Item 1

6th June 2023

Glasgow City Council

Environment and Liveable Neighbourhoods City Policy Committee

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

Contact: Deborah Paton Ext: 76862

Cycling and Urban Sports Strategy

Purpose of Report:

i) To present the draft Cycling and Urban Sports Strategy ahead of public engagement

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Committee notes the contents of the report and taking forward the Cycling and Urban Sports Strategy to public engagement

Ward No(s): Citywide: ✓

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

1 Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this paper is to present the draft Cycling and Urban Sports Strategy (C&USS) for review and to consider progressing the development of this document through public engagement.

1.2 The C&USS sets out the vision of what should be delivered in Glasgow to support significant increases in cycling and wheeled urban sport during the coming decade. A number of factors need to be aligned in order to achieve this vision for the city. This strategy describes the challenges facing cycling and urban sports in Glasgow, whilst outlining the significant potential to develop new opportunities in the city for cycling and urban sports.

1.3 The strategy is an output and commitment from Glasgow's Active Travel Strategy 2022-2031 (ATS) with the document being directly associated with the "Thinking Differently" theme and in addition to being a direct response to the Glasgow Transport Strategy's Policy 97.

1.4 Key national policies and other notable strategies have informed the C&USS, including Developing a nation of Cyclists (Scottish Cycling), Sport for Life – A vision for Sport in Scotland (sportscotland), Skateboard GB 2021-2023 Strategic Plan, and the (draft) Cycling Framework and Delivery Plan for Active Travel in Scotland 2022-2030 (Transport Scotland).

2 Draft Cycling and Urban Sports Strategy – role and content

2.1 The "Thinking Differently" theme within the ATS focusses on "encouraging, motivating and sustaining change" in travel behaviours while building on the legacy opportunities for the city from hosting major international sporting and cultural events such as the 2014 Commonwealth Games and the 2023 UCI Cycling Championships. The theme also incorporates the increasingly popular 'urban sports' and other forms of cycling as a means to encourage participation in physical activity among inactive residents; noting the potential for active travel to become embedded within the lifestyles of generally healthier, more active people.

2.2 The development of the draft C&USS has been informed through extensive and ongoing dialogue with representatives from Glasgow Life's Sport Development team and key stakeholders from within the field of wheeled urban sports. Early discussions narrowed the scope of the urban sports elements to 'wheeled' activities, notably: skateboarding, skating, scooting (push); BMX cycling and mountain biking (MTB).

2.3 The C&USS is split into several chapters covering: Foreword, Introduction, Vision & Aims, Policy Context, Outcomes, Challenges and Opportunities, and Delivery.

2.4 The Challenges and Opportunities chapter discusses Glasgow's historic social, health and economic inequalities, competing demands in the city for outdoors space and the funding pressures faced in delivering engagement programmes. This is set against current ongoing investments in place and travel networks, the legacy opportunities from the UCI 2023, the cultural contribution to the city from urban sports and related effect on cycling/urban sports tourism for Glasgow.

2.5 The Delivery chapter is split between "three Ps": People, Place and Programme. "People" discusses the coaches, leaders, etc., to deliver activities and training throughout Glasgow. "Place" discusses the diverse range of venues within Glasgow from international standard purpose-build venues to the more informal and community-accessible spaces and places for urban sports and cycling, and the future needs in the city. "Programme" focuses on the extent of type of programmes currently delivered in the city and notes key aims of these. A fuller definition can be found in the table below

People	Place	Programme
The volunteers, leaders, peer mentors, coaches, teachers, and officials who help to make cycling and wheeled urban sports happen. Growing and diversifying participation in cycling and urban sports requires us to support, retain and develop this essential people-resource.	The natural and built environment in which people can practice and participate in cycling and wheeled urban sports. Creating more and better-quality facilities, places and spaces that are safe and accessible, removes barriers to participation for many.	The cycling and wheeled urban sports activities provided to participants across Glasgow. Delivering diverse activity programmes in the heart of our communities provides the participation opportunities that many need to help them build cycling and urban sports into their lives.

