



Glasgow City Council
City Administration Committee

Item 5

29th September 2022

Report by Bailie Annette Christie, Convener for Culture, Sport and International Relations

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Funding Support For Community Venues Operated By Glasgow Life

Purpose of Report:

To update committee on the options for the allocation of the £1.1 million additional funding to support the re-opening of Community Venues operated by Glasgow Life.

Recommendations:

Committee is asked to:

- Note the Content of the report;
- Based on the criteria approved at the City Administration Committee approved on 22 June 2022, the consultation feedback, the Welcoming Space priorities and the introduction of a supported transition process through the PMGC programme, the Committee are asked to consider and agree the options set out at Section 4.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

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

1. Introduction

1.1 At the Glasgow City Council meeting on 17 February 2022 a sum of £1.1 million was allocated in the 2022/23 budget to provide 'support to re-open Glasgow Life Community Venues'. The proposed criteria to assist in the selection of community venues which have not yet re-opened, and the public consultation process, to the GCC City Administration Committee (CAC) on 22 June 2022 and were approved.

1.2 The Glasgow City Council budget paper stated:

'In consultation with local communities and taking a prioritised approach, this will support further ongoing re-opening of community centres and other local venues.'

The proposed criteria fell into the following categories:

CRITERIA	RATIONALE
Strategic Priority Areas – Thriving Places/Community Hubs/SIMD	Prioritise building in areas of designated as having greatest need.
Previous Use (based on use pre-covid)	Recognition of previous usage/demand. Provides a baseline.
Demand for use established from consultation outcomes	Based on responses from both Let/Lease and public facing consultation
Tenant/Lease holder	Recognition of current contractual agreements
Potential for growth in venue	Difference between the pre-covid demand levels and those indicated via consultation
Impact on other venues	Potential detrimental impact on another venue.
Accessibility/Geographical access	Is the building accessible to users, any limitations to access?

2. Consultation process and feedback

2.1 Officers identified potential options for re-opening venues within the £1.1m budget based on the outcome of the consultation and prioritisation process. In addition, they recognised that the emerging work on the cost-of-living crisis and the ongoing People Make Glasgow Communities (PMGC) programme required consideration in any options for the allocation of the £1.1m budget.

2.2 Following an initial consideration of these options officers have reviewed the potential role of these venues as part of the emerging Welcoming Places programme and whether, through the PMGC programme, there was the opportunity to develop alternative management options to support the re-opening of more community venues.

3. Welcoming Places

Since the City Administration Committee meeting on 22 June 2022 a Council motion was carried that set out the potential impact of the cost of living challenge on the city and instructed the Chief Executive of GCC to bring forward a paper to the first appropriate committee after recess.

In recent weeks in response to the emerging crisis, officers from GCC, Glasgow Life, GCVS and partners have been developing proposals regarding Welcoming Places as a potential support package for citizens facing the challenge of heating their own households. Currently this approach will identify a number of venues across the city (Tier 1) that have the capacity to provide welfare facilities, including food and drink, as well as access to information and advice. Tier 2 venues will have the capacity to host citizens and will have a range of services and activities available and Tier 3 venues will be able to provide a warm welcome and space to sit without necessarily having access to services and activities.

Work is ongoing to finalise the list of city-wide venues that will be included in the Tier 1 venues that provide all elements of the Welcoming Place offer. This will include venues managed by the city's third sector and faith organisations. The following currently closed Glasgow Life community venues that are included in the list of venues proposed to provide a tier 1 welcoming space are as follows:

Pollok Community Centre
St Francis Centre
Possilpoint Community Centre
Cranhill Beacon
Netherton Community Centre

Given that the cost of living crisis has been identified as an emerging priority for the city, the Welcoming Place model has been added as an additional criteria in the development of options for the re-opening of venues

3.1 People Make Glasgow Communities (PMGC)

3.2 The PMGC progress has the following phased approach:

1. Expression of interest
2. Initial assessment
3. Engagement
4. Development
5. Licence to occupy

3.3 The speed at which organisations proceed through the PMGC process depends almost entirely on the skills, knowledge, experience and capacity of the organisation making the enquiry. Most organisations can spend a number of months in the Engagement Phase using the services of GCVS to build their

capacity, develop a Business Plan and undertake Community Engagement to ensure their proposal is supported by their communities. Others spend more time in the Initial Assessment Phase to review their governance structures, register as a SCIO or CIC and attend a number of GCVS workshops.

- 3.4** Within the PMGC process there are currently seven community organisations in the development phase for Glasgow Life sports venues. Most of these organisations are operating the venue they wish to manage under a short-term licence to occupy (LTO). This provides them with a stepping-stone approach before committing to a long-term arrangement. This also allows them to commence the operation of the venue relatively quickly once the required Committee approval has been obtained. Glasgow Life provides ongoing support to the organisation throughout the LTO.

The LTO model currently operating with a number of community organisation in sports venues provides an alternative to the operating models originally envisaged as part of the PMGC process. The Third Sector organisation will take an LTO that makes them responsible for a proportion of the operating costs, with Glasgow Life/GCC retaining some of the operating costs during the LTO transitional period. This could potentially enable more community centres to re-open at a reduced cost to GCC until the full transfer takes place and all costs are met by the organisation taking over the operating of the venues. Due to the cost-of-living crisis organisations are facing the challenge of increased staff, energy and maintenance costs which is making the financial viability of operating community venues increasingly challenging.

- 3.5** Seven community organisations with proposals to take on the operation of unopened Glasgow Life Community Centres are in the final stages of the Engagement Phase with the potential to progress to the Development Phase within the next 3 months.

