



Glasgow City Council

**Economy, Housing, Transport, and
Regeneration City Policy Committee**

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

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Item 3

10th March 2026

Town Centre Fund, and Place Fund - A review of Programme Delivery

Purpose of Report:

To provide Committee with an update on Council's delivery of the Town Centre Fund (2019/20 - 2020/21) and Place Fund (2021/22 – 2025/26).

Recommendations:

It is recommended that Committee

- Note the contents of the report.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

Local member(s) advised: Yes No

consulted: Yes No

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of the delivery of two Scottish Government funding programmes administered by Council - the two-year Town Centre Fund (2019/20- 2020/21) and the five-year Place Fund, part of Scottish Government's [Place Based Investment Programme](#) (2021/22-2025/26). Full details are provided in the Appendix to this report. The report has been undertaken as the current Place based Investment Programme reaches its conclusion.
- 1.2 The report summarises the purpose, objectives and delivery of both funds, outlines the scale of investment, and highlights the range of projects supported across the city. It also reflects on the lessons learned that will inform future place-based investment in Glasgow.

2. Town Centre Fund

- 2.1 The Town Centre Fund was launched in March 2019 when the Scottish Government, in partnership with COSLA, announced a £50 million fund to help boost Scottish Town Centres. Funding was provided directly to Local Authorities to allocate against the themes of the [Town Centre Action Plan](#).
- 2.2 The Town Centre Fund was introduced to support the regeneration and revitalisation of Scotland's town centres. Its key objectives included:
 - Stimulating transformative investment;
 - Driving economic activity;
 - Creating inclusive and vibrant local centres.
- 2.3 Glasgow received an initial 2019/20 allocation of £3,010,000. The funding was accepted and the projects and themes were approved by City Administration Committee in [August 2019](#). In September 2020, the Scottish Government then announced an extension of the Programme. Glasgow received an additional £1,096,000. The funding was accepted and the projects and themes were approved by City Administration Committee in [October 2020](#).

3. The Place Fund

- 3.1 Following conclusion of the two-year Town Centre Fund, Scottish Government's Programme for Government (2020) established the Place Based Investment Programme. This aimed to create a Programme that linked and aligned place-based initiatives and established a framework designed to implement the [Place Principle](#). Within this Programme, a key element was the Place Fund. Council has received a total of four Place Fund allocations from Scottish Government since 2021/22.
- 3.2 The Place Fund was launched as a five-year funding Programme running from 2021/22 to 2025/26. The fund had a wider remit than that of the previous Town

Centre Fund, with less focus exclusively on town centre works, and more on the following themes:

- Development of 20-minute neighbourhoods;
- Town Centre Regeneration;
- Community led regeneration and community wealth-building;
- Achieving net-zero;
- Promoting well-being and inclusive economic growth which tackles inequality and disadvantage.

3.3 Each financial year’s Programme was taken to City Administration Committee. Committee were asked to accept funding and approve Council’s proposed funding themes (see [2021/22](#), [2022/23](#), [2023/24](#) and [2025/26](#)).

3.4 Although launched as a five year Programme, Council were notified by Scottish Government in October 2024 that no funding would be received in 2024/25. This decision was taken by Scottish Government to offset wider financial pressures at the time.

4. Funding Overview

4.1 Across both funding Programmes, Council has received a total of £15,506,000, broken down as follows:

Fund	Year	Funding Award
Town Centre Fund	2019/20	£3,010,000
Town Centre Fund	2020/21	£1,096,000
The Place Fund	2021/22	£3,699,000
The Place Fund	2022/23	£3,217,000
The Place Fund	2023/24	£2,242,000
The Place Fund	2024/25	£0
The Place Fund	2025/26	£2,242,000
TOTAL		£15,506,000

4.2 £4,106,000 was allocated by Scottish Government to the Council through the Town Centre Fund and £11,400,000 through the Place Fund. This combined investment has supported, or is currently supporting, the delivery of over 100 projects, 64 of which are led by community based organisations across the city.

4.3 Council’s allocations were provided on the basis of a formula developed by Scottish Government and COSLA: 80% based on population and number of towns, and 20% based on deprivation.

