



**Glasgow City Council**

**Wellbeing, Equalities, Communities, Culture and Engagement City Policy Committee**

**Report by the Chief Executive**

**Contact: Michelle Booth, Head of Policy and Corporate Governance**

**Open Government Action Plan for Glasgow 2026-2028**

**Purpose of Report:**

This paper provides Committee with an outline of Glasgow's second Open Government Action Plan, including the key findings from the Open Call for Ideas and Stakeholder Conversations.

**Recommendations:**

The Committee is asked to:

- Note the findings from the Open Call for Ideas and the Stakeholder Conversations in developing the Open Government Action Plan for Glasgow 2026-2028;
- Note the proposed strategic elements of the Action Plan; and
- Note actions within the new plan will now be considered as part of the performance monitoring of services through regular reporting and scrutiny to ensure the principles of Open Government are embedded into business as usual.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

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

## 1 Background

1.1 The Open Government Action Plan for Glasgow 2021-2023 focussed on improving upon ongoing reforms and demonstrating clear improvement from current practice, within 4 Open Government Commitments developed across key themes:

- Participatory democracy
- Exploring an open government digital engagement platform
- Co-creating an open data hub with communities, and
- Building awareness and communications on open government.

The plan represented our first steps and built momentum for the mainstreaming of Open Government values and principles in the work of the council, which can now be demonstrated in the Action Plan 2026-2028 detailed in Section 4.

1.2 As part of the development of this mainstreamed Action Plan the council has undertaken an Open Call for Ideas from communities, third sector organisations and businesses, followed by Stakeholder Conversations with Council Service Departments and Community Planning Partners.

## 2 Open Call for Ideas: Summary of Findings

2.1 This initial engagement explored awareness of Open Government, policy priorities for the second Action Plan, and an opportunity to suggest reforms, improvements or priority service areas to progress Open Government values of openness, transparency, accountability and participation. The Open Call for Ideas was undertaken between 9 August and 26 September 2024 and received 111 responses, with 57 proposed commitments or suggestions for improvement. The full report on the findings of the Open Government: Open Call for Ideas 2024 was considered at [WECCE City Policy Committee in April 2025](#).

2.2 Respondents provided a large range of views on the focus for the next Open Government Action Plan, many of which are focussed on improvements in understanding the work of local public services and being able to influence services and decisions effectively. Open Government values and principles have been reflected by respondents - public participation, accountability and transparency, accessibility and access to services, and trust in government.

2.3 The key issues raised within the Open Call for Ideas as a focus for the next Open Government Action Plan were:

- Public Participation and Democracy
- Trust in Local Government
- Transport and Travel
- Poverty and Inequalities
- Accessibility and Access to Public Services
- Health and Social Care
- Transparency and Accountability
- Financial Transparency and Budgets
- Young People, and
- Education and Childcare

2.4 When asked to rank the themes for inclusion in the next Open Government Action Plan for Glasgow – these were identified as the most important:

- Poverty and Inequalities
- Public Participation and Democracy
- Financial Transparency
- Climate Change
- Youth Participation
- Digital and Data

### **3 Stakeholder Conversations: Key Findings**

3.1 In March 2026, stakeholder conversations were undertaken with Council Service Departments and Community Planning Partners, and a further three stakeholder conversations will be undertaken in June on themes prioritised by the Open Government Steering Group. These conversations explored progress being made against Open Government values and what we are already delivering and achieving against these, what still needs to happen to advance open government values in Glasgow and the challenges and opportunities involved, and new priorities that could be explored as part of future open government commitments to focus on impact, driving change for communities, and challenging business as usual.

3.2 The key themes discussed by stakeholders when considering advancing open government values and responding to the Open Call for Ideas feedback were:

- Consultation and Digital Engagement
- Community Engagement
- Public Participation
- Open Data
- Artificial Intelligence and AI Governance
- Poverty
- Transparency and Accountability
- Public Performance Reporting
- Climate Change
- Youth Participation
- Financial Transparency

### **4 Open Government Action Plan 2026-2028: Strategic Vision Outline**

4.1 The Open Government Steering Group have considered the strategic vision decision points below.

#### *Action Plan Duration*

The OGP requires an Open Government Action Plan to follow administration cycles, however Glasgow's first Open Government Action Plan ran from September 2021 to September 2023 following agreement by the OGP.

It is proposed that Glasgow's second Open Government Action Plan will cover the period August 2026 to August 2028, and we have liaised with the Open

Government Partnership to agree this timeframe. This Action Plan duration provides a more realistic timeframe to implement open government commitments, provides lead-in time to embed Open Government in Glasgow City Council's next Strategic Plan, and prevents potential risks in repeating community consultation and stakeholder engagement within a 12-month period.

### *Strategic Vision*

In the first Open Government Action Plan 2021-2023 we presented an overall strategic vision for Open Government in Glasgow as outlined in the Glasgow City Council Strategic Plan 2017-2022.

“Glasgow City Council is committed to Open Government principles as essential to our ambitions to be world class in city governance and build on the strength of our people. Our ambitions and future direction are set out within our Strategic Plan 2017-2022...with our people at the heart of our ambitions and future direction.”

The Open Government Steering Group agreed that this overall strategic vision remains relevant but asked that it be updated to align with the Glasgow City Council Strategic Plan 2022-2027 and provide more focus on Open Government values. It is proposed that the strategic vision be expanded in the Open Government Action Plan 2026-2028 to include the following statement:

The Open Government Action Plan 2026-2028 will contribute to the achievement of our Open Government ambitions and strategic vision by: improving our ways of working to be an open, transparent and easily accessible organisation which communicates freely with city residents and involves them in decision making; and running an open, well governed Council in partnership with all our communities.

