



Glasgow City Council
City Administration Committee

Item 1

26th February 2026

**Report by Councillor Ruairi Kelly, City Convener for Housing,
Development, Built Heritage and Land Use**

Contact: George Gillespie, Executive Director Ext: 79106

SAUCHIEHALL STREET CULTURE AND HERITAGE DISTRICT

Purpose of Report:

To advise the Committee of the successful funding award from the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) for the Sauchiehall Street Culture and Heritage District (SSCHD) initiative and seek approval to accept the funding and progress the Proof-of-Concept phase of the project.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Committee:

- a) Notes the contents of this report.
- b) Approves acceptance of NLHF funding of up to £2,352,763 for the SSCHD Proof-of-Concept phase.
- c) Authorises the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability, in consultation with the Executive Director of Finance and the Director of Legal and Administration, to conclude all matters pertaining to the acceptance of the grant and enter into necessary legal arrangements on terms which are in the best interests of the Council.
- d) Notes that match funding requirements will be met through existing capital budgets and partnership contributions.

Ward No(s): 10

Citywide:

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

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Sauchiehall Street is one of Glasgow's most iconic thoroughfares, rich in architectural heritage and cultural significance. In recent years, the area has faced challenges including, building deterioration, economic decline, high vacancy rates, and major fires. In tandem with the delivery of high-quality streetscape improvements via the Avenues Programme, the Sauchiehall Street Culture and Heritage District (SSCHD) initiative seeks to reverse this trend through culture and heritage-led regeneration, creating a vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable cultural corridor. This work is complemented by a wider programme of city centre regeneration activity, including the Golden Z Vision, City Centre Strategy 2024–2030, and the Property Repurposing Action Plan, as well as major private-sector developments such as the former Marks & Spencer site. Taken together with ongoing initiatives led by the City Centre team, including meanwhile-use approaches and support for building reactivation, these interventions collectively strengthen the foundations for long-term renewal along Sauchiehall Street.
- 1.2 In October 2023, Glasgow was selected as one of nine UK locations to benefit from NLHF's Heritage Places Programme, a 10-year investment designed to boost local economies and instil pride in place. In March 2024, Glasgow Life secured £350,000 from NLHF to deliver an 18-month 'Exploration Phase' for SSCHD. This phase concluded in January 2026 and has informed the Area Action Plan and strategic priorities for the Proof-of-Concept phase (Dec 2025– Dec 2027), which will test delivery models and inform a full 10-year Area Action Plan.

2. National Lottery Heritage Fund Heritage Places Programme

- 2.1 The Sauchiehall Street Culture and Heritage District (SSCHD) is supported through the National Lottery Heritage Fund's Heritage Places Programme, a major UK-wide initiative launched in 2023 to deliver long-term, place-based investment in heritage-led regeneration. The programme aims to:
 - Boost local economies by leveraging heritage as a driver for inclusive growth.
 - Instil pride in place through conservation and cultural activation.
 - Strengthen resilience across heritage organisations and communities.
 - Embed sustainability by prioritising re-use and retrofit over demolition.

3. Proof-of-Concept Phase

- 3.1 The SSCHD Proof-of-Concept phase (December 2025 – December 2027) will:
 - Conserve and activate key heritage assets, including McLellan Galleries and Cameron Memorial Fountain.
 - Deliver public realm improvements and heritage interpretation at civic landmarks such as the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall steps.
 - Pilot shopfront improvement schemes and business engagement initiatives.
 - Embed community participation through co-design, heritage archiving, and creative programming.

