



Glasgow City Council

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

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

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Item 3

8th March 2022

**Update on the Glasgow Canal Regeneration Partnership, and the Canal
Action Plan 2021-26**

Purpose of Report:

To update on progress of the Glasgow Canal Regeneration Partnership, in particularly the Canal Action Plan 2021-26.

Recommendations:

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

Ward No(s): 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 22, Citywide:
23

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

1 BACKGROUND

1.1 History and Context

From the late 18th century, the Forth and Clyde Canal formed a key transport link, for goods and passengers, for the north of Glasgow and beyond.

However its importance declined in the 19th and 20th centuries, due to a combination of railways superseding canals as the prime means of transport for heavy good, and the de-industrialisation of Glasgow, particularly the heavy industries of north Glasgow. The development of the motorway network from the late 1960s further de-emphasised canals, and also provided a barrier between the city centre and the north of the city.

1.2 Recent context

In 2013 Scottish Canals (SC) devolved from British Waterways. This offered the opportunity for SC to act a more of a regeneration agency rather than merely the custodian of Scotland's Canals. This was the basis for reviving the Glasgow Canal Regeneration Partnership which had been established in June 2004 between the Council, SC, and its development partner, Bigg Regeneration. The revived partnership was formalised in a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), as reported to the Council's Executive Committee of 10th September 2015 (see:

<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/councillorsandcommittees/viewSelectedDocument.asp?c=P62AFQDNT12UT10GDX>)

The common purpose of the Partnership, as stated in the MoU, is defined as- *“To transform the canal corridor in to a vibrant local and city destination and reconnect and reinvigorate its neighbouring communities. To this end, the Partnership will engage in the promotion, facilitation and management of the sustainable social, economic and environmental regeneration of the canal corridor and its adjoining communities. In so doing, the Partnership aims to enhance the quality of life, health and well-being and employment opportunities for people in North Glasgow and decrease deprivation across the area”*.

1.3 Canal Action Plan 2015-20

The key output of the revived GCRP was the Canal Action Plan (CAP) 2015-2020 (see <https://glasgowcanal.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/2-Glasgow-Canal-Regeneration-Partnership-Action-Plan.pdf>) which set out key strategic, thematic and geographic areas of focus for the five year period.

The GCRP, CAP, and projects within the partnership, have won numerous awards, perhaps most noticeably Scottish Government's Overall Award for Quality in Planning in 2018 (see <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-awards-for-quality-in-planning-2018/>).

1.4 Current governance arrangements

The GRCP is managed by a Steering Group of officers from the three partners (Council, Scottish Canals and Bigg). Other local organisations, including housing associations and the Glasgow Canal Co-operative, are also represented. The Group meets every eight weeks.

The Steering Group is governed by a Board, consisting of senior officers from the three partners. Local organisations are also invited. The Board is chaired by a local elected member and meets twice a year.

Separate to the GCRP, the Glasgow Canal Co-operative represents the interests of local residents and commercial, cultural and leisure organisations, particularly around the 'Glasgow Branch' of the Canal (i.e. from Stockingfield Junction to Pinkston Basin).

The Council has observer status with the Co-op, and supports its activities (for example a funding award by the Council from Heritage Lottery Fund to the Glasgow Canal Heritage Project, as reported to Council's City Administration Committee on 29th November 2018).

2 THE CANAL ACTION PLAN 2021-26

2.1 Production and Consultation

During the latter half of 2020, and into 2021, the production of a new five year Canal Action Plan (CAP) was discussed and developed at the Steering Group and other meetings.

Due to remote working and restrictions, it was not possible to hold formal consultation events. However local housing associations, and other local agencies that are part of the Canal Co-op, were involved in the process. The CAP also benefits from the concurrent work undertaken by Council to develop and consult on the Glasgow North Strategic Development Framework (<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=49765>)

2.2 Finalisation

The final draft of CAP 2021-26 was presented to the GCRP Steering Group on 17th November 2021; after incorporating final amendments it was presented to the Board on 7th December 2021 and approved.

2.3 Summary and highlights

The Canal Action Plan 2021-26 is published in 'storyboard' format at: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/e2edcd4e3b084ba5b64d45be149c368c> and is attached as an appendix.

