Item 2

21st September 2023

Glasgow City Council

Wellbeing, Equalities, Communities, Culture and Engagement City Policy Committee

Report by the Chief Executive

Contact: Michelle McGinty, Head of Policy and Corporate Governance

Open Government Action Plan Update

Purpose of Report:

This paper provides Committee with the progress and outcomes achieved under Glasgow's first Open Government Action Plan 2021-2023, and the proposed workplan to deliver the next Open Government Action Plan for Glasgow 2023-2027.

Recommendations:

The Committee is asked to:

- Note the progress achieved on the four Open Government Commitments within the Open Government Action Plan for Glasgow 2021-2023;
- Consider the proposed workplan and timescales to deliver a second Open Government Action Plan for Glasgow 2023-2027 by February 2024;
- Note that a draft Open Government Action Plan for Glasgow 2023-27 will be submitted to Committee in January 2024.

Ward No(s): Citywide: ✓

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

1 Background

1.1 Glasgow was announced as a member of the Open Government Partnership's Local Programme in October 2020 – the only UK City member of the Open Government Partnership (OGP). An Open Government Action Plan is a core requirement for Glasgow's participation in the OGP. A successful Open Government Action Plan provides a whole-of-government perspective to open government and should focus on significant open government priorities and ambitious reforms that are relevant to the OGP values of transparency, public accountability, public participation, and technology and innovation.

1.2 The Open Government Action Plan for Glasgow 2021-2023 focused on improving upon ongoing reforms, demonstrating clear improvement from the current practice, with four Open Government Commitments developed across key themes:

- *Participatory Democracy* and devolving decision making closer to communities - involving local people in decisions on local service provision, service design and public sector spend, and investigating local governance arrangements to achieve this;
- Exploring an *Open Digital Engagement Platform* where citizens can share proposals for neighbourhood and city improvements - enabling communities and third sector organisations participation in local debate and decision making by providing an accessible platform to source ideas, access and share local information, and collaborate and vote on local proposals;
- Co-creating an *Open Data Hub* with Communities - where citizens can access, and interact with, a broad range of datasets from Glasgow City Council and partner organisations. This will ensure communities and organisations have ease of access to information, through datasets, informative visuals and interactive dashboards, and data stories, which inform and influence public debate and decision-making (access, accessibility and availability); and
- *Building Awareness and Communications on Open Government* in the city - developing awareness, knowledge and capacity on open government across Glasgow City Council, our Community Planning Partners and stakeholders, and within the Third Sector and Communities. This will ensure Glasgow develops the co-creation process, increases levels of engagement and participation, and benefits from enhanced and innovative techniques and methodologies.

1.3 This paper provides Committee with a summary of progress and outcomes achieved under these four commitments, as set out within the Open Government Action Plan for Glasgow 2021-2023,

2 Glasgow's Open Government Commitments: Progress

2.1 The Open Government Action Plan covered a two-year timeframe from September 2021 to September 2023. An assessment will now be undertaken by the University of Glasgow to inform the development of the next four year plan.

2.2 A summary of the progress and milestones achieved for each commitment is presented below for Committee.

Commitment 1: Increasing Participatory Democracy - Exploring the Implementation of Citizens' Panels across Glasgow

Methods to increase participatory democracy are currently being considered as part of an overall Strategic Review of Community Empowerment Services. The piloting of an engagement model led by the council's Centre for Civic Innovation (CCI) is included in this, with two communities currently being consulted on the ways in which their £1 million allocation of a £23m Neighbourhood Infrastructure Improvement Fund should be spent.

This month the council was awarded the Open Government Award 2023 for Europe which was launched to recognise and reward reformers at the forefront of advancing open government. The submission was for the work carried out by CCI to empower colleagues, partners and communities by working in partnership to find new, innovative, local and citywide solutions.

The principles set out in the second action plan will guide the review of this work, and the implementation of effective models of engagement to increase citizen participation in decision making.

Commitment 2: Exploring an Open Digital Engagement Platform

2.3 Open digital engagement platform CONSUL is the principal way in which this commitment has been taken forward.

Currently an online consultation using CONSUL to engage citizens and community groups in the development of the new Digital Glasgow Strategy for the city is being carried out. This exercise and the engagement it is able to generate will provide further opportunity to embed CONSUL in stakeholders consultation processes.

Commitment 3: Co-creating an Open Data Hub

2.4 Glasgow City Council launched a new Open Data Hub in Summer 2021 - this has made data more accessible to citizens and other stakeholders as the platform provides not only access to the data, but tools that help to visualise and story tell around the data. Since 2021, the Council has continued to grow the content of the Open Data Hub, in terms of the data available, the apps created to help people make sense of the data, and the stories around the data - what the data tells us about the city. There are now more than 100 data sets published on the Hub.

2.5 The creation of content has been informed through engagement with structures and representative bodies that support community involvement in public decision making, including third sector bodies, Community Councils, Community Planning Area Partnerships, and Elected Members. For example the Community Planning Partnership was recently consulted on the development of dashboards for local Area Partnerships. The content has also been driven by immediate challenges facing the city such as Covid, climate change and poverty.

Commitment 4: Building Awareness and Communication on Open Government

2.6 There has been progress on Commitment Four with an Open Government Communications Plan delivered, a number of communications routes established, and the Open Government webpage established.

