Item 1

24th November 2026

Glasgow City Council

Environment and Liveable Neighbourhoods Committee

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

Contact: Francine O'Rourke Tel: 07393 753186

OUR DEAR GREEN PLACE: A VISION FOR GLASGOW'S PARKS AND GREENSPACES – UPDATE

Purpose of Report:

To update members on the progress of Our Dear Green Place – a vision for Glasgow's parks and greenspaces and to update on the Scottish Government Play Renewal Fund.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that Committee:

1. Notes the outcomes to date for Our Dear Green Place – a vision for Glasgow's parks and greenspaces;
2. Notes the consultation methodology for the Scottish Government Play Renewal Program**,** with individual projects prioritised to reflect the Councils approach to Child Poverty;
3. Notes the ongoing progress of the Scottish Government Play Renewal Program and Placemaking Investments;
4. Notes initiatives currently being developed to enhance our parks estate;
5. Provides an update on the Glasgow Friends of Parks and Greenspaces Forum;
6. Notes input into wider Child Friendly City activity; and
7. Notes the update in relation to the Review of Parks Lighting and Safer Parks

Ward No(s):	Citywide: √
Local member(s) advised: Yes No	consulted: Yes No

1 Background

1.1 Our Dear Green Place – a vision for Glasgow's parks and greenspaces was approved by the City Administration Committee on 7 February 2019. Updates were thereafter provided to Environment, Sustainability and Carbon Reduction Committee and subsequently to this committee on 24 November 2024, 25 November 2025 and 9 June 2026 . The document can be accessed here.

1.2 The Parks Vision outlined a new approach to Glasgow's greenspaces which was focussed on ensuring that communities were involved in planning and managing the greenspaces which are important to them, and which affect their everyday lives. The report to the City Administration Committee noted:

'The Vision for Parks and Greenspaces commits to the delivery of the Strategic Plan by –

- *Creating more opportunities for citizens to become involved in local decisions that affect their neighbourhoods, on how money is spent and how services are delivered.*
- *Supporting partnership working.*
- *Supporting active and healthy Glaswegians.*
- *Supporting access to and promoting the city's history, heritage and culture.*
- *Supporting excellent and inclusive education by developing our parks and greenspaces as outdoor learning opportunities for all ages and abilities.*
- *Supporting active travel, including walking and cycling.*
- *Enhancing the connectivity of greenspaces, improving and connecting habitats and making greenspaces accessible for people and wildlife.*
- *Support the development of Glasgow as a Sustainable Food City.'*

1.3 Glasgow's Open Space Strategy was adopted in February 2020 and sets out a long-term vision for Glasgow's open spaces to ensure they meet the city's needs in years to come.

1.4 In addition, both an Ecological Emergency and a Climate Emergency have been declared since the publication of the Parks and Greenspaces Vision, with measures being agreed by committee and included within the scope of our Climate Plan.

1.5 The Parks and Greenspaces Vision encompasses the delivery of our two statutory functions: food growing and biodiversity duty. Actions for both are agreed within the Food Growing Strategy and the Local Biodiversity Action Plan and Pollinator Plan.

1.6 Our response to the strategies, and related action plans and emerging delivery plans, highlighted has been enhanced further with priorities for our parks and greenspaces within the following topics:

- Development and delivery of the Glasgow Tree Plan: Forestry and Woodland Strategy and Glasgow Tree Plan.
- Development and delivery of the Green Connectors project: Grassland Management: Green Connectors .
- The Play Area Renewal Programme.
- Supporting outdoor learning, including early years and out of school care, following the Scottish Government Policy in the delivery of 1140 hours:https://www.gov.scot/policies/early-education-and-care/outdoor-play-and-learning/

2 Scottish Government Play Renewal Fund and Placemaking Investment

2.1 A paper was presented to Environment and Liveable Neighbourhoods on 22 August 2023 which provided an update on how the above fund would be received and distributed across the city.

