Item 6

5th September 2023

Glasgow Community Planning Partnership

Govan Area Partnership

Report by Patricia Boyce, Principal Officer

Contact: Yvonne Reilly Telephone: 07387253189

Govan Thriving Places

Purpose of Report:

To provide the Area Partnership with an update on the activities of Govan Thriving Places and to detail next steps to focus on key priorities post the challenges of Covid.

Recommendations:

The Area Partnership is asked to note the report.

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update on the current programme's progress, including the impact of the community connector role in Govan Thriving Place. It also details next steps for the work to assess and agree what the focus should be as the council and partners learn the lessons from the ways of working made necessary by the Covid pandemic.

2. Background

Thriving Places are neighbourhoods and communities in Glasgow which have been identified as needing further support to tackle local issues. The approach centres around partners working collaboratively with one another and with communities.

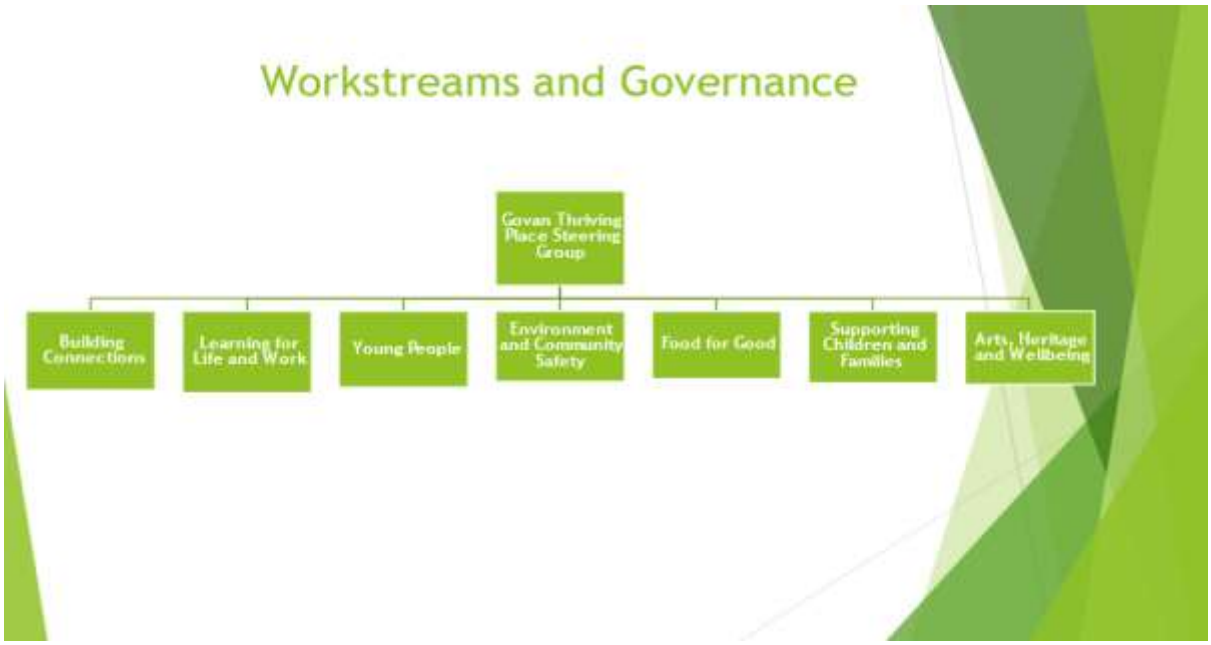
The initiative aims to improve outcomes for local residents by making better use of existing resources and assets in that area; community members skills and strengths; project & initiatives; the history and identity of the area; the buildings and range of services in the area.

The Govan Thriving Places model was formally launched in late 2017 with local residents to address the priorities identified through a two-year process of community engagement across Greater Govan and included the neighborhoods of; Elderpark, Linthouse, Central Govan, East Govan and Ibrox & Cessnock. Work continues to implement the Govan Locality Plan

3. Priorities Identified by the Community

The initial engagement process took place over a two-year timeframe, was led by three community anchor organisations; The Galgael Trust, Plantation Productions and Govan Community Project and involved a range of methods including a door to door survey, Wee Get Together Events, community film project and a community conference.