The venues concerned are:

Molendinar
Ruchazie
Shettleston
Garrowhill
Barmulloch
Balgaryhill
Tollcross

It is hoped that by adopting alternative operating models for these venues it could allow the venues to re-open, provide the community organisations with the access to buildings that they need to deliver their aspirations and to build their skills, knowledge and experience in facility operations and management. This may enable more organisations to take on full responsibility for the venue and its operating costs over a longer period of time.

It is anticipated that the community organisations currently in the Engagement and Development Phase of PMGC process (see 3.1) with proposals for Glasgow Life community venues could commence operating the Glasgow Life community centres before the end of this financial year (assuming the support they require continues to be provided).

Given timescales, the £1.1m budget will be used to support the re-opening of venues on a part year basis, as there is the opportunity to use a portion of this budget during the 2022/23 financial year to support the transition process for the seven venues through the PMGC programme through sharing the operating costs.

Not all organisations currently at the various stages of the PMGC process may want to operate under an LTO and there is also a risk that the third Sector organisations taking on a LTO are unable to sustain the operation of the venue beyond the period of transitional funding in 2022/23.

The remaining portion of the £1.1m budget can then be used to support the re-opening of nine community venues, including the five 'Welcoming Place' venues, on the opening hours set out in section 4. below and based on the anticipated demand identified in the consultation process.

Partick Burgh Hall, Drumchapel and Barmulloch Community Centres are vaccination centres until 31 March 2023 and the proposal is to reopen those centres on conclusion of the agreement with the NHS. Barmulloch CC would re-open through management by Glasgow Life or through an LTO with the interested party through the PMGC process.

Ruchill Community Centre requires capital works to the building with an estimated programme of six months. It is proposed these works are undertaken with a view to reopening Ruchill CC within the £1.1m budget for 2023/24.

4. Options for consideration

There is the potential to develop a mixed model of re-opening taking into account the criteria including Welcoming Places and the opportunity to accelerate elements of community management through the PMGC process.

1. 8 venues are opened by Glasgow Life using the funding within the 1.1m budget. Four venues would open for two shifts a day, morning to evening, Monday to Friday and five would open one shift per day, afternoon and evening, Monday to Friday
2. 6 venues are moved to a voluntary management model through the PMGC process with transitional funding support from the £1.1m budget during the 2022/23 financial year. In 2023/24 the £1.1m will revert to the full year funding of the 12 venues that will continue to be operated by Glasgow Life.

3. Drumchapel, Partick and Barmulloch are Vaccination Centres until 31 March 2023 and will re-open with funding from the 2023/24 £1.1m budget operated by Glasgow Life or via a Third Sector organisation.
4. Ruchill Community Centre will undergo the required capital works to enable to open from within the 2023/24 £1.1m budget.

Based on the above, Appendix 1 sets out proposed reopening options following the application of the criteria agreed at the CAC on the 22 June 2022, the consultation feedback, the Welcoming Space priorities and the introduction of a supported transition process through the PMGC programme.

If agreed officers will prioritise the opening of the venues identified as Welcoming Places.

5.0 Recommendation

Based on the criteria approved at the City Administration Committee approved on 22 June 2022, the consultation feedback, the Welcoming Space priorities and the introduction of a supported transition process through the PMGC programme, the Committee are asked to consider and agree the options set out at Section 4.

Appendix 1 Venue Re-opening summary

Venue	Reopening costs	Annual budget 22/23 Revenue Costs	Welcome Place	PMGC status	Notes
St Francis Community Centre	£5,525	£151,359	Tier 1		Open as Welcome Place, two shifts
Netherton Community Centre	£7,837	£166,749	Tier 1	Expression of Interest	Open as Welcome Place, one shift
Possilpoint Community Centre	£4,140	£121,384	Tier 1	Asset Transfer proposal	Open as Welcome Place, two shifts
Pollok Community Centre	£3,908	£139,733	Tier 1		Open as Welcome Place, two shifts
Cranhill Community Centre	£13,685	£129,822	Tier 1	Expression of interest	Open as Welcome Place, one shift
Geoff Shaw Community Centre	£35,097	£157,672		Asset Transfer proposal	Open, one shift
Pollokshields Community Centre	£2,305	£85,331		Engagement	Open, one shift
Couper Institute	£6,339	£150,130		Initial assessment	Open, one shift
Drumchapel Community Centre	£4,437	£140,291			Vaccination Centre to Mar 23 – reopen on end of agreement with NHS in 23/24
Barmulloch Community Centre	£4,260	£145,226		Engagement	Vaccination Centre to Mar 23 - reopen on end of agreement with NHS in 23/24
Partick Burgh Hall	£6,972	£187,451			Vaccination Centre to Mar 23 – reopen on end of agreement with NHS in 23/24,
Ruchill Community Centre	£262,000	£110,167		Expression of Interest	Capital works required, reopen on conclusion of building work in 23/24
Ruchazie Community Centre	£4,260	£111,858		Engagement	Licence to occupy through PMGC process
Shettleston Community Centre	£3,340	£110,856		Engagement	Licence to occupy through PMGC process
Garrowhill Community Centre	£2,075	£94,053		Engagement	Licence to occupy through PMGC process
Molendinar Community Centre	£4,525	£134,841		Engagement	Licence to occupy through PMGC process
Tollcross Community Centre	£5,420	£86,282		1 x Engagement, 1 x EOI	Licence to occupy through PMGC process
Balgrayhill Community Centre	£7,167	£84,835		Engagement	Licence to occupy through PMGC process