



Glasgow City Council

City Administration Committee

Item 6

19th June 2025

Report by Councillor Ruairi Kelly, City Convener for Housing, Development, Built Heritage and Land Use

Contact: George Gillespie, Executive Director Ext: 79106

FUNDING FOR GLASGOW CITY HERITAGE TRUST & GLASGOW BUILDING PRESERVATION TRUST 2025-26

Purpose of Report:

To seek approval for the funding of Glasgow City Heritage Trust and Glasgow Building Preservation Trust for the Financial year 2025-26.

Recommendations:

Committee is asked to approve funding for financial year 2025-26 of:

- £240,000 grant to Glasgow City Heritage Trust and,
- £50,000 grant for core activities 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 The 2019 Heritage Best Value Review determined that these organisations 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.
- 1.4 The Council's commitment to the City's built heritage is expressed within the Strategic Plan 2022 – 2027. Grand Challenge 3 – Fight the Climate Emergency in a Just Transition to a Net Zero Glasgow explicitly notes that the Council will continue to support GCHT and GBPT.
- 1.5 GCHT and GBPT are integral to the Built Heritage Commission (BHC), a newly established body initiated under the Strategic Plan to support the city's historic environment and maximise the economic, cultural, and social value of its built heritage. Its purpose is to provide strategic oversight, guidance, and advocacy for heritage assets across Glasgow, with a focus on sustainability, regeneration, and community benefit. The Commission is designed to be independent and inclusive, bringing together stakeholders from across the heritage, planning, and regeneration sectors. It is co-chaired by representatives from the Council, GBPT and GCHT.. The Commission's remit includes reviewing statutory powers, advising on early-stage interventions, and efforts to bring vacant heritage property back into productive use.

2 Glasgow City Heritage Trust (GCHT)

- 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 18 years since its inception GCHT has supported over 569 conservation and repair projects across the City, from tenements to listed tearooms. It has enabled the rescue of many redundant or underused historic buildings in Glasgow and invested more than £1.12M into heritage education, skills training, community engagement and project development.

Grants have been offered to more than 2,172 people and organisations to help them look after their historic properties. 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 2024-25 GCHT grant aided 20 heritage projects across the city totalling £643,284.08. These grants supported total project costs of over £4.4M and in doing so for every £1 from GCHT, over £6 was invested by others – demonstrating the effectiveness of the programme in leveraging funding. This included the repair of 9 buildings to help 192 property owners conserve and regenerate Glasgow's historic built environment. Projects included repairs to the historic B listed Bell o' the Brae tenements on High Street, the distinctive B listed Pyramid building (former Anderston Kelvingrove Parish Church) and to the A listed landmark tower at Trinity College amongst others. The Heritage Activities programme featured the interactive multi-media Brutal Glasgow exhibition which offered the opportunity of a fresh perspective on this type of architecture and its place in the city.

3. Glasgow Building Preservation Trust (GBPT)

- 3.1 GBPT is an award-winning independent charity established in 1982 with a remit to deliver the re-development of historic buildings blighted by market failure and to reach out to communities often left behind by traditional heritage approaches. Since its formation, 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. Notable examples include West Boathouse, Kelvingrove Bandstand and Parkhead School. 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's 2024-25 programme included a wide range of heritage-led initiatives across Glasgow. Key activities included feasibility, fundraising and development studies for significant sites such as Lion Chambers, Langside Halls, Pollokshaws Burgh Hall, Queens Park Glasshouse, Govan Lyceum, Whitevale Baths and Carntyne Parish Church.
- 3.3 The organisation is also supporting housing-focused studies on historic Council owned janitor's houses in Calton, Royston, and Govanhill to return these to social housing stock, and engaging with Council Departments on future projects under the Sauchiehall Street Culture & Heritage District project via the NLHF Heritage and Place programme. GBPT is also

leading heritage engagement planning for the Govan Heritage & Place scheme.

- 3.4 Public engagement remains a priority, with the 35th edition of the Glasgow Doors Open Days Festival in September 2024 featuring over 230 events and attracting more than 30,000 visits. Building on that momentum a grant award of £29,948 was made from the Low Emission Zone Community Fund approved by [CAC on 27th March](#) and a £10,000 grant has been approved under Delegated Authority from NRS to support the 2025 programme.

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.
- 4.2 This is in line with the commitment made to provide contributory match funding to augment HES's financial support to GCHT. HES confirmed support for 3 years from 2023-26 with a similar or enhanced contribution. This will amount to £848,000 from HES for this financial year (2025-26) therefore the GCC contribution is essential.
- 4.3 GBPT receives core funding of £50,000 each year from Glasgow City Council to support core running costs and project development.
- 4.4 In conjunction with the leverage they can obtain from HES, GCHT and GBPT 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 2025-26.

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 2021-25 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 N/A
Protection impacts:

6 Recommendations

Committee is asked to approve funding for financial year 2025-26 of:

- £240,000 grant to Glasgow City Heritage Trust and,
- £50,000 grant for core activities to Glasgow Building Preservation Trust.