



**Glasgow City Council**

**Neighbourhoods, Housing and Public  
Realm City Policy Committee**

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

**Item 3**

16<sup>th</sup> November 2021

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**CITY DEAL AVENUES: PROGRAMME UPDATE**

**Purpose of Report:**

To provide an update on progress of the City Deal funded Avenues Programme.

**Recommendations:**

It is recommended that Committee:

- (i) Considers the content of this report;
- (ii) Considers the progress being made by the Avenues programme;
- (iii) Notes that a further update will be provided to Committee in Summer 2022.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

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

## 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 Members may recall that an update to this committee on the City Deal-funded Avenues programme was previously provided in 2019<sup>1</sup>. The purpose of this report is to update Members on the progress made since then across the various blocks of activity.

## 2. Background

- 2.1 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. The EIIPR programme is a quality place-making scheme that will transform 17 key streets in Glasgow's city centre. It has become more commonly known as the Avenues project due to its underlying ethos of introducing trees and green infrastructure back into Glasgow 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.
- 2.2 The Council has secured an additional c£23m from Sustrans that will enable the delivery of an additional four Avenue Projects titled the 'Avenues Plus Project'. This expansion of the Avenues Programme is supported by a key recommendation made as part of the recent Connectivity Commission report<sup>2</sup>: *The acceleration and expansion of the Avenues into other areas of the city*.
- 2.3 A revised version of the Avenues Programme was presented to the City Deal Executive Group (CDEG) during September 2021. The new 'Version 9' (V9) Programme was subsequently approved by CDEG and has been included for reference at **Appendix A**.
- 2.4 For the purpose of programme delivery and project management, the wider programme of works has been sub divided into five 'Blocks' of activity. This report will provide an update on each of these Blocks.

## 3. Block Updates

### Block A

- 3.1 Block A is being delivered by Civic Engineers and comprises of the following Avenue Projects:
- (i) Argyle Street West (Junction 19 to Hope Street)
  - (ii) Argyle Street East (Hope Street to Glasgow Cross)
  - (iii) St Enoch Square and Dixon Street
  - (iv) The Underline Phase 1 (Cambridge Street)

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<sup>1</sup>

<http://www.glasgow.gov.uk/councillorsandcommittees/viewSelectedDocument.asp?c=P62AFQDN0GDN0GNTZ3>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/connectivitycommission>

- (v) The Underline Phase 2 (New City Road)
- (vi) Sauchiehall Street Precinct (Rose Street to Buchanan Street)
- (vii) North Hanover Street
- (viii) Cathedral Street

- 3.2 The construction package for Argyle Street West and The Underline Phase 1 is currently out to tender. Tender returns are scheduled to be completed by late-October 2021. This will allow construction to commence early-2022. There have been several delays as a result of third-party suppliers failing to respond to potential bidders within the expected timescales – these delays have been attributed to Covid-19 and Brexit. However, this does not pose any immediate issues with regards to the V9 Programme, although the impact of cost inflation in relation to materials and supply prices is yet to be determined on the project budget. These issues are regularly monitored by officers through the project governance structure.
- 3.3 Construction tender packages are currently being developed for Sauchiehall Precinct and North Hanover Street. These tender packages are expected to be published late-2021/early-2022. This will allow construction to commence mid/late-2022.
- 3.4 Design works remain ongoing for all other Block A Avenue Projects which are due to be completed in Summer 2022.
- 3.5 Cathedral Street has been placed on hold until the outcomes of the ongoing Local Transport Strategy have been published.

**Block B**

- 3.6 Block B is being delivered by Ironside Farrar and comprises of the following Avenue Projects:
- (i) Stockwell/Glassford Street
  - (ii) Elmbank Street/Crescent
  - (iii) Holland Street and Pitt Street
  - (iv) Broomielaw and Clyde Street
- 3.7 Construction tender packages are currently being developed for Holland Street and Pitt Street. These tender packages are expected to be published late-2021/early-2022. This will construction to commence mid/late-2022.
- 3.8 Design works remain ongoing for all other Block B Avenue Projects. This work will remain ongoing until the latter stages of the wider programme to accommodate Broomielaw/Clyde Street which has been delayed for operational purposes. The programme will be reviewed regularly to determine if there is scope to accelerate elements of the Block B design contract.

