



Glasgow City Council

City Administration Committee

Item 6

20th June 2024

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

Contact: George Gillespie, Executive Director Ext 79106

**FUNDING FOR GLASGOW CITY HERITAGE TRUST & GLASGOW BUILDING
PRESERVATION TRUST**

Purpose of Report:

To seek approval for the funding of Glasgow City Heritage Trust and Glasgow Building Preservation Trust for the Financial year 2024-25.

Recommendations:

Committee is asked to approve funding for financial year 2024-25 of:

- £240,000 to Glasgow City Heritage Trust and,
- £50,000 to Glasgow Building Preservation Trust

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

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

1 Background

- 1.1 The City's heritage is of great value in terms of Glasgow's identity and civic pride, tourism, wellbeing, regeneration, employment, contribution to net zero and economic recovery. The preservation, promotion and enhancement of the City's heritage is a complex challenge which involves a range of influencing factors and stakeholders.
- 1.2 To sustain and enhance heritage benefits for the City now and into the future, the Council's Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability Service provide direct funding to its two main built heritage charities - [Glasgow City Heritage Trust \(GCHT\)](#) and [Glasgow Building Preservation Trust \(GBPT\)](#)
- 1.3 This ongoing commitment is expressed within the Council's Strategic Plan 2022 – 2027 against *Grand Challenge 3 – Fight the Climate Emergency in a Just Transition to a Net Zero Glasgow*. The 2019 Heritage Best Value Review having determined that these established organisations continue to offer good value to the City for the allocated funding and are the primary route for residents and community groups to access assistance and financial support for investing in heritage assets. The HBVR recommended that they should continue to work together with the Council in further achieving the outcomes of Glasgow City Council's own Heritage Assets Plan.
- 1.4 Furthermore, both organisations are identified as key contributors to the proposed Built Heritage Commission which was reported to the Economy Housing, Transport & Regeneration Committee on 4th June and is also presented to City Administration Committee for approval. As is noted in that paper finding solutions to the evolving and complex issues facing the historic environment in Glasgow is a significant challenge and both bodies are pivotal partners in this.

2 Glasgow City Heritage Trust

- 2.1 Established in 2007, GCHT is an independent charity which delivers a citywide grant programme to facilitate owners to restore the city's built heritage at risk together with a variety of outreach and heritage skills training programmes. GCHT is funded through a partnership between the Council and Historic Environment Scotland (HES) in recognition of the value of the City's built heritage and the complex challenges it faces.
- 2.2 In the 17 years since its inception GCHT has supported over 560 conservation and repair projects across the City, from windows in cherished listed tenement flats to the restoration of Charles Rennie Mackintosh's iconic Willow Tea Rooms on Sauchiehall Street. It has enabled the rescue of many redundant or underused historic buildings in Glasgow and invested more than £942,000 into heritage education, skills training, community engagement and project development. Grants have been offered to more than 1,980 people and organisations to help them look after their historic properties and GCHT continue to expand their series of traditional skills

training projects, promoting careers in specialist conservation trades and informing property owners on current best conservation practice. They also offer a wide range of community and education projects including public lectures, training, exhibitions, podcasts and workshops.

- 2.3 In 2022-23 GCHT grant-aided 17 heritage projects across the city, totalling £1,150,484. This included the repair of 11 buildings to help 54 property owners conserve and regenerate Glasgow's historic built environment. This included repairs to the historic A listed Briggait corner block, repairs to the B listed former Queen's Park Police and Fire Station at Allison Court, supporting restoration works to an A listed tenement property at Park Quadrant, restoration of a Building at Risk on Hunter Street and contributing to comprehensive repairs to the A listed Miller Hall (St Andrews East Church) in Dennistoun. Full details may be found within the [GCHT Annual Report 2022-23](#).