Feedback from this engagement was analysed and sorted into a number of strategic and thematic priorities driving the development of an associated governance and delivery structure which includes an overarching steering group and seven thematic groups;



Membership within in the structures included residents/volunteers, community groups, third sector organisations, elected members and a range of public sector organisations. The membership of each theme group reflects voluntary sector and community organisations relevant to that theme such that there is community and organisational representation across the thriving place structure. In addition, every member is a representative or advocate for community members and other groups through the work of their organisations in Govan.

The seven thematic groups continue to meet regularly (with the exception of Supporting Children & Families, which Together for Childhood is currently re-convening) and each has a lead organisation (with the exception of the Building Connections Group which is led by the Community Connector). Each has an action plan that has been refreshed to begin to reflect post Covid pandemic priorities.

The seven theme groups and leads are:

- Building Connections – Yvonne Reilly, Community Connector
- Learning for Life and Work – Connal Cochrane, Rangers Charity Foundation
- Young People – Glasgow Life, Stephen McDermott & Kevin Burke, GYIP
- Environment and Community Safety – Jim Ellis, NRS Neighbourhood Co-ordinator
- Food for Good – John Casey, HSPC
- Supporting Children and Families – Sharon Mather, NSPCC
- Arts, Heritage and Well Being – Alan Leslie, Friends of Elderpark & supported by the Community Connector

Partners and community members have made steady progress in delivering initial outcomes and sustaining the seven theme groups. Theme groups have continued to respond to demand and needs expressed by the community and have, in turn, created and facilitated better communications; providing organisations with a mechanism which efficiently shares information and works in partnership with each other and the community.

One of the outstanding examples of partnership and collaborative working across the area was the distribution of £400,000 Scottish Government Funding from the

Scottish Federation of Housing Associations. The Federation cited the innovative and collaborative structure of the ways of working in the area as a reason for allocating these much-needed funds during Covid.

Each theme group has provided a snapshot of activity:

- Continuing to meet quarterly/monthly sharing opportunities, strategic information.
- Partners identified to participate in the City-Wide National Skills and Outcomes Evaluation process
- Implementation of the TP Communication Strategy
- Saving Govan Volunteer Bank website after the service stopped March 2023
- Setting specific targets for specific issues and delivering with communities
- Continuing to perform a useful and significant coordinating role in supporting effective collaboration, networking and information exchange between the numerous and diverse arts and heritage organisations in Greater Govan.
- creating opportunities for local people to be connect to one another, as well as services, to develop supportive relationships, to build confidence and opportunities to change their communities.
- supporting/allocating funding in the post pandemic recovery phase.
- supporting the Arts and Heritage community of Govan's desire to bring about the establishment of a stand-alone entity to continue and expand upon the work of the Thriving Place AHW Theme Group into the future.
- Supporting community members/groups to have more influence of decisions affecting their community.

4. Community Connector Role/Activity

Govan Thriving Place is an approach to working in the community that focuses on improving outcomes for the community with the community, building on the strengths and assets of people and their community, and working with partners and services to make better use of the resources they have in order to meet community need and address the priorities as outlined above.

The community connector role in Govan has contributed to the success thus far by supporting community development work to foster better working relationships and connections and creating community cohesion where possible.

A key learning is that being embedded in the community has allowed the connector post to be physically close to and therefore gain a greater understanding of the challenges facing communities, their assets and how they can use these to develop practical and cost-effective solutions that sustainably meet local needs and circumstances. An example of this would be the Elder Park Equipment and Resource Library established four years ago, in response to the increasing numbers of community events being held throughout the year across Govan.

Thriving Places is striving for community members to aspire and be supported to become community leaders, the key to supporting this is the role of the community connector in building trust, maintaining a good reputation, making credible commitments, and safeguarding the integrity of the projects that are being developed or organisations and groups being supported.

Appendix One contains further detail on the impacts of the community connector’s role.

5. Next steps

The council and its partners across the city are learning the lessons and meeting the challenges posed by the Covid pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis.

New ways of working have emerged which require to be evaluated and nurtured and this work continues at national, city and local level.

To bring this work together in the best interest of the communities of Govan, colleagues from the city council's Centre for Civic Innovation are going to facilitate a number of consultative sessions throughout September that will focus on next steps, what the priorities of the theme groups should be, how they are resourced and what the associated governance should be.

