



Glasgow City Council

City Administration Committee

Item 1

27th March 2025

Report by Councillor Angus Millar, City Convener for Climate, Glasgow Green Deal, Transport and City Centre Recovery

Contact: George Gillespie Ext: 79106

Glasgow Low Emission Zone Community Support Fund Update

Purpose of Report:

To provide Committee with an update on, and seek approval for, the allocation of the LEZ Community Support Fund

Recommendations:

It is recommended that Committee;

- 1) Notes the contents of this report.
- 2) Approves the recommendations for funding from the LEZ Community Support Fund assessment panel and the Climate and Sustainability Board.
- 3) Notes the proposed timeline and process for awarding funds and completing projects.
- 4) Approves the allocation of £247k from the 2023/24 financial year to the fund and
- 5) Agrees to the disbursement of any remaining and future LEZ Community Support Fund budget and delegates authority to the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability to determine and approve further LEZ Community Support Fund applications having regard to recommendations made by the Climate and Sustainability Board.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

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

1 Background

- 1.1 GCC introduced Scotland's first Low Emission Zone (LEZ) in 2018, which targeted emissions from the bus fleet and required progressive improvements in the number of cleaner buses entering the city centre. The full Glasgow LEZ, applying to all vehicle types, came into effect on 31st May 2022, followed by a one-year grace period before general enforcement of the emissions-based entry conditions began on 1 June 2023.
- 1.2 Non-compliant vehicles entering the LEZ are subject to penalty charges set in [Regulations](#). Penalty charges are set to discourage non-compliant vehicle entry through an escalating scale of penalty charge for repeated entry to the zone.
- 1.3 Legislation requires that any income received through enforcement of the LEZ is firstly allocated to the ongoing costs of operating the scheme. Any residual revenue is also required by legislation to be allocated to facilitating (directly or indirectly) the achievement of the scheme's objectives.
- 1.4 The LEZ objectives are set out in the LEZ Scheme Design as follows:
 - Improve public health of residents of and visitors to the City of Glasgow by contributing towards meeting the air quality objectives prescribed under section 87(1) of the Environment Act 1999.
 - Contribute towards the emissions reduction targets set out in Part 1 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 through the promotion of low and zero emissions vehicles and the promotion of public and sustainable transport options.
 - Improve the amenity of Glasgow through the promotion of the Glasgow City Council Strategic Themes of A Vibrant City, A Healthier City and a Sustainable and Low Carbon City.
- 1.5 Detailed financial reporting in terms of income from penalty charge notices and expenditure incurred in operation of the LEZ enforcement system for financial year 2023 / 2024 was reported to the Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City Policy Committee in [August 2024](#). This report set out the residual revenue available after non-grant funded operational expenditure.

2 Fund Design and Application Process

- 2.1 Council Budget directed that £250k of 2023 / 2024 LEZ revenues be allocated to a fund for community organisations to advance projects which support the objectives of the LEZ. This funding forms the basis for the LEZ Community Support Fund.
- 2.2 The LEZ Community Support Fund was designed to maximise the environmental, health, social and community benefits of the LEZ and allow for funding to be provided to groups and organisations which can deliver

complementary projects across the city. To maximise the potential benefits, funding of £20,000 to £50,000 per project was allocated. The minimum funding allocation was set to ensure that the application, monitoring and compliance requirements were proportionate for the successful applicants and to provide projects with sufficient beneficial impact. The maximum funding allocation was set to ensure that an appropriate range and scope of projects could be considered for funding within the total fund value.

- 2.3 The Fund opened for applications on Monday 2nd December 2024 and closed on Friday 31st January 2025. The Fund was extensively promoted through GCC social media, press release and direct contact with relevant groups and organisations.
- 2.4 A dedicated LEZ Community Fund [website](#) was established which provided background information regarding the Fund, including eligibility criteria for both applicants and for prospective projects. The website also contained the application form and a detailed application guidance pack.
- 2.5 An online information session was held on Wednesday 11th December 2024 with more than 50 organisations registering to attend. Further support to interested organisations was provided through direct email. During the application period around 100 additional enquiries were received and addressed.

