in the network, and was supported by both the lead expert, Stina Heikkilä from the URBACT network, and the lead partner, the City of Tallin. The ULG met every 2 months to support the partners with this pilot. The core members are listed below:

- Glasgow City Council; Economic Development; Parks & Biodiversity; Planning, Education Services
- Glasgow Disability Alliance
- Glasgow Centre for Population Health
- Glasgow Science Centre

3.2 The ULG explored how the UN SDGs can be delivered and measured in Glasgow's context and how we could include baseline analysis, proposing actions for the city to localise the UN SDGs. Moving forward, this localisation will be monitored and supported through a detailed Voluntary Local Review (VLR). The VLR is essentially a voluntary sub-national reviews of SDG implementation in the city, and encompasses both the monitoring and analysis of Glasgow City Council's achievements with respect to the SDGs at local level

3.3 This process aims to align local policy and strategy with the UN SDGs, creating a coherent and transparent approach to support the delivery of the Glasgow Climate Plan.

3.4 As part of this project we followed 5 steps to localise the UN SDGs and develop integration: Diagnosis, Visioning, Action Planning, and Fixing Indicators.

3.5 The outcome of following these 5 steps, is the creation of a process to integrate the SDGs into policy and strategy across all of Glasgow City Council's activity.

3.6 Glasgow's SDG integration process will aim to: -

- Enable the city council to continue to build capacity and support the delivery of our ambitious targets to achieve net zero carbon and climate resilience by 2030.

- Develop and implement a tool to embed climate action at the heart of all major municipal decisions, mainstreaming sustainability considerations across all services and ALEOs.

- Improve how the city council engages internally and externally with local communities, institutions, and partners to foster collaboration to deliver on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, building a greener, more caring, and healthier city.

4 Key Outputs

4.1 As part of Glasgow's participation in this URBACT network, 6 workshops were run in collaboration with the URBACT Local Group, and in consultation with both community organisations and other city stakeholders. The stakeholders reviewed the SDGs and the relevant SDG targets for Glasgow.

4.2 The SDG targets identified through the workshops as most relevant for Glasgow, align with existing plans and policies, including the Climate Plan. This resulted in the creation of 4 themes which are linked to the most relevant SDGs for the city; these are outlined below.

Theme 1: Governance & Strengthened Collaboration
Relevant UN SDGs: SDG 4, SDG13, SDG17
Relevant UN SDG Targets - 4.2 Education about the goals. - 13.2 Integrate climate change measures into local policies, strategies and planning (locally adapted). - 17.14 Policy coherence for sustainable development is enhanced.
Relevant UN SDG indicators - Percentage of projects in partnership with at least 2 other sectors. - Percentage of city administration's staff that participated in training sessions and/or exchange programmes related to integrated and sustainable urban development.

Theme 2: A Just, Caring and an Inclusive City
Relevant UN SDGs: SDG1, SDG5, SDG10, SDG 11, SDG 12, SDG13
Relevant UN SDG Targets: - 11.7 Safe, inclusive and accessible access to green and public spaces is provided with particular reference to vulnerable groups in the city. - 12.8 Ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature. - 13.3 Capacity and knowledge on all aspects of climate change has been improved.
Relevant UN SDG Indicators - Percentage of people living within 300m of a public open area - Citizens' satisfaction with the local community - Citizens' satisfaction with the local community with regards to employment opportunities

Theme 3: Biodiversity, Health and Nature Connectivity
Relevant UN SDGs: SDG 3, SDG 11, SDG 15
Relevant UN SDG Target: - 11.3 Inclusive and sustainable urbanisation is enhanced in Glasgow's neighbourhoods. - 11.B Integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, climate change, resilience to disasters are increased locally. - 15.5 Degradation of natural habitats are reduced, and the loss of biodiversity halted and reversed across Glasgow.
Relevant UN SDG Indicators - Connectivity measures - Native biodiversity in built up area - Community within 300 m open/ green space

Theme 4 The Climate Emergency
Relevant UN SDGs: SDG11, SDG13, SDG15
Relevant UN SDG Targets: - 11.B Integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, climate change, resilience to disasters is increased locally. - 13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in the city. - 13.2: Integrate climate change measures into policy and planning.
Relevant UN SDG Indicators - Ecological footprint - A climate change adaptation plan - Greenhouse Gas Emissions - Percentage of the population Exposed to Flood risk

4.3 These themes and priority SDGs will support further discussions with internal and external stakeholders to develop an Integration process, with a view to supporting effective UN Sustainable Development Localisation in the city.

4.4 They will also support and guide Glasgow's forthcoming Voluntary Local Review as described in section 3.2.

4.5 Furthermore, the city's participation in the Network resulted in the following:

- A **letter of support** for the effective delivery of the UN SDGs signed by all City Leaders, including Cllr Aitken on behalf of Glasgow City Council. It can be found here.

- A **learning toolkit** to help further the localisation and implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. It can be accessed here.

- A Case Study outlining UN SDG localisation in the city.

- Climate Change Impact Assessment Methodology discussed at this committee in January 2023.

5 Next Steps

5.1 The proposed next steps are to:

- Disseminate the findings and lessons learned through participating in the network with members of Sustainable Glasgow and other internal project participants. This dissemination will include a final ULG meeting to reflect on the lessons learnt and legacy from the project.

- Develop an approach to integrating the UN SDGs into existing and new policies and strategies, such as the City Development Plan, Strategic Development Plans, Climate Plan, Open Space Strategy, etc, to be considered by the Council's Climate & Sustainability Scoping Group and the Climate & Sustainability Board.

- Work in tandem with the City Development Plan and NPF4 to develop a proposal for a UN SDG Champions network to drive forward UN SDG implementation across the city and take to Council's Climate & Sustainability Scoping Group and the Climate & Sustainability Board.

- Undertake a Voluntary Local Review of the UN SDG's in the city as described in section 3.2 of this report.

6 Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

Financial:	No direct implications
Legal:	No legal implications
Personnel:	The plan is proposed to be implemented using existing staff resources.
Procurement:	No procurement implications.

Council Strategic Plan:	Specify which Grand Challenge (s) and Mission (s) the proposal supports. Where appropriate the relevant Commitment can also be listed. The plan supports the grand challenge: Fight Climate Emergency in a Just Transition to Net Zero, empowering the city council to both envisage the transformative action required, and to take meaningful action to achieve it, developing a shared language for a systems-based approach.
Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:	
Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25? Please specify.	Yes, the proposal seeks to operationalise the principles of the 2030 agenda, reflecting how as an organisation and a city we are representing the world's diversity in terms of gender, geography, ethnicity, disability and other categories, enabling a reflection about the way we work - how we identify priorities, how we engage with our partners; how we implement activities and how we measure and report on progress.
What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?	The proposal will have a positive impact as it seeks to include equalities considerations across all decision making processes.
Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-economic disadvantage.	The proposal aligns with the UN sustainable Development Goals, particularly the implementation of its three guiding principles: to take a human rights-based approach, leaving no one behind, supporting gender equality and women's empowerment.
Climate Impacts:	
Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify:	The proposal supports the overall implementation of the city's Climate Plan, including its vision for a fairer, greener and healthier city.
What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal?	The proposal seeks to address the climate and ecological emergency by encouraging monitoring and tracking of the city's action to address global climate change, but also to increase resilience and prepare for the local impacts of global climate change.

Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target?	The proposal includes four key missions, one of which proposes to support the city's net zero target.

Privacy and Data Protection Impacts:	NO
Are there any potential data protection impacts as a result of this report Y/N	

7 Recommendations

a) Committee notes the update.
b) Committee notes the next steps.