Crucially these sessions will also focus on the links with citywide and national strategic plans to ensure alignment to bring maximum resource and investment to develop the community's priorities.

An invitation will be extended to all key stakeholders that will include; Elected Members, Community Residents, Public Sector & Third Sector Partners

The proposed timeline for this work is as follow;

- W/c 18th September - kick off meeting
- W/c 25th September - Planning and workshop design
- October - Run both workshops and write up

The outcomes of this work will be presented to the next Steering Group of the Thriving Place to be held on Wednesday 11th October 2023 at 10am within a local venue to be agreed

6. Recommendations

The Area Partnership is asked to note the report.

Appendix 1

- **Emergency Response to Covid 19 Restrictions in Govan – May 2020**

GTP was a member of the Govan's Temporary Emergency Funding Group whose purpose was to secure emergency grant funding from the Scottish Govt and distribute across the Greater Govan area. The TEFG was successful in securing circa £400,000.
The community connector contributed to the collective work and helped to develop a local application process and developed and analysed the community surveys to identify need and priorities for the allocation of the fund. The connector role ensured that there was widest reach across the community with community members feeding directly into the decision making process.

- **HMIE**

Following the most recent Govan CLD inspection in June 2022, the final report noted;

'Thriving Places continues to be a key driver for planning at a local level. There is an increasing awareness of the vision and work of Thriving Places amongst partners. An increasing number of partners are involved, and seven thematic groups are now operating. A Temporary Emergency Funding Group ensured that there was a rapid response to the needs of local people in Govan during the pandemic. As a result, £400,000 was secured and distributed to 32 community groups. Examples of successful outcomes include the **Food For Good group** distributing 7,000 meals and the **Arts and Heritage Group** supporting those suffering social isolation by providing devices and online activities.

'The Arts Heritage and Wellbeing partners work together well to source funding and other resources to meet identified needs within the Govan area. They track engagement and measure impact using a range of tools. This is helping to inform reports on progress to funders and wider stakeholders. As a result, they are continuing to develop partnership approaches to meet growing needs in the Govan area.

The community engagement planning, response and recovery partners also mobilised well to respond to the pandemic. As a result, relationships are stronger, they know more about what each other does and they share combined resources well. For example, the Arts Heritage and Wellbeing partners coordinated their collective learning offer. Locally this has resulted in improvements, including a rose garden and seating area in Elder park. A newly established junior and senior park run is attracting increasing numbers. This is helping to tackle social isolation and improve health and wellbeing.

- **Linking Local People/Groups/Organisations with Decision Makers**

Community members have been connected to decision makers, for example;
Elderpark Farm Building Renovation, Glasgow Riverside Innovation District, Covid Temporary Emergency Group, Dandelion Initiative, GCC NRS Open and Greenspaces Fund, Area Budget & Elderpark Library and Community Hub Community Consultation and more recently Fairfield Annexe; community consultation and aspirations for community ownership.

- **Working in Partnership to Address Gaps in Services**

Cost of Living – Community Anchors– Granted £26,971
A funding bid was developed in partnership with **Elderpark Housing Association** as lead applicant to target those that feel isolated and at high risk of harm to either mental health or physical health due to the pressures of the food and fuel crises, to share, support and form strong sustained friendships, whilst receiving a balanced meal, hot drinks and have somewhere warm to sit and socialize. Organisations were supported to provide events that would specifically bring people together, share experiences and build community resilience through friendship and kindness, while supporting people with tangible dignified ways to improve the current situation, food and fuel vouchers, pantry membership and 5 shops, phone top ups and actual cash to improve and widen choice.

St Constantines Community Hall providing ongoing support to volunteer management committee to develop funding bids, providing advice and support to help the committee understand their role and how to function effectively. Successful bid to Govan Area Budget providing a nutritious low cost meal for local pensioners.

Action for Pensioners providing to support to increase volunteer involvement and increase awareness of the service which provides assistance with welfare rights such as attendance allowance, pension credit etc. to older and more vulnerable people in the community.

Govan Heritage Centre providing support to increase volunteer involvement, link in more effectively to TP theme groups and increase footfall through more effective publicity and engagement with Govan communities.

