



Glasgow City Council

**Economy, Housing, Transport and Regeneration
City Policy Committee**

**Report by George Gillespie, Executive Director
Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability**

Contact: Ciaran Buchanan

Ext: 79443

Item 7

14th November 2023

AVENUES PROGRAMME UPDATE - 2023

Purpose of Report:

To provide an update to Members on progress of the City Deal and Sustrans funded Avenues Programme.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that Members:

- i. considers the contents of the report;
- ii. notes that further updates will be reported back to Committee on an annual basis.

Ward No(s): 10

Citywide:

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

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Members will be aware that the Glasgow City Region City Deal is investing approximately £115 million within Glasgow city centre to deliver the Enabling Infrastructure - Integrated Public Realm (EIIPR) programme – also known as the Avenues programme. This has also been supplemented by an additional £23 million from Sustrans. The Avenues programme is essentially a quality place-making scheme that will transform key streets in Glasgow’s city centre. This investment will introduce a network of pedestrian and cycle priority routes across Glasgow city centre that will incorporate green/blue infrastructure, increased pedestrian and cycle space, and improved connectivity.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to provide an annual update on progress of the Avenues Programme since the last report was presented to [Neighbourhoods, Housing & Public Realm City Policy Committee on 27th September 2022](#).

2 Background

- 2.1 The City Deal funded Avenues programme was first conceived as part of the 2014-19 City Centre Strategy (CCS). The streets, or ‘Avenues’, will benefit from the following direct deliverables:
 - Green/Blue Infrastructure such as street trees and rain gardens
 - Reduction in traffic lanes
 - Enhanced and widened footways
 - Segregated cycle infrastructure
 - Improved lighting features
- 2.2 In addition to City Deal funding, The Council has managed to secure an additional £23m worth of funding from Sustrans. Sustrans funding has enabled the delivery of an additional four Avenue projects. The Sustrans funded element of the wider programme is referred to as the ‘Avenues Plus Project’ or Block S.
- 2.3 Unfortunately, due to recent world events, there was an adverse impact on project delivery between 2019 and 2021. However, these issues have largely been overcome with design and construction activity progressing at pace. Some challenges due to the high levels of inflation persist and this is being factored into the delivery programme moving forward.

3 Current issues affecting programme delivery

- 3.1 As Committee Members will be aware, programme delivery over recent years has been significantly impacted by issues associated with Brexit, Covid-19 and the crisis in Ukraine (as detailed in previous reports to [Neighbourhoods, Housing & Public Realm City Policy Committee on 27th September 2022](#) and [Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee on 2nd November 2022](#)), with high inflation continuing to impact the construction sector and thus the delivery of the Avenues.

- 3.2 Given current market conditions and resulting budgetary pressures, the Avenues Programme is currently being reviewed as part of the full City Deal Infrastructure Investment Programme, which is being undertaken at the request of Glasgow City Region, with the agreement of UK and Scottish Governments. Council Officers are working to complete this exercise for Spring 2024.
- 3.3 Project teams are continually assessing cost savings and more effective ways of working throughout design development and construction. This is evident from the successful tendering of the Holland St / Pitt St Avenue that has been on site since March 2023 and the successful retendering of Sauchiehall Precinct and Cambridge Street Avenues, which commenced on site in early September 2023.

4 Avenues Block Updates

- 4.1 To simplify programme delivery, the Avenues programme has been sub-divided into smaller packages of works known as Blocks. Updates on each of these Blocks will be provided as part of this report.
- 4.2 Throughout the design process continual engagement/consultation was undertaken with key stakeholders, both externally and internally within Glasgow City Council. This process will continue during the construction phases of each Avenue with direct liaison with businesses / residents / community councils etc. The use of both on-site information and digital platforms will be key in keeping stakeholders informed along with the specific Avenues Website, which can be found at the following address <https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/avenues>