Highlights include:

- Over £750m of public and private investment;
- Over 3,000 new mixed-tenure homes on site, consented or masterplanned (including at Sighthill TRA, Dundashill, Hamiltonhill, Cowlairs, Ruchill and Maryhill TRA), which will result in around 10,000 new residents;
- City Deal investment in the Canal and North Gateway, improving infrastructure, connectivity and unlocking vacant land for development;
- A reduction in vacant and derelict land, with further significant reduction programmed through housing development;
- Increased and improved greenspace, for example the Claypits Local Nature Reserve;
- Improved connectivity and active travel routes, e.g, through new (Garscube Link) and forthcoming (Stockingfield) bridges;
- Improved health indicators for the area, confirming the benefits of blue and green networks;
- The ongoing work of the canal Co-op to promote activities and highlight the social, cultural and leisure aspects of canal regeneration;
- A detailed Project Matrix of projects and strategies to be delivered in the lifespan of the CAP;
- The parallel and complementary work contained within the Glasgow North Strategic Development Framework.

3 FUTURE DELIVERY

3.1 Delivering the CAP

Delivery of the projects and strategies contained in CAP 2021-26 will be monitored and reported to the GCRP Steering Group and Board. Individual projects will be reported to funders and other bodies, including Scottish Government and appropriate Council Committees.

An annual update will also be made to NHPRCPC, as part of annual update on the Glasgow North SDF Action Programme delivery.

3.2 Scottish Canals

It should be noted that Scottish Canals intend relocating their headquarters from Applecross Basin to Falkirk. This could prove both a challenge and an opportunity – feasibility work on future uses of the Applecross Basin site is being commissioned, and Scottish Canals have indicated their ongoing commitment to the Partnership.

3.3 Resources

The Partnership does not have a discreet budget – funding for projects is sought on a project-by-basis – and does not have a dedicated staff resource from either Council or any other partners.

4 Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

Financial: The estimated total cost of the projects included in Canal Action Plan is £750m+
This is funded through a combination of council sources (e.g. Affordable Housing Supply Programme, City Deal, and Vacant and Derelict Land Fund), other partner contributions, and private investment (including housing development).

Legal: N/A

Personnel: Staff input is required to lead the GCRP and deliver the projects and outcomes contained in CAP 2021-26.

Procurement: N/A

Council Strategic Plan: The development supports the following strategic themes: -

A Thriving Economy:

- Priority 4: Maximise what the council can do through its community benefit clauses to secure jobs and training opportunities for Glaswegians and Small businesses and look at ways that these clauses can be strengthened.
- Priority 5: Use our initiatives and procurement to ensure that fair employment practices.

A Healthier City:

- Priority 38: Support service redesign that will result in Glasgow becoming a healthier, empowered city, with early

intervention and prevention approaches at the heart of what we do.

A Sustainable and Low Carbon City:

- Priority 65: Build high quality, inclusive active travel infrastructure, investing a minimum of 10% of our transport infrastructure budgets in cycling and walking to make Glasgow an excellent cycling and walking city.

Resilient and Empowered Neighbourhoods:

- Priority 78: Deliver a programme of investment in new or refurbished community facilities.
- Priority 79: Encourage the development of trusts, social and community enterprises to support community ownership and management of assets.
- Priority 81: Support registered social landlords and the private sector to provide 15,000 new homes across the city, maximising delivery of homes for social rent, promoting use of the city's vacant and derelict land, bringing empty homes back into use, encouraging city centre living and creating opportunities for self-build. Bringing the city's vacant and derelict land back in to productive use is a key opportunity for inclusive growth that the Council wants to encourage.
- Priority 83: Ensure that Glasgow's developments, both residential and public realm, are of a high international standard and deliver clean, sociable, accessible and safe neighbourhoods and public spaces. We will work with partners to develop proposals for the appointment of a City Architect.
- Priority 86: Extend the number of volunteers in Glasgow and record what skills they can offer the city.

Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

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

Yes, broad support

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

No significant impact.

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

Increasing the supply of affordable housing in a part of the city that contains areas of deprivation; creation of a large number of temporary and permanent construction jobs; significant number of permanent jobs in creative and leisure industries. Increasing and promoting access to the Canal has proven health and social benefits.

Climate Impacts:

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

Yes. New energy-efficient housing, much of it within walking distance to/from the city centre; active travel infrastructure, including cycleways and bridges.

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

Reduced carbon emissions as above.

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

Yes

Privacy and Data Protection impacts:

None.

5 Recommendations

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