2.2 Engagement

2.2.1 The report outlined our engagement with Glasgow Schools Forum with and provided background in relation to the then-emerging Play Sufficiency Assessment.

2.2.2 A paper was subsequently brought to a meeting of City Administration Committee 6th June 2024 approving the Glasgow Play Sufficiency Assessment, submitted to Scottish Ministers as part of the City Development Plan 2 process, with an update on how the consultation findings will inform our Play Area Renewal projects included as part of an earlier update to this committee.

2.2.3 Projects will also be informed by findings shared with us by local community groups and Friends of Parks Groups.

2.2.4 For play areas where a higher level of investment is available, an online community survey has also been developed to gather local feedback on proposed improvements to existing play areas. The purpose of these surveys is to capture local priorities and concerns and to help shape the design and delivery of renewal proposals.

2.2.5 All surveys are being promoted on-site within play areas through signage and QR codes and are supported by targeted social media advertising. Ward Members are notified in advance of each survey being published.

2.2.6 A number of projects are now being brought forward which draw on elements of the Places for Play guidance commissioned by this service, as part of wider

Feminist Urbanism activity and in support of the Play Sufficiency Assessment process, and developed by the Centre for Civic Innovation.

2.3 Programmed Delivery

2.3.1 It is noted that the above Scottish Government funded programme has been supplemented Glasgow City Council with funds from the Parks and Open Spaces Fund and Neighbourhood Improvement as approved by Area Partnerships, with several individual projects supplemented with Developer Contributions. With a significant volume of funding in place to invest in a substantial number of play areas, it is important to arrive at a rationale for programme delivery. This will allow the available resources, including Neighbourhoods, Regeneration & Sustainability (NRS) GCC Corporate Procurement Unit (CPU) staff time, to be aligned to the Council's strategic priorities. Communities wishing to nominate Children's Play, Amenity Greenspace and Food Growing projects for consideration for use Developer Contributions can do so by contacting parksdevelopment@glasgowgov.uk.

2.3.2 Glasgow City Council's approach to addressing Child Poverty can be found here, with the goal of strategic alignment which places eradicating family poverty at the very heart of the city's shared agenda. In view of this, the number of funded projects across all wards will vary according to children poverty figures.

2.3.3 This has highlighted the opportunity to align our data for play area investment against that held in relation to Child Poverty. This ensures play areas serving higher numbers of children in poverty are prioritised and can be refurbished first. Examples of this approach include the refurbishment of Tobago Street which was informed by feedback from the Calton Child Poverty Network as well as our engagement with Calton Community Association.

2.3.4 In addition, the recent capital and revenue investment for Parks & Open Spaces as outlined within the 2025-2026 Council budget has provided the opportunity for an additional four posts to be recruited to within the NRS, Greenspace & Biodiversity, Landscape Design Team. As well as this, a new Client Procurement Support Officer is now in post to support procurement activity in relation to this specific programme, with this post funded from other sources. Following the update presented to Committee in November 2025 and June 2026, this report provides a further progress update on those play area projects already programmed for delivery, together with any changes to sequencing, timescales, and scope that have arisen since that time. This includes acceleration of several projects through utilisation of these additional staff resources.

2.3.5 Appendix 1 to this report provides a summary of completed works deriving from the Parks and Open Spaces Fund and Neighbourhood Infrastructure Improvement Fund. It should however be noted that the Service anticipates further allocations from NIIF to be made in November 2026, integration of additional projects into this programme may have an impact on the programme as whole.

2.3.6 Projects continue to progress through design, consultation, and procurement stages at differing rates depending on site constraints, funding sources, the level of investment, and procurement routes. Officers are continuing to place considerable focus on all available procurement options in order to maximise delivery outputs, optimise project timescales and gain best value.

