



Glasgow City Council

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

**Report by Chair of Wellbeing, Equalities, Communities, Culture
and Engagement City Policy Committee**

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Item 1

14th November 2024

**Wellbeing, Equalities, Communities, Culture and Engagement
City Policy Committee Annual Assessment**

Purpose of Report:

To provide an Annual Assessment of the work of the Committee as required by Standing Order 32 (8).

Recommendations:

- The Committee is asked to consider and note the Annual Assessment.
- Elected Members of the Committee agree to take or refresh their Equalities Impact Assessment (EQIA) training, if they have not done so since May 2023.
- Elected Members of the Committee agree to take or refresh their Public Processions training, if they have not done so since May 2023.
- Elected Members of the Committee agree to take Public Petitions training within the next 6 months.

Ward No(s): All

Citywide: ✓

Local member(s) advised: Yes ☐ No ✓

consulted: Yes ☐ No ✓

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1 Background

- 1.1 The Council's Standing Order 32 (8) notes the following in relation to City Policy Committees:

"An annual assessment will be carried out in each year to:

- assess the effectiveness of the workings of the committee, and to assess any training needs of members/officers; and*
- the effectiveness of the implementation of agreed policies.*

The assessment will be carried out by the relevant Convener in years 1 and 2, and an independent assessment will be carried out in year 3 and every third year thereafter. A report setting out the findings of the annual assessment will be submitted to the Operational Performance and Delivery Scrutiny Committee."

- 1.2 The Wellbeing, Equalities, Communities, Culture and Engagement City Policy Committee was established in December 2022 following an update to the Committee Terms of Reference by the Council.

- 1.3 The Committee has representation from three political parties (Scottish National Party, Scottish Labour Party, and Scottish Green Party) on the Council, and the Chair and Vice Chair are members of the City Government. It has met five times in 2024, and this report now takes the opportunity to assess the effectiveness of the working of the Committee and assess any training needs.

- 1.4 The Terms of Reference specific to the Committee are:

To fulfil the functions of policy development (including consideration of equalities issues) as they relate to Council policies and services for wellbeing, equalities, communities, culture and engagement, corporate Council policies, services and activities.

These functions include:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• Community Planning, including community justice;</i><i>• Glasgow Communities Fund;</i><i>• cost of living and financial inclusion;</i><i>• population health;</i><i>• equalities;</i><i>• community councils;</i><i>• public processions;</i><i>• public petitions;</i><i>• relationships with the third sector;</i><i>• community capacity building;</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• community empowerment;</i><i>• participatory budgeting;</i><i>• partnership engagement; and</i><i>• culture, sport and leisure and their impact on wellbeing within the city;</i><i>• procurement;</i><i>• employment and personnel;</i><i>• corporate communications and marketing;</i><i>• customer care; and</i><i>• open government.</i> |
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To act as a sounding board for the Council's input to the Glasgow City Integration Joint Board in relation to policy areas including health and social Care.

2 Co-opted External Members

- 2.1 Within the guidelines for City Policy Committees there exists the capacity to appoint up to four people as non-voting co-optees to bring access to external expertise, knowledge and experience, as necessary.
- 2.2 The Committee, following consideration of proposals, instructed officers to seek nominations of two non-voting co-optees from the following networks:
 - Community Councils within the city
 - Glasgow Third Sector Interface Network
- 2.3 Co-optees have provided valuable input to the Committee in the past 12 months, providing the Committee with the desired relevant external expertise, knowledge and experience.

3 Work Programme

- 3.1 The work of the Committee is guided by the Chair and the Vice Chair, in conjunction with the lead officer. Agendas have been kept manageable through the use of the Work Programme and agenda setting process – this has proven to be necessary given the wide remit of the Committee.
- 3.2 The wide remit of the Committee provides a route for work of the Council, which does not have a natural fit with another committee, to have a corresponding committee which can consider items of business. The Committee offers built-in redundancy to the wider committee structure. It is acknowledged that this can lead to unavoidable ebbs and flows of business for the Committee.
- 3.3 The Committee considered a Work Programme at its meeting on 18 January 2024 and are anticipated to consider an updated Work Programme on 23 January 2025.
- 3.4 All members have a standing invitation to input into the Work Programme. Members are welcome at any time to raise suggestions with the Chair, Vice Chair, or lead officer.

4 Policy Implementation

- 4.1 WECCE has contributed to the development of Council policy in the following key areas:

Employment & Personnel

- 4.2 The Committee has considered a number of items in relation to Employment & Personnel matters. These policies and programmes work to build support and develop staff to meet the Council's objectives, to value diversity, and to embrace modern ways of working. Items include; Staff Health and Wellbeing Strategy Update, and Communities Team Service Reform.

- Culture, Sport and Leisure and Their Impact On Wellbeing Within The City*
- 4.3 The Committee has considered a number of items presented by Glasgow Life. These policies and programmes contribute to inspiring every citizen and visitor to become engaged and active in a city globally renowned for culture and sport. Items include; Live Well Community Referral, Glasgow's Culture Strategy, Glasgow Community Learning and Development Strategic Partnership (CLD) Monitoring Report, Museum's Collections Development Policy, People Make Glasgow Update, and Glasgow Events Strategy and Action Plan.