3. Glasgow Building Preservation Trust

- 3.1 Glasgow Building Preservation Trust (GBPT) is an award-winning independent charity established in 1982 with a remit to address market failure by redeveloping historic buildings no one else can and reaching out to communities often left behind by traditional heritage approaches. Over the past forty years GBPT has not only directly led on restoring and repurposing historic buildings and other heritage assets but has also empowered and supported communities throughout the city to take control of their communities' heritage assets and is a key partner in delivering the Council's People Make Glasgow's Communities strategy. GBPT has been a vehicle for the successful return of many historic buildings at risk to sustainable use. GBPT can lead on options appraisals, feasibility studies, funding, and act as a client for the restoration and reuse of historic buildings.
- 3.2 GBPT have also been working with Glasgow City Council to deliver a Heritage Asset Study, prioritising 35 buildings owned by the city, to restore and address many more of the city's heritage assets and create valuable community facilities across Glasgow.
- 3.3 The Trust is involved in a variety of projects, all of which develop in different ways and at varying speeds. GBPT have two main types of projects: GBPT Projects and Partnership/Consultancy Projects. Since 1982, the Trust has delivered 12 major building projects, 40 Options Appraisals (Feasibility Studies) and assisted with significant repair works for 7 buildings. As highlighted in the previous report, completed projects by GBPT include the recent £3.05m restoration of the landmark 'B' listed West Boathouse, the much loved Kelvingrove bandstand in 2014 and Parkhead School.
- 3.4 In addition, GBPT delivers education and community engagement activities across the city and for 35 years has produced Glasgow Doors Open Days Festival attracting over 30,000 visits every September.

4. Funding Arrangements

- 4.1 Since its inception in 2007, NRS has made a contribution of £240,000 per annum to GCHT. This has provided £50,000 of core funding and a further £190,000 of grant funding per year. This financial commitment was most recently approved by the [City Administration Committee for 2023-24 on 31st August 2023](#).
- 4.2 This is in line with the commitment made to provide contributory match funding to augment HES's financial support. HES confirmed support for a further 3 years from 2023-26 with a similar or enhanced contribution. This will amount to over £857,950 for this financial year (2024-25) therefore the GCC contribution is essential.
- 4.3 GBPT receives core funding of £50,000 each year to support core running costs and project development.
- 4.4 GCHT & GBPT in conjunction with the leverage they can obtain from HES have funded significant works to repair and restore listed buildings across the City. Without their funding it is doubtful that all the repair work which has taken place would have been achieved, resulting in the erosion of the historic fabric of the City.
- 4.5 It is considered that the works of GCHT and GBPT continue to significantly benefit the city and it is therefore recommended that the City Administration Committee approve the funding for the financial year 2024-25.

5 Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

<i>Financial:</i>	None - from existing sources
<i>Legal:</i>	A Service level agreement will be required
<i>Personnel:</i>	No implications
<i>Procurement:</i>	None

Council Strategic Plan: Grand Challenge 2 – Increase opportunity and prosperity for all our citizens: Mission 2 – Support the growth of an innovative, resilient and net zero carbon economy. Grand Challenge 3 – Fight the climate emergency in a just transition to a net zero Glasgow: Mission 2 - Become a net zero carbon city by 2030 Continue support for Glasgow City Heritage Trust and Glasgow Buildings Preservation Trust. Grand Challenge 4 – Deliver essential services in a sustainable,

innovative and efficient way for our communities:
Mission 1 – Create safe, clean and thriving neighbourhoods. 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 2011-25 Yes – generally supportive.

What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report? No significant impact.

Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio economic disadvantage. Grant funding provided by GCC to GCHT is targeted towards areas of multiple deprivation and GBPT has a specific focus on empowering communities in areas of multiple deprivation.

Climate Impacts:

Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify: The preservation and celebration of the City's existing built heritage through funding of the Glasgow City Heritage Trust targeted to contributing to the themes of Climate Plan Theme 3 – Well Connected and Thriving City and particularly Actions 9, 18 and 29

What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal? Preservation and enhancement of the city's built heritage. Reuse and conversion of existing and historic buildings is inherently sustainable

Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target? Reuse of existing buildings is inherently more sustainable than new build development in terms of embodied carbon generated.

Privacy and Data Protection impacts: N/A

6 Recommendations

- Committee is asked to approve funding of £240,000 for Glasgow City Heritage Trust and
- £50,000 for Glasgow Building Preservation Trust for this financial year (2024-25).