**Block C**

- 3.9 Block C is being delivered by John MacAslan and Partners and comprises of the following Avenues Projects:

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

Block C is at the early stages of the design process and as a result, the current focus is on finalising the engagement plan which will be used to inform the design process - the next stage of web-based stakeholder engagement process is expected to commence early 2022. The outcomes of the engagement process will be used to inform a concept design for the project area with draft concept designs to be developed in Spring 2022.

**Block D**

- 3.10 The Block D design contract is scheduled to commence late 2022/early 2023. Block D will comprise of the following Avenue Projects:

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

**Block S**

- 3.11 Block S is the name given to the 'Avenues Plus Project' referenced in section 2.2 of this report. The Block S design contract is currently out to tender and will comprise of the following Avenue Projects:

- (i) South Portland Street
- (ii) Duke Street and John Knox Street
- (iii) Cowcaddens Road
- (iv) Dobbie's Load

- 3.12 The Block S design team is expected to be in place by November 2021.

## 4 Policy and Resource Implications

### Resource Implications:

- Financial:* All the existing financial requirements to support the Avenues will be met from existing capital budgets.
- Legal:* There are no immediate legal issues however these will be assessed and addressed as individual projects are developed.
- Personnel:* There are no direct personnel issues.
- Procurement:* Procurement resources will be required to progress associated contracts and related project activity. CPU will be engaged with appropriately.

### Council Strategic Plan:

A Thriving Economy, with specific outcomes:

- A Resilient, growing and diverse city economy where businesses thrive;
- The city and its citizens benefit from inclusive economic growth and are involved in economic decision making through participatory budgeting.

Priorities: 2,3

A Vibrant City, with specific outcomes:

- Glaswegians are active and healthier.

Priorities: 13

A Sustainable and Low Carbon City with specific outcomes:

- The city is clean and public spaces are well maintained;
- We have a low carbon footprint as a council and as a city;
- We have more sustainable, integrated transport networks across the city, and less congestion;
- Citizens use active travel, including walking and cycling.

Priorities: 54,55,65

Resilient and Empowered Neighbourhoods,  
with specific outcomes:

- Citizens can access good facilities, jobs and services locally;
- Citizens' satisfaction with services is maintained or improved.

Priorities: 83,87

A Well Governed City that Listens and  
Responds with specific outcomes:

- Citizens are more involved in local and citywide decision making

Priorities: 94,95

**Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:**

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

The project will help deliver Outcome 9 by improving opportunities for physical activity through the increase in active travel opportunities

The project will help deliver Outcome 10 through the direct engagement with vulnerable user groups during public realm design processes.

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

Positive impact: the project will improve accessibility through improved connectivity through the city centre. EQIA screenings have been undertaken for the individual projects.

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

Yes - through the provision of projects that promote environmental and regeneration enhancements with inclusive growth at their heart. The Avenues Programme will promote accessibility, inclusivity and connectivity, providing positive benefits for all socio-economic groups. Specific projects in the action plan will be EQIA-assessed as required. We will be taken relevant measures to ensure that those consulted reflect the profiles of existing communities.

The Avenues Programme and subsequent designs will be informed by engagement with the following key stakeholders:

- Royal National Institute for the Blind;
- Police Scotland;
- Guide Dogs Scotland;
- Glasgow Disability Alliance (GDA).

**Climate Impacts:**

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

Climate Plan Theme 1: Communication and Community Empowerment

**Aim:** To foster participation and collaboration.

Climate Plan Theme 2: Just and Inclusive Place

**Aim:** Ensure that the transition to a net-zero society is a catalyst for building a fairer, healthier, prosperous, resilient and greener city for all.

Climate Plan Theme 3: Well Connected and Thriving City

**Aim:** Support decarbonisation of transport systems by helping to improve infrastructure for walking, cycling, wheeling and reducing the need to travel.

Climate Plan Theme 4: Health and Wellbeing

**Aim:** To support equitable access to good quality open space and green infrastructure in the city.

Climate Plan Theme 5: Green recovery

**Aim:** Supporting improved infrastructure for walking, cycling and remote working.

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

Increasing active travel across the city centre encourages people to consider using active travel alternatives such as cycling or walking. This will lead to a reduction in CO2 emissions.

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

Yes, by increasing the amount of active travel routes across the city centre, this will lead to a reduction in CO2 emissions.

**Privacy and Data Protection Impacts:**

A DPIA is required by law where the processing of personal data is likely to result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.

The project will not collect personal data except through the provision of contact details for the purposes of the project. Permission for any other use, or any ongoing use, will be sought at the point contact details are given.

