Item 6

11th April 2023

Glasgow City Council

Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City Policy Committee

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

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Sustainability and Biodiversity Guidance for Events

Purpose of Report:

To update Committee on the approach to introduce guidance and requirements that enhance sustainability and biodiversity measures for events.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Committee note the content of the report.

Ward No(s):	Citywide: ✓
Local member(s) advised: Yes ☐ No ☐	consulted: Yes ☐ No ☐

1. Background

1.1 A sustainable events ecosystem will contribute to Glasgow's Net Zero Carbon ambition. Sustainability and biodiversity will be a key feature in the Glasgow Events Strategy, Tourism Strategy and Cultural Strategy; all of which are currently being reviewed for launch in the next year.

1.2 The city's commitment to achieving its 2030 Net Zero Carbon Target aligns strongly with the ambition of many of the national and international event owners and partners that the city currently works with or may in the future.

2. Petition 2022

2.1 In January 2022, a petition was presented to the Wellbeing, Empowerment, Community and Citizen Engagement City Policy Committee with regard to 'Environmental and Biodiversity Risk assessment for use of Public Land'. The petition can be found in Appendix 1.

2.2 The petitioner requested that the Council review its approach to the granting of events specifically in relation to assessing and mitigating environmental and biodiversity impact.

2.3 The Council delivers on biodiversity through the implementation of the Glasgow Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP). The most recent update to Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City Policy Committee (28th February 2023) is available here.

2.4 In support of mitigating the environmental and biodiversity impact of events held within council parks, the Sustainability and Biodiversity for Events in Parks group was established in September 2022. The group membership includes officers from NRS' Events, Sustainability and Biodiversity services together with colleagues from Glasgow Life. The group's remit is to review the current processes and conditions of let which will reflect enhanced environmental and biodiversity conditions. Guidance will be provided to event organisers to support the objective.

2.5 NRS Events manage the permission to use process which allows for events and activities to take place in the City's parks. This process enables GCC to attach specific conditions which the applicant is required to comply with.

2.6 These conditions cover a wide range of issues such as health and safety, noise, traffic management and access rights.

The full list of conditions may be found here:
https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=30728&p=0

The undernoted generic sustainability related conditions are currently included:

Condition 5 - sustainability policy compliance
Condition 13 - prohibition of balloon/sky lantern release
Condition 15 - bond requirement to deal with damage/re-instatement
Condition 29 - environmental levy
Condition 32 - waste and cleansing
Condition 35 - compliance with environmental legislation

3. Proposal

3.1 This committee paper details the work of the Sustainability and Biodiversity for Events in Parks group and the plan for the next 3 years. (Appendix 2)

3.2 The immediate priority is to engage with those event organisers whose events have a larger sustainability and biodiversity impact, through scale of their operation. The revised conditions will mitigate environmental and biodiversity impact, including energy use and waste management processes.

3.3 The prioritisation of large events will enable NRS to use the learning from working with large scale events to build both internal capacity and knowledge and create conditions in subsequent years, which are proportionate for medium and small scale events.

3.4 Major event organisers will be required to trial the provision of more detail on how they are addressing the sustainability and biodiversity impact of their event.

The additional information requested will cover 3 aspects:

1. Essential and desirable commitments for each sustainability aspect.
2. Sustainability performance indicators.
3. Information on their Net Zero target and planned route to achieve it.

3.5 The following biodiversity conditions for major events will be piloted:

1. Appointment of an ecologist throughout the event planning, delivery and debrief process.
2. Reporting of the monitoring process/results as above.
3. Mapping of GCC identified exclusion zones where habitats require to be protected when planning event layouts.

4. Any site-specific restrictions in relation to placement/direction of lights or speakers.

3.6 Engagement with the major event organisers such as DF Concerts in relation to TRNSMT at Glasgow Green and concerts at Bellahouston Park and ITISON for events held at the Botanic Gardens is progressing and they are commencing integration of the new conditions into their existing plans.

4. Opportunities and Challenges

4.1 The Sustainable Glasgow Charter sets out a series of commitments for organisations to help achieve the city's target of net-zero carbon emissions by 2030. Expanding this Charter to include statements in relation to the running of events could provide an opportunity to include event organisers as signatories and help encourage more sustainable events. Amendments to the Charter will be explored and presented to the Sustainable Glasgow Board for consideration.

4.2 It should be noted that the introduction of these conditions will result in additional cost to event organisers which, along with general increase to charges, may impact the feasibility of events.

4.3 The introduction of these new conditions will be GCC officer resource intensive in years 1 and 2 as there will be a greater amount of documentation to review and more engagement with organisers. It is anticipated, however, that this commitment in time will gradually reduce as compliance levels are achieved.

