



Glasgow City Council
City Administration Committee

Report by Councillor Richard Bell, Depute Leader of the Council, City Treasurer and City Convener for Financial Inclusion

Contact: Tracey Bowers Ext: 77286

GLASGOW'S HOLIDAY PROGRAMME – SUMMER 2026 – SPRING 2027

Purpose of Report:
To provide recommendations for funding to organisations to deliver Glasgow's Holiday Programme during Summer and October 2026 and Spring 2027.

Recommendations:
Committee is invited to:

- Note the report;
- Approve the recommendations for funding from Glasgow's Holiday Programme for Summer and October 2026 and Spring 2027 in Appendix 1;
- Note the number of projects delivering to service users from each Ward in Appendix 2;
- Note the organisations not recommended for funding in Appendix 3; and
- Note the monitoring information from the Summer and October 2025 programmes in Appendix 4.

Ward No(s): Citywide:

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

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Council has allocated a budget of £2m for Glasgow's Holiday Programme for 2026/27.
- 1.2 This report seeks approval of funding recommendations in relation to the delivery of Glasgow's Holiday Programme during the Summer and October 2026 and Spring 2027 school holiday periods by third sector organisations.

2. Background

- 2.1 Glasgow's Holiday Programme provides funding to organisations to deliver a programme of engagement, activities and nutritious food to Glasgow's nursery, primary and secondary pupils (ages 0-18 years) during school holiday periods. It is intended that the programme complements existing activities by third sector organisations and that a significant proportion of allocated funding goes towards food costs.

3. Developments

- 3.1 Moving forward, Glasgow's Holiday Programme will be administered through a new Grants Management System. The system will be implemented during 2026 and will bring efficiencies both for applicants and the Council. One of the system benefits will be the management of all Holiday Programme information on one system. Holiday providers will submit monitoring information through the system as well as applying for funding in future years.
- 3.2 Information sessions on the new system will be delivered to providers later this year.

4. Application and Assessment

- 4.1 Applications for the 2026/27 programme were sought from third sector organisations on 4 December 2025 with a closing date of 26 January 2026. 82 applications were received including one from an ineligible organisation and one from an organisation which subsequently went into liquidation. 80 applications were deemed eligible for assessment.
- 4.2 The total requested from the 80 applicants was **£2,966,272.71**, broken down for each holiday period as follows:
 - Summer 2026 £1,980,743.29
 - October 2026 £340,124.50
 - Spring 2027 £645,404.92
- 4.3 There was no change to the application and assessment criteria from last year. Applicants were advised that funding recommendations would likely not exceed £100,000 per annual programme, as was the case in 2025/2026. Applicants were also advised that they may be offered grants at a lower level than applied for.

4.4 Applications were assessed, reviewed and scored by officers within the Grants and Monitoring team against pre-determined criteria outlined in the application documentation, as follows:

- Organisation/Governance
- Project Development/Delivery
- Project Outcomes and Impact
- Organisation and Project Finance

Detailed guidance was available to support assessors throughout the assessment process. Tables (a) and (b) below show the scoring methodology, the assessment criteria and score weighting applied:-

Table (a) Scoring methodology

Score	Score Key Assessment	Interpretation
5	Excellent	Satisfies and demonstrates excellent understanding of criteria required. Response identifies factors that will offer potential added value
4	Good	Satisfies the requirement with minor additional benefits
3	Acceptable	Satisfies the requirement with no reservations
2	Minor reservations	Satisfies the requirement with minor reservations e.g. limited evidence
1	Serious reservations	Some attempt has been made to provide information but lacks detail
0	Unacceptable	Unsatisfactory – no information provided

Table (b) – Assessment Criteria and Weighting

Criteria	Weighting (%)
Organisation/Governance	10
Project Development/Delivery	30
Project Outcomes and Impact	40
Organisation and Project Finance	20

A maximum score of 5 against all criteria would result in a weighted score of 100, whereas a score of 1 for all criteria would result in a weighted score of 20.

4.5 A Log was created to capture all relevant information from the application form, including the assessment score, proposed ward coverage, number of service users, number of programme spaces, percentage food costs and venues.

4.6 Applications were assessed and the outcome of each initial assessment was captured on an Assessment Template. To ensure consistency of approach, 15 peer reviews were undertaken.

4.7 Officers then identified potential gaps in provision across the city, using the information on anticipated service users, to ensure a geographical spread of provision.

