



Glasgow City Council
City Administration Committee

Item 3

18th June 2026

**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 2026 - 2027**

Purpose of Report:

To seek approval for the funding of Glasgow City Heritage Trust and Glasgow Building Preservation Trust for 2026 – 2027.

Recommendations:

Committee is asked to approve funding for financial year 2026-27 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 In recognition of the value of the City's heritage, 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 \(GBPT\)](#). This aligns with the Council's commitment to the City's built heritage which is expressed within the Strategic Plan 2022 – 2027. Grand Challenge 3 – Fight the Climate Emergency in a Just Transition to a Net Zero Glasgow which explicitly notes that the Council will continue to support GCHT and GBPT.
- 1.2 GCHT and GBPT are also integral to the [Built Heritage Commission \(BHC\)](#), the 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 BHC brings together stakeholders from across the heritage, planning, and regeneration sectors and is co-chaired by representatives from the Council, GBPT and GCHT.

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 initiatives. 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 During 2025/26, the GCHT grant programme supported a package of activity across Glasgow, combining capital repairs to historic buildings, early-stage feasibility and development work, and extensive heritage, education and traditional-skills outreach. Investment focused strongly on pre-1919 tenements, including unlisted and A- and B-listed buildings across multiple conservation areas, alongside landmark assets such as Queens Cross Church, the Tobacco Merchant's House, Clydeside Distillery, Tureen Street School (Building at Risk) and survey work at The People's Palace. Funding also enabled feasibility and development studies to support future conservation projects, and a wide range of public engagement, exhibitions, community programmes, schools activity and skills training delivered both by partners and through GCHT-led events, workshops, CPDs and training grants.
- 2.3 Coming at the end of the three year Historic Environment Scotland (HES) funding round, GCHT's 2025-26 awarded £1,126,192 in grants towards projects in Glasgow during the 2025/26 financial year.
- 2.4 The recent announcement of a longer-term funding package for the City Heritage Trust Schemes across Scotland have meant that HES have awarded GCHT £4,664,000 from 2026 to 2031. This has provided more

certainty and an ability to plan ahead for GCHT enabling plan preventative, conservation-led investment rather than reactive repairs. This supports helping maintain and reuse historic buildings (including traditional tenements), strengthening climate-positive repair and reuse in line with Net Zero goals, supporting local skills and jobs in conservation trades, and enabling community-led placemaking and regeneration—while also helping to unlock wider match funding and partnership investment across the city.

2.5 As part of this longer-term funding package GCHT’s Strategic Plan 2026/31 will:

- Prioritise tenements, city centre commercial properties, buildings at-risk and community-led heritage projects, ensuring the programme supports not just buildings but also wider regeneration with a greater focus on SIMD areas, sustainability and community wellbeing goals.
- Explore a ‘Stitch in Time’ pilot scheme, to build a preventative maintenance culture and encourage behaviour change among tenement owners.
- Deliver accredited training for property factors responsible for managing traditional tenement properties.
- Embed climate action across all grant and training programmes, supporting mitigation & adaptation measures which do not harm historic assets.

2.6 In addition, GCHT will also be running GCC’s Heritage Building Viability Grant Scheme which was approved at [City Administration Committee 26th March 2026](#) which is aimed at bringing empty heritage properties which are now liable for Non Domestic Rates back into productive use and will run as a pilot during 2026-27.

3. Glasgow Building Preservation Trust (GBPT)

3.1 Founded in 1982, GBPT repurposes historic buildings, giving them a new sustainable future. GBPT works in partnership with community groups and others to regenerate not just buildings and structures, but also community and local pride. GBPT also delivers heritage engagement and outreach including delivery of the annual Glasgow Doors Open Days Festival. Since GBPT introduced the concept to the UK in 1990, this has grown to become Scotland’s largest annual celebration of built heritage.

3.2 Over the last 44 years, GBPT has developed 23 historic buildings at risk, supported the development and fund raising of 7 other properties and carried out over 40 feasibility studies. Together this has resulted in raising funding for and investing over £54m of capital investment into the built heritage of the city which in turn generated in excess of £100m of economic benefits to Glasgow. The Trust has expertise in raising capital, conservation best practice, project management and heritage engagement with

communities and their work often supports Glasgow City Council regeneration programmes.

- 3.3 GBPT's 2025-26 programme included a wide range of heritage-led initiatives across Glasgow. Key activities included feasibility and development studies for GCC owned properties such as Langside Halls, Queens Park Glasshouse and Scotland Street School. Raising £517,000 to fund a development phase of GCC owned former Whitevale Baths. Consultancy fundraising to support Carntyne Parish Church and a feasibility study on Lion Chambers, to bring a longstanding building at risk back into use.
- 3.6 GBPT is also managing other housing-focused projects on historic Council owned janitor's houses in Calton, Royston, and Govanhill to return these to social housing stock, a feasibility study for Greenfield School in Govan and engaging with Council departments on future projects under the Sauchiehall Street Culture & Heritage District project via the NLHF Heritage and Place programme as well as support for GCC's successful Govan Heritage bid.
- 3.7 GBPT also delivers Glasgow Doors Open Days Festival each September celebrating promoting the city's architecture and heritage. In 2025 working with 178 participants, the festival presented 129 open buildings, 30 walking tours, 43 exhibitions and 25 workshops and linked to the City's 850 celebrations.

4. Funding Arrangements

- 4.1 Since its inception in 2007, NRS has made a contribution of £240,000 per annum to GCHT which is made up of £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 has confirmed support for 5 years from 2026-31 with a similar or enhanced contribution. This will amount to £848,000 from HES for this financial year (2026-27) therefore the GCC contribution is essential to this continued partnership.
- 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 secured from Historic Environment Scotland, Glasgow City Heritage Trust (GCHT) and the Glasgow Building Preservation Trust (GBPT) have funded significant works to repair and restore listed buildings and heritage at risk across the city. Without this funding, it is unlikely that the full programme of repair works would have been achieved, leading to the continued erosion of Glasgow's historic fabric. The activities of GCHT and GBPT are therefore considered to deliver ongoing and significant benefits to the city, and it is recommended that the

City Administration Committee approve continued funding for the financial year 2026–27.

5 Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

<i>Financial:</i>	None - from existing GCC budget sources
<i>Legal:</i>	A grant agreement will be required- annual
<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 2025-29? 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 Protection impacts: No data protection or privacy implications

6 Recommendations

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