



Glasgow City Council

Environment and Liveable Neighbourhoods City Policy Committee

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

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PARKS LIGHTING REVIEW UPDATE

Purpose of Report:

To provide committee with an update on the outcomes of the Parks Lighting Review.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that committee notes the contents of the report.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

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

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on commitments arising from the previous [Parks Lighting Review](#), to improve safety within three Pilot Parks: Cranhill Park, Queens Park and Kelvingrove Park.
- 1.2. The Service acknowledges the ongoing public interest for lighting in parks and the diverse range of views in relation to safety and impacts on biodiversity, as demonstrated in the Greenspace Scotland '[Safety and Lighting Placemaking](#)' report.

2. Background

- 2.1. At a meeting of full Council held on the 9th December 2021, the following [motion](#), as adjusted, was unanimously approved: "Council notes the campaign launched by Radio Clyde calling for lighting to be installed along the main routes of Glasgow's parks; notes that this renewed call follows on from experiences during COP26; and notes that this campaign is supported by a wide range of individuals and organisations. Women's safety requires a multi-agency response, which includes cultural and societal change.
- 2.2. A paper was then brought to Environment, Sustainability and Carbon Reduction Committee (ESCR) in [March 2022](#) which set out the considerations required to carry out an evidence-led approach to lighting solutions within Glasgow's parks and greenspaces. The report referenced consultation methodology delivered via Place Standard events in 3 pilot parks of Kelvingrove Park, Cranhill Park and Queens Park. Technical workshops were subsequently added to this methodology.
- 2.3. The motion in relation to a Feminist City, which, as adjusted, was approved at the meeting of Glasgow City Council held [27th October 2022](#), which, amongst other matters, instructed the Chief Executive to prepare reports that will consider how council policy and practice needs to be adapted to embed gender equality into strategy and decision-making and incorporate women's lived experience into public planning, social and economic policy.
- 2.4. A further paper was then brought to Environment, Sustainability and Carbon Reduction Committee (ESCR) in [April 2023](#), with an update in relation to the commitments made in this report provided in sections 3-6 below, as early actions responding to the Light the Way campaign and the Council's commitment to a Feminist City.

3. Non-lighting Safety Interventions

- 3.1. The following provides an update of completed works within each pilot park:

3.2. Kelvingrove Park

Vegetation works:

- Removal of non-native shrubs under Lord Robert statue to improve visibility and sightlines.
- Management of vegetation near Kelvin Way and on Sunlight Way to improve sightlines.
- Removal of well-established non-native shrubs east of the Herbaceous border to improve sightlines, replaced with understory planting. Herbaceous border has also been tapered back at the Western edge.
- Heavy pruning of azalea garden and pathways cleared.
- Pollinator friendly lower-height planting undertaken to promote wildlife and biodiversity.

Solar Waymarking Lights

- Installation of bat/wildlife-friendly Solar waymarkers (2700k colour temperature) from Royal Terrace to Eldon Street, compliant with lighting recommendations to promote wildlife and biodiversity. This was carried out as an alternative to the reflective banding originally proposed since this was considered to offer an optimised solution.

Path improvement

- Surface improvement works south of bandstand on steep section of the path to improve safety.
- Signage and map boards are being updated.

3.3. Cranhill Park

Vegetation works:

- Vegetation cutback along the eastern boundary of Cranhill Community Centre, to improve sightlines between the path, centre and playpark.
- Cut back around the boundary of the MUGA to improve passive surveillance and opening of sightlines.

Fencing removal

- Western perimeter fence removal as discussed with Police Scotland.
- Removal of fence along and inside the Glasgow Life Eastern boundary to allow park users a wider range of access routes through the park- these works have been undertaken in part, with works to the remainder planned.

Entrance Works

- Entrance enhancements to improve accessibility to three entrances (Crowlin Crescent, Edinburgh Road, Bellrock Street) including widening access, concrete block removal, drainage, bollard placement and surface improvement works.

3.4. Queens Park

Vegetation works:

- Vegetation cutback near the Poetry Garden section of the park to improve passive surveillance and widen paths.
- Vegetation management including crown raising at junction near bowling green to open sightlines.

Existing Lighting

- Existing lighting columns checked and repaired where appropriate. Lighting to Camphill House and Goal continues to be discussed with the other users of this access prior to works on site.