This was boosted by using data from the Child Poverty Programme on a Ward basis that showed where there were higher numbers of children living in poverty, as below:-

- Ward 1 – Linn
- Ward 3 – Greater Pollok
- Ward 5 – Govan
- Ward 8 – Southside Central
- Ward 9 – Calton
- Ward 13 – Garscadden/Scotstounhill
- Ward 14 – Drumchapel/Annie'sland
- Ward 16 - Canal
- Ward 17 – Springburn/Robroyston
- Ward 18 – East Centre

4.8 Consideration was also given to Free School Meals and Clothing Grants data that showed a further 3 wards with a higher number of children living in poverty:-

- Cardonald
- North East
- Newlands/Auldburn

4.9 Other factors taken into consideration as part of the process were local and equality impact, ensuring that provision in local areas was as wide as possible and that provision for black and minority ethnic (BME) and those with additional support needs (ASN) were factored into the recommendation process.

4.10 As part of their application, applicants were required to sign a declaration to indicate that they will meet the relevant policy and practice requirements, including safeguarding policies, insurance, PVG checks for staff and volunteers, compliance with Care Inspectorate regulations around day care of children/young people and compliance with Environmental Health and Food Hygiene legislation.

4.11 Applicants were also asked to identify their project delivery locations and which Wards the beneficiaries would come from. Information on actual take-up and profile of beneficiaries will be gathered as part of the monitoring process.

4.12 Applicants were also encouraged to adopt sustainable practices and were encouraged to use local food suppliers and use food surplus organisations.

4.13 Applicants were further asked if they would like more information about the Council's "No Wrong Door" initiative, aiming to improve service delivery and promote stronger collaboration among organisations. Of the 80 applications

received, 70 organisations wanted more information about the No Wrong Door initiative.

5. Budget

- 5.1 As detailed in paragraph 1.1, the budget for Glasgow's Holiday Programme 2026/27 is £2m.
- 5.2 Last year, the 2025/26 programme was enhanced from under allocation in the Glasgow Communities Fund following withdrawal and reduction of services by 3 funded organisations. To sustain delivery of an enhanced programme in 2026/27, additional funding of £262,899 has been identified by the Public Service Reform Steering Group from the Whole Family Early Intervention Fund in recognition of the positive impact on child poverty.

6. Programme Recommendations

- 6.1 Members will note at paragraph 4.2 that the total amount requested for the 2026/27 programme is £2,966,272.71, resulting in the £2m Fund being oversubscribed by 48%. The total funding request includes 1 application exceeding £100,000 which was assessed on the basis of a request for £100,000 in accordance with the application guidance.
- 6.2 The amounts requested by organisations vary significantly depending on the geographical spread, the length of their programme, available spaces within the programme, the number of anticipated service users, and the number of meals and activities provided. After detailed consideration of a range of factors, it is considered that the funding recommendations set out in this report would deliver an optimum programme of activity across the city. The rationale for the level of funding proposed is detailed in paragraphs 6.3 and 6.4.
- 6.3 All organisations recommended for funding received an assessment score of 50 or over. For the applications that met this threshold, consideration was given to overall ward coverage, programme capacity, the number of spaces offered and the number of children that would benefit from the programme. The final recommendations take into account costs which were deemed ineligible and/or excessive at assessment.
- 6.4 The proposed programme for 2026/27 is reflective of three factors:-
- Utilisation of the additional funding of £262,899 identified from the Whole Family Early Intervention Fund
 - 12 organisations requesting the same or less funding than last year
 - restricting awards for those funded in 2025/26 to a maximum 10% increase

In order to achieve the reach across the city within available budget, it is proposed that 56 organisations are supported as detailed in paragraphs 6.4.1 and 6.4.2 below.

6.4.1 **Providers supported in 2025/26** - 50 organisations, who were funded last year, are offered funding equivalent to a 10% increase on 2025/26 funding levels where requests have exceeded the 2025/26 amount awarded.

Where the amounts requested are either below or the same as 2025/26 levels awarded, or are below the equivalent of the 10% increase (as above), funds are recommended on the basis of the amounts applied for.

Of the 50 providers funded in 2025/26, 2 organisations have been recommended for less than applied for and less than awarded in 2025/26 following assessment of proposed delivery costs.

6.4.2 **Providers not supported in 2025/26** - 6 organisations that are either new to the programme or were not awarded funding in 2025/26 will receive either the amount requested or the amount of funding recommended by the assessor. This equates to 3% of the proposed programme.