2.3.7 In light of the significant levels of investment in children's play across Scotland, we have reviewed the procurement routes available to us and increased the number of frameworks we are using to strengthen the resilience and capacity of our supply chain. This provides access to a broader pool of suppliers and helps mitigate the risk of contractors on any single framework having fully committed programmes during periods of particularly high demand. We will continue to monitor capacity across the market and review our approach as the programme progresses

2.3.7 It should be noted that for several projects, tender documentation has been prepared or progressed earlier than the timescales reported in June 2026. This reflects increased delivery capacity within NRS, efficiencies achieved through the grouping of geographically proximate projects where appropriate, and the effective use of procurement routes proportionate to the level of investment.

2.3.8 An additional £3 million was committed as part of Glasgow City Councils budget setting process for 2025/26 to support investment in Parks. In line with the Councils approach to Child Poverty these funds will be used to supplement existing Scottish Government play renewal funds to extend the scope of the 15 Play Areas which serve the highest number of children living in poverty locally. The additional investment will also support wider priorities relating to Physical Health, Active Travel and Community Wellbeing, implement Safer Parks guidance and 'Make Space for Girls'-informed approaches.

2.3.9 These play areas are noted below:

- Govanhill Park Play Area
- Daisy Park Play Area
- Southdeen Play Area, Garscadden Burn Park and Local Nature Reserve
- Bridgeton Community Learning Campus Play Area
- Cairnban St Play Area
- Maxwell Square Play Area
- Beardmore Park Play Area
- Greenfield Park Play Area
- Castlemilk Play Area
- Kilmuir Crescent Play Area
- Glenconnor Park Play Area
- Queen Mary Street Play Area
- Fruin St Play Area
- Riccarton Park Play Area Play Area
- Blaeloch Drive Play Area

2.3.10 Appendix 2 to this report provides an update on play investments across the sites listed above, including others being developed up to April 2027.

2.3.11 Greenspace and Biodiversity officers continue to work closely with colleagues in NRS Business Support and the council's corporate procurement team to pursue a range of options for project procurement with the aim of further accelerating the delivery programme where possible.

2.3.12 Discussions chaired by Scottish Government officers, with all Scottish Local Authorities, have noted that the increase in funding, whilst welcomed, will utilise play area supply chains to their full capacity, with it being anticipated that suppliers may be supplying multiple local authorities at any one point in time. This service continues to engage with play suppliers to inform planning and delivery of play and placemaking procurements.

3. Park Initiatives

3.1 Play Area Maintenance

3.1.1 In support of the investment, and to respond to feedback from service users, we have delivered an App-based system to track play area inspections and resulting actions, allowing this service to most effectively allocate the existing resources, and continue to monitor its effectiveness.

3.1.2 To further strengthen this approach, annual inspections have been ongoing throughout the autumn by an external contractor, with inspectors required to input inspection results directly into the app to ensure timely, consistent reporting and improved data quality. In parallel, nine additional members of staff have been trained to undertake quarterly play inspections, increasing in-house capacity and resilience across the inspection programme.

3.1.3 A play repairs contract has now been commissioned for minor repair works across the estate, this to improve resilience and response times. This contract will support our in-house play area operational teams to bring in additional support on repairs which are more complex or requiring a larger squad for safe manual handling of larger items, thereby shortening repair timescales across the overall estate.

3.1.4 In addition, the Service is recruiting an additional 3 members of staff within the Landscape Design Team. These posts will focus on delivery of small-scale repair and refurbishment works in support of existing resources. The recruitment of these Officers will support repair timescales, improve resilience whilst supporting delivery of the play renewal delivery programme.

4. Glasgow Friends of Parks and Greenspaces Forum

4.1 The Friends of Glasgow Parks and Greenspaces Forum was constituted in November 2024 as an independent network representing constituted Friends of Parks and Open Spaces groups across Glasgow. The Forum provides a citywide platform through which volunteers can exchange information, skills and good practice, learn from external specialists and Glasgow City Council services, and raise matters affecting the management and development of parks and greenspaces. Its work supports the community-participation and partnership-working objectives set out in Our Dear Green Place: A Vision for Glasgow's Parks and Greenspaces.

