



Glasgow City Council

Economy, Housing, Transport and Regeneration City Policy Committee

Report by Head of Audit and Inspection/Head of Policy and Corporate Governance

Contact: Jillian Campbell/Michelle Booth

**ECONOMY, HOUSING, TRANSPORT AND REGENERATION
CITY POLICY COMMITTEE**

**RESULTS OF INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF COMMITTEE
EFFECTIVENESS**

Purpose of Report

To advise the Committee of the main findings from the recent independent assessment of the Economy, Housing, Transport and Regeneration City Policy Committee, undertaken as required by the Council's Standing Orders.

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to:

- 1) Note the content of the report.
- 2) Agree to the implementation of the action plan, to be led by the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability in conjunction with the Chair and Vice Chair; and
- 3) Refer the report for inclusion in the consolidated report to Operational Performance and Delivery Scrutiny Committee.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ☐

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

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Council's Standing Order 31 requires that an annual assessment of the work of each Scrutiny Committee shall be carried out to assess the effectiveness of the working of the committee and to assess any training needs of members and officers. The assessment will be carried out by the relevant Convener in years 1 and 2 and an independent assessment will be carried out in year 3 and every third year thereafter.
- 1.2 This report provides a summary of the year 3 independent assessment of the Economy, Housing, Transport and Regeneration (EHTR) City Policy Committee which was undertaken by the Head of Audit and Inspection and Head of Policy and Corporate Governance.
- 1.3 The EHTR City Policy Committee has representation from all parties on the Council and the Chair is a member of the Scottish Greens and Vice Chair is a member of the SNP.
- 1.4 The Committee meets every six weeks (outwith recess). The current Chair was appointed by the Council in May 2022 and has been in post for all meetings within this assessment period.
- 1.5 The Terms of Reference for the Committee were approved in May 2022 and are available [here](#). In summary, the remit of the Committee is:

To fulfil the functions of policy development (including consideration of equalities issues) as they relate to Council policies and services on economy, housing, transport strategy and regeneration. These functions include:

- *economic, business and social development initiatives;*
- *Glasgow Green Deal;*
- *planning and strategic and local housing policy;*
- *transport strategy and strategic transport policy*
- *regeneration;*
- *property and property repurposing*
- *land use;*
- *natural and built environment;*
- *built heritage;*
- *building control;*
- *vacant and derelict land;*
- *city centre recovery and regeneration;*
- *international links.*

To act as a sounding board for the Council's input to the Glasgow City Integration Joint Board in relation to its housing and homelessness services functions

- 1.6 As part of this review, the Chair, Baillie Wardrop, and Vice Chair, Cllr Leinster, were interviewed as was the Lead Officer for the Committee, Ben Wilson, Divisional Director Development and Regeneration. A number of Committee meetings were also viewed either in person or through viewing the recording.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 Generally, the Committee is operating effectively with no major areas of concern identified. Workplans and agendas are agreed in advance and agendas are well managed by NRS officers.
- 2.2 The Chair and Vice Chair are clear on their role and demonstrate a strong understanding of the papers that are presented at Committee and manage the questions from other Members effectively ensuring that everyone gets a chance to ask questions.
- 2.3 The Committee reflects the political make up of the Council and is chaired by a Member who is not part of the administration. Committee attendance is very high with all Members regularly attending or having a substitute attend in their place.
- 2.4 One of the challenges of the Committee is the continued very broad remit. Officers observed that this means that some areas of the Committee's remit have less focus than other areas. However, the broad remit of this Committee should be considered as part of the next review of Council Committee structures.
- 2.5 The workplan is regularly reviewed and the Committee is provided with an update on the workplan every circa. 6 months. In the last 12 months, the majority of the papers that have come to the Committee have been updates on the delivery of programmes and projects.
- 2.6 There is a well established pre-agenda process for the Committee. However, the current way of working by officers supporting the Committee requires papers to be submitted a number of weeks in advance of the Committee. This brings added administration for officers and may mean that information is less up to date by the time of the Committee. It is also noted that officer involvement in the lead up to the Committee is significant.
- 2.7 Officer support and attendance at Committee is strong. NRS officers have established an area of good practice that should be considered for replication in

other committees: to proactively encourage attendance from officers that do not ordinarily attend or present papers to observe committees as development opportunities.

- 2.8 No significant issues were identified with the quality of papers being brought to the Committee, and where questions are unable to be answered by officers at Committee, there is a Question and Answer paper included on the agenda for the next meeting.

