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Glasgow City Council

Neighbourhoods, Housing and Public Realm
City Policy Committee

Item 8

1st June 2021

Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhoods,
Regeneration and Sustainability

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COP26 LEGACY: ROLE OF COMMITTEE

Purpose of Report:

To provide an update on the role of the Neighbourhoods, Housing and Public Realm City Policy Committee in developing a legacy for COP26.

Recommendations:

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

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

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

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 On [1 April 2021](#), members agreed a motion at the meeting of Full Council which committed to providing a progress report to each City Policy Committee reflecting on their role in developing a legacy for COP26 before summer recess.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to respond to this motion and provide an update on the role of the Neighbourhoods, Housing and Public Realm City Policy Committee (NHPR CPC) in developing a legacy for COP26.

2. Background

- 2.1 In November 2021, participants from nations and territories around the world will arrive in Glasgow for the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference – COP26.
- 2.2 Following postponement of the conference in 2020 due to Covid-19, COP26 is now due to run from 1–12 November 2021 at the Scottish Event Campus (SEC). The intent remains to hold the summit in person, whilst putting the health and wellbeing of local communities and delegations at the centre of decisions about how the event will take shape.
- 2.3 Glasgow's focus for COP26 is on supporting and delivering a safe and successful event by keeping the city moving, supporting the appropriate public health measures and delivering a legacy for the city.
- 2.4 Legacy is being delivered across the council family, with a particular emphasis on ensuring a just transition, and to encourage the behaviour change needed to reach the city's ambitious net zero target. Examples include:
 - Adding momentum to current ambitions, in particular through the Sustainable Glasgow partnership.
 - Working to forge international partnerships to ensure that Glasgow's exposure on the world stage can drive further global connections, in particular to other cities in relation to sustainability issues.
 - Using Glasgow's role as host city to support its promotion as a green and welcoming city and bring further events and green tourism to the city.
 - Working closely with the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce to ensure that the city's businesses can grasp the opportunities offered by the global connections.
 - Working with schools to engage and empower children and young people through existing programmes and those being developed due to COP being in Glasgow.
 - Using the People Make Glasgow brand to promote the city as an attractive destination across the globe to the international COP26 audience.

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- Using the People Make Glasgow Greener brand to engage citizens on climate issues and encourage behaviour change.
- Supporting and enabling cultural organisations to activate in response to, and during COP.

3. NHPR CPC and COP26 Legacy

3.1 All Committees across the Council have a role to play in developing a legacy for COP26. The NHPR CPC has a role to play through its workstreams in developing housing, planning, public realm and economic policies.

3.2 The remit and Terms of Reference for the NHPR CPC is as follows:

‘To fulfil the functions of policy development (including consideration of equalities issues) as they relate to Council policies and services on neighbourhoods, housing and public realm but specifically excluding housing functions delegated to the Glasgow City Integration Joint Board.

These functions include:

- planning and strategic and local housing policy;
- regeneration and transport;
- natural and built environment;
- land and property management;
- building control;
- economic, business and social development initiatives;
- derelict land;
- city centre;
- international links;
- partnership engagement.’

3.3 Given the remit of the NHPR CPC as outlined above, there are several workstreams through which the Committee continues to play an important role in developing a legacy for COP26; this report does not intend to discuss all of these and will instead focus on the key broad workstreams of the Committee which will contribute towards developing a COP26 legacy. These areas are as follows:

- Affordable Housing Supply Programme
- Invest Glasgow
- Green Economy
- Avenues Programme
- City Centre Strategy
- Open Space Strategy and H2020 Connecting Nature

4. Key Workstreams: COP26 Legacy

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4.1 The following workstreams will help to deliver a greener and climate smart COP26 legacy for future generations.

4.2 Affordable Housing Supply Programme (AHSP)

The Glasgow Standard for new build housing, introduced in 2018 and funded through the AHSP, will contribute towards developing a legacy for COP26. The aim of the standard ensures that all new homes in Glasgow are future proofed with high sustainability standards that will protect tenants from rising energy costs and help to contribute to the Council's carbon emissions reduction targets. A key element of the Glasgow Standard is that it encourages housing associations to be ambitious in trying to exceed current energy efficiency and sustainability targets and to develop housing which will be exemplary across the country. The standard has set 3 levels of sustainability, all of which are higher than the Scottish Government's "Greener Standard" of Technical Handbook Section 7 (bronze level) and Silver aspects (1 & 2). The 3 options are

- Gold Hybrid
- Nearly Zero Emissions (Passivhaus)
- Net-Zero Carbon

All options are also required to include a minimum 20% carbon dioxide emission abatement through the use of low and zero carbon generating technologies. From 2024, all new build properties will also require to be "off gas" and have low carbon heating sources.

