



**Glasgow City Council**

**Wellbeing, Empowerment, Community and Citizen Engagement City  
Policy Committee**

**Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and  
Sustainability**

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**Briefing note on the Petition:** “Environmental and diversity risk assessment for use of public land”.

**Purpose of Report:**

To provide information on the Petition: “Environmental and diversity risk assessment for use of public land”.

**Recommendation:**

The Committee is requested to note the contents of the report.

## 1. Purpose of report

To provide information on the Petition – “Environmental and diversity risk assessment for use of public land”.

## 2. Background

The statutory planning system controls development on land including public land, with some exceptions which are considered not to require planning permission. Commercial development or development by the Council on its land generally requires planning permission if the cost of the works are greater than £250,000. If planning permission is required, then the Council or any applicant needs to provide information on impacts on traffic and transport; air pollution; water treatment, drainage and flooding; lighting; impact on biodiversity and greenspace, green corridors and other general impact on the surrounding environment. In some cases if the application is significant or will have significant effects on the environment, a formal Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required (the contents of this, and need for such an EIA, are set out in specific legislation). All this information is available for public view as part of a planning application.

These requirements do not apply to activity which is not considered to be “development” in a planning sense, and temporary events and activities usually do not need planning permission.

Some general information about the citywide programme of Parks Events is set out with an earlier report taken to Environment, Sustainability and Carbon Reduction Committee 6th February 2018:

<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/councillorsandcommittees/viewDoc.asp?c=P62A FQDN2UDNUT81T1>

Action 13 of our ‘Vision for Glasgows Parks and Greenspaces notes that ‘We will support the use of parks and greenspaces for events and activities, supporting local groups in delivering community events and engaging with communities in the delivery of large scale events’:

Action 10 of our ‘Vision for Glasgows Parks and Greenspaces notes that. ‘We will implement the Local Biodiversity Action Plan and will work with communities and partners to manage a sustainable, integrated network of parks and greenspaces, supporting a variety of habitats and uses’

<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=44166&p=0>

There is formal liaison with a wide range of stakeholders in advance of any significant events with the City, including statutory bodies and communities. As part of the engagement activity for significant events, a mail drop is

arranged to surrounding households, with details of drop-in sessions arranged, and a point of contact provided for any queries about the event which may arise outwith these sessions. At these drop-in sessions there is attendance by the Event Organiser, NRS Events, Police Scotland and Environmental Health, allowing any queries that members of the public may have about environmental, biodiversity or other matters to be raised.

Through the Licencing Process there are a number of statutory consultees who provide input into environmental matters associated with events. Details of how members of the public can make representations in relation to applications for a Licence can be found here: <https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=20191>

As part of the existing Events Permission to Use process, it should be emphasised that potential environmental and biodiversity impacts are discussed in detail with Events Organisers throughout the events process, with a range of measures secured in order to avoid, minimise, rectify, reduce or offset any potential negative impacts, and to secure and enhance any positive impacts, with key outcomes fed back to consultees.

Examples of topics considered and addressed through this process include consideration of alternative sites, potential impacts on protected species such as bats, and requirements for ground protection.

This engagement with Events Organisers is undertaken on a continual and dynamic basis throughout the events process, from site selection and consideration of alternative sites, event planning and site reinstatement.

At present, Glasgow City Councils corporate procurement process does not require our suppliers specifically to offset projected emissions. Reports taken to the Contracts and Property Committee set out whether the proposals support Climate Change Actions, set out the potential climate impacts and ask whether the proposal will contribute to net zero.

Recommendation 58 of the Climate Emergency Implementation Plan (CEIP) recommends that:

The Council works with local authority partners and the Scottish Government to consider whether any legislative change is needed to allow local authorities to embed carbon reduction in procurement processes. In the light of the outcome of this exercise, we further recommend that the Council reviews its procurement strategy in response to the climate emergency.

At a national level, environmental management criteria have been prepared in order to advance the inclusion of climate change commitments at the selection stage of a procurement. These take a phased approach which requires contracts in key areas to include climate change selection criteria before lower risk contracts.

This sets out a series of phased criteria for relevant contracts, in summary, for suppliers to have a documented Climate Change Plan by 2023, to calculate

emissions from 2025, and have emission reduction targets and a plan to achieve these that align with net zero by 2045.

Officers from NRS and CPU will continue to work closely to advance the inclusion of climate change commitments at the selection stage of procurement, across the department and in line with the approach being taken by the Scottish Government.

### **3. Recommendation**

That the Committee notes the content of the response to the request in the Petition.