Redesign of Govan Volunteer Website
The GVB project came to an end at the end of March 2023 after 3 years of operation & management by Govan Housing Association. Following discussions with volunteers, community members the Building Connections Theme Group and Learning for Life and Work theme group action was taken to ensure that the work to date was not lost and that community members, community groups and organisation continue to have a single point access to information about community events and training and volunteering opportunities.
The new website 'Good About is Govan' will be launched at the Community Neworking Breakfast on Friday 1st September 2023.

Happy Feet – Footcare Service
Working in partnership with community members, Govan's Mens Shed, Community Links Worker, Elderpark Housing Association and Linthouse Housing Association progress is being made to address the identified a gap in services to provide personal footcare to vulnerable people in the local community.

Development of a Govan Volunteer Academy
Working in partnership with community members, volunteers, Invisible Cities and Elderpark Housing Association to improve the volunteer experience in Govan.
In order to gain a better understanding as to what volunteers need and want to keep making amazing contributions to Govan we have arranged 2 engagement sessions: Wed 13th Sept & Saturday 16th Sept.

- **Supporting and Building Capacity of Community Members**

A. Volunteer & community resident involved in a range of community activity. Needing support to organise and link to the right people to progress with ‘growing space’ idea. Links made with Social Enterprise Team GCC to establish scope of group and explore development of constitution. This connection is ongoing due to large scale proposal by voluntary sector organisation with potential for joint work.

B. Additional discussions regarding the establishment of a Community Interest Company and supporting the unique role resident A has in the community. Linked into AHW theme group.

C. Support to elderly group and individuals who manage their own group/club which seeks to address loneliness and isolation within the community. Development of funding bids, information on funding opportunities and links to similar services/groups in the community. Individuals more confident, informed and knowledgeable regarding funding opportunities.

D. Support to community resident in role as main organiser of large community event. Links into the AHW theme group resulting in a larger scale community event from previous years and proposals to scale up in 2023.

E. Made connections with resident ‘D’ at pop up stall. Struck up a general conversation which highlighted recent bereavement, isolation and loneliness. Referral to local group with personal introduction, now an established member and happier to have connections in the community and new friendships forming.

F. Volunteer and local resident concerned about lack of community spaces and venues that are accessible for community groups and individuals. Linked in with community resident ‘F’ who is doing an audit of community spaces and venues.

G. Community member carried out a community consultation on the possible future use of a large empty building in the heart of Govan. Linked in with local stakeholders who are responsible for central Govan physical regeneration initiatives, ensuring there is no duplication of effort and that the planned

consultation takes cognisance of existing local strategies and community plans. Links with Central Govan Action Plan and Govan Workspace.

- **Arts Heritage & Wellbeing Group – Case Study**

Membership

A diverse range of organisations, comprising representatives of the local authority and HSPC, Local Housing Associations, third sector organisations with a focus on art and heritage, voluntary organisations and interested individuals.

The Value

Many of the core organisations deliver essential services to the community particularly for mental health and wellbeing, specifically identity change and employability (for example from a person living with and trapped by mental ill health to an artist with valuable expertise). This belies the still too commonly held belief that the arts and heritage are non -essential hobby areas of interest and thus low on the list of priorities for support. They are valuable repositories of hope, knowledge, expertise and experience which are key to creating a base from which to transform communities.

The Challenge

As well as the problems surrounding external perception of (and practical support for) arts and heritage, the group is disparate, with many of the key organisations having limited resources to devote to speculative initiatives. At times, members of the group are also in competition with each other for funding and public recognition, which may clash with attempts to encourage co-operation, sharing information etc. Persuading prospective members to devote time to the group: specifically to the development of strategy documents, action plan, joint funding initiatives etc; needs to be seen as worthwhile both for the organisations themselves, individually as well as collectively, and, ultimately for their end user.

Strengths

Range of organisations, different perspectives, skills, experience and networks represented, should be transformable into benefit and not challenge

Trust is the key, which requires time and opportunity to grow, achievable in part perhaps by supporting or developing outlets for sharing aspirations and lessons learned

Opportunity for sharing understanding on how long standing and new successful working relationships are achieved and sustained

Collaborative Projects; Winter Wanderland Project; Equipment and Resource Library for Community Events, Meet Me in Govan Project, Govan Tool Library Satellite, Winter Warmer Together Programme, The Old Govan Fair, Zero Waste Market, Kit For All & Park Run etc