



**Glasgow City Council**

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

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

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**Item 3**

**26th May 2026**

**Greening the City and Street Trees Update**

**Purpose of Report:**

To provide Committee with an update on the Greening the City programme and other Street Tree activity

**Recommendations:**

It is recommended that Committee:

- 1) Notes the content of this report.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

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

## 1 Introduction

- 1.1 The council's Strategic Plan Grand Challenge 3 Mission 2 is "Become a net zero carbon city by 2030" and Grand Challenge 4, Mission 1 is "Create safe, clean and thriving neighbourhoods".
- 1.2 Trees provide carbon capture, shade, cooling, flood mitigation, places to rest, habitats, improved air quality and mental health benefits and [Glasgow's Climate Plan](#) includes actions managed through the [Forest and Woodland Strategy](#) and [Glasgow Tree Plan](#) to manage existing trees and increase the tree canopy of Glasgow. The [Clyde Climate Forest](#) also requires increased planting and aims to have 18 million trees planted throughout the Glasgow City Region by 2030, including increasing the average tree canopy cover in urban Glasgow to 20% by planting, in particular, in areas of deprivation and locations at risk from the impacts of climate change.
- 1.3 In support of these policies and strategies, the council has put in place a number of projects for street tree delivery. Tree planting is funded through various mechanisms and managed across several council sections and officers are developing an overarching programme to ensure visibility and management of all projects, including additional resource to ensure delivery of the programme, discussed in more detail in Section 8 of this report.
- 1.4 The 2024/5 Budget allocated £250k of LEZ residual revenue to a **Greening the City** programme. £165k was allocated to City Centre Trees in Planters and £85k to an initiative to encourage engagement with residents for tree planting in their local streets.
- 1.5 The 2025/26 Budget allocated £1m for a Community Municipal Investment (CMI) opportunity for a **Healthy School and Care Streets Programme** focused on greening and public realm improvements outside of schools and care facilities in Glasgow.
- 1.6 The **City Deal** programme includes the Avenues and the transformation of George Square and incorporates trees into its streetscaping.
- 1.7 Projects delivered by the **Sustainable Transport** section incorporate trees and are funded by a combination of Transport Scotland and council capital allocation.

## 2 City Centre Trees in Planters

- 2.1 This initiative aims to increase the number of trees in the city centre.
- 2.2 While trees planted in the ground are the preferred option, due to the amount of subterranean utilities in the city centre, planters were identified as an expedient and efficient way to increase the amount of tree cover in the City Centre while plans for increased numbers of trees planted in tree pits could

be developed to ensure utilisation of existing and new infrastructure whilst maximising tree survival rates.

2.3 28 trees in planters have been installed in the city centre under this programme:

- 15 new trees in metal planters
- 5 new trees in concrete planters
- 8 trees in concrete planters relocated from George Square.

2.4 Figure 1 shows the locations of these:

<b>Location</b>	<b>Planter type</b>	<b>Number of planters</b>
GoMa	Concrete	4
Albion St	Concrete	1
Blythswood Square	Concrete (relocated)	3
Goose Dubbs	Concrete (relocated)	2
Dundas Lane	Concrete (relocated)	1
Dundasvale Road	Concrete (relocated)	2
Dundasvale Road	Metal	3
James Watt Street	Metal	3
Hope/Bothwell Street	Metal	1
Brunswick Street (A)	Metal	1
Brunswick Street (B)	Metal	4
Mercat	Metal	2
Trongate	Metal	1

*Figure 1: Trees in Planters*

2.5 10 trees were purchased as contingency for any planting issues. 2 will be retained with 8 reallocated to the People First Zone at Queen Street / Ingram Street and their value reimbursed to the Greening the City Programme.

2.6 Funding covered the cost of purchase, supply and installation of trees and planters and 1 year maintenance. Further costs include the temporary relocation of the planters at GOMA due to works there and replacement of a number of plants that have been vandalized since installation. The remaining balance, which is the equivalent of 2 concrete planters will be held to support further deployment of trees in planters in the City Centre.

### **3 Trees for Streets**

3.1 This initiative aims to engage residents and provide them with an opportunity to enhance their local streets through tree planting.