4.3 Block A

Block A of the wider Avenues programme comprises of the following Avenues:

- i. Argyle Street West (Kingston Bridge to Union St)
- ii. Argyle Street East (Union St to Glasgow Cross) and Dixon Street/St Enoch Square
- iii. Cathedral Street
- iv. North Hanover Street (Cathedral St to Kyle St) and Kyle Street
- v. Sauchiehall Street Precinct
- vi. The Underline Phase 1 (Cambridge Street)
- vii. The Underline Phase 2 (New City Road)

Notable updates:

- i. Argyle Street West is currently out to tender to secure a construction contractor with works due to commence in late Spring 2024.
- ii. Argyle St East is in the detailed design stage with tendering for a construction contractor to commence in early 2024. Dixon Street / St Enoch Sq. designs will be completed, however the tendering for a construction contractor will likely be delayed as part of the wider programme review.

- iii. Cathedral Street has been placed on hold as part of the wider programme review.
- iv. North Hanover Street and Kyle Street are nearing the end of the detailed design stage with tendering for a construction contractor to take place in early 2024.
- v. Sauchiehall Street Precinct and The Underline Phase 1 - Cambridge Street are currently on site as a single contract and is for completion in Summer 2024.
- vi. The Underline Phase 2 – New City Road is currently on hold due to the works being undertaken at the M8 Woodside Viaduct.

4.4 **Block B**

Block B of the wider Avenues programme comprises of the following Avenues:

- i. Holland Street/Pitt Street
- ii. Elmbank Street/Elmbank Crescent
- iii. Stockwell/Glassford Street
- iv. Broomielaw/Clyde Street
- v. High Street

Notable updates:

- i. The Holland Street / Pitt Street construction works started on site in March 2023 and are due to complete in July 2024. The southern section of Holland St is substantially complete and has been reopened to traffic.
- ii. Elmbank Street / Elmbank Crescent delivery has been delayed as part of the wider programme review.
- iii. Stockwell Street design work has recommenced with trial pits to be undertaken in October 2023. Glassford Street delivery has been delayed as part of the wider programme review.
- iv. Broomielaw / Clyde Street concept layouts are currently being completed for public consultation at the end of 2023.
- v. High St proposals are currently in their infancy with options to accommodate cycling infrastructure being formalised as part of the concept design process that commenced in October 2023.

4.5 **Block C**

Block C of the wider Avenues programme comprises of the following Avenues:

- i. George Square
- ii. St Vincent Street/St Vincent Place and Cochrane Street
- iii. West George Street and George Street
- iv. John Street
- v. Hanover/Miller Street
- vi. Dundas Street and Dundas Lane

Notable updates:

- i. George Square and the surrounding streets (Phase 1) has entered the detailed design phase and will be submitting a planning application for George Square by end of October 2023. The current proposals for George Sq are indicated in **Appendix A**.
- ii. Work is underway to determine the cost and scope of works required to the statutes within George Sq and a separate report will be presented at a later date.
- iii. Avenues within Block C that are on the periphery of George Square are currently being assessed as part of the wider programme review.

4.6 Block D

Block D of the wider Avenues programme comprises of the following Avenues:

- i. International Financial Services District (IFSD) west
- ii. Hope Street

Notable updates:

- i. Block D Avenues are currently on hold as part of the wider programme review.

4.7 Block S

Block S (Avenues Plus Project), which is fully funded by Sustrans, comprises of the following Avenues:

- i. South Portland Street
- ii. Dobbie's Loan
- iii. Duke Street and John Knox Street
- iv. Cowcaddens Road

Notable updates:

- i. All the Block S Avenues have completed the concept design stage, which with approval from the GCC Avenues Board and the funder Sustrans.
- ii. South Portland Street detailed design process is ongoing, and it is anticipated that the construction tender package will be ready for publication mid-2024. The design visualisation is included for reference at **Appendix B**.
- iii. Cowcaddens Road and Dobbies Loan designs are progressing, and it is expected that the construction tender packages for both of these Avenues will be ready for publication in late 2024. The design visualisations are included for reference at **Appendices C and D**.