- 4.4 The City Administration Committee delegated approval of disposals on the Council's behalf to this Committee, and there has been a number of considerations of Disposals for Museums and Library Collections. The Chair and lead officer for the Committee, in conjunction with Glasgow Life, is considering the best approach to this process going forward.

- Population Health*
- 4.5 The Committee acts as a sounding board for the Council's input to the Glasgow City Integration Joint Board in relation to policy areas including health and social care. In addition to a various reports relating specifically to the Health & Social Care Partnership, the Committee has considered a number of items which impact on population health including; Glasgow Begging Strategy: Annual Report 2023-24, and Health Determinants Collaboration.

- Glasgow City HSCP*
- 4.6 The Committee considered reports including; Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report 2022/23, and Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership Annual Business Plan (ABP) 2023.

- Equalities*
- 4.7 The Committee guides work which contributes to the Council meeting its requirements under the Equality Act 2010. Policy informed by the Committee ensures there are robust arrangements in place across the Council Family to ensure compliance, the sharing of good practice and a consistent approach, including an approach to conducting Equality Impact Assessments shared across the Council Family. The Committee have considered a report on the British Sign Language Plan.

- Cost of Living and Financial Inclusion*
- 4.8 The Local Child Poverty Action Report is considered on an annual basis by the Committee prior to submission to the City Administration Committee. Other reports considered in relation to financial inclusions include; Glasgow Helps, and Glasgow's Local Child Poverty Action Report 2023/24.

- Open Government*
- 4.9 The Committee supports the ongoing commitment to Glasgow's membership of the Open Government Partnership's Local Programme. Reports which demonstrate this commitments to being an open government include; Annual

Business Plan 2023/2024 for Chief Executive's Department and Annual Business Plan 2023/2024 for Financial Services.

Community Empowerment

- 4.10 In relation to community empowerment the Committee have considered a variety of reports including; Youth Participation, Children & Young People's City Charter, European Engagement Update, and Glasgow Communities Fund.

Public Processions

- 4.11 The Membership of the Public Processions Committee is drawn from this Committee and the Committee also considered the Public Processions Annual Report 2023/24.

Public Petitions

- 4.12 An Independent Assessment of this Committee's predecessor committee a report recommended that consideration was to be given to having Public Petitions heard at times outwith the Committee cycle. A Public Petitions Working Group was formed and reported to this Committee. The working group's recommendations included:

- updated guidance
- actions developed to improve accessibility and transparency
- annual report to this Committee
- continued support to the petitions process and its ongoing promotion

5 Effectiveness of the Working of the Wellbeing, Equalities, Communities, Culture and Engagement City Policy Committee

- 5.1 The Committee has generally worked effectively in the past 12 months. Members attendance is good, work constructively on a cross-party basis, and show a wide understanding of the business of the Committee.
- 5.2 The level of petitions is outwith the control of the Committee. In the past 12 months there has been no petitions considered by the Committee.
- 5.3 Meetings are webcast live and recordings are available on the Council website.

6 Training Needs

- 6.1 It is noted that members received mandatory and non-mandatory training sessions following their election to the Council. These training sessions are ongoing. There is no specific training required to sit on the Wellbeing, Equalities, Communities, Culture and Engagement City Policy Committee.
- 6.2 Given the relevance to the work of the committee, it is recommended that all Elected Members of the Committee take or refresh their Equalities Impact Assessment (EQIA) training, if they have not done so since May 2023.

- 6.3 As noted in the Public Petitions Working Group report to the Committee on 29 February 2024, training is being developed on the petitions process for Elected Members. It is recommended that all Elected Members of the Committee take this training within the next 6 months.
- 6.4 The Membership of the Public Processions Committee is drawn from the membership of the Wellbeing, Equalities, Communities, Culture and Engagement City Policy Committee. Elected Members are required to undertake an appropriate training session, prior to appointment to the Public Processions Committee. It is recommended that all Elected Members of this Committee take or refresh their Public Processions training if they have not done so since May 2023.
- 6.5 Elected Members on the Committee can raise with their Group's business manager any suggestions for training sessions which will be fed into the Business Bureau. The lead officer for the Committee is also available to brief any Member or co-optee on specific issues as required.
- 6.6 Training and support needs for co-opted members will be considered separately in discussion with the Chair and lead officer.
- 6.7 The Committee may, in addition, wish to discuss specific training they feel is needed to assist with their role.

7 Independent Assessment

- 7.1 Committee are advised that this is year 2 annual assessment. Next year there will be an independent assessment carried out.

8 Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

Financial: N/A

Legal: N/A

Personnel: N/A

Procurement: N/A

Council Strategic Plan:

GRAND CHALLENGE FOUR – 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? Please specify. N/A

What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report? N/A

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: N/A

What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal? N/A

Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target? N/A

Privacy and Data Protection Impacts:

N/A

9 Recommendations

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