

## Item 3

24th September 2024



Glasgow City Council

Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City Policy Committee

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

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### Glasgow Low Emission Zone Resource Allocation

#### Purpose of Report:

To provide Committee with an update on the utilisation of LEZ revenues allocated in the 2024-2027 budget to Community Climate Projects.

#### Recommendations:

It is recommended that Committee;

- 1) Notes the contents of this report;
- 2) Notes the proposal to establish a Low Emission Zone – Community Climate Project Support Fund; and
- 3) Notes the proposed timeline and process for funding applications.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

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

## 1 Background

- 1.1 GCC introduced Scotland's first Low Emission Zone (LEZ) in 2018 which targeted emissions from the bus fleet and required progressive improvements in the number of cleaner buses entering the city centre. However, extensive modelling of options highlighted that bus fleet improvements would not be sufficient on their own to achieve compliance with the air quality objectives in the city centre. The Glasgow LEZ was therefore expanded in scope to cover all other vehicle types.
- 1.2 The [LEZ final scheme design](#) was submitted to Scottish Ministers for final approval, which was received on 19 May 2022. The full Glasgow LEZ therefore came into effect on 31 May 2022, beginning a one-year grace period before general enforcement began on 1 June 2023.
- 1.3 Non-compliant vehicles entering the LEZ are subject to penalty charges set in [Regulations](#). Penalty charges are set to discourage non-compliant vehicle entry through an escalating scale of penalty charge for repeated entry to the zone.

## 2 Use of Residual Revenue

- 2.1 Section 27 of the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019 states, *“Any monies received from penalty charges in respect of a low emission zone scheme may be applied by the local authority only for the purposes of - (a) facilitating (directly or indirectly) the achievement of the scheme’s objectives”*.
- 2.2 Any income received through enforcement of the LEZ is firstly allocated to the costs of operating the scheme. Any residual revenue is allocated to the potential funding of projects which otherwise provide benefits in respect of the LEZ objectives.
- 2.3 The LEZ objectives are set out in the LEZ Scheme Design as follows:
  - Improve public health of residents of and visitors to the City of Glasgow by contributing towards meeting the air quality objectives prescribed under section 87(1) of the Environment Act 1999.
  - Contribute towards the emissions reduction targets set out in Part 1 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 through the promotion of low and zero emissions vehicles and the promotion of public and sustainable transport options.
  - Improve the amenity of Glasgow through the promotion of the Glasgow City Council Strategic Themes of A Vibrant City, A Healthier City and a Sustainable and Low Carbon City.
- 2.4 Detailed financial reporting in terms of income from penalty charge notices and expenditure incurred in operation of the LEZ enforcement system for financial year 2023 / 2024 was reported to the Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring

City Policy Committee in [August 2024](#). This report set out the residual revenue available after non-grant funded operational expenditure.

- 2.5 Council Budget directed that £250k of 2023/24 LEZ revenues be allocated to tree planting activity in the city centre, with a further £250k allocated to broader climate action activity as outlined in the objectives in section 2.3.
- 2.6 The LEZ Annual Performance Report identified net revenue of £747,511 for financial year 2023 / 2024. However, back office and enforcement staff costs were fully funded by Transport Scotland grant and this funding is not available for subsequent financial years. Therefore, the residual £247,511 will be retained for future operational costs with any surplus allocated to the city greening / tree planting activities.

### **3 Greening the City / Tree Planting**

- 3.1 As noted in section 2.5, a budget of £250K from the 2023/24 LEZ revenues was allocated to support workstreams in the 'Greening the City' programme. The funding will allow for more tree planting and greening projects, to be developed across the city. These projects will provide benefits in respect of improving air quality, local biodiversity and contribute towards Glasgow's aspirations of achieving the globally recognised status as a 'Tree City of the World'.
- 3.2 £165K of the LEZ fund has been allocated for the supply and installation of city centre trees in planters. A map of the proposed planter locations can be found in Appendix A. Additionally, GCC is investigating working with Trees for Streets, a charitable scheme from the national charity, Trees for Cities. This a Tree Sponsorship scheme that will allow GCC to work with a unique supplier to provide a full wrap-around service which includes promotion, marketing, engaging with residents, website management, data processing, crowdfunding, and donation collection for tree planting.
- 3.3 The trees in planters element of the project is currently out to tender and once complete will move to award and procurement of services. The arrangements in respect of the Trees For Streets element of the project has been approved by our legal and procurement depts with the intention to allocate the remainder of LEZ funding to this project.
- 3.4 'Greening the City' also includes other workstreams such as transformation of bus stop roofs into green roofs / bee stops and working with partner organisations to introduce innovative living / green walls and bee stops in the city. These workstreams may potentially further benefit from future LEZ funding, should this be available.