The table below summarises the approach detailed in paragraphs 6.4.1 and 6.4.2 above.

Level of Funding	Number of Organisations
New Organisation - recommended at the level recommended by the assessor	6
Existing Provider - recommended at 2025/26 level, plus 10% uplift	23
Existing Provider - recommended at level requested	23
Existing Provider - recommended at level recommended by assessor	4

6.5 For the 2026/27 funded projects, consideration was given to the monitoring information submitted, including anticipated and actual beneficiaries in 2025/26 and anticipated beneficiaries in 2026/27.

6.6 A compliance check with organisations in receipt of GCF funding was also undertaken.

6.7 **Appendix 1** provides a summary of recommended awards in Summer and October 2026 and Spring 2027. Committee is asked to consider and approve 56 recommended awards to the value of £2,262,899.

Members are asked to note that a total of 28 organisations would receive funding at the level requested which equates to 58.4% of the programme.

6.8 Discussions will take place with relevant organisations around submitting revised programme delivery information in line with the grant amount awarded. Therefore, the amounts detailed for each holiday period (Summer, October and Spring) are indicative at this stage and may vary once the revised programme delivery information has been submitted. The overall total award to each provider will not change.

6.9 **Appendix 2** details the number of projects delivering to service users from each Ward, however, there is an expectation that programmes may need to be adjusted in line with the approved awards, as above. Members are asked to note the following:

- All Wards are covered by the projects recommended for funding
- 20,242 children are projected to benefit from the 2026/27 recommended applications. This number may be adjusted following the submission of revised programme delivery information in line with the approved awards.
- 191,999 funded spaces are expected to be offered across the city during 2026/27.
- An interactive map (illustration provided below) indicating where the 2026/27 Holiday provision is being delivered across the city will be available later in June 2026 on the [Glasgow's Holiday Programme webpage](#).



6.10 **Appendix 3** provides a summary of the 24 applications which are, following assessment, not recommended for funding. Each of these organisations will receive specific feedback on why their application was not recommended for funding on this occasion.

7. Equality Impact Assessment

7.1 An Equality Impact Assessment screening of Glasgow's Holiday Programme process has been undertaken and can be found [here](#). There has been no change made to the policy framework since the last programme.

8. Compliance and Monitoring

8.1 All awards for the holiday programme will be subject to compliance with the [Council's Standard Conditions of Funding](#).

8.2 Funded organisations will be monitored through the established monitoring arrangements. Organisations will be required to report on the following:

- progress towards achieving the aims and objectives set out in their application

- food and activities available
- match funding received towards overall project costs
- project spend
- project delivery and impact
- number and profile of service users, including from equalities groups

9. Reports on the Summer 2025 and October 2025 programmes

9.1 Committee is invited to note the monitoring data submitted by providers for the Summer and October 2025 programmes as set out in **Appendix 4**.

9.2 As part of the monitoring framework, a commitment was made to visit each funded organisation at least once during the programme year. Of the 59 organisations supported in 2025/26, 53 were visited in Summer and 7 in October 2025, with 1 organisation being visited twice due to low numbers attending.

10. Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

Financial: Outcomes will be maximised through targeted use of resources and joint working and resourcing with partners

Legal: No new legal issues

Personnel: No direct personnel issues

Procurement: No procurement implications

Council Strategic Plan:

The proposed holiday programme for Summer and October 2026 and Spring 2027 supports the Council's Strategic Plan, specifically:-
Grand Challenge 1 - Mission 1: End child poverty in our city using early intervention to support families; and
Grand Challenge 2 - Mission 3: Raise attainment amongst Glasgow's Children and Young people

Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2025-29? Please specify. Yes, the proposal has the potential to impact on the council Equality Outcomes in relation to the following improvement aims:

Improve economic outcomes for people with protected characteristics; and Improve access to Council Family services by people with protected characteristics.

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

Positive impact – The programme aims to address food poverty and insecurity

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

It is anticipated that funding recommendations will have a positive impact on third sector jobs, skills, local communities, social and community cohesion. Further, the programme aims to tackle barriers to adequate nutrition intake during school holidays.

Climate Impacts:

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

Sustainable delivery has been encouraged

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

None

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

No

Privacy and Data Protection Impacts:

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

No

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

11. Recommendations

Committee is invited to:

- Note the report;

- Approve the recommendations for funding from Glasgow's Holiday Programme for Summer and October 2026 and Spring 2027 in Appendix 1;
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