

## Item 4

12th January 2022



**Glasgow City Council**

**Operational Performance and Delivery Scrutiny Committee**

**Report by Chief Executive**

**Contact: Duncan Black : Head of Audit and Inspection  
Michelle McGinty : Head of Corporate Policy and  
Governance**

### **Council Strategic Plan Progress Report 2020/2021 – Supplementary Report**

#### **Purpose of Report:**

The report supplements the Council Strategic Plan Progress Report 2020/2021 which was considered by the Committee in September 2021. It specifically clarifies the progress provided in relation to Council Strategic Plan Commitment number 7.

Explore the feasibility of introducing a universal citizens' income and local currencies for Glasgow.

#### **Recommendations:**

The Committee is asked to note the report.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

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

## 1.0 Background

1.1 The [Council Strategic Plan Progress Report 2020/2021](#) was considered by Committee on 15 September 2021. The update below was provided in relation to Priority no 7.

1.2

7. Explore the feasibility of introducing a universal citizens' income and local currencies for Glasgow.				
7.1 Explore the feasibility of a universal income for Glasgow, in partnership with those in national government.	RSA to draft a report with the findings and recommendations from the engagement sessions and present to Committee.	Complete. Final update reported end of <a href="#">Year 3 (2019/20)</a>  <a href="#">Report</a> was submitted to the Scottish Government and reported to City Administration Committee 18 June 2020.	CED	Complete

1.3 Commitment 7 comprised two elements: universal citizens income and local currencies. However, the commitment only ever identified action against one – universal citizens income. Subsequently updates were incomplete as there was no information provided in relation to activity around local currencies. Commitment 7.1 was correctly marked as complete. A new commitment should have been drafted to reference the actions required in relation to the issue of local currencies.

1.4 This was clarified at Committee. In addition

- Committee asked that the Head of Audit and Inspection would look at how commitments in the Plan were reflected in specific actions and related wording;
- Committee asked that when reported to the City Administration Committee, this committee's comments on the RAG rating of some of the actions should be detailed;
- And an update in relation to work on local currencies in Glasgow was set out in a response to questions raised at Committee. This is summarised in section 2 of the report.

## 2.0 Local Currencies for Glasgow

2.1 A short-life Working Group (WG) is being established to explore the development of a Local Currency model and revisit/update research previously undertaken into the establishment of the Brixton and the Bristol Pounds. An initial facilitated workshop was to take place on Tuesday 19

October, however the session did not take place due to staff absence and has been rescheduled for January 2022.

- 2.2 Officers are aware work had previously been undertaken on the viability of local currencies. However, following initial analysis and investigation there was no evidence of the successful implementation of a local currency model in the UK. In recognition of the 2019 Council motion and the ongoing development of the '20-minute neighbourhood' concept a further piece of work is being undertaken.
- 2.3 The WG will re-examine the local currency option, but also investigate the notion of social currency – that is, the sharing of skills and local resources. It will also consider how money circulates around a community: how it is extracted from local neighbourhoods and; the role played by Credit Unions in influencing the local economy. Prior to the workshop, desk-based research will be undertaken.

### 3. **Next Steps**

- 3.1 At the OPDSC meeting in September, members commented on the impact of COVID-19 on actions and highlighted the need to measure the success of overall priorities. To take action on these comments, officers are:
  - amending actions to support the priorities to reflect current activity, including responding to COVID-19, in line with standard practice and ongoing work to implement the recommendations from the internal audit report on performance reporting; and
  - reporting an update to the Strategic Plan Outcome Indicators, to be presented February 2022, which is one way that we measure the impact of the Strategic Plan Priorities.
- 3.2 These comments were also highlighted to the City Administration Committee as part of the reporting of the [Summary Annual Performance Report 2020/2021](#).
- 3.3 Separately, Internal Audit will:
  - Review the process for articulating Council Plan commitments and actions in a way that facilitates robust performance scrutiny (this will then feed into the process for the new Council Plan);
  - Undertake an assurance mapping exercise to clarify roles and responsibilities across first line management (eg Service Leadership Teams), and second line functions (eg Corporate Policy and Governance) with a view to ensuring robust control checks are undertaken for accuracy of reported performance information; and
  - Undertake a “critical friend” review of the new Strategic Plan (and associated actions) wording to ensure all commitments and actions are clear and measurable.

#### 4. Policy and Resource Implications

##### Resource Implications:

*Financial:* none

*Legal:* none

*Personnel:* none

*Procurement:* none

**Council Strategic Plan:** Supports the governance arrangements to scrutinise performance in the recovery phase of the pandemic

##### Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

*Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2017-21* Not directly

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

*Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio economic disadvantage.* n/a

##### Climate Impacts:

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

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

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

**Privacy and Data  
Protection impacts:** None

## **5 Recommendations**

5.1 Committee is asked to note the report.