

Message from George



Welcome to this latest edition of our service newsletter. In the last edition we promised to take a closer look in future editions at areas within Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability. There can be a tendency, to lose sight of the immense and valuable range of services NRS provide to those who live, work and visit our city. In this edition we take a look at Sustainability – an appropriate choice in this COP26 year. We also have our usual selection of articles showing work and achievements across the Service – a source of my continuing pride.

As always, if you would like to make a suggestion directly to me, this can be done by emailing AskGeorge.NRS@glasgow.gov.uk. I welcome any suggestions or comments from you.

PEOPLE MAKE GLASGOW GREENER

Glasgow City Council's ambition in relation to sustainability and climate change is long held. It was formalised in 2010 through the **Sustainable Glasgow Partnership**, setting a target of 30% reduction in carbon emissions in Glasgow by 2020 from a 2006 baseline. The city achieved this target **five years ahead** of schedule, achieving 37.5% by 2018, but this represented only the beginning of our journey. In 2019, Glasgow declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency and set a target of **net zero** by 2030. In addition to this, Glasgow is set to host the most important international climate summit, COP26, in November of 2021. As such, the eyes of the world are focussed on Glasgow's action on sustainability.

With that in mind, we have a number of key strategies and policies aimed at making Glasgow a truly sustainable, net zero city. We have developed a **Climate and Ecological Emergency Plan** which sets out a roadmap for us to reach our 2030 target. We are also developing an **Integrated Net-Zero Strategy**, which will map out how we reach our 2030 target and accelerate our race to net-zero emissions before 2045. At a more targeted level, our **Circular Economy Routemap** and our **Plastics Reduction Strategy** aim to tackle material consumption in the city and create a more socially and environmentally just economy. We are tackling pollution in the city with our rollout of the **Low Emissions Zone**, which will ban the most polluting vehicles from our city centre, and expanding on the country's largest Electric Vehicle network. Our upcoming **Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy** will provide a framework to decarbonise the city's built environment.

We are also tackling emissions from our own estate with action including decarbonising the Council's vehicle fleet and developing a number of renewable energy projects supplying sustainable heat and electricity to the estate. Our success is dependent on all of us working together, both at work and home, to **minimise our contribution to climate change**. Now, more than ever, we must appreciate that sustainability isn't just our business, it's everybody's business!

Avenues Plus

If you've been down Sauchiehall Street 'Avenue' in the last year, on foot, cycle or motor vehicle, you can hardly have failed to notice the major transformation that has improved the look and feel of the streetscape and what is generally referred to as **the public realm**.

£114M of City Deal investment is delivering 17 'core **Avenues**'. Now, in order to extend the benefits further than the city centre, Glasgow City Council has secured £21.4M funding from **Sustrans** to provide the physical improvements to four additional Avenues: Duke Street, Dobbie's Loan, South Portland Street and Cowcaddens Road.

The **Avenues Plus Project** will increase the public realm intervention approach to the communities and growth areas in the outskirts of the city centre, providing high-quality active travel provision and safer, convenient and segregated routes to and from the city centre.

Jane Laiolo, Group Manager City Centre Regeneration Group, said: *"It is to the absolute credit of the Avenues team that they secured this substantial sum to extend the programme to the outskirts of the city centre, and we look forward to working with local communities as we develop the plans".*



City Centre's Brighter Future

Following approval from the Scottish Government, Glasgow City Council has formally adopted its **City Centre Strategic Development Framework (SDF)**, which outlines development ambitions for the city centre over the next 30 years. Developed through public consultation, the SDF seeks to make the city centre more liveable and 'people focussed', driving economic renewal, meeting challenges of climate change, and bringing social benefit to the city.

It seeks to '**green the grey**' of the city centre and improve its appeal of the as a **day out destination** with more leisure opportunities and high-quality public spaces to complement its retail offer.