A number of developments are now being developed to these standards with 4 projects being developed to Passivhaus standard with more in the pipeline. One of the Passivhaus developments has taken this further with the development becoming zero carbon. It is the intention of the City Council to continue to encourage associations to aim for zero carbon standards across the programme where this is feasible and cost effective.

In addition to the newbuild programme, we have been looking at options for improving the energy efficiency of the city's pre-1919 housing stock. One of these projects is 107 Niddrie Road which is a demonstration project looking at bringing 8 empty pre 1919 tenement flats up to enerphit standard (the Passivhaus standard for existing properties). This project is currently on site and will be complete for COP26 in November 2021. The aim is to demonstrate how to reduce carbon and increase energy efficiency in pre-1919 sandstone tenement blocks and recommend best practice for retrofit.

4.3 Invest Glasgow

Invest Glasgow is currently working towards the production of a COP 26 investment prospectus which will showcase Glasgow's green credentials and articulate our ambitions towards a net zero carbon future. The prospectus will focus on city region projects of real scale including the Glasgow Metro, Clyde Mission, a city-wide district heating network and regional home energy

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retrofitting. It will seek to take advantage of this unique opportunity to propel Glasgow's profile and visibility onto a truly global stage.

Micropark UK is an emerging example of a project with potential to realise sustainable, green products and jobs. At the heart of the concept is a world-leading hub for a robust, sustainable, ethical, commercially viable, advanced manufacturing approach to the production of a broad range of apparel. It aims to address some of the retail industry's biggest challenges around carbon reduction through on-shoring of activity regionally, cutting down on shipping activity as well as creating local sustainable jobs.

The prospectus will be launched at the end of June in dynamic digital format, a more sustainable and appealing alternative to traditional hard copy, with a view to updating towards the end of the summer ahead of COP26.

4.4 Green Economy

The Council has recently recruited a Green Economy Manager who will be based within Economic Development. The Green Economy Manager will provide a leadership role to develop a strong and robust green deal and green recovery programmes for the city.

COP26 offers a unique opportunity for Glasgow to push itself harder to achieve its own ambitions on sustainability and to engage its communities in an ongoing civic conversation about carbon and climate – a central part of that will be the developing work around the Green New Deal. Working alongside the Council's Sustainability team, the development and delivery of a Glasgow Green New Deal will be a priority for the Green Economy Manager role. This will include building a portfolio of investable projects in the run up to COP26 that will support the City's ambitions to be net zero carbon by 2030 whilst simultaneously stimulating economic growth and job creation.

A Just Transition Skills Seminar is currently being planned for June 2021. The event will focus on the skills required to support the transition to a greener economy. It will bring together the colleges, universities, education and will include private sector representation to discuss the development of a 10 year skills plan for just transition.

4.5 Avenues Programme

The Glasgow City Deal funded Avenues programme will enable the delivery of 21 green routes through the city centre. The Avenues programme will promote economic growth by supporting development and unlocking the development potential of existing vacant and derelict land/premises. The Avenues programme is essentially a quality place making scheme that will introduce a network of pedestrian and cycle priority routes across the city centre that will include the following:

- Traffic lane reductions
- Enhanced/widened footways

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- Green/blue infrastructure (street trees and rain gardens)
- Enhanced lighting features
- Segregated cycle lanes

Furthermore, the Avenues programme will contribute towards the legacy of COP26 by promoting active travel and public transport as a more viable means of travelling to and from the city centre. This ambition is further enhanced by the introduction of traffic lane reductions and meaningful green infrastructure that will tackle issues associated with surface water management and air quality. The Avenues programme is scheduled to commence late 2028 with the vast majority of construction activity taking place between 2023 and 2025. The demanding construction programme is expected to commence early 2022 with Argyle Street West, The Underline and Sauchiehall Precinct.

4.6 City Centre Strategy

The Glasgow City Centre Strategy is currently on hold and an interim Task Force is driving the recovery in Glasgow city centre. The current focus is on immediate recovery rather than any legacy issue, however it is expected that the new City Centre Strategy work programme, likely to be confirmed early 2022, will continue to incorporate sustainability principles within its content and process. A range of projects are at various stages of development, all of which aim to improve the sustainability of the city centre through delivering inclusive places for people through the provision of regeneration plans that embed community ownership, circular economy and creativity into the policy making process.

