



**Glasgow City Council**

**Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring  
City Policy Committee**

**Report by George Gillespie, Executive Director of  
Neighbourhoods and Sustainability**

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**Item 2**

**26th May 2026**

**SUSTAINABLE GLASGOW PARTNERSHIP UPDATE**

**Purpose of Report:**

To update Committee on the work of the Sustainable Glasgow Partnership.

**Recommendations:**

The Committee is asked to:

- 1) Note the contents of this report;
- 2) Note that further updates will be provided.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

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

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This report provides updates on the work undertaken by the Sustainable Glasgow Partnership (SGP, the Partnership) since the previous report to this committee in [May 2025](#).
- 1.2 The report also sets out the direction of travel for the Partnership and how it intends to support the city's target of being Net Zero Carbon by 2030.

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 The Sustainable Glasgow Partnership was established in 2009 to support Glasgow to reduce its Scope 1 and 2 carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions by 30% by 2020 against a baseline of 2006.
- 2.2 This target met, the Partnership was relaunched in 2019 and has evolved since its creation, strengthening its commitment to support Glasgow on its journey to be climate-resilient and become a Net Zero Carbon city by 2030 and the wider sustainability agenda, while encouraging more action and ambition from its members.
- 2.3 The SGP was restructured in 2024, with the Board comprising of 9 members, as detailed below, and the creation of a new Programme Manager role, which sits within the NRS Sustainability Programme Management Office.

## **3. Composition of Sustainable Glasgow**

- 3.1 The Sustainable Glasgow Partnership is hosted and supported by Glasgow City Council (GCC) with its Board chaired by the Leader of the Council. This has ensured a strong political commitment to the Sustainable Glasgow ambitions. The Vice Chair of the Board is currently the Transmission Managing Director at Scottish Power Energy Networks.
- 3.2 The Board Members, below, have remained unchanged since last report:
  - Glasgow City Council
  - University of Strathclyde
  - University of Glasgow
  - Clyde Gateway
  - The Wheatley Group
  - Scottish Enterprise
  - Strathclyde Partnership for Transport
  - Scottish Power Energy Networks
  - Chamber of Commerce (non-executive member)

- 3.3 The Board continues to receive support from its four thematic hubs as listed below:
- Heating and Housing Hub (HHH) – Chaired by the council’s Head of Housing
  - Green Infrastructure and Transport Hub (GITH) – Chaired by the Executive Lead Sustainability from University of Strathclyde
  - Green Economy and Private Sector Hub (GEP SH) – Chaired by the Transmission Managing Director at Scottish Power Energy Networks (SPEN)
  - Greening the City Hub (GtCH) – Chaired by the Chief Executive at Clyde Gateway
- 3.4 Each of the hubs is tasked with working on ways to enhance delivery of action in relation to their specific theme and reporting progress to the board on a quarterly basis.

#### **4. Progress to Date**

4.1 The Sustainable Glasgow Board has facilitated progress in a number of different areas. This progress can be measured through the work of the thematic hubs as well as through the Board. The work of each Hub is summarised in this section and further activity is detailed in Section 5.

#### **4.2 Heating and Housing Hub**

4.2.1 The HHH has focused on progressing the home retrofit, clean heat and new build housing sustainability agendas. The Hub was in abeyance during most of 2025 whilst the Glasgow Housing Retrofit Position Statement was produced. The HHH has held 2 meetings, with participation from GCC representatives as well as from academic institutions and social housing organisations.

4.2.2 The Hub has been progressing work through its two subgroups. The Glasgow Retrofit Advisory Group (RAG), with a cross-sector, multi-disciplinary, stakeholder group reflecting the domestic retrofit sector; and the Heat Pump Advisory Group (HPAG), bringing together energy consultants and heat pump technology experts to provide advice and support on the practical application of heat pumps systems in the city.

4.2.3 The Retrofit Advisory Group has supported the production of [Glasgow’s Housing Retrofit Position Statement](#). This Statement was presented to the Hub members, with discussion emphasising the need for public engagement to achieve impact, better monitoring and feedback to build evidence, consideration of occupant behaviour, expansion of heat pump energy tariffs, the need for quality assurance and redress processes, and better handover

and user training for new technologies. The Hub members expect to continue to refine proposals and collaborate on delivery.

4.2.4 A review of the Hub membership and remit is underway to ensure the HHH remains relevant, effective and action focused. A survey was issued to HHH members, the purpose of which is to seek the thoughts of members on the current membership and objectives and what outcomes the hub should usefully pursue. Findings will be presented at the next meeting in late May 26.