Wayfinding Interventions

- Installation of Bat/Wildlife-friendly Solar waymarkers from Balvicar Drive to Langside Avenue, compliant with lighting recommendations to protect wildlife and biodiversity.
- Installation of reflective cat eyes along section of path near Queens Park Depot. (Cat eyes form connection for active travel routes to lit route towards recreation grounds.)
- Installation of connecting reflective white line on path from Balvicar Drive to Langside Road, as a wayfinding measure

- 3.5 Officer observations are that measures have responded to a range of issues raised by attendees at the Place Standard, with park users observed utilising the waymarked routes during hours of darkness. A technical and operational assessment of the off-grid lighting solutions is covered in section 4 below.

4. **Energy considerations and trial of off-grid lighting solutions**

- 4.1 Installing lighting columns within Glasgow's parks and greenspaces must be approached holistically, considering factors such as biodiversity and sustainability.

A key consideration as part of this report is energy use associated with lighting columns. The service has identified alternatives to mains lighting columns which have been trialed in Queens Park and Kelvingrove Park. Off-grid solutions would allow for energy savings within our parks, by using renewable sources to power columns. Installing mains lighting columns also requires invasive ground works to connect to power sources. Off-grid solutions offer alternatives that require light-touch installation.

4.2 Energy considerations

It is noted that there are no energy costs associated with off-grid lighting columns, compared with grid-connected columns which incur an estimated £19.37 per annum cost.

Maintenance costs for both lighting columns are similar, ranging from £79-120 per annum. A suitable timed lighting column consumes an estimated 158kW per annum. Using this consumption figure, an annual saving of 0.0489 Co2 tonnes is achieved by use of off-grid lighting columns, with reduced cabling and trenching reducing the impact on species and habitats. Off-grid batteries would be located above ground and adjacent to the columns and would be charged through Solar PV or Solar PV in conjunction with wind energy. Batteries will need intermittently replaced and have a lifespan of 8-20 years. Installing off-grid lighting columns is in line with Glasgow's Net Zero Objectives

4.3 Lighting Trials

Two off-grid lighting columns were trialed as part of this review in Kelvingrove Park and Queens Park.

The Kelvingrove trial involved a Solar & Wind column which performed adequately at suitable park settings. Data analysed from the column has shown that despite adverse weather conditions, the column has stored adequate energy to perform. This trial occurred between January and February.

The Queens Park Lighting trial is a Solar column, which needed a winter setting to function during the darkest months of the Scottish climate. Once the winter setting was applied to the column, it performed well at a low wattage and by mid-February, the winter setting could be switched off.

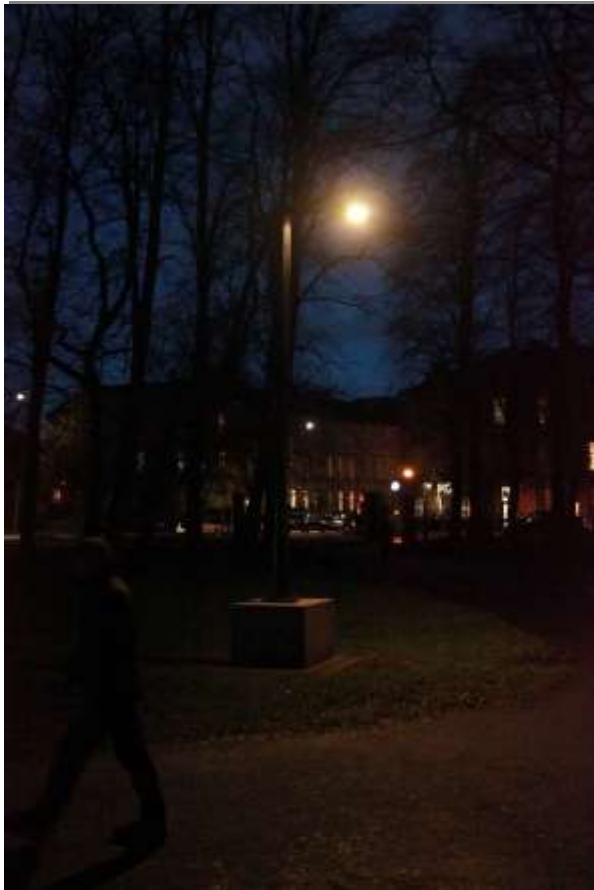


Figure 1: Photograph of the Queens Park Solar column in operation

Performance was closely monitored throughout the trial, including colleagues from NRS with varying technical interests. Both columns, following the adjustment to the Queens Park column referenced above, performed to a satisfactory level in relation to lighting provided and robustness of the installation.