3 Fund Applications and Selection Process

- 3.1 Upon closure of the application period, the Fund was significantly over-subscribed, with 61 applications for funding received representing more than £2.3M in funding requests. The volume of the submitted applications demonstrates the potential of such funding for supporting community activities in line with the LEZ objectives.
- 3.2 Due to the number received, 2 rounds of initial screening of applications were conducted by officers within NRS Sustainability. This initial screening was undertaken based on the following filters:
 - Application did not satisfy eligibility or evidence requirements;
 - Application was not sufficiently relevant to the Fund's themes;
- 3.3 This screening resulted in 22 applications being progressed to assessment. To ensure consistency of assessment a scoring matrix was populated based on the information provided within the application form and the supplementary information provided. Details of the scoring process, including the elements of applications which would be weighted in respect of points available, had been made available to all in the application guidance pack.
- 3.4 The application scoring panel consisted of 6 GCC officers from Sustainability, Greenspace and Biodiversity, Planning and Transport. This was to bring a range of expertise and knowledge to the scoring process, reflecting the diversity of applications submitted.

- 3.5 Members of the scoring panel reviewed applications individually and submitted their reviews and scores before attending an evaluation session to reach consensus on the final recommendations included within this report. The panel review process examined each of the applications in detail and put forward the projects to be funded to the Climate & Sustainability Board for considerations. These are detailed in section 4 below.
- 3.6 Council Budget for 2025/26 approved a further £235k of LEZ revenues from 2024/25 financial year be directed to the grant fund, and it is further proposed that £247k from the 2023/24 financial year be allocated for this purpose in addition to the £250k referenced at section 2.1. Therefore, it is proposed that a total of £732k should be made available for distribution to successful projects. As the current funding round was significantly oversubscribed and award had not yet been made to applicants, it is proposed that the additional funding should be included within this round.
- 3.7 At the meeting of the 26th February 2025, the Climate and Sustainability Board reviewed the recommendations of the application scoring panel and recommended approval of the project applications set out in Section 4 below for funding, subject to Committee approval.

4 Applications Recommended for LEZ Community Support Funding

- 4.1 The shortlisted projects recommended for funding support are detailed in Appendix 1.

5 Next Steps

- 5.1 Applications not recommended for approval have been contacted and provided with feedback on their individual applications. Following approval of the funding recommendations, the successful applicants will be formally informed of the assessment and funding outcomes.
- 5.2 All necessary procedural, financial and legal checks have been undertaken on the successful applicants. The development of, and agreement on, the funding Terms and Conditions, the project and financial monitoring requirements and the final reporting requirements will be completed prior to dispersal of funds. Funding offers will be completed by end of March 2025.
- 5.3 Following award of funding, regular progress updates will be required from the successful applicants. All projects are required to be completed before 31st December 2025 with final project reporting completed by 31st January 2026. Details of completed project outcomes will be reported to the Climate and Sustainability Board and appropriate GCC Committees.
- 5.4 It is proposed that a further round of the LEZ Community Support Fund applications will be opened in respect of the remaining funds from this year's allocation. This will follow the same evaluation process, with the Climate and Sustainability Board making recommendations regarding fund dispersal. Delegated approval is therefore sought for the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability to determine and approve any further applications for LEZ Community Support having regard to the recommendations made by the Climate and Sustainability Board.
- 5.5 Details of all spend and allocation of LEZ residual revenue also requires to be reported within the annual LEZ Performance Report. The report will be developed from April 2025 and include details of LEZ Community Support Fund allocations. This report will be submitted to the Scottish Parliament for consideration.

6 Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

<i>Financial:</i>	Fully funded from Low Emission Zone revenues
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Legal: Use of LEZ revenue is restricted by provisions of the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019 and associated Regulations

Personnel: Fund administration and monitoring will be undertaken using existing staff resources

Procurement: No procurement implications. Procurement may be undertaken by successful funding applicants in respect of delivery of the projects.

Council Strategic Plan: LEZ supports Grand challenge 3: Fight Climate Emergency in a Just Transition to Net Zero; Mission 1, Deliver sustainable transport and travel aligned with the city region.

Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25? Please specify. The LEZ and associated projects are supportive of the Council's stated Equality outcomes.

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. Individual projects have been assessed on their community benefits, including provision to address socio-economic disadvantage.

Climate Impacts:

Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify: Development of the LEZ directly addresses actions 22 and 53 of the Climate Plan. It also contributes towards actions 26,33,54,55 and 56. Funded projects will also be expected to support climate change actions.

What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal? Project funding applications have been assessed on their climate impacts / benefits. Net positive benefits expected.

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

Project funding applications have been assessed on their climate impacts / benefits. Positive benefits expected.

**Privacy and Data
Protection Impacts:**

Are there any potential
data protection impacts
as a result of this report?

N

7 Recommendations

7.1 It is recommended that the Board:

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