4.4 Conditions of let lack certain enforcement powers. This is not to say there is no recourse, indeed where there is evidence of non-compliance, particularly if there is no clear attempt to comply, permission can be withdrawn or not granted for future years' events. Furthermore, without permission to use the land, a licence cannot be granted by GCC Licensing. It is an offence to operate an event without the necessary licenses in place.

4.5 The cost of delivering events on behalf of the city is likely to increase with the new sustainability measures, this is in addition to the already significant increase in the cost of delivering events post-pandemic such as infrastructure hire and stewarding costs. The increase in budget pressure may impact the viability of events in their current form and within the current budget of Glasgow Life. Annual events currently delivered by Glasgow Life which may be impacted by the additional costs related to these important initiatives will include: Glasgow Mela; Merchant City Festival; World Pipe Band Championships; Glasgow Christmas Lights Switch On and Kelvingrove Bandstand programming.

4.6 These are all key events in Glasgow's annual events calendar but any additional one-off events hosted in our city parks and green/grey spaces will also be affected. Glasgow Life are committed to this agenda and will work with NRS to mitigate any cost increases by looking at opportunities for efficiencies and cost savings. We are not able at this early stage to estimate the overall

scale of upward budget pressure across the events portfolio as a result of these specific measures but items such as the appointment of an Ecologist, monitoring teams and arrangements for recording, storing and making available results will all incur meaningful costs.

4.7 A host city's commitment to sustainability in its widest sense has become a key priority for many event owners and can provide a competitive advantage for Glasgow to attract and secure future major events.

4.8 There is an opportunity as a host city to work with event owners to continue to innovate in the delivery of sustainable events and showcase Glasgow as a sustainable city to visit and work.

4.9 Showcasing our approach will further promote the city not only for events but to the wider tourist and business community.

4.10 This approach will bring with it enhanced opportunities to contribute positively to achieving our Net Zero Target.

5. Next Steps

- Year 1 commitments will be progressed.

- The Sustainability and Biodiversity for Events in Parks group will continue to meet to ensure milestones are reached and identified actions implemented.

- Investigate the availability of alternative energy sources for events.
  Most large and medium scale events use generators on site, many of which have significant emissions. Glasgow City Council will further investigate opportunities to support event providers with clean power and possible funding sources.

- In the initial stages of implementation, the focus is on amending the Conditions of Let which apply to events held in parks. During this period, officers will engage with the Corporate Licensing team to explore options around licence conditions for events. This would enable consideration on the application of the conditions to all events including those not held in a City park.

- Continue to support the development of the Glasgow Events Strategy, Tourism Strategy and Cultural Strategy relative to events in parks.

6. Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

Financial: *There are no new financial implications arising from the report*

Legal:	*No new legal issues*
Personnel:	*No personnel issues*
Procurement:	*Procurement processes will be involved going forward but not related specifically with this paper*

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.

Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25? Please specify.	n/a
What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?	No significant impact
Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-economic disadvantage.	n/a

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 event providers to consider their impact and take action towards making positive contributions to

	the overall city's action to address global climate change.
Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target?	Yes the proposal will contribute through requiring event providers to understand and reduce their emissions.

Privacy and Data Protection Impacts:	
Are there any potential data protection impacts as a result of this report:	No

7. Recommendations

7.1 It is recommended that the Committee note the content of the report.

Appendix 1 - Petition for Consideration

ITEM NUMBER	DATE RECEIVED	PETITION TITLE AND PETITION STATEMENT	WARD(S) AFFECTED	TOTAL NUMBER OF SIGNATURES
X	31st October 2021	"Environmental and diversity risk assessment for use of public land". The Council is responsible for statutory Licenses and Permission to Use contracts for individuals, groups and companies seeking to use public land for events, gatherings and commercial purposes. We are concerned the Council must set and follow high standards in all related processes and should ensure transparency to support public confidence. Currently, GCC doesn't require applicants to produce public-facing environmental and biodiversity impact statements. The public is not informed of any assessment of possible harmful impacts of use of a space, e.g. emissions, air/water/noise/light pollution, increased transport/traffic burden, and the impact of these factors on urban ecosystems and biodiversity. In short, the public doesn't know what harm any use of their public spaces may cause them, their children or their local environment. We call on the Council to demonstrate commitment to sustainability, net zero emissions and protection of biodiversity by requiring transparent assessment of public land use. New process standards are required to ensure (1) applicants seeking to use public land provide adequate publicly-available environmental and biodiversity impact assessments and (2) that the Council's engagement is also open to public scrutiny	All	92

		before permission is granted. The Council should - Require and make public environmental & biodiversity impact assessments for all use of public land - Allocate resource (funds & personnel) to create template impact assessments for applicants & an online library of submitted assessments for public scrutiny - Require commercial applicants to offset projected emissions before use covering Scopes 1-3 and using an accredited Scottish offsetting programme		