3. Role of the Committee

- 3.1 The Committee has a very wide and varied remit, and the Chair/Vice Chair and senior officers are clear on the remit of the Committee.
- 3.2 Part of the terms of reference for the Committee, is for it to act as a sounding board for the Council's input to the Glasgow City Integration Joint Board in relation to its housing and homelessness services functions. Whilst the Committee receives reports in relation to housing, for example the annual report on the local housing strategy, the link to the IJB's housing and homelessness service functions is not often clear.
- 3.3 Due to the breadth of the remit of the Committee, some areas of the workplan do not receive as much focus as others.

4. Committee papers including Work Plan

- 4.1 Committee papers were found to be of a high standard, although most are asking the Committee to note or consider the contents of the reports.
- 4.2 The Committee workplan is regularly reviewed and a plan for the coming 6-month period is presented at the January and August meetings. It was noted that the workplan and papers included some that did not appear to be part of the Committees remit.
- 4.3 There is no overall workplan for the Committee, which details the areas to be covered by the Committee over the full Council term of five years and the link to the Council Plan and Grand Challenges.
- 4.4 There is a limited amount of performance information that is presented to the EHTR Committee. Whilst it is acknowledged that the Council has an Operational Delivery and Scrutiny Committee, in order to fulfil its role in relation to policy development, it is important that the EHTR City Policy Committee is aware of the performance of the areas under its remit.
- 4.5 Currently where an answer to a question cannot be provided at the Committee, this is included in a Question and Answer paper for the next Committee.

Consideration should be given to having responses circulated to all Members as soon as possible after the Committee.

5. Committee Meetings

- 5.1 The frequency of the meetings, at 6 weekly, worked for officers and the Committee. However, both the Chair and the senior officer are of the view frequency should be practical and take account of work pressures and reduced officer resource.
- 5.2 Due to the large remit of the Committee, some of the agendas can be quite full with a number of updates on complex and detailed areas.
- 5.3 The Chair gave all Members the opportunity to ask questions both from within the Committee room and those attending online.
- 5.4 The hybrid model works well for both officers and the Committee and it was noted that officers tended to attend in person.
- 5.5 There is a very high attendance rate from Committee Members, with all regularly attending or on the odd occasion having a substitute attend of their behalf.

6. Action Plan

- 6.1 An action plan is included below, detailing areas where improvements could be made to the current arrangements for the Economy, Housing, Transport and Regeneration City Policy Committee.

Action Plan

No.	Observation	Recommendation
1	Whilst the Committee receives reports in relation to housing, for example the annual report on the local housing strategy, the link to the IJB's housing and homelessness service functions is not often clear.	To ensure that it is fulfilling its remit in relation to acting as a sounding board for the Council's input into the IJBs services on housing and homelessness, the senior officer should ensure that this is included within future reports in these areas.
2	There is no overall workplan for the Committee, which details the areas to be covered by the Committee over the full Council term of five years and the link to the Council Plan and Grand Challenges.	At the start of each new Council term, a 5 year workplan should be considered for the Committee which is linked to the Council Plan. This will help ensure that the Committee is kept on track in delivering its role. The five year workplan should be reviewed on a regular basis.
3	Due to the breadth of the remit of the Committee, some areas of the workplan do not receive as much focus as others.	As part of the wider Committee review, consideration should be given to the breadth of the remit of the EHTR Committee and whether any of the remit would sit better within another Committee.
4	There is a limited amount of performance information that is presented to the EHTR Committee. Whilst it is acknowledged that the Council has an Operational Delivery and Scrutiny Committee, in order to fulfil its role in relation to policy development, it is important that the EHTR Policy Committee is aware of the performance of the areas under its remit.	As part of the next wider Committee review, consideration should be given as to the level and frequency of performance information that should be presented to all of the City Policy Committees.
5	Currently where an answer to a question cannot be provided at the Committee, this is included in a	Consideration should be given to having responses to questions not answered circulated to all Members as soon as possible after the Committee.

	Question and Answer paper for the next Committee.	
--	---	--

7. Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

Financial: None arising from this report

Legal: None arising from this report

Personnel: None arising from this report

Procurement: None arising from this report

Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2025-29? Please specify. Not applicable

What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report? Not applicable

Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-economic disadvantage. Not applicable

Climate Impacts:

Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify: Not applicable

What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal? Not applicable

Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target? Not applicable

Privacy and Data Protection Impacts: None arising from this report

8. Recommendations

The Committee is asked to:

- 1) Note the content of the report.
- 2) Agree to the implementation of the action plan, to be led by the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability in conjunction with the Chair and Vice Chair; and
- 3) Refer the report for inclusion in the consolidated report to Operational Performance and Delivery Scrutiny Committee.