- iv. Duke Street and John Knox Street, designs are progressing and it is anticipated that the construction tender packages for both of these Avenues will be ready for publication in late 2024. The design visualisation is included for reference at **Appendix E**.
- v. Automated secure cycle parking facilities in the city centre also form part of the Block S project and this pilot project was launched in September 2023. In total there are twenty parking hubs, with a capacity of 116 cycle parking spaces in various locations of the city centre, providing a safe option to park a bike and encourage more people to travel using this transport mode. **Appendix F** has some images of the cycle parking units.

5 Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

<i>Financial:</i>	There are no new financial implications arising from this report. However, there is a need to review cost increases at a future date.
<i>Legal:</i>	No immediate legal issues are raised by this report however these will be assessed as individual actions are developed.
<i>Personnel:</i>	There are no direct personnel implications from this report.
<i>Procurement:</i>	Procurement resources will be required to progress individual contracts and related project activity. CPU will be engaged as these are developed.

Council Strategic Plan:

<i>Specify which Grand Challenge (s) and Mission (s) the proposal supports. Where appropriate the relevant Commitment can also be listed.</i>	<p>The project supports the following items:</p> <p>GRAND CHALLENGE ONE – Reduce poverty and inequality in our communities MISSION 3: Improve the health and wellbeing of our local communities Commitments: 2</p> <p>GRAND CHALLENGE TWO – Increase opportunity and prosperity for all our citizens</p>
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MISSION 1: Support Glasgow residents into sustainable and fair work
Commitments: 1,5

GRAND CHALLENGE THREE – Fight the climate emergency in a just transition to a net zero Glasgow

MISSION 1: Deliver sustainable transport and travel aligned with the city region

Commitments: 3,4,10,11,16,26

MISSION 2: Become a net zero carbon city by 2030

Commitments: 9,14,15

GRAND CHALLENGE FOUR – Enable staff to deliver essential services in a sustainable, innovative and efficient way for our communities

MISSION 1: Create safe, clean and thriving neighbourhoods

Commitments: 18,19

Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

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

The Avenues programme considers inclusion, accessibility and sustainability. These apply to public realm, enhanced active travel, community wealth building and the 20 min neighbourhood, etc. EQIAs will be considered for each of the projects as these are brought forward.

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

Positive - The Avenues programme will encourage, employment opportunities and opportunities for all city centre residents and beyond by improving connectivity and accessibility.

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

The Avenues programme will encourage skills development and business development more generally by improving access to jobs and areas of prosperity.

Climate Impacts:

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

The Avenues programme provides surface water management measures through street trees and SUD's. Green infrastructure and reduced carriageway space for motorized vehicles will improve air quality and help contribute towards carbon net zero by 2030.

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

The potential impacts are on carbon reduction, increases in active travel, connected green and open spaces, support for circularity, public realm that promotes well-being and empowers local communities and community wealth building.

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

The proposals will contribute to Glasgow's net zero target. The delivery of the Avenues will reduce the space for private vehicles, will improve bus journey times in the city centre and will improve SUDS and greening.

Privacy and Data Protection Impacts:

Are there any potential data protection impacts as a result of this report

No

If Yes, please confirm that a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) has been carried out.

NA

6 Recommendations

It is recommended that Members:

- i. considers the contents of the report;
- ii. notes that further updates will be reported back to Committee on an annual basis.

Appendix A. George Square



Appendix B. South Portland Street



South Portland Street
Looking north

Appendix C. Cowcaddens Road



Appendix D. Dobbies Loan





Appendix E. Duke Street and John Knox Street

Duke Street - cycle lane & green infrastructure at the southern section of Duke St.



Appendix F. Automated secure cycle parking facilities