Legacy projects from COP26 interventions include:

- UPS last mile project;
- Vertical farming demonstrator;
- Rain gardens at Anderston Station

4.7 Open Space Strategy and H2020 Connecting Nature

The H2020 Connecting Nature project will make a contribution to developing a COP26 legacy. It aims to develop a series of tools that helps cities deliver a place based approach to nature based solutions. Glasgow uses its Open space strategy as the exemplar within this project.

Our Place based approach / Nature based solutions is underpinned by the City Development Plan and the Open Space Strategy. Based on a wealth of data and spatial analysis, the Open space strategy sets out an approach to coordinate the various open space responsibilities to ensure well-managed, well-located and well-connected open spaces that operate as part of a wider green network.

The Vision and Actions proposed in the Open Space Strategy are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals. They ensure that the Strategy reaches out beyond the traditional performance monitoring approaches of the public sector

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and engages with other sectors and the City's communities in meaningful conversation about progress and what the delivery of multifunctional, high quality Open Spaces means for the city and its people. They also give common points of reference when addressing the various actions required to sustainably manage, maintain and make decisions about Open Space.

These include the role of open space in:

- Helping the City adapt to climate change, e.g. by dealing with surface water flooding, especially during and immediately after heavy rainfall events;
- Providing habitats for nature, helping enhance biodiversity;
- Providing opportunities for delivering better, more coherent and connected walking and cycling networks;
- Providing convenient opportunities for outdoor recreation, sport, food growing and general relaxation, helping promote health and well-being and social cohesion;
- Mitigating climate change, the urban heat island effect and poor air quality; and
- Contributing to a sense of place and a more attractive urban environment;
- Delivering the OSS will have a positive impact on our ability to manage our blue, green and grey assets effectively and efficiently to meet the climate adaption and mitigation deliverable contained in a number of corporate and partner outcomes.

The collaborative work with the Connecting Nature project has led to the development of the methodology for key impact assessment data for social cohesion, health & wellbeing, economy, environment and biodiversity that then feed into the Open Space Delivery Plan and the Impact assessment tool that is in development. The aim is to have as a legacy:

- Maintained and sustainable evidence base for City Development Plan and Open Space Strategy.
- Supporting delivery of Climate Emergency Implementation Plan.
- Supporting delivery of Sustainable Glasgow / Climate Ready Clyde.
- Supporting the Strategic and Corporate plan objectives including a sustainable and low carbon city and resilient and empowered neighbourhoods.

5. Post COP26

- 5.1 The key aim of COP26 is to seek global action to safeguard the future of the planet and its inhabitants from global warming and to ensure that the Paris commitments to keeping global temperature rises below 1.5 degrees centigrade are maintained.
- 5.2 Whilst section 4 outlines the key broad workstreams which are currently ongoing, the Committee will be required to reflect further upon its role in developing a COP26 legacy once the agreements/actions from the COP26 event itself are known.

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6. Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

Financial: There are no specific financial implications.

Legal: There are no legal implications.

Personnel: There are no new personnel requirements.

Procurement: There are no procurement implications.

Council Strategic Plan: The work ongoing in developing COP26 legacy supports and enhances the Sustainable and Low Carbon City theme. The report supports strategic plan numbers 53-72.

Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2017-22 Yes, generally supportive.

What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report? Positive impact.

Climate change does not discriminate in its impacts, but our responses and ability to recover can unintentionally do so. As a result, through COP26 legacy work, we will endeavour to continually minimise the negative impact that climate change may have on the ability of our most vulnerable communities to recover, while also maximising their ability to participate and benefit from our transition to a net zero carbon city.

Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio economic disadvantage. An overarching focus of COP26 legacy is one of inclusion and justice in an effort to tackle the climate and ecological emergency while also bridging the gap on deep socio-economic and health inequalities in the city.

Sustainability Impacts:

Environmental: COP26 legacy seeks to enable the city to reduce its carbon emissions more rapidly and

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build resilience to the impacts of current and future climate change.

Social, including opportunities under Article 20 of the European Public Procurement Directive:

COP26 legacy is strongly linked to equality and social justice.

Economic:

Supports proposals for a Just Transition and greening the economic development agenda.

Privacy and Data Protection impacts:

No immediate impacts.

7. Recommendations

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