5. Funding

- 5.1 Within the Parks Lighting Report presented in April 2023, a number of possible routes were proposed. It was noted that should capital funding become available, a full Lighting Impact Assessment would require to be undertaken to allow the relative benefits and impacts of any proposal to be formally considered. This would include relevant ecological surveys and necessary mitigations to minimise impacts on wildlife.
- 5.2 Officers then updated Area Partnerships representing communities surrounding Queens Park and Kelvingrove Park.
- 5.3 The 3 Area Partnerships surrounding Queens Park requested that proposals be submitted for their consideration for funding via the Neighbourhood Infrastructure Investment Fund. Langside and Southside Central Area

Partnership have agreed to part-fund installation of lighting within Queens Park subject to further engagement with local stakeholders, with Pollokshields Area Partnership noting the recommendation and noting that further discussion would take place with Friends of Queens Park and Queens Park Working Group.

- 5.4 Remaining capital works to lighting in Cranhill Park are considered to fall within the scope of Scottish Government Play Area Renewal works, and will be programmed as part of these works, with funding becoming available this financial year.
- 5.5 Linn Area Partnership requested that papers be submitted for their consideration for the Neighbourhood Infrastructure Investment Fund and has subsequently committed funding to match that already sourced from Paths for All and the Parks and Open Spaces Improvement Fund. This service is now supporting Cassiltoun Housing Association and other community partners to bring forward project delivery of full replacement of lighting infrastructure within Castlemilk Park.

6. Next Step

- 6.1. Should the relevant Area Partnerships wish to consider lighting installations within parks and greenspaces for funding through the Neighbourhood Infrastructure Investment Fund, the Service will continue to support necessary place making exercises, as well as funding applications.
- 6.2. Installation of lighting will continue to be considered in line with the methodology set out as part of this review. It is recognised that lighting within parks and greenspaces is a topic where safety, equality of use, biodiversity and carbon impacts require full consideration.

7. Policy and Resource Implications:

Financial: Section 3 of the report sets out recommended actions which be undertaken from within existing resources, and also sets out potential future projects for which funding bids could be developed.

Legal: The report raises no legal issues

Personnel: The report raises no new personnel issues

Procurement: Any works will be procured via existing frameworks

Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

Does the proposal support the Council's Equality outcomes 2021-25? Please specify. Yes – Supports outcome 4

What are the potential Equality impacts as a result Of this report?

Potential positive impact.

Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help impact on address socio-economic disadvantage

Placemaking initiative which supports active travel will have the potential to positively those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage, who may have less access to car

Climate Impacts:

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

Not at present

What are the potential climate impacts as a result however, of this proposal

Lower carbon power sources would be reviewed as part of any detail design, It is noted that the majority of our current Lighting units are mains electrically powered

Will the proposal contribute To Glasgow's net zero carbon Target?

None

Privacy and Data Protection Impact:

None

Council Strategic Plan:

Specify which Grand Challenge 1 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.

Grand challenge 2 Mission 3 Raise attainment amongst Glasgow's children and young people
Support play and outdoor education.

Grand challenge 3 Mission 1: Deliver sustainable transport and travel aligned with the city region
Deliver the city's Active Travel Strategy, working towards delivery of a comprehensive City Network of active travel infrastructure to support modal shift.

Grand Challenge 3 Mission 2: Become a net zero carbon city by 2030.

Continue to improve the heat and energy efficiency of the council's property assets, ensuring high standards in new buildings and completing retrofit, where viable throughout the existing estate

Increase the number of designated Local Nature Reserves in the city in collaboration with communities and support the development of a green network of areas managed for biodiversity across the city.

Deliver place-based interventions and key local regeneration projects.

Grand Challenge 4 Mission 2

Review the Violence Against Women's Partnership, including sector funding and communications strategy, and support actions to effectively prevent and respond to violence.

Embed gender equality into council impact assessments, budgets, data collecting and strategies, including, but not limited to, the new City Development Plan. Ensure approaches are intersectional and incorporate women's lived experience.

8. Recommendations

8.1 It is recommended that committee notes the contents of the report.