4.2.5 The HHH has also covered other relevant topics. These include:

- LHEES & MoU update: members were updated on the plans to deploy heat networks across the city, and the work to create a Model for Climate Investment. Hub members will raise awareness of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) amongst their networks to encourage signatures. Successful heat network development will remain a key focus of the HHH. Going forward, members noted the need for more public engagement to support eventual heat network and heat pump deployment and saw the hub having a role developing this.
- E.ON Next Battery Trial: E.ON presented on the battery trial being developed in Glasgow, building on work in Coventry but with a clear focus on households identified in child poverty. Hub members participated in a discussion around targeting of interventions and monitoring, and indicated that a discussion on scalability would be useful in future. Hub members are involved in the work and this will come back to the Hub for support and to share learning.
- New Build Housing Standards: the HHH received an update on current and potential future standards for new housing in terms of clean heat, and the delivery challenges that can present. This was noted as an area for future Hub work and is very much connected with skills development and delivery models for new housing.
- Electric Wallpaper Study: presentations were received on an Electric Wallpaper pilot from the University of Glasgow. These outlined key findings from a pilot which West of Scotland Housing Association had taken forward. Electric wallpaper (far infrared heating) was trialed in 10 pre-1919 tenements in Springburn throughout 2024 and 2025. The Hub discussed the warmth and applicability of the product which was positive, however, household affordability challenges is a key issue and only small pool of data was achieved. Once the final report is finalised, the RAG will consider it in detail.

### **4.3 Green Infrastructure and Transport Hub**

4.3.1 The Hub has held three meetings in this reporting period, with up to 18 attendees from a range of organisations. The focus on energy and heat infrastructure investment encouraged new attendees to join including Glasgow Caledonian University, NESO, and members from Heat Networks Scotland.

4.3.2 The meetings have provided updates and discussions on investment in energy efficiency, heat pumps, storage and EV charging infrastructure.

Likewise, there has been opportunities for Hub members to engage in Glasgow's Climate Week, support the Sustainable Glasgow Dialogues, receive updates from the University of Strathclyde's Active Mobility Hub, support the Heat Networks MoU and the Model for Climate Investment, and Glasgow's Climate Plan.

- 4.3.3 The GITH as part of its scope and work has been supporting the delivery of the LHEES through the promotion of the Heat Networks Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Member organisations have been invited to express their interest in supporting the deployment of heat networks in Glasgow by signing this MoU and encouraging other local organisations from their networks to sign it too.
- 4.3.4 In collaboration with the council, the GITH held a launch event of the MoU. The event was hosted by University of Strathclyde on the 9th of December 2025, with over 80 participants. The event provided an opportunity to share Glasgow's strategic approach to local heat network development, highlight opportunities for collaboration and connection, engage directly with organisations that can play a key role in enabling delivery, and leverage support to the MoU.
- 4.3.5 There have been a number of activities undertaken by Hub members, including:
- Engagement with Gren - Energy on Clyde, to learn about their developing energy-from-waste plant that seeks to combine heat and power generation from their plant to a heat network to connect pioneering businesses and organisations across the city.
  - Participation from Hub members in the Climate Ready Clyde (CRC) Action Group, identifying opportunities to embed climate resilience and adaptation interventions into existing capital work programmes and identifying potential new strategic projects in critically climate vulnerable areas.
  - Support for the development of the new Glasgow City Innovation District Strategy. Hub Members have engaged in the Property and Infrastructure Workstream, chaired by the council's Head of Planning, Sarah Shaw.
  - Hub members took part in a 'Meet the Standard' event held at Scottish Futures Trust (SFT) office to promote the Scottish Government's Net Zero Public Sector Building Standard managed by SFT and Zero Waste Scotland.
  - A Strathclyde PhD student has completed a project to evaluate the potential of geothermal energy to support the decarbonation of heat supply across its campus buildings and Glasgow city centre generally. Two main geothermal options were identified: one that considers a shallow mine water system at the Cardowan Colliery, and a second more promising option involving a deep geothermal system targeting the Upper Devonian sandstones. Further analysis is needed to advance this, offering an opportunity for future work.
- 4.3.6 The GITH has seen a high level of interest in and willingness to collaborate to support ongoing projects that accelerate sustainable and active mobility,

power capacity (incl. for EV charging) and heat networks infrastructure developments to meet Glasgow's Climate Plan aims.

