Glasgow City Council

Wellbeing, Equalities, Communities, Culture and Engagement City Policy Committee

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

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ANNUAL ASSESSMENT

INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF WELLBEING, EQUALITIES, COMMUNITIES, CULTURE AND ENGAGEMENT CITY POLICY COMMITTEE

Purpose of Report

To advise members of the main findings from the recent independent assessment of the Wellbeing, Equalities, Communities, Culture and Engagement 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 Director of Communication and Corporate Governance 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 Chair 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 Wellbeing, Equalities, Communities, Culture and Engagement (WECCE) City Policy Committee which was undertaken by the Division Director for Development and Regeneration.

1.3 The WECCE City Policy Committee has representation from all parties on the Council. The Chair is a member of the SNP as is the Vice Chair.

1.4 The Committee meets every six weeks (outwith recess). The current Chair was appointed by the Council in November 2024 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 for wellbeing, equalities, communities, culture and engagement, corporate Council policies, services and activities. These functions include:

- *Community Planning, including community justice;*
- *Glasgow Communities Fund;*
- *cost of living and financial inclusion;*
- *population health;*
- *equalities;*
- *community councils;*
- *public processions;*
- *public petitions;*
- *relationships with the third sector;*
- *community capacity building;*
- *community empowerment;*
- *participatory budgeting;*
- *partnership engagement; and*
- *culture, sport and leisure and their impact on wellbeing within the city;*
- *procurement;*
- *employment and personnel;*
- *corporate communications and marketing;*

- *customer care; and*
- *open government.*

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, Bailie Pike was interviewed as was the Lead Officer for the Committee, Colin Edgar, Director of Communication and Corporate Governance. The substantive Vice Chair was unavailable due to maternity leave. The role of Vice Chair is undertaken by various members meeting-by-meeting. 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 relevant officers.

2.2 The Chair is clear on their role and demonstrate a strong understanding of the papers that are presented at Committee. They manage the questions from other Members effectively ensuring that everyone gets a chance to ask questions and that meetings usually run to time.

2.3 The Committee reflects the political make up of the Council and is chaired by a Member who is part of the administration. Committee attendance is very high with all Members regularly attending or having a substitute attend in their place. Attendance in person is generally high.

2.4 Committee Members demonstrate good working relationships with one another. The review found evidence of joint working to find procedurally appropriate solutions to any issues that arise.

2.5 The Committee remit covers a wide range of themes but the workload of items is not excessive. The Committee is provided with a workplan which covers a 12 month period, and allows items to be scheduled across the year. There is no longer term work plan for the Committee's business.

2.6 There is a well established pre-agenda process for the Committee. Officer support and attendance at Committee is strong.

3. Role of the Committee

3.1 The Committee has a very wide and varied remit, and the Chair and senior officers are clear on the remit of the Committee.

4. Committee papers including Work Plan

4.1 Committee papers were found to be of a high standard.

4.2 The Committee workplan is regularly reviewed and a plan for the coming 12-month period is presented at the first meeting of the calendar year.

4.3 There is no longer term 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.

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 officer resource.

5.2 The Chair gives all Members the opportunity to ask questions both from within the Committee room and those attending online.

5.3 The hybrid model works well for both officers and the Committee and it was noted that officers tended to attend in person.

5.4 There is a good 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 an area where improvements could be made to the current arrangements for the Wellbeing, Equalities, Communities, Culture and Engagement City Policy Committee.

Action Plan

No.	Observation	Recommendation
1	There is no overall workplan for the Committee, which details the areas to be covered by the Committee over the full Council term of 5 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 5 year workplan should be reviewed on a regular basis.

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:

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