3.2 The 2024/5 Budget allocated £85k to this initiative.

- 3.3 Following procurement due process, a 3-year contract was agreed with charity Trees for Cities for provision of their [Trees for Streets](#) sponsorship scheme.
- 3.4 There are two routes provided – Individual Donation or Corporate Sponsorship.
- 3.5 Individual Donation
  - 3.5.1 Trees for Streets (TfS) provides an [online portal](#) for requests by residents for trees to be planted in their local streets. Residents can identify and upload photos of the suggested location an exact location and upload photos, and if the location is assessed as suitable for tree planting, the requester provides a £350 donation and commits to water the tree for its first year. Trees are 4-5 years old and 3-4m high providing instant impact to the street.
  - 3.5.2 The scheme launched in July 2025 with promotion on the council website and across social media platforms and a closing date for the first round in December 2025.
  - 3.5.3 To date there have been 27 requests and following assessment, 4 of these are being taken forward for planting later this year.
  - 3.5.4 Not all requests were able to be fulfilled. Reasons included issues with utilities underground, overhead cables, road and signage visibility considerations, pavement width, safety concerns and identified future street redesign.
  - 3.5.5 Some of those requests that were unable to be fulfilled were withdrawn by the requestor, and some alternative locations were offered but not accepted.
  - 3.5.6 Different procurement options were considered for the purchase, supply and installation of trees, and an existing Sustainable Transport and Active Travel contract will be used for the 4 trees currently in scope with planting expected later this year.
  - 3.5.7 Any residual funds will be allocated to further tree planting as soon as possible.
  - 3.5.8 Promotion for the next round of requests will be commenced this month.
- 3.6 Corporate Sponsorship
  - 3.6.1 Larger organisations looking to support planting of multiple trees can [contact TfS](#) directly to discuss sponsorship opportunities. Sponsors pay the full cost of the tree planting and receive certificates and signage to highlight their contribution.

- 3.6.2 The preferred planting areas are the four Clyde Climate Forest priority neighbourhoods of Bridgeton and Dalmarnock, Govan, Levern and District (broadly Pollok and Nitshill) and Possilpark, but other areas will be considered.
- 3.6.3 To date, 2 organisations have expressed interest and TfS are in discussions.
- 3.6.4 It should be noted that Community Councils are encouraged to contact the council directly regarding tree planting.

#### **4 Healthy School and Care Streets**

- 4.1 This initiative is focussed on greening and public realm improvements outside of schools and care facilities in Glasgow.
- 4.2 Funding
- 4.2.1 £1m capital funding was allocated in the 25/26 Budget
- 4.2.2 It is funded through a loan provided through the second raise of the [Community Municipal Investment \(CMI\)](#) managed by Abundance Investments. This funding is more cost effective for the council than traditional loans and investors receive a 4% return over 5 years.
- 4.2.3 The raise was launched 1st March 2026 and as at 19 May 2026 is £813k with 14 days remaining.
- 4.3 Desktop analysis
- 4.3.1 A desktop analysis has been conducted across 220 council school and care home locations (several education facilities are co-located).
- 4.3.2 The assessment included a review at each location of
- whether the site would benefit from tree planting by reviewing if the location was within one of the 4 FWS Priority Areas, the existing tree canopy cover and the tree equity score – which assesses the benefit a tree could bring at a particular location,
  - whether the location was viable for tree planting – ie the width of the street, overhead cables, visibility, safety considerations, hard ground issues, likelihood of underground utilities.
- 4.3.3 Locations were then scored with a focus on High opportunity sites.

- 4.3.4 Estimate costs for trees planted in hard and soft ground, and alternative approaches such as siting trees in planters and other greening initiatives have also been compiled.
- 4.3.5 Work is underway to better assess underground utilities, and then to determine if further street redesign such as incorporating build-outs may be appropriate for the location and allow additional planting. This work is limited by the availability of dependable data on subsurface infrastructure.
- 4.3.6 Following evaluation of all available data, and in line with the available budget, a selection of sites will be progressed with procurement commencing then and planting estimated in planting season, January to March 2027.

## **5 Sustainable Transport Projects**

- 5.1 Projects delivered by the council's Sustainable Transport section and funded through a combination of Transport Scotland and council capital, including the People First Zone at Queen Street, are expected to deliver 81 street trees over 3 years. Delivery of street trees are being added to new project scope as a matter of course and future funding should deliver more trees.