Michael Ward, Team Manager, Spatial Strategy, NRS Planning and Building Standards states: *"The adoption of the City Centre SDF is the culmination of a comprehensive and collaborative approach to deliver a new planning framework for the future development of our City Centre. This has been a significant undertaking and has involved a number of people from across the Council family, but I want to commend **Fiona Campbell and David Grant** of the Spatial Strategy team in **NRS Planning** in particular for their tireless effort, skill and commitment to bring this project to fruition."*



Excellent Planning

Planning and Building Standards have had three projects chosen as finalists in the UK-wide Royal Town Planning Institute National Awards for Excellence in Planning 2021.

Planning for the Natural Environment: Glasgow Open Space Strategy

Over 60% of the Glasgow population live within 500 metres of vacant and derelict land. Improving open spaces and delivering nature-based solutions to enhance and increase open space in Glasgow can deliver multiple benefits for society, the economy and the environment. The Open Space Strategy sets out an approach to coordinate the various open space responsibilities to ensure well-managed, well-located and well-connected open spaces that operate as part of a wider green network.

Planning for Health and Wellbeing: Glasgow Canal Regeneration Partnership - Dundashill and Claypits Local Nature Reserve

Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability Planning is a key player in the Glasgow Canal Regeneration Partnership, which is working closely with local communities to develop a series of attractive indoor and outdoor leisure hubs between Port Dundas and Maryhill Locks. Year on year, completed recreation and active travel projects enhance these emerging hubs, boosting the leisure offer and healthy living choices available to residents in adjacent communities.



Planning to Deliver Homes (Small Schemes): Holmlea Primary School

This elegant Grade B Edwardian baroque style school closed in 2004, but remained a familiar part of the local community, although left unused and unloved. In 2018 a restoration started that saved the school from demolition and ensured it remained part of the community for generations to come. Home Group worked closely with Glasgow City Council planners, Anderson Bell Christie architects and Cathcart Housing Association and CCG as the main contractor to sympathetically restore the school and create 49 beautiful affordable homes, with employment and educational spin-offs.



Waste Not

On average, up to 60% of the materials in the general kerbside waste bins can be recycled. If we are to achieve Glasgow City Council's target of becoming a net-zero carbon city by 2030 we need to improve our recycling record.

Our **Kerbside Collections Programme** encourages residents to divert recyclable waste from their general waste bin into the other recycling streams. We have moved to a three-weekly collection cycle for general waste, while maintaining two-weekly collection for the other bins.

The project has been supported by a comprehensive communications plan utilising a mix of direct marketing, physical and digital meetings, social/ local media, and our web presence to engage with individual householders, team members, trade unions, elected members and partner organisations to promote what is changing, why the change is important for the climate emergency and detailed guides, and calendars supporting residents to recycle more.



Transformational Regeneration

Whitevale Baths is a derelict Category B listed building sited in the Gallowgate Transformational Regeneration Area. **NRS Housing and Regeneration Services** were keen to positively highlight the Baths' frontage by improving its appearance while it awaits redevelopment.

The Baths opened in May 1902. The existing building is the last of the original buildings and is now surrounded by newly built housing. Since its closure in the 1980s, the building has declined into a very poor condition.

In late 2019, **Project Management and Design (PM+D) Team** were asked to develop a solution to highlight the Baths' architecture and heritage. Following liaison with colleagues in Planning and Heritage & Design, it was agreed to light up the frontage whilst adding in some relevant imagery to remind the community of the exiting uses the building had in its past – it once had a Turkish bath!



PM+D developed a lighting design, arranged for a gallery of images to be installed, and carried out structural surveys. City Property managed the structural improvements/foilage removal and were Contract Administrators, City Building the appointed contractor.

Jane Williamson, Group Manager, PM+D reported: *"This project demonstrates good collaborative working within NRS and the wider Glasgow family as we try to address the challenges of finding future uses for our heritage assets. Well done to the team for delivering a positive place-making intervention through the pandemic restrictions."*