2.6 The theme of Equality, Diversity, and Inclusivity (EDI) runs throughout the strategy. This has particular relevance for "People" and "Programme" in ensuring that the people both delivering and participating in programmes are from diverse backgrounds and representative of Glasgow's demographics, that

cycling and urban sports programmes are accessible and inclusive, and that opportunity to participate is equitable.

2.7 The importance of partnerships is highlighted throughout the strategy. The council and its ALEOS are working collaboratively with a range of partners, particularly within the third sector to develop and deliver a wide range of projects.

2.8 Several case studies are used to illustrate the strategy throughout the C&USS.

3 Engagement and next steps

3.1 The draft strategy is a first step in the development of the C&USS and will be subject to a minimum period of six weeks public engagement through the summer during the 2023 UCI Cycling World Championships. This event is taking place in Glasgow (and across Scotland) between August 3rd and 13th, providing a unique opportunity to promote the strategy at a moment when cycling in all its sport forms is capturing the attention of the city's residents.

3.2 Engagement events will be held throughout this period, with a key stakeholders event held during the Championships where the new strategy will be presented, and feedback invited. Comments on the draft strategy from the general public will also be sought through digital engagement; to be hosted by the Council's Consultation Hub.

3.3 Following the engagement period, feedback will be analysed, and the strategy adjusted accordingly, alongside the development of action plan. In response to feedback received, a final draft will be presented back to Committee in Autumn 2023.

4 Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

Financial:	The full costs of delivering the Cycling and Urban Sports Strategy (CUSS) has been met from existing staff resources.
Legal:	The report raises no new legal issues.
Personnel:	Internal and external resources and partners will be utilised in taking forward behaviour change activities.
Procurement:	None required

Council Strategic Plan:

The CUSS supports the following Council Strategic Plan 2022 – 2027

GRAND CHALLENGE ONE – Reduce poverty and inequality in our communities.

MISSION 3: Improve the health and wellbeing of our local communities

- Work with partners to promote and support people in Glasgow to achieve improved physical, mental and emotional health, and wellbeing.
- Work with partners to reduce health inequalities and the impact of deprivation and increase healthy life expectancy.

Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25? Please specify.	Yes, supportive of the stated outcomes, particularly outcomes 1,2, 6, 7-11, through the role of active travel investment supporting people to make sustainable, affordable & equitable travel choices in the city, the role of active travel in supporting physical and mental health improvement, and the role of the CUSS to assist facilitate and influence choice of travel.
What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?	The work will be covered by the overarching EqIA for the Glasgow Transport Strategy and the Active Travel Strategy. Individual EqIA screenings will be undertaken as appropriate.
Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-economic disadvantage.	Improving opportunities for access to sustainable and/or active travel and urban sports can help address barriers to social mobility, improve knowledge of alternative travel modes and sports available, access to training, services, and can help to address problems of physical and mental health and wellbeing.

Climate Impacts:

Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify:	The CUSS will assist in promoting and supporting sustainable forms of transport and access to open space. GCC Climate Plan Theme 3 – Well Connected and Thriving City.

	Action Number 51. Deliver a comprehensive active travel network, incorporating the spaces for people measures (following consultation) and enabling 20-minute neighbourhoods through the Liveable Neighbourhoods Plan.
What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal?	The projects will improve Glasgow's urban environment and connectivity including sports and leisure opportunities, thus leading to an improvement in a range of outcomes for the city's population.
Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target?	The proposal will assist in encouraging cycling and urban sports reducing the need to travel unsustainably and encourage people to live more locally improving the quality of place and respond to the requirements for the creation of resilient places to cope with and tackle climate change.
Privacy and Data Protection Impacts:	No data protection impacts identified.

5 Recommendations

5.1 It is recommended that the Committee notes the contents of the report and taking forward the Cycling and Urban Sports Strategy to public engagement.