4.2 Since its establishment, the Forum has held citywide gatherings and developed a volunteer Management Committee, whose members are elected annually. The next Annual General Meeting of the Forum will take place in November 2026, which includes an update from the National Federation of Parks and Greenspaces.

4.3 Current areas of consideration include the operation and future development of permitted activities for voluntary groups. The Forum is also supporting the exchange of local experience through park visits and presentations, while Council officers continue to engage with groups regarding funding opportunities. Alongside its formal meetings, the Forum promotes networking, resource sharing, presentations and practical activity sessions, while providing a mechanism for Glasgow's Friends groups to amplify shared concerns and contribute to discussion about the future of the city's parks and greenspaces.

5. Input into Child Friendly City

5.1 Glasgow City Council (GCC) has a vision of becoming a child-friendly city – one that delivers on the goals set out in the United Nations Children's Rights Charter to ensure every child feels welcome, safe, and able to have fun, hosting the Glasgow Child Friendly Summit in February 2026. A motion was adopted at a meeting of Glasgow City Council held 10th September 2026, in support of this, which included the commitment to:

- "Develop a Family Friendly Parks Framework for Glasgow's parks and greenspaces (by January 2027), with the aim of ensuring that every major park contains features that actively welcome babies, children, young people and their families, including opportunities for natural play, accessible toilets, seating, shelter, drinking water, play trails, community growing, outdoor learning and facilitated family activity.

- Develop demonstrator projects within Croftcroighn Park and Cranhill Park, reflecting their location within communities experiencing some of the highest concentrations of child poverty in the city, including proposals for natural play, play trails, informal play spaces, intergenerational seating and gathering areas, shelter, community

growing opportunities, family facilities, partnership working with local organisations, families and schools, and the identification of external funding opportunities."

5.2 A note of current activity in support of the above is included within Appendix 3 of this report, with updates being brought to this Committee as part of future reporting.

6. Parks Review of Lighting and Safer Parks

6.1 Delivery of further measures arising from Review of Parks Lighting undertaken in 2023 and 2024 and implementation of the associated actions includes the completion of NIF funded lighting measures at Castlemilk Park and a Placemaking study in support of lighting measures undertaken with community stakeholders at Househill Park, and developing contract documents in support of further lighting proposals for other funded lighting schemes such as Queens Park, Alexandra Park and Glenconner Park (MUGA).

6.2 In securing this new approach to Parks Lighting, we are working collaboratively with community groups including engaging directly with women and girls, ward members, funders, biodiversity specialists and our supply chains, with project milestones being shared with stakeholders once confirmed, and build the learning from this into future project delivery.

6.3 Officers from this Service have been continuing to support local conversations around security of parks, with a notable increase in demand for interventions funded through NIIF. Several Area Partnerships have noted the need for placemaking work to be undertaken, with potential future allocations coming from NIIF.

6.4 Further Parks Lighting measures are under consideration at various parks across the city estate. We estimate costs for traditional lighting columns costed at a rate of £4000, with comparable costs for solar options, with Placemaking Exercises and/or technical feasibility studies for non-standard solutions in the region of £10,000- £20,000. Small-scale trials to-date of solar powered lighting have proven satisfactory, and we will continue to scale up pilot projects, at locations where technical advice indicates that local site conditions are favourable.

6.5 It should be noted that Officers from this Service continue to play an active role in the development and delivery of projects arising from the Feminist Urbanism Working Group (FUWG), with some projects being funded through the FUWG. This work continues to contribute to the development of our parks in a way which embeds gender equality in both strategic development and operational delivery. A recent example includes the creation of a new accessible entrance and path network in Festival Park.

6.6 Engagement with Police Scotland as part of Placemaking activity undertaken as part of this programme has built on the joint working being undertaken between our Parks Service, our Neighbourhood Liaison team and Police Scotland to make our Parks safer and more welcoming, with measures being brought forward for paths, entrances, signage and layout which encourage positive use of our parks throughout the day, and address any features associated with anti-social activity, in line with national Safer Parks recommendations. Members of the public reporting any criminal or anti-social activity to Police Scotland allows available resources to be most effectively deployed and allows accurate data to be gathered in support of the above measures.