### **4 LEZ Funding - Objectives**

- 4.1 Use of LEZ residual revenue for project support represents an opportunity to maximise the environmental, health, social and community benefits of the LEZ

and allow for funding to be provided to groups and organisations which can deliver complementary projects across the city.

4.2 The Low Emission Zone – Community Climate Project Support Fund will support groups that will deliver projects in relation to the objectives of the LEZ. Support is available across three broad themes in line with these objectives. Applications which provide benefits across multiple themes will be assessed more favourably should the Project Support Fund be over-subscribed. Applications are invited for projects which:

- Contribute towards improvements in air quality and reductions in prescribed pollutant levels.
- Contribute towards climate change emissions reduction or adaptation.
- Improve the amenity of Glasgow or defined areas within the city, with an emphasis on the stated Strategic Themes - A Vibrant City, A Healthier City and a Sustainable and Low Carbon City

4.3 Through this fund, project support will be available between the value of £20,000 and £50,000 per project. The minimum funding allocation has been set in order to ensure that the application, monitoring and compliance requirements are proportionate for the successful applicants and to provide projects with sufficient beneficial impact. The maximum funding allocation has been set in order to ensure that an appropriate range and scope of projects may be considered for funding within the total fund value.

## 5 Timeline, Process and Governance

5.1 Table 1 below provides an indicative timeline for the next steps for the Project Support Fund.

Activities	Timeline 2024 - 2025					
	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Q1
Fund launched – application portal opens (5.11.24)						
Closing date for applications – portal closes (17.12.24)						
Assessment of applications						
Approval of recommendations by Climate Board						
Approved projects commence delivery						
Project completion and reporting						

Table 1

5.2 In common with similar GCC funding applications, it is intended that an online application portal will be established which will be accessible through the Council web site. Stakeholder information packs and application support will be available during the application period.

- 5.3 The fund will also be extensively promoted through the appropriate channels, including community engagement and written and social media. The establishment of the LEZ Project Support Fund represents a unique opportunity to further promote the benefits of the LEZ and inform the community that the benefits arising are not restricted to the main objective of improved air quality in the city centre.
- 5.4 Following initial assessment and technical and eligibility checks applications will be assessed by a panel of strategic lead officers from relevant service areas within the council family.
- 5.5 The assessment criteria will include:
- Compliance with all eligibility requirements;
  - Alignment with the LEZ objectives and outcomes - scoring will be weighted towards projects which provide benefits in relation to the first two of the three LEZ objectives and towards the geographic area of the LEZ;
  - Demonstration of need for project;
  - Ability to deliver outputs and outcomes within the fund's timescale;
  - Risk management; and
  - Value for money.
- 5.6 Where applications do not fully meet the required criteria or would benefit from advice and feedback from the assessment panel, this will be provided and where possible, a suitably modified application may be reassessed.
- 5.7 The assessment panel will prepare a report containing project funding recommendations for consideration by the Head of Sustainability. The recommended projects will then be submitted to the Climate Board for final approval.
- 5.8 Monitoring of the successful projects in respect of the terms and conditions of funding and the stated project milestones, will be undertaken by NRS Sustainability officers.
- 5.9 A draft application form is included in Appendix B to this report for consideration.

## **6 Next Steps**

- 6.1 Finalisation of the application process, including all necessary procedural, financial and legal requirements, will be undertaken in advance of the launch of the application process.
- 6.2 Promotion, application support and a publicity program will also be prepared to support potential applicants throughout the process.

