



Glasgow City Council

City Administration Committee

Report by Cllr Susan Aitken, Leader of Glasgow City Council and City Convener for City and City Region Economy and Just Transition

Contact: Annemarie O'Donnell Ext: 73977

Item 4

16th November 2023

### Glasgow 850 celebrations

#### Purpose of Report:

To ask the Committee to approve the council family's role in planning for a celebratory programme to mark Glasgow's 850<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2025.

#### Recommendations:

The committee is asked to:

- note the contents of the report
- approve the council family's role in planning for the Glasgow 850 celebratory programme
- approve the governance arrangements to support the planning and delivery of the programme
- approve the allocation of £1m from the Common Good Fund to support Glasgow 850 celebrations.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

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

#### PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

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## **1 Background**

- 1.1. The year 2025 will mark 850 years since Glasgow became a Burgh of the Barony, providing an opportunity for the city to celebrate a significant moment in its history. The city marked the last milestone of 800 years in 1975 with a festival which was held in May of that year, featuring a calendar full of special events, exhibitions, concerts, contests and more.
- 1.2. City neighbourhoods held their own celebrations and events, and every school child in the city was given a 'Glasgow 800' mug to mark the occasion.
- 1.3. Glasgow 800's theme was to look forward 50 years, and it is proposed that Glasgow 850 does the same, considering and showcasing the potential for what the city can be for its people, businesses and institutions over the next 50 years.

## **2. Proposal**

- 2.1. The city's vision is to support a fair and sustainable city where everyone gets to contribute and all can benefit from a flourishing Glasgow, a vision which it is proposed will be at the core of the objectives of the council family's activities.
- 2.2. As was the case in 1975 it is hoped that the city's people, communities, businesses and institutions will celebrate and activate a year of events and activities. The anniversary provides an opportunity to join with partners to reflect on the city's growth since 1975 when Glasgow 800 was held, and accelerate ambitions for the future centred around the grand challenges of tackling poverty and inequality, increasing prosperity and opportunity and fighting the climate emergency.
- 2.3. And with a nod to past history and an ambitious look to the future, there is an opportunity to put the River Clyde at the centre of this storytelling, as Glasgow 800 did. The lifeblood of the city touches every aspect of it, and is the symbol for community wealth building and climate action for the future.
- 2.4. The council's ambitions throughout 2025 will include:
  - Accelerating change by bringing the city together around a focused year of shared ambition
  - Enhancing the city's brand at home and abroad
  - Delivering legacy for the city's communities.
- 2.5. It is proposed that the council family helps the city to activate around a number of areas of activity including:
  - Communities and neighbourhoods
  - Civic
  - Culture
  - Business and skills
  - Education and young people
  - The climate emergency

- Tourism and visitor economy
- Architecture and heritage
- Science and Innovation
- Immigration
- Food and drink
- Sport
- Volunteering

### **3. Governance and budget arrangements**

3.1. The council family hopes to work with a wide range of partners to plan and deliver a celebratory programme in 2025. There has already been extensive interest in becoming involved from a wide range of communities, businesses and institutions and it is believed the Glasgow 850 will be a significant focus for the city delivering a wide range of legacy benefits.

3.2. Internally it is proposed that the operational arrangements will be led by the Chief Executive, chairing a programme board with a team lead appointed to coordinate activity and work with partners to develop a shared programme.

3.3. It is proposed that there is a cross-party strategic group to provide strategic guidance and leadership. The proposed membership is:

- The Leader of the Council (Chair)
- The Lord Provost
- Chair, Glasgow Life
- Treasurer
- Group Leaders, political groups
- Chief Executive
- Senior officers as required

3.4. The Strategic Group will also ensure that the programme builds on the legacies from community events, COP26 and major sporting and cultural events including the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games and Festival, the Glasgow 2018 European Championships and Festival and the 2023 World Cycling Championships.

3.5. It is envisaged that funds will be raised or donated from a variety of sources to fund these events but that a core budget will require to be provided. It is proposed that the Common Good Fund is an appropriate source for this celebration of Glasgow. The Common Good as defined in a judgement by Lord Kyllachy is “The Common Good is corporate property and falls as such to be administered by the council - and applied by them for the benefit of the community in such manner as, and using reasonable judgement as, they think proper”

3.6. As at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, the Common Good had a balance of £22.926m. It is recommended that CAC approves the allocation of £1m from the Common Good Fund to support Glasgow 850 celebrations.

## 4. Policy and Resource Implications

### Resource Implications:

*Financial:* It is recommended that an allocation of £1m from the Common Good Fund is made.

*Legal:* None

*Personnel:* None – Personnel drawn from existing resource

*Procurement:* None

### Council Strategic Plan:

#### **Grand Challenge 1:**

Reduce poverty and inequality in our communities

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 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 2: Become a net zero carbon city by 2030

**Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:**

*Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25?  
Please specify.*

Yes, by highlighting how general performance should be measured and reported the report seeks to assist in increasing people's knowledge about Equality and Fairness which supports the Equality Outcomes.

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

No EQIA required at this stage; but may be required as to help consider access issues for citizens, as events are scheduled

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

Yes, by highlighting a civic celebration open to all citizens and communities the report seeks to assist in increasing people's civic participation across socio-economic groups.

**Climate Impacts:**

*Does the proposal support any climate Plan actions?  
Please specify:*

*Not directly at this stage; although as events and initiatives are scheduled more detailed consideration will be required*

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

*Not directly identified at this stage; although as events and initiatives are scheduled more detailed consideration will be required*

*Will the proposal contribute to*

*Not directly at this stage; although as*

*Glasgow's net  
zero carbon  
target?*

*events and initiatives  
are scheduled more  
detailed  
consideration will be  
required*

## **6 Recommendations**

The committee is asked to:

- note the contents of the report
- approve the council family's role in planning for the Glasgow 850 celebratory programme
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