## **5 Recommendations**

It is recommended that Committee:

- (i) Considers the content of this report;
- (ii) Considers the progress being made by the Avenues programme;
- (iii) Notes that a further update will be provided to Committee in Summer 2022.

**Enclosures:**

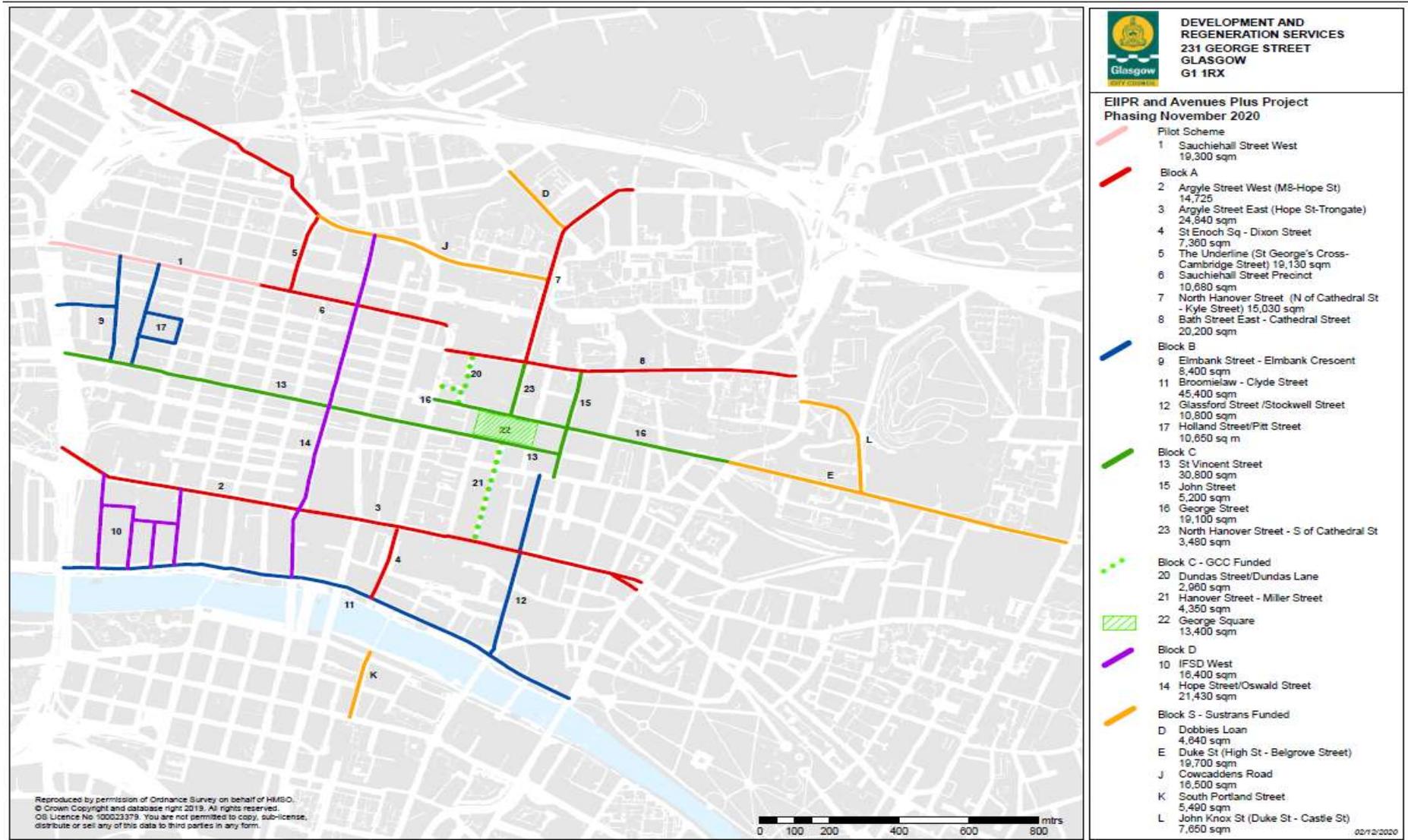
Appendix A – Version 9 Programme

Appendix B - EII PR and Avenues Plus Project Phasing November 2020

Appendix C – Avenues Storymap



# Appendix B - EIIPR and Avenues Plus Project Phasing November 2020



Appendix C – [Avenues Storymap](#)