- 6.3 Following approval of the successful applications and award of grant funding, a paper will be prepared to provide Committee with information on the approved and funded projects.

## 7 Policy and Resource Implications

### Resource Implications:

<i>Financial:</i>	The LEZ Project Support Fund is fully funded from residual revenue arising from the LEZ in financial year 2023/24.
<i>Legal:</i>	Use of LEZ residual revenue is dependent on the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019 and the associated Regulations.
<i>Personnel:</i>	Preparation, assessment and monitoring of the LEZ Project Support Fund will be undertaken using existing staff resources.
<i>Procurement:</i>	No procurement implications. Procurement may be undertaken by successful funding applicants in respect of delivery of the projects.

**Council Strategic Plan:** LEZ supports Grand challenge 3: Fight Climate Emergency in a Just Transition to Net Zero; Mission 1, Deliver sustainable transport and travel aligned with the city region.

### Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

<i>Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25? Please specify.</i>	The LEZ is supportive of the Council's stated Equality outcomes.
<i>What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?</i>	Funding applications will be assessed on their equalities impact.
<i>Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-economic disadvantage.</i>	Socio-economic impacts have been considered as part of the Integrated Impact Assessment of Phase 2 of the LEZ.

## **Climate Impacts:**

*Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify:*

Development of the LEZ directly addresses actions 22 and 53 of the Climate Plan. It also contributes towards actions 26,33,54,55 and 56. Funding applications will also be expected to support climate change actions.

*What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal?*

Project funding applications will be assessed on their climate impacts / benefits.

*Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target?*

Project funding applications will be assessed on their climate impacts / benefits.

## **Privacy and Data Protection Impacts:**

This report has no immediate impacts upon privacy or data protection.

## **8 Recommendations**

8.1 It is recommended that Committee;

- 1) Notes the contents of this report;
- 2) Notes the proposal to establish a Low Emission Zone – Community Climate Project Support Fund; and
- 3) Notes the proposed timeline and process for funding applications.

## Appendix A: City Centre Tree Planters Locations





**Community Climate Projects Support Fund**

**Glasgow City Council**

DRAFT Application Form

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**Before you begin:**

- For information on the Community Climate Projects Support Fund please refer to the [Insert webpage](#).
- Applicants must also refer to the following guidance before completing this application:
  - [Insert link to guidance document](#)

**Section A**

**About Your Organisation**

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This section is about the Organisation applying for funding. It will cover the Organisation contact details as well as the aims of the Organisation and the Organisational governance.

**1. Please provide the full legal name of your Organisation.**

.....

**2. Please confirm your organisation type**

(Private sector, Voluntary sector, Housing Association, Community Interest Company (CIC), University, FE College, SCIO, Constituted Charity, Other (please specify))

.....

**3. Company Registration Number (if relevant)**

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**4. Charity Registration Number (if relevant)**

.....

**5. Please provide the registered address and contact details for your Organisation.**

These details are for the Organisation who will be delivering the project. Please include full address including any house or building numbers, and postcode.

Address: .....

Email: .....

Website: .....

Telephone: .....

**6. This application must be submitted by a named person with authority to apply on behalf of your Organisation. Please provide their name, designation, and contact details.**

Name: .....

Designation: .....

Contact telephone number: .....

Email address: .....

**7. Please provide profile names of Social Media channels for your Organisation.**

Please provide any online or social media channels where you will advertise or share progress of your project. Glasgow City Council will aim to promote channels and posts of successful projects as appropriate.

Twitter .....

Facebook .....

Instagram .....

Tik Tok .....

YouTube .....

Other .....

**8. Please provide a brief overview of the purpose, aims and objectives of your Organisation. (200 Words maximum)**

**9. Please provide details of who is currently on your Board / Management Committee (please add more lines as needed).**

Name: ..... Designation: .....

Name: ..... Designation: .....

Name: ..... Designation: .....

Name: ..... Designation: .....

**10. As part of the application process, you are required to submit a copy of the following documents. Please tick to confirm these have been provided with your application.**

- Governing Document – this should be signed and dated.
- Latest Board/Committee minute - If you are required to redact the minute, please only redact sensitive or personal information before submitting.
- Latest approved Audited Accounts.
- A recent Bank Statement.