2.7 The building awareness and communication on Open Government commitment remains ambitious, and developing awareness, knowledge and capacity on open government across Glasgow City Council, our Community Planning Partners and stakeholders, and within the Third Sector and Communities will assist in developing a shared vision and genuine co-creation. The commitment requires to be further developed and integrated across our open government programme and approach within the Action Plan for 2023-2027.

3 Open Government Action Plan for Glasgow 2023-2027: Workplan and Timescales

3.1 The Glasgow Open Government Steering Group will define an engagement and co-creation process to deliver an Open Government Action Plan for Glasgow 2023-2027 during September and October 2023, building on existing engagement activity and established mechanisms. The Steering Group had an initial development workshop in August 2023, facilitated by the Centre for Civic Innovation, on vision and objective setting (exploring what we are trying to achieve, values, what's driving us forward, and potential barriers), project mapping (identifying existing and planned projects which support Open Government objectives), and exploring opportunities (understanding opportunities to collaborate with existing projects and how they are already engaging or plan to engage with communities). The outputs from this development session will inform the next steps for the Steering Group to agree their approach to development of Action Plan Two.

3.2 There workplan presented to the Open Government Steering Group in June 2023, highlighted the key stages that will be required in taking forward an Open Government Action Plan for Glasgow as:

Design Open Government Roadmap (September/October 2023)

- Open Government Steering Group development workshop on vision, objective setting, mapping and opportunities.
- Establish clear objectives for engagement on Open Government, consider existing engagement opportunities, and additional engagement and participative requirements (delivery options, implementation, and resources).
- Agree approach to engagement and co-design of Action Plan 2023-2027.

Evaluation and Learning from Action Plan One (September/October 2023)

- End of Commitment Assessments to evaluate level of completion and early results and outcomes from implementation.
- Final Learning Exercise with University of Glasgow to extract and analyse lessons, providing meaningful reflection on changes and results and the reasons for lack of progress – to inform learning for Action Plan Two.

Communications and Awareness Raising (September 2023 - ongoing)

- Phased awareness raising campaign and online communications with internal and external audience (information provision, stories, short films, and social media).
- Publish and promote Engagement Process for Action Plan Two and encourage citizen and Third Sector participation in the development of Action Plan Two.

Deliberative Workshops (November/December 2023)

- Deliver a programme of deliberative workshops as agreed by Open Government Steering Group for citizens, Third Sector and stakeholders with the Centre for Civic Innovation. This may include specific thematic workshops, broader open government workshops, feedback from existing engagement activity, and hosting dedicated open government sessions.
- Opportunities for Elected Member involvement and participation sessions.
- Potential Themes: Participatory Democracy, Digital and Data, and Climate Change.
- Clear consideration of audience and focus, for example Elected Members, Area Partnerships, Community Councils, Third Sector Interface Network, and Equalities Groups.

Publication of Draft Action Plan (January 2024)

- Final engagement to bring Open Government learning and engagement phases together, opportunity to refine broad commitments, and agree prioritisation of key Open Government themes (verification stage).
- Reporting back our findings and ‘what we heard’.

Agreement of Glasgow Open Government Action Plan 2023-2027 (February 2024)

- Final Draft Action Plan submitted for agreement by Glasgow Open Government Steering Group.
- Glasgow Open Government Action Plan 2 approval by Glasgow City Council and Glasgow Community Planning Partnership
- Submit Glasgow Open Government Action Plan 2024-2026 to Open Government Partnership.

3.3 A draft Open Government Action Plan for Glasgow 2023-2027 will be submitted to the Wellbeing, Equalities, Communities, Culture and Engagement City Policy Committee in January 2024.

4 Policy and Resource Implications:

Resource Implications:

Financial:	No financial implications identified at this stage
Legal:	No legal implications identified
Personnel:	No direct personnel implications identified
Procurement:	No procurement implications identified

Council Strategic Plan:	Grand Challenge 4: Enable staff to deliver essential services in a sustainable, innovative and efficient way for our communities. Mission 2: Run an open, well governed Council in partnership with all our communities.
Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:	
Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25	There is no direct contribution to the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25, however the Open Government agenda would support the ethos on participation and empowerment.
What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?	No significant equality impacts identified at this stage – however the implementation of an Open Government Plan is anticipated to have a positive impact. This will be reviewed in the development and implementation of Glasgow's second Open Government Action Plan to ensure we take account of equality issues relevant to each of our Open Government commitments and themes.
Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio economic disadvantage.	No direct impact on socio-economic disadvantage at this stage - Glasgow's Open Government Plan has the potential to indirectly impact on socio-economic issues during implementation of the commitments, for example through further participatory democracy.
Climate Impacts:	
Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify:	The Open Government Action Plan does not directly contribute to Climate Plan action, however there is strong alignment to Climate Plan Theme 1 on Communication and Community Empowerment. The potential to include a Climate Plan open government action within our second Open Government Action Plan for Glasgow will be pursued.
What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal?	No potential climate impacts identified
Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target?	No contribution to Glasgow's net zero carbon target

Privacy and Data Protection impacts:	No privacy or data protection impacts identified

6. Recommendations

6.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Note the progress achieved on the 4 Open Government Commitments within the Open Government Action Plan for Glasgow 2021-2023;
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