#### **4.4 Greening the City Hub**

- 4.4.1 The GtCH has held 4 meetings in this reporting period, hosting around 20 members, consisting of representatives from various large organisations across the public, private, and third sectors.
- 4.4.2 The Hub has developed a draft Strategic Delivery Plan (SDP) which proposes a framework for the strategic delivery of urban green interventions categorised into three scales: Small, Medium, and Large. This structure is intended to clarify responsibilities, align funding, and streamline communication for diverse stakeholders. This approach helps to address specific challenges more precisely, from localized issues like community participation in small projects to complex, city-wide challenges such as enhancing climate resilience in large-scale initiatives. The document is undergoing revisions and will be brought back to the Board for agreement.
- 4.4.3 The GtCH are planning to facilitate the development of a SMART action plan for the Hub in late May 2026. Ahead of this, Hub members will consider actions their organisations can commit to. This action plan will follow the structure of the SDP, identifying small, medium and large interventions that can be delivered by the Hub.
- 4.4.4 The Chair of the GtCH welcomed members of the council's Net Zero and Climate Plan Progress Monitoring City Policy Committee for a tour of Cuningar Loop Woodland Park. The tour exhibited the work the Clyde Gateway Sustainable Communities team delivers with the local communities. The British Geological Survey delivered a presentation showcasing their research work on geothermal energy. The tour concluded in Shawfield where the Committee visited Clyde Gateway's D2 GRIDS district heating network and heard more about the ongoing remediation works within Shawfield.
- 4.4.5 The GtCH has also focused on the following work and topics:
- 10,000 Raingardens for Scotland Case Study: a project that was delivered for the Green Action Trust by Mott MacDonald. The project has sought to investigate the wider co-benefits of blue green infrastructure and how this can be quantified in monetary terms using software Ciriabest as a decision-making tool.
  - Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP): LDA Design completed a BAP for Shawfield and Dalmarnock on behalf of Clyde Gateway. The Hub members noted that there are potential overlaps between Glasgow City Council's new Climate Plan and the proposed Nature Networks for GCC. Actions within the BAP will be translated into the GtCH Action Plan.
  - Members of the Hub participated in a workshop from GALLANT, looking to strengthen actions to reverse biodiversity loss. The workshop mapped out the

current actors and activity, and identified enablers and barriers to progress in order to inform future action, recognising the city's ambitious goals, and potential work for the GtCH.

- Glasgow City Region (GCR) Nature Networks: the project will identify opportunities for new interventions that will connect buffer zone areas and increase nature networks. Hub members were invited to approach GCR Green Network to help inform interventions for this work.
- Climate Courtyards: this project, presented to the GtCH, was initiated by project GALLANT in partnership with consultants and architects. The Hub members discussed the challenges faced when implementing projects of this nature; particularly regarding ownership and long-term maintenance obligations. A pilot scheme location within Govanhill has been identified in conjunction with Govanhill Housing Association. The Hub noted this project is one that can be replicated throughout the city, with further funding required to deliver this.

#### **4.5 Green Economy & Private Sector Hub**

4.5.1 The Hub membership remains diverse, with a mix of large organisations and SMEs, covering a variety of public and private sectors. The GEPSH has held 4 meetings since May 2025.

4.5.2 The Hub continues to promote mutual learning in support of every member organisation's sustainability journey. Each meeting is hosted by a different Hub member, who shares about the various actions they are taking forward to ensure sustainable operations and support to Glasgow's climate ambitions.

4.5.3 Hub member organisation George Leslie hosted an innovation day in their facilities in August 2025 and the GEPSH arranged for Sustainable Glasgow to host a stall. This showcased the aims of the Partnership and facilitated the collection of expressions of interest for the Sustainable Glasgow Charter. Representatives from SPEN, University of Strathclyde and Edrington attended, alongside the Programme Manager on the SGP as part of the activities of the event.

4.5.4 The GEPSH carries out work through its different subgroups. Priorities from the Hub have been focused on the following activities:

4.5.5 Greening the City and Carbon Sequestration Subgroup:

- This subgroup has been created to specifically engage with the private sector organisations on how they might be able to support greening activity in the city through possible investment into projects in Glasgow.
- The subgroup has shared updates on the progress of the Greening the City Programme funded through income received from the Low Emissions Zone.
- 15 trees in metal planters and 13 trees in concrete planters have been placed around the city centre.

