

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>20<sup>th</sup> August 2025</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Enquiries from Elected Members</b></p>	
	<b>Responses to Questions</b>
<b>Item 2</b>	<b>Workplan</b>
<b>Question 1</b>	Bailie Kavanagh asked for more detail regarding the Council advertising for a Cyber Security Manager.
Answer	The Cyber Security Manager post was recently readvertised. This new post is part of the Service reform of the Council's Digital Services. It is a key as the Council's strategic lead for cyber security, responsible for providing expert advice and leadership across the Council Family, engaging with third party service providers, national bodies and other stakeholders, as required.
<b>Item 4</b>	<b>Common Good Fund</b>
<b>Question 2</b>	Bailie Kavanagh referred to 4.5 Pollok Country Park and the vacant cottage at 132 Dumbreck Road and asked when GCC were expected to give an instruction to City Property to market it for sale. He also asked how many other vacant properties were being held by GCC and were awaiting instruction from GCC to City Property.
Answer	<p>The property has been vacant since 2011 and had not been considered for marketing until more recently when interest was expressed in its acquisition. It is not clear why it had not been considered for sale prior to this date but this may have been influenced by its location.</p> <p>The property is part of the Pollok Park title which is considered to be Common Good. There are restrictive title conditions, which may require the involvement and agreement of external parties to resolve before the site can be sold. Additionally, the Common Good Status requires to be addressed to permit a sale and this may require a Court Petition.</p> <p>These conditions need to be considered for inclusion in any marketing brief before referral to City Property to action and this is currently being progressed. An update on progress will be provided in the next Common Good Property report to FASC.</p> <p>With regards to other property within the GCC portfolio, officers review vacant surplus assets on an ongoing basis and engage with colleagues in City Property and Legal Services in terms of maximising these assets, whether by open market disposal or other initiative. GCC does not routinely "hold" property that can be passed to City Property for marketing.</p>

<b>Question 3</b>	Cllr O'Lone referred to 4.7 .1 Cathkin Braes and asked what was the value of the equity share.
Answer	The equity share for GCC is 50% of revenue (after all costs have been covered). For 2024/25 this equity share was £392,648.
<b>Question 4</b>	Cllr O'Lone also asked about the value of income to Common Good and how that was used.
Answer	The rental income is used to meet the financial obligations of the Common Good fund primarily related to hospitality. The most recent budget report was presented to FASC on 26 February 2025.
<b>Question 5</b>	Cllr Jassemi referred to 3.1 and asked, for those without dates, how long properties had been vacant.
Answer	<p>The date the Common Good properties became vacant are noted in the report with the exception of the cottage at Dumbreck Road however for ease the properties and the date they became vacant are as follows:</p> <p>57 Byres Rd – 27<sup>th</sup> of May 2024  4 Dowanhill Street – 27<sup>th</sup> of May 2025  180 Dumbarton Rd – 18<sup>th</sup> May 2024  37 Riverford Rd – 27<sup>th</sup> May 2025  McLellan Galleries – 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023  Humbie Farm – 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017</p> <p>We believe the cottage at Dumbreck Rd we believe has been vacant since circa May 2011.</p>
<b>Item 5</b>	<b>Outturn Report 2024/25</b>
<b>Question 6</b>	Bailie Kavanagh referred to debt recovery of council tax and asked about £8m demolition costs to council for derelict dangerous buildings and if the council had taken legal action against the owners of these properties to get reimbursed for this.
Answer	<p>The current value of outstanding debt for invoices raised in relation to dangerous buildings is currently £2.1 million. This excludes the cost of work undertaken related to the recent fire at Bridge Street of £1.3 million. No invoices have been raised in respect of these works as yet as legal services are in the process of identifying ownership of the property.</p> <p>In terms of legal action for unpaid invoices related to dangerous buildings the council applies a charging order against the property which prevents a sale unless the outstanding debt is satisfied.</p>

Question 7	Cllr Jassemi referred to the NRS £33m overspend and wanted the value of agency both in terms of cost and hours.																																
Answer	The overspend on Agency included within the £33m overspend for NRS in 2024/25 was £4.9m which is partially offset by an underspend in permanent staff costs. This equated to an estimated 174,000 hours. Agency staff require to be utilised within NRS due to the high level of turnover particularly in the Refuse & Waste area to ensure statutory levels of service are met. Agency staff are predominantly used to cover vacancies and long term sickness to ensure statutory delivery is maintained.																																
Question 8	Cllr O’Lone referred to the costs charge to the budget support fund and wanted a breakdown of how much each service had received.																																
Answer	<table><tr><th colspan="4">Budget Support Fund 2024/25 - Service split</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>Voluntary severence / early retirement costs £000</th><th>Supporting the phasing of budget options £000</th><th>Total £000</th></tr><tr><td>Chief Executives</td><td>964</td><td>0</td><td>964</td></tr><tr><td>Education Services</td><td>182</td><td>311</td><td>493</td></tr><tr><td>Financial Services</td><td>123</td><td>0</td><td>123</td></tr><tr><td>Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability</td><td>125</td><td>740</td><td>865</td></tr><tr><td>City Building</td><td>3,525</td><td>0</td><td>3,525</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>4,919</td><td>1,051</td><td>5,970</td></tr></table>	Budget Support Fund 2024/25 - Service split					Voluntary severence / early retirement costs £000	Supporting the phasing of budget options £000	Total £000	Chief Executives	964	0	964	Education Services	182	311	493	Financial Services	123	0	123	Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability	125	740	865	City Building	3,525	0	3,525	Total	4,919	1,051	5,970
Budget Support Fund 2024/25 - Service split																																	
	Voluntary severence / early retirement costs £000	Supporting the phasing of budget options £000	Total £000																														
Chief Executives	964	0	964																														
Education Services	182	311	493																														
Financial Services	123	0	123																														
Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability	125	740	865																														
City Building	3,525	0	3,525																														
Total	4,919	1,051	5,970																														
Item 6	Unaudited Annual Accounts 2024/25																																
Question 9	Bailie Kavanagh referred to the risk in red in relation to failure to provide duty of care to children and vulnerable adults and requested information on Legal live action cases that are currently ongoing regarding this.																																
Answer	In relation to the corporate risk of a failure to provide a duty of care to children and vulnerable adults, the council is currently dealing with 37 live litigated claims in relation to cases of historic abuse. A number of these relate to the council’s role as the accounting authority in relation to institutions or care homes run by the former Strathclyde Regional Council.																																

**This paper will be considered at the start of the committee agenda however requests for clarification on the answers can be made via the committee clerk in advance of the committee meeting.**