- Align with Glasgow’s City Centre Strategy 2024–2030, Golden Z Vision, Net Zero 2030 ambitions and Glasgow’s Culture Strategy 2024 – 2030.
- 3.2 The initiative is a partnership between Glasgow Life, Glasgow City Council, cultural institutions (e.g., Glasgow Film Theatre, Scottish Ensemble, Articulate Cultural Trust, and others), as well as community organisations. It positions heritage as a catalyst for regeneration, economic resilience, and social inclusion.
- 3.3 NLHF has confirmed an allocation of up to £2,352,763 for the Proof-of-Concept phase. This builds on the initial £350,000 awarded for the Exploration Phase in 2024. The funding will support capital works, community engagement, interpretation, staffing, and evaluation.
- 3.4 The Proof-of-Concept phase will be delivered under a formal Grant Agreement with the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF). This agreement is legally binding and sets out the terms and conditions for the funding award, including:
- Commencement and Duration: Commences from Permission to Start and remains in effect for 20 years after the Project Completion Date, ensuring long-term compliance and stewardship.
 - Joint Grantees: Confirms that Glasgow City Council (GCC) and Glasgow Life (GL) are joint grantees, sharing responsibility for delivery and compliance.
 - Compliance Requirements: The Council must adhere to NLHF’s investment principles, procurement standards, and reporting obligations.
 - Financial Accountability: Specifies responsibility for managing funds, delivering agreed outputs, and ensuring value for money.
 - Monitoring and Evaluation: Requires regular progress reports, financial statements, and evaluation activities throughout the project.
 - Clawback Provisions: NLHF reserves the right to recover funds if conditions are not met or if the project fails to deliver agreed outcomes.
- 3.5 The Grant Agreement provides a robust contractual framework that ensures transparency, accountability, and alignment with statutory requirements, offering greater certainty for both the Council and NLHF.
- 3.6 The Sauchiehall Street Culture and Heritage District project is being presented to City Administration Committee for approval to accept the total grant amount of £2.35M jointly with Glasgow Life.
- 3.7 Assuming approval is granted by the committee, the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability, in consultation with the Executive Director of Finance and the Director of Legal and Administration shall conclude all other matters pertaining to the acceptance of the grant and to enter into the necessary legal arrangements with NHLF.

4. Match Funding

- 4.1 Part of the criteria for Heritage Place Programme funding was that the successful bidders make contributory funding available. In this instance, GCC is being asked to make £400K Capital Funding available to progress the project and leverage the available £2.3.M Heritage Places Funds.
- 4.2 Provision for the £400K GCC match Funding has been made from within the approved, Bringing Buildings into Purposeful Use funding stream.

5. Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

<i>Financial:</i>	£400k is required as a GCC contribution to the overall project budget.
<i>Legal:</i>	The project will conform to relevant UK and Scottish legislation, including subsidy control.
<i>Personnel:</i>	The project provides funding for three fixed term Project Officer roles within GCC. NLHF funding will also support posts within Glasgow Life. The overall revenue project staffing allowance across Glasgow life and GCC amounts to £801,839.09 of the project budget.
<i>Procurement:</i>	The project will require full compliance with relevant procurement legislation. This includes the appointment of a range of external consultants and contractors, procured in line with Glasgow City Council and NLHF requirements.

Council Strategic Plan: The proposal supports the following Council Strategic Plan Themes:

Grand Challenge 3, Mission 2: Deliver place-based interventions and key local regeneration projects – SSCHD is a flagship heritage-led regeneration initiative for the city centre.

Grand Challenge 4, Mission 1: Continue to support work to celebrate the historic heart of the city – SSCHD protects and activates Glasgow’s cultural and architectural heritage, reinforcing the city centre’s historic identity.

Grand Challenge 4, Mission 1 (Housing): Deliver around 6,500 new affordable homes – SSCHD contributes through feasibility work for

adaptive reuse of heritage buildings for housing, supporting city centre living and sustainability goals.

Grand Challenge 4, Mission 3: Empower staff to explore innovative funding mechanisms – SSCHD leverages National Lottery Heritage Fund investment and seeks additional resources through partnerships and external funding streams.

Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

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

Yes. It supports Outcome 1 by creating training, volunteering, and participation opportunities for people with protected characteristics.

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

Positive impacts: improved access to heritage, inclusive engagement, and removal of participation barriers.

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

Yes. It supports local businesses, creates jobs and promotes inclusive regeneration in an area of economic decline.

Climate Impacts:

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

Yes. It supports Glasgow's Climate Plan Action 17 by prioritising reuse and retrofit of existing buildings, embedding green infrastructure in public realm improvements, and promoting sustainable travel and placemaking.

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

Positive impacts: reduced carbon emissions through adaptive reuse, energy efficiency upgrades, and enhanced biodiversity in public spaces. No significant negative impacts anticipated.

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

As the project proposes to reactivate the McLellan Galleries and the project scope doesn't include replacing the existing gas boiler with an electric air source heat pump, the project is likely to cause a small increase in carbon emissions.

**Privacy and Data Protection
Impacts:**

The project will collect, and store limited personal data from individuals and organisations involved in consultation. All data will be managed in line with GDPR and Council data protection policies, with appropriate safeguards in place.

6. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

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- d) Notes that match funding requirements will be met through existing capital budgets and partnership contributions.