- The Trees for Streets initiative to encourage more street trees was launched in July 2025. 27 requests have been received to date and 4 trees have been approved for planting this year. 2 expressions of interest have been received for corporate sponsorship and Hub members have been encouraged to consider participation.
- Through the Healthy Schools and Care Streets initiative, funded with the Community Municipal Investment (CMI) fund, 222 sites have been desktop assessed for potential tree planting. Further work will include assessment of underground utility data, consideration of further street redesign opportunities, site surveys, and procurement and installation (funding dependent).

#### 4.5.6 Skills Subgroup:

- Following the work to understand challenges and opportunities for businesses and education providers to place students, the Skills Subgroup held an in-person workshop to explore the end-to-end process of developing and completing a student placement. As a result of this, a Green Student Placement Guide was produced. This guide lays out the step-by-step process for businesses and educational organisations to deliver high quality sustainability focused placements. This will be made available to the Partnership and the wider public on the Sustainable Glasgow website.

#### 4.5.7 Circular Economy Subgroup:

- The GEPSH recently created a new subgroup on Circular Economy. It will be led by University of Strathclyde. This subgroup will share best practices, explore joint initiatives, investigate potential for industry and academic cooperation, promote members current projects, and co-develop new projects and enhance reach across the city.

4.5.8 The Mobility and SMEs Subgroups will be reviewed for applicability and future development.

## **5. Key additional lines of work**

### **5.1 Sustainable Glasgow Website**

5.1.1 A refresh to the Sustainable Glasgow's website was instructed by the Board. This refresh was required to enhance the user experience, improve accessibility, and ensure the content better reflected SGP's current work and priorities.

5.1.2 The previous site was hosted by a private sector firm under a contract with Glasgow City Council who covered costs. The contract included hosting but the maintenance was on a pay-as-you-go basis and any additions carried an additional cost. All major changes needed to be undertaken by the

developers, with little flexibility for changes from SGP's end. The site also required a major update to work more effectively.

5.1.3 Following a business case, a website refresh was approved, to improve navigation, accessibility, and user engagement. The refresh of the site would transfer to Glasgow City Council's Web Team. This will enable faster and more flexible changes to the contents of the site. This transfer would also save in costs of design, maintenance, changes, and updates.

5.1.4 The Sustainable Glasgow website [www.sustainableglasgow.org.uk](http://www.sustainableglasgow.org.uk) went live in December 2025. The site showcases the work of the SGP. It is a gateway for those organisations who wish to join the Partnership, check progress of the climate action in the city, increase their climate ambitions, seek support, and engage with like-minded stakeholders.

## 5.2 Sustainable Glasgow Dialogues

5.2.1 University of Glasgow in collaboration with Glasgow City Council and Sustainable Glasgow, have hosted a series of Sustainable Glasgow Dialogues during Glasgow's Climate Week in May 2026. These dialogues brought researchers, practitioners, and decision-makers together in the context of delivering Glasgow's Climate Plan, to identify strategic challenge areas for action, research gaps that need to be filled, and position the city to lead future funding bids on climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience. The detail of the Sustainable Glasgow Dialogues is presented below.

5.2.2 The Chairs of all four thematic Hubs co-led one of the Dialogues. They provided inputs to define the scopes, structure the formats, identify provocations and case studies, and suggest stakeholders and invitees. Inputs from the Dialogues will be analysed, and a roundtable event later in Autumn 2026 will present the results. The dialogues focussed on the below topics:

- Achieving a Just Energy Transition – how can energy curtailment and local renewable energy generation support communities and the city?
- Holistic place-based and nature positive solutions for climate resilience
- Bridging the gap to net zero: opportunities for sequestration in Scotland
- Normalising the Circular Economy – what's stopping us

## 5.3 Glasgow's Climate Plan

5.3.1 The delivery of Glasgow's Climate Plan Revision 2026-2030 will require collaboration and joint work across sectors and stakeholders in the City. Sustainable Glasgow plays a pivotal role in this, bringing together important

actors who, together, can provide significant support to Glasgow's climate ambitions.

5.3.2 The Sustainable Glasgow Board followed from its start, the revision and update process of Glasgow's Climate Plan. During its Public Consultation (from 11th December 2025 until Sunday, 15th February 2026), the Sustainable Glasgow Partnership encouraged its 4 thematic Hubs, their members, and the wider city, to provide comments and get involved. Through the Partnership's new website, and the Hubs, all the information and details on the consultation were disseminated.

5.3.3 The Partnership offered its membership an online session with the Sustainability Team from GCC to go through the Plan, its categories, objectives and actions. The session also focused on Sustainable Glasgow's involvement, and the relevance of the Partnership for the successful delivery of the Plan.