## **6 City Deal Programme**

- 6.1 The original City Deal Outline Business Case, which was approved in 2018, identified an overall target of 200 new trees to be planted as part of the City Centre Avenues programme. As individual Avenues have progressed through the design process this figure has been revised and it is currently expected that circa 400 trees will be planted.
- 6.2 Around 180 out of the planned 400 trees have been planted in-ground to date as part of Sauchiehall Street pilot phase Avenue, Holland Street & Pitt Street Avenues, Sauchiehall Precinct & Cambridge Street Avenues, Argyle Street West Avenue and Cowcaddens Road/Dobbies Loan Avenue and George Square where 46 new saplings have been planted across the area, including cherry blossoms, ginkgos, and liquid ambers.
- 6.3 Design work is also currently being progressed for the Broomielaw, Clyde Street and High Street Avenues. The number of additional trees to be planted as part of these 3 schemes has yet to be finalised but will lead to a further increase to the overall total number of trees that will be delivered through the Avenues programme.
- 6.4 Whilst the intention is that all trees are planted in-ground, certain locations and circumstances may require the use of planters and the number may change subject to site investigation.

## 7 Other Funding Streams

7.1. Other funding streams up to £396k provides opportunity for a further 100 street trees. Locations will be assessed and actual delivery for 2026/27 will be projected once procurement and technical feasibility work around utilities is undertaken. These include:

- Anderston City Yorkhill Area Partnership- have approved £194,050 (approximately 49 street trees)
- Future Woodlands Funding for Bridgeton Dalmarnock- c. £14,000 (approximately 4 trees)
- ENV8 (i.e. Developer Compensation Funds for tree removals) across the city of £188k (approximately 48 street trees)

## 8 Resource

8.1 The 25/26 Budget provided funding which was allocated to support the recruitment of a Technical Officer (Greening the City).

8.1.1 This 2-year fixed term contract sits within the Sustainability section.

8.1.2 The officer has undertaken the desktop assessment for the Healthy Schools and Care Streets project, liaising with colleagues across the department including Sustainable Transport, Greening & Biodiversity, Planning and Roads, utilising data, GIS mapping, information on planned works and tree knowledge.

8.1.3 The officer also supports the cross-departmental Carbon Sequestration and Trees Management Group which reports into the Climate and Sustainability Board.

8.2 The Council's budget setting process for 2026/27 approved further funding for 2 Landscape Officer posts. An earliest start date of July is projected.

## 9 Policy and Resource Implications

### Resource Implications:

*Financial:* There will be financial implications to fund the delivery of the Greening the City and other programmes incorporating street trees. The Budgets 24/25 and 25/26 have set out allocation.

*Legal:* nil

*Personnel:* nil

*Procurement:* There are likely to be procurement implications associated with purchase of goods and services related to tree planting.

**Council Strategic Plan:** The Greening the City programme supports the Council Strategic Plan Grand Challenge 3 “Fight the climate emergency in a just transition to a net zero Glasgow”, specifically Mission 2 “Become a net zero carbon city by 2030” and also supports GC4, Mission 1 “Create safe, clean and thriving neighbourhoods”.

**Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:**

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

Yes

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

Tree planting should provide benefits to all groups. Consideration will be given to access when considering locations for planting.

Additional trees may improve the lives of disadvantage groups in geographic areas worst affected by flood or overheating who may at times be disproportionately affected by climate impacts or are likely to bear the costs of interventions disproportionately.

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

Place Based Climate Action, including greening activity is known to provide multiple wider benefits, it supports action to address environmental loss, improve quality of place, helps to reduce socio economic inequalities, and supporting economic prosperity.

**Climate Impacts:**

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

Yes. The proposal supports Glasgow’s ambition to be a net zero carbon and climate resilient city.

*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. Trees provide carbon capture opportunity.

**Privacy and Data  
Protection Impacts:**

Are there any potential data protection impacts as a result of this report  
Y/N

No data protection or privacy implications

If Yes, please confirm that a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) has been carried out

**10 Recommendations**

It is recommended that Committee:

- 1) Notes the content of this report.