**11. Please tell us your Organisation’s total income and expenditure in your last financial year.**

Income            £

Expenditure    £

Surplus/Deficit £

## Section B

### About Your Project

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**1. Please provide the name of the project for which you are seeking funding. (10 words maximum)**

.....

**2. Please provide the project address:**

Address: .....

Website: .....

**3. Please provide the main contact for this project.**

Name: .....

Designation: .....

Email: .....

Telephone: .....

**4. What is the proposed start and end date for this project?**

Project Start: DD/MM/YYYY

Project End: DD/MM/YYYY

**5. Tell us about how you have identified the need for your project?**

**6. Is this an existing project?**

- Yes
- No

If you answered yes, please tell us how your project is currently being funded.

Funding sources:

	Funder Name	Funding Value	Funding Timeframe
1			
2			
3			

**7. Your Project Description – Summary**

Please provide a high level summary of your Project’s activities/services. (100 words maximum)

.....

.....

.....

.....

**8. Your Project Description - Details**

Please tell us about the project you want us to fund. Include **WHAT** activities / services you will deliver, **HOW** you will deliver these and **WHO** will deliver them. Please tell us **WHERE** and **WHEN** you will deliver these activities / services. Post codes of the areas the project will take place should be included. (1000 Words maximum):

**9. What are your expected project outcomes?**

<b>Outcome 1</b>	
<b>Outcome 2</b>	
<b>Outcome 3</b>	
<b>Outcome 4</b>	
Please add lines for further outcomes	

**10. Please tell us how your project plans to work with others to provide services or activities within the community. (500 Words maximum)**

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**11. Please provide information on the highest risks for your project delivery. These might include, technical risks, community engagement etc (200 words)**

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**12. What are the key milestones for the development and implementation of the project?**

Milestone	Target Month	Comments

## Section C

### Project Impact

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**1. The Community Climate Project Support Funding themes are outlined below. Please select which of the themes your project aligns with. Please select all that apply.**

- Contribute towards improvements in air quality and reductions in prescribed pollutant levels.
- Contribute towards climate change emissions reduction or adaptation.
- Improve the amenity of Glasgow or defined areas within the city, with an emphasis on the stated Strategic Themes - A Vibrant City, A Healthier City and a Sustainable and Low Carbon City

**2. Please describe how your project delivery will align with the themes selected. (500 words maximum)**

**3. What will be the short and long term benefits of the project on its beneficiaries and the wider community? Would you expect to achieve these outcomes without Community Climate Support funding? (Please describe in 500 words)**



4. **Please provide details of any wider environmental and socio-economic benefits your project will have** (i.e. increasing biodiversity, waste minimisation, improving health and wellbeing of citizens, providing access to fair work opportunities). (200 words)

5. **Please tell us how you will involve local people and communities in your project?** (1000 Words maximum)
6. **Please tell us WHO your project is targeted towards (beneficiaries). Please check all**

**target groups that apply.**

- Early Years 0-5 years
- Children 6-11 years
- Young People 12-24 years
- Working Age 16-64 years
- Older People 65 + years
- Carers
- Disability
- Ethnicity
- Families
- Gender
- Households in poverty
- LBGTQ+
- Lone Parents
- Other (please specify):

**7. Please advise if you have undertaken an Equalities Impact Assessment or considered the impact of your Project on people with protected characteristics. Please advise of outcomes.**

- Undertaken EQIA
- No EQIA
- Further detail provided below.

## Section D

### Funding

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1. Please tell us how much funding you are applying for.

- Please note that project support will be available between the value of £20,000 and £50,000 per project.

Amount of funding applied for: .....

2. Please provide a budget breakdown and total project costs, including additional funding sources (confirmed or unconfirmed).

Budget Area	Phase e.g. Q 1	e.g. Q 2		
e.g. Staff				
e.g. Equipment				
Total				

Total Project cost: .....

3. Please detail your plans for the project beyond the end of your requested funding period. Please include details of your proposed exit strategy. (200 Words maximum)

**Thank you for applying into the Community Climate Project Fund.**

**If you have any questions please email us on XXXX**