5.3.4 A joint response to Glasgow's Climate Plan was submitted on behalf of Sustainable Glasgow.

#### 5.4 **Sustainable Glasgow Charter**

5.4.1 The Sustainable Glasgow Charter was developed by the Green Economy and Private Sector Hub. It is a commitment by leading businesses and employers to take action within their own organisations and sectors to contribute to a green recovery and radically reduce the City's carbon emissions.

5.4.2 As the Sustainable Glasgow Partnership continues to engage with more member organisations and set higher standards for climate commitments, there was a recognition that the Sustainable Glasgow Charter has the potential to elicit more robust and ambitious actions from its signatories.

5.4.3 An update was proposed to incorporate emerging new policies and strategies, align it to the revised Glasgow's Climate Plan, and to potentiate sustainable action.

5.4.4 The Sustainable Glasgow Charter pledge and supplementary note have been updated to widen their scope so they cover the entirety of the Partnership and not just the Green Economy and Private Sector Hub.

5.4.5 The Charter documentation was originally contextualised around COP26. Thus, the text has been adjusted to reflect a more recent setting and situating it within Glasgow's Climate Plan.

5.4.6 The Charter's pledge now includes new considerations on Circular Economy and Sustainability in Events.

5.4.7 These updates are in line with the new website, and its text reflects that one of the Charter. With the refresh of the website, an expression of interest form was created for organisations to submit when wanting to sign up to the Charter. All signatories are now listed on the website. At present, there are 34 signatories, and 3 new organisations have submitted their online forms, expressing interest in joining. All the information on the Charter can be found on Sustainable Glasgow's website.

## 5.5 **Glasgow's Climate Week GCW**

5.5.1 Glasgow's Climate Week ran from 11th May through 16th May 2026. It was a chance to celebrate climate action happening across Glasgow, connect with others, and continue to learn how we can all work together to take action.

5.5.2 Glasgow City Council together with the Sustainable Glasgow Partnership organised and coordinated Glasgow's Climate Week. They worked with organisations and groups across the city to create a variety of ways for people to take part and hosted several events across the city.

5.5.3 Sustainable Glasgow's website hosted all the information relating to GCW. A section was dedicated to Climate Week, with the events calendar, and a series of blog posts released on each day of GCW.

5.5.4 A Quick Guide was also prepared, as a handout for events. This was a pamphlet with simple text to explain what Sustainable Glasgow is, and the work that is being carried out. This was part of the materials for GCW and will be added to the branding materials of Sustainable Glasgow.

## 6. **Next Steps**

6.1 Once the Glasgow's Climate Plan Revised Update 2026-2030 is approved, SGP, through the work of the Hubs and the rollout of the Sustainable Glasgow Charter, will be a key partner in its delivery. The SGP will identify opportunities and projects that contribute to the actions in this Plan.

6.2 Consideration will continue to be given to recruiting new members to the Board based on supporting the thematic areas of the partnership.

6.3 The Hubs will continue to deliver work in support of the LHEES, Climate Plan, Transport Strategy, the Net Zero Routemap, and other relevant strategies.

## 7. **Policy and Resource Implications**

### **Resource Implications:**

*Financial:* There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

*Legal:* There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

*Personnel:* The Sustainable Glasgow Partnership is supported by staff from across the membership as well as GCC staff funded by the Partnership.

*Procurement:* There are no direct procurement implications arising from this report.

**Council Strategic Plan:**

The Partnership supports the following Grand Challenges:

**Grand Challenge 2 Mission 2:** Support the growth of an innovative, resilient and net zero carbon economy.

**Grand Challenge 3 Mission 1:** Deliver sustainable transport and travel aligned with the city region

**Grand Challenge 3 Mission 2:** Become a net zero carbon city by 2030

**Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:**

*Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2025-29? Please specify.*

N/A This report provides an update on the work of the Sustainable Glasgow Partnership

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

N/A

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

The Sustainable Glasgow Partnership supports the Council's ambition of a just transition to net zero

**Climate Impacts:**

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

Yes. The Sustainable Glasgow Partnership supports a number of actions within the Climate Plan.

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

The potential climate impact is a net-zero carbon city by 2030.

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

Yes. The Sustainable Glasgow Partnership supports Glasgow's ambition of net zero carbon by 2030.

## **8. Recommendations**

8.1 The Committee is asked to:

- 1) Note the contents of this report;
- 2) Note that further updates will be provided.