### *Independent Monitoring Body*

Open Government Partnership members are required to select a Monitoring Body to independently evaluate and assess the co-creation process and results achieved from implementation of the Open Government commitments. It is responsible for carrying out three types of activities: an inception assessment (collecting evidence and assessing the co-creation process of the action plan); an end-of-commitment assessment for each finalised commitment; and leading a final learning exercise at the end of the Action Plan. The Independent Monitoring Body plays a key role in the local action plan process as it provides lessons, accountability and legitimacy to the process as a trusted and independent actor.

The Open Government Steering Group invited the University of Glasgow to continue in their role as Independent Monitoring Body for Glasgow's Open Government Action Plan 2026-2028 – this has been accepted by the University of Glasgow.

- 4.2 The Open Government Steering Group have agreed the policy themes and headline supporting actions emerging from the Open Call for Ideas and Stakeholder Conversations:

## Open Government Outline Action Plan 2026-2028

Thematic Area	Objective	Supporting Actions	Services	Timescales
Public Participation	Improve access to consultation and engagement and increase transparency	Develop an accessible digital engagement platform; integrating consultation, feedback, and information access; improve visibility of participation opportunities	CED	2026-28
Artificial Intelligence & Governance	Enhance transparency and accountability in AI use	Explore and develop an Artificial Intelligence Register.  Align with Digital Glasgow Strategy; define governance processes for AI tools	CED Digital Services Corporate Governance	2026-28
Child Poverty	Strengthen open government approaches within Child Poverty Programme	Embed community and stakeholder participation in co-design approaches; develop transparency of programme actions.	CED	2026-28
Youth Participation	Increase involvement of young people in policy and decision-making	Develop youth engagement mechanisms, <a href="#">building on existing youth participation work</a> as part of the Youth Engagement Strategy and report to WECCE Committee as appropriate.	CED	2026-28
Climate Action	Promote public participation and transparency in climate initiatives	Develop a climate action commitment; link to community action and Climate Plan; improve transparency on Net Zero targets.  Embedded actions within 2026-30 Climate Plan Revision; including but not limited to delivering a suite of regular climate	NRS	2026-28

Thematic Area	Objective	Supporting Actions	Services	Timescales
		communications accessible city wide, embedding a participatory approach in climate action, and involving young people in decision making processes through climate education and consultation		
Public Performance Reporting	Improve usefulness and clarity of performance reporting	Continue to review and develop Performance Reporting Framework; ensure reporting aligns with user needs; embed continuous improvement approach	CED	2026-28

4.3 These actions within the new plan will now be considered as part of the performance monitoring of services through regular reporting and scrutiny to ensure the principles of Open Government are embedded into business as usual. Given the synergies between the areas of interest highlighted in the outline action plan above and the responsibilities of Glasgow’s Community Planning Partners, the new Performance Framework for the GCPP’s new Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2024-2034 will also incorporate these principles into its city-wide measures.

4.4 These new actions will also be reported regularly to our scrutiny committee under our Strategic Plan commitments. In particular [Grand Challenge 4 Mission 2, Run an open, well governed council in partnership with all our communities](#), which has a focus on the implementation of the Open Government Action Plan.

## 5 Policy and Resource Implications:

### Resource Implications:

*Financial:* No financial implications identified

*Legal:* No legal implications identified

*Personnel:* No personnel implications identified

*Procurement:* No procurement implications identified

**Council Strategic Plan:** Grand Challenge 4: Enable staff to deliver essential services in a sustainable, innovative and efficient way for our communities.

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 2025-29? Please specify.*

The Open Government Action Plan will have strong alignment to the Council's Equality Outcomes 2025-29, with key open government values of public participation, transparency, accessibility and inclusion. The 2026 - 2028 Plan supports improving our ways of working to be an open, transparent and easily accessible organisation which communicates freely with city residents and involves them in decision making.

*What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?*

No significant equality impacts identified at this stage – however the implementation of an Open Government Action Plan 2026-2028 is anticipated to have a positive impact. This is currently being considered in the development of the Action Plan to ensure we take account of equality and inequality issues relevant to each of our Open Government commitments and themes.

*Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio economic disadvantage.*

No direct impact on socio-economic disadvantage at this stage - Glasgow's Open Government Plan 2026-2028 has the potential to indirectly impact on socio-economic issues during implementation of its commitments, for example through public participation, youth participation, and child poverty.

**Climate Impacts:**

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

The Open Government Action Plan has strong alignment to Climate Plan Theme 1 on Communication and Community Empowerment. The potential to include a Climate Action open government commitment within the Open Government Action Plan for Glasgow 2026-2028 will be explored.

*What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal?*

No potential climate impacts identified

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

No contribution to Glasgow's net zero carbon target

**Privacy and Data Protection impacts:**

No privacy or data protection impacts identified

## **6. Recommendations**

6.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Note the findings from the Open Call for Ideas and the Stakeholder Conversations in developing the Open Government Action Plan for Glasgow 2026-2028;
- Note the proposed strategic elements of the Action Plan; and
- Note actions within the new plan will now be considered as part of the performance monitoring of services through regular reporting and scrutiny to ensure the principles of Open Government are embedded into business as usual