6.7 Further to earlier motions in relation to A Review of Parks Lighting and Glasgow as a Feminist City, A motion was adopted at a meeting of Glasgow City Council held 10th September 2026, entitled Actions Not Words, which included:

- "Physical improvements already delivered through city investment programmes, including enhanced lighting and accessibility improvements in public parks and spaces across Glasgow.
- To assess environmental measures which can improve women's safety and confidence in public spaces, including lighting, maintenance standards, visibility, CCTV coverage and other features of the built environment, and to identify priority improvements in locations where women report feeling unsafe with initial findings reported to the appropriate committee within one month.
- To engage directly with women and girls … to ensure that lived experience informs the development, delivery and evaluation of future safety initiatives …."

6.8 A note of current activity within major parks in support of the above is included within Appendix 3 of this report, with updates being brought to this Committee as part of future reporting.

7. Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

Financial:	Current and future play area investment will be met from Scottish Government funding, GCC Capital and Developer Contributions where available and any other grants secured.
Legal:	The report raises no new legal issues

Personnel:	Those actions within the Scottish Government Play Renewal Program will be undertaken within existing resources, with certain works being contracted out.
Procurement:	Procurement for works stated within the report will be procured mini competition on existing Frameworks and through use of Scotland Excel Frameworks.
Council Strategic Plan:	Grand Challenge 1 Mission 3: Improve the health and wellbeing of our local communities. Grand Challenge 3 Mission 2: Become a net zero carbon city by 2030. Mission 2: Become a net zero carbon city by 2030', our commitment to introduce an updated herbicide policy to continue to reduce our reliance on chemical herbicides Grand Challenge 4 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.	It is envisaged that this investment could contribute towards Outcome 6, by providing spaces which better support children, young people and families to meet outdoors, and contribute towards Outcome 03 by providing spaces which better support outdoor learning for

	disabled children and young people.
What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?	Potential positive impacts from spaces which better support children, young people and families to meet outdoors and which better support outdoor learning for disabled children and young people
Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-economic disadvantage.	Proposals set out within this report support in addressing socio-economic disadvantage through proposed investments in play areas reflecting the Councils approach to tackling child poverty.

Climate Impacts:

Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify:	**The proposals support the following themes and actions** **Climate plan Theme 1:** Communication and Community Empowerment To engage with communities about the climate challenge. To foster participation and collaboration the proposal supports action 27 in relation to outdoor learning and outreach biodiversity work. **Climate plan Theme 2:** Just and Inclusive Place Empower and invigorate our communities, strengthening local economies share the benefits of climate action widely **Climate Plan Theme 4**: Health and Wellbeing to protect and enhance local habitat connectivity and biodiversity in the city. To

	support creation and maintenance of good quality, multifunctional green space to help reconnect communities with nature. To support equitable access to good quality, multipurpose open space and green infrastructure in the city. The proposal delivers towards action 48 by working with partner organisations to fund acceleration of the Open Space Strategy Delivery Plan and contributes to Action 51 by supporting the liveable neighbourhood plan. **Climate Plan Theme 5**: Green Recovery Supporting a transition towards a circular economy. Supporting tree planting and maintenance, peatland restoration, and green infrastructure.
What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal?	Supporting creation and development of additional canopy cover across the city will help provide essential woodland, to absorb harmful carbon emissions and sequestrate carbon across the long-term. That will greatly contribute to Glasgow working towards their net zero target
Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target?	Yes
Privacy and Data Protection Impacts: Are there any potential data	No

protection impacts
as a result of this
report

8. Recommendations

It is recommended that Committee:

1. Notes the outcomes to date for Our Dear Green Place – a vision for Glasgow's parks and greenspaces;
2. Notes the consultation methodology for the Scottish Government Play Renewal Program**,** with individual projects prioritised to reflect the Councils approach to Child Poverty;
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