5. Analysis

- 5.1 The Town Centre Fund and the Place Fund have together delivered over £15m of grant funding, helping to unlock an estimated £75m+ in additional capital investment. This investment is estimated to have created around 130 construction jobs annually, and up to 120 FTE additional jobs within the projects developed. This funding has enabled the delivery of over 100 projects across the city, with a significant proportion located in areas of deprivation and disadvantage.
- 5.2 These Programmes have enabled a wide range of outcomes, including town centre and high street revitalisation, repurposing underused buildings, development of community led projects, significant public realm improvements, and contribution towards net-zero goals.
- 5.3 Significant funding has also contributed to the preservation of Glasgow's built heritage. This includes the refurbishment of Carnegie Libraries, heritage shopfront improvements, as well as the enhancement of cultural assets and assets within parks.
- 5.4 A substantial number of projects have been delivered by community-based organisations. This reflects the strength of community capacity in many of Glasgow's neighbourhoods and enhances community wealth building. It also demonstrates the value of an open grants process, which allows projects to be developed locally and respond to community priorities.
- 5.5 A number of challenges in the administration of funding have been identified across both funding Programmes, including efficient distribution of grant, and capacity issues with community grantees. However, it is recognised that funding has been critical in increasing community capacity and has proved a catalyst for wider positive change.

6. Conclusions

- 6.1 Despite these challenges, the Programmes have made a meaningful contribution to Glasgow's regeneration, supporting themes such as Liveable Neighbourhoods, community wealth building, net-zero objectives and town centre revitalisation. The learning from both funds, including the benefits of early engagement, the advantages of multi-year and certainty of funding, and the role of strong community partners, will continue to support Council's future place based regeneration.
- 6.2 Council continue to engage with the Scottish Government regarding future capital regeneration funding. Council will continue to request that future place based investment awards to the city is based on an equitable apportionment, reflecting Glasgow's scale and regeneration needs. This will help to ensure

that Council can continue to build on the success of the two Programmes and the positive outcomes associated with real community based, multi-faceted regeneration.

7. Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications: None

Financial: There are no additional financial implications related to the report. All funding has been received by Council and contractually committed.

Legal: There are no direct legal implications related to this report.

Personnel: There are no direct personnel implications related to this report.

Procurement: There are no procurement implications related to this report.

Council Strategic Plan: The following Strategic Plan outcomes are supported:

Grand Challenge 1- Reduce Poverty and inequality in our communities - Mission 1:

End child poverty in our city using early intervention to support families. Mission 3: Improve the health and wellbeing of our local communities. Mission 4: Support Glasgow to be a city that is active and culturally vibrant.

Grand Challenge 2- Increase opportunity and prosperity for all our citizens- Mission 1:

Support Glasgow residents into sustainable and fair work. 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 1:

Deliver sustainable transport and travel aligned with the city region. Mission 2: Become a net zero carbon city by 2030.

Grand Challenge 4- Enable staff to 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 communities.

Equality and SocioEconomic Impacts:

Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2025-29? Please specify. Yes, Outcome 6 - The importance of tackling social isolation and loneliness is recognised and prioritised.

What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report? Positive impact. Multiple projects supported through two years of the Town Centre Fund and four years of the Place Fund have supported the above outcome.

Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socioeconomic disadvantage. The Town Centre Fund and Place Fund, as outlined in Appendix 1, have predominately supported projects that have been delivered in areas of socioeconomic disadvantage.

Climate Impacts:

Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify: The report highlights projects which have contributed to actions within the Climate Plan such as 29: Ensure that historic buildings are resilient to the impact of climate change, protecting Glasgow's rich heritage. 51: Deliver a comprehensive active travel network, incorporating the spaces for people measures (following consultation) and enabling 20-minute neighbourhoods through the liveable neighbourhoods plan. 56: Reduce the need to own and use a car through measures in the City Development Plan 2, Glasgow Transport Strategy and the Liveable Neighbourhoods

What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal? Reduced carbon emissions as a result of a focus on Liveable Neighbourhoods and local living; promotion of active travel; reduced food miles through local growing initiatives and improvements to energy efficiency of premises.

Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net-zero carbon target? Yes, all projects assessed as part of an open grants call were assessed against their contribution to meeting net zero.

Privacy and Data Protection Impacts: None

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

8. Recommendations

It is recommended that Committee

- Note the contents of the report.