Appendix 2 – Action Plan

YEAR	Action #	SERVICE AREA	ACTION
2023/24	1	NRS Events	Update Conditions of Let (CoL) to include: • reference to sustainability requirements for major events • reference to generic Sustainability guidance for all events • reference to biodiversity requirements for major events • reference to generic biodiversity guidance for all events • banner on website advising of changes • engage with cleansing services to ascertain if services can be provided to support recycling on event sites • update website
	2	Glasgow Life	Commitment to explore resources to support the review of Glasgow Life's current sustainability plans and develop and update Glasgow Life' current Environmental and Sustainability Policy and Action Plan, which will include deliverables for Glasgow Life Events core events environmental and sustainability planning. As deliverables are agreed and put in place, update and amend Glasgow Life documentation. Ensure deliverables encompass Glasgow City Council's Events Sustainability and Biodiversity Action Plan requirements • Waste – work alongside GCC cleansing to ensure best practice and most efficient waste streams are in place for event generated refuse • Sustainable Travel – continue to promote and enhance use of public transport and provide information on bus, train and underground services as part of GL marcomms strategy across all our events to reduce the impact of car usage /travel. Promote sustainable transport methods, including cycling and provision of cycle parking at our events where possible, as

			well as use of electric vehicles where possible. • Eradicate single-use bottles and provide advice on packaging and best practice to suppliers via GL procurement process and scoring criteria when awarding contracts for catering and bars • Fresh Water – continue to provide fresh drinking water on event sites and encourage audiences and staff to utilise this service using their own re-fillable containers • Review procurement procedures - working with suppliers to ensure sustainable practices are in place • Digital Information – we work closely with marcomms colleagues to reduce the need for print material by providing digital event information and content • Online Information Sharing – we utilise a secure external file sharing platform for all internal and external partners which significantly reduces the need for printed materials • Collate and attend relevant training, industry events and conferences
	3	NRS Events & Sustainability	With support from NRS Sustainability, meet with large event organisers to understand existing sustainability practice and feed into collation of an evidence base from across other local authority sustainable events advice. • Prepare guidance for sustainable practices for events • Identify requirements for inclusion on CoL for major events (over 20K capacity). e.g. creation of an Organisational Environmental Policy • Attend a selection of events held in 2023 to review sustainability delivery at major events and prepare for year 2 actions • Together with the Sustainability Team, review paperwork submitted by major events Amendments to the Sustainable Glasgow Charter will be explored and presented to

			the Sustainable Glasgow Board for consideration in relation to delivering sustainable events.
	4	NRS Biodiversity	• Prepare a standard generic guidance note for biodiversity protection for events • Identify requirements for inclusion on CoL for major events (over 20K) ie: • Attend events in 2023 to monitor compliance and prepare for year 2 actions • Review paperwork submitted Provide a list of Ecologists who can be contracted to provide expert advice around the wider environment - as follows: • Undertake preliminary works in advance of the event – this to provide specific advice and guidance around environmental issues. • Undertake a monitoring role during set up, actual event and derig to ensure best practice. • Create a report highlighting best practice and any specific lessons learned for future years – this to be shared with GCC.
2024/25	5	NRS Events	Update Conditions of Let to include: • Reference to sustainability requirements for medium events • Reference to biodiversity requirements for medium events • Continue to liaise with colleagues to identify any changes/enhancements to the guidelines
	6	Glasgow Life	Evaluate and review our Environmental and Sustainability Policy and Action Plan: • Assess if targets are being met, investigate and resolve issues and ensure successes are recorded for audit • Make changes to the policy and action plan where required • Continue to work with external advisors

			• Continue to attend relevant training, industry events and conferences
	7	NRS Events & Sustainability	With support from NRS Sustainability, develop templates for small/medium events to document sustainability: • Identify requirements for inclusion on CoL for medium events (5-20K capacity) • Attend events held in 2024 to review sustainability delivery and prepare for year 3 actions • Together with the Sustainability team, review paperwork submitted
	8	NRS Biodiversity	Identify requirements for inclusion on CoL for medium events (5-20K capacity), i.e.: • Attend events in 2024 to monitor compliance and prepare for year 3 actions. • Review paperwork submitted. • Review Ecologist report from 2023 and decide actions for 2024. • Assess all parks across our estate for potential inclusion in an events use database which would be public facing, taking into consideration biodiversity and ecological assets within each area. This would include practical vent logistics.
2025/26	9	NRS Events	Update Conditions of Let to include: • All sustainability and biodiversity requirements for all levels of events
	10	Glasgow Life	Evaluate and review our Environmental and Sustainability policy and action plan: • Assess if targets are being met, investigate and resolve issues and ensure successes are recorded for audit • Make changes to the policy and action plan where required • Continue to work with external advisors • Continue to attend relevant training, industry events and conferences

	11	NRS Events & Sustainability	Develop requirements and guidelines for small events (<5000)
	12	NRS Biodiversity	Develop requirements and guidelines for small events (<5000)