



**Glasgow City Council**

**City Administration Committee**

**Report by Councillor Ruairi Kelly, City Convener for  
Neighbourhood Services and Assets**

**Item 5**

**20th June 2024**

**Contact: George Gillespie, Executive Director Ext 79106**

## **PROPOSED BUILT HERITAGE COMMISSION**

### **Purpose of Report:**

To advise members of the intention to establish a Built Heritage Commission for Glasgow and provide members with details of its scope, structure, and remit.

### **Recommendations:**

- The Committee is asked to note the content of this report and approve the establishment of the Built Heritage Commission.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

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

## **1 Background**

- 1.0 The proposal to set up a Built Heritage Commission for Glasgow was presented to the Economy, Housing, Transport and Regeneration City Policy Committee on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2024. Members were advised of the proposed scope, structure and remit of the new Commission as set out in the accompanying [report](#).
- 1.1 After consideration, the Committee noted the intention to seek approval from the City Administration Committee for the Built Heritage Commission to be established according to the proposed scope, remit and structure.

## **2 Proposed Built Heritage Commission**

- 2.1 In recognition of the importance to prosperity, health, education, and civic pride, the Council's Strategic Plan 2022-27 identified its intention to establish a Built Heritage Commission for the city.
- 2.2 As set out in the [report](#), The Built Heritage Commission (BHC) will focus on finding solutions to the evolving and complex challenges facing the historic environment in Glasgow, celebrating success and examples of successful champion the heritage agenda in all its forms.
- 2.3 The BHC will complement the work established via the Council's Heritage Estate Assets Plan, which focuses on the portfolio of historic assets within Council ownership, addressing the legacy of vacant and neglected historic assets and identifying sustainable future uses. It will also discuss ways to spend some of the recently announced £1.7m fund to bring property back in to productive use.
- 2.4 The range of issues impacting and influencing the built heritage of the City are dynamic, and as such, this new Forum should create a positive, ongoing and collaborative vehicle for the identification of sustainable future management of the built heritage of the City.

## **3 Structure**

- 3.1 The BHC will assist in prioritising, focusing and coordinating the multi-faceted efforts required to achieve the best outcomes for the City's historic environment; whilst acknowledging the need for difficult decisions and the challenge of finding viable and sustainable end uses for historic buildings in the current financial and environment climate.
- 3.2 The BHC will be co-chaired by an Administration Councillor alongside an independent co-chair, with each political group on the Council sending a representative. The Business Manager will seek nominations from political groups for representation via the Business Bureau.
- 3.3 Councillors will be joined on the BHC by officers from relevant Departments, stakeholders and funders, local Heritage charities and, statutory bodies

including Historic Environment Scotland and representatives from community/amenity groups and that as far as possible membership will be inclusive and reflect Glasgow's demographic makeup.

- 3.4 It is anticipated that both built heritage bodies which operate in the city; [Glasgow City Heritage Trust](#) and [Glasgow Building Preservation Trust](#) will be key partners within the BHC and would be involved in facilitating its work, including in the appointment of an independent co-chair.
- 3.5 The BHC will meet three times a year, as well as hosting an annual event such as topic based panel discussions, site visits, workshops, talks or seminars.
- 3.6 The BHC will be empowered to produce reports on key issues within its remit and will provide an annual update to the Economy, Housing, Transport and Regeneration City Policy Committee. Other matters arising may also be reported to the relevant Committee as required and as the business of the BHC becomes established.

#### **4 Proposed remit**

- 4.1 The remit of the BHC is to provide strategic advice to Glasgow City Council, and its public, private and third sector partners on issues including:
  - The Council's Heritage Assets
  - Funding, Policy/ Planning/ Legislative updates
  - Conservation Area updates
  - Overview of Listed Buildings at Risk
  - Identification of sustainable future uses for heritage assets.
  - Public Realm
  - Sustainability and Climate Change considerations
- 4.2 The BHC will set an annual workplan and outcomes which will be reported annually to the Economy Housing Transport and Regeneration City Policy Committee. It will have the ability to gather evidence and produce reports on issues under its remit to provide that advice to the Council.
- 4.3 It will be able to consider other emerging issues and provide strategic advice to the Council on them.

#### **5 Limitations**

- 5.1 The Built Heritage Commission cannot:
  - intervene in the statutory Planning or Building Standards Service duties and activities.
  - affect/ influence funding or statutory Planning or Building Standards decisions for individual building projects.
  - 'rescue' each and every historic building across the City

## 6 Next steps

6.1 Following the City Administration Committee, the first meeting of the BHC will take place following summer recess where it will:

- Agree to its Terms of Reference
- Discuss what its upcoming workplan should include
- Agree date and time of next meeting.

## 7 Policy and Resource Implications

### Resource Implications:

<i>Financial:</i>	None
<i>Legal:</i>	None
<i>Personnel:</i>	To be facilitated by NRS Officers
<i>Procurement:</i>	None

**Council Strategic Plan:** Grand Challenge M2 become a net zero carbon city by 2030; Establish a Built Heritage Commission

### Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

<i>Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25? Please specify.</i>	Yes. The establishing of The Heritage Commission and its remit aligns with the placemaking ethos to improve the lives of all citizens in line with the aims of the City Development Plan. An EQIA Screening Report was prepared for the City Development Plan in 2017 and no significant negative impacts were identified
<i>What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?</i>	No significant impact
<i>Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-economic disadvantage.</i>	No significant impact

## Climate Impacts:

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

Yes: become a net zero City by 2030

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

Sustainability is at the heart of the heritage Agenda in the promotion of the positive reuse and adaptation of the existing built fabric of the City which the Built Heritage Commission would seek to promote. The Commission would also consider the issue of measurement of embodied carbon within existing historic assets and standardised assessment.

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

Sustainability is a key consideration in decisions affecting the historic environment and the Built Heritage Commission will seek to promote this agenda in terms of Policy response and identifying opportunities and good practice with respect to retrofitting, adaptation and conservation.

## Privacy and Data Protection Impacts:

No Privacy or Data Protection Impacts have been identified.

## 8 Recommendations:

- The Committee is asked to note the content of this report and approve the establishment of the Built Heritage Commission.