



Glasgow City Council
City Administration Committee

Item 5

18th June 2020

Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhoods and Sustainability

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FUNDING FOR GLASGOW'S TRANSPORT STRATEGIES

Purpose of Report:

To seek Committee approval for the acceptance of Sustrans 'Places for Everyone' grant funding to assist in updating Glasgow's transport strategies.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Committee approves the acceptance of £3,000,000 in external funding to assist in updating Glasgow's transport strategies. This will cover the development of a Connectivity Plan for Glasgow (Local Transport Strategy), a City Centre Transformation Plan, Liveable Neighbourhoods Plan, Active Travel Strategy and work on a Bus Services Improvement Partnership.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

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

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1. Background

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek City Administration Committee approval for the acceptance of Sustrans 'Places for Everyone' grant funding.
- 1.2 Each year the Council receives grants from several government schemes ring-fenced to promote sustainable transport such as walking, cycling and public transport.
- 1.3 The Council has been successful in obtaining £3,000,000 from Sustrans 'Places for Everyone' grant fund for "Connecting Communities". The funding will be used for the delivery of various transport strategies across the city.
- 1.4 A key commitment within the Council's Strategic Plan 2017-2022 is to 'prioritise sustainable transport across the city' (priority 55).
- 1.5 The development of the various strategies will make an important contribution to this priority by providing the policy context that supports the development of transport and neighbourhood interventions that put sustainability as first choice.

2. Funding Conditions

- 2.1 A condition of the grant funding is that the plans are to be delivered by June 2021.
- 2.2 The Council is also required to contribute £500,000 of funding, which will relate specifically to the production of the Local Transport Strategy.

3. Plans

- 3.1 As outlined above, the funding will be used to develop plans in support of the Council's commitment to prioritise sustainable transport across the city. It will also ensure that our own plans align with both the National Transport Strategy and Regional Transport Strategy, together with the findings of the Connectivity Commission and Glasgow's 2030 carbon-neutral target. Our plans are as follows:

Connecting Communities

- 3.2 The aim is to carry out public consultation under the heading "Connecting Communities" that covers all the transport strategies/plans being taken forward. This will set out some baseline information and ask for views on key questions related to the vision and aspirations for Glasgow. One combined initial engagement exercise will ensure that the public are not subject to consultation overload. Specific engagement sessions will be undertaken with elected members to provide an opportunity to feed in to the respective plans and also to review the emerging activity.
- 3.3 This will be a high-level public engagement exercise to gather public views and outline the possible options on how our city's transport can -

- Enable everyone to travel clean and sustainably, helping Glasgow to become a carbon-neutral city by 2030.
- Give everyone access to opportunities, helping to reduce poverty and deprivation and improve our health and wellbeing.
- To drive and support inclusive growth across the city-region.
- Help make every neighbourhood more liveable, including the city centre.

This will develop a “mandate” for change and following this work, we will begin developing each of the plans.

- 3.4 The consultation was planned to take place prior to the summer period, however this is now being reviewed in light of the current circumstances of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Connectivity Plan for Glasgow - Local Transport Strategy

- 3.5 The Connectivity Plan for Glasgow (Local Transport Strategy) will set out our strategic approach to how people and goods move into and around our city every day. It will set out a number of strategic actions to ensure Glasgow’s connectivity, accessibility, attractiveness, resilience and mobility align with our strategic ambitions. It will complement national, regional and Council policies/strategies such as the National Transport Strategy, Regional Transport Strategy, Glasgow City Council Strategic Plan (2017-2022) and the City Development Plan (2017).
- 3.6 The Connectivity Plan will take on-board the Transport Scotland Act 2019 as well as the emerging National Planning Framework 4 and will build upon work by the Connectivity Commission. It will also aim to feed into the ongoing Strategic Transport Projects Review 2 by Transport Scotland. Key features of this Plan will be collaboration and innovation, as well as community and stakeholder engagement. The positive impacts of this plan (in the medium to long term) will be measured against a number of key criteria set out in a monitoring plan including shifts in modal share (for selected journeys where data is available such as the journey to work through Scottish Household Survey) with a particular focus on increasing our levels of walking and cycling and use of public transport.

City Centre Transformation Plan

- 3.7 The City Centre Transformation Plan (CCTP) will complement our Connectivity Plan through creating a suite of actions which will transform Glasgow's city centre and reinforce its role as one of the leading destinations in Europe for people to visit at the same time as creating a pleasant environment for people to live. Informed by the recent findings of the Connectivity Commission, our CCTP will radically transform the city centre and identify the challenges and opportunities we have to reduce pollution and congestion and to create high quality cycling infrastructure and pedestrian spaces (such as those being delivered through our ambitious Avenues project), ultimately improving the city

centre experience while delivering on our sustainability and inclusive economic growth objectives. We will measure our progress towards these objectives through criteria including improvements in air quality, retail vitality and the quality of our cycling and walking spaces, and this will require collaborative working across the Council and with partners including SPT, Transport Scotland, transport operators, business representatives and others.

Liveable Neighbourhoods Plan

- 3.8 The Liveable Neighbourhoods Plan (LNP) for Glasgow aims to reduce the city's dependency on cars and make walking, cycling and public transport the first choice. It is essential that our residents benefit from safer, quieter streets that facilitate play, walking and cycling. Through a place-based approach, the LNP will help to limit the city's contribution to climate change and develop an inclusive network of accessible and revitalised neighbourhoods designed for the benefit of all, with integrated green infrastructure and enhanced public spaces.
- 3.9 This will be achieved through a variety of physical interventions and behavioural change measures including filtered permeability, traffic reduction around schools, improvements for walking and cycling, secure bike storage and management of residential parking. Through collaborative and purposeful engagement, the LNP will transform streets and neighbourhoods into more pleasant, safe and attractive environments with noise and air pollution being tackled through measures that encourage active travel, helping to reduce inactivity and ultimately improve public health. Progress towards making sure our neighbourhoods are more protective, comfortable, and enjoyable for people spending time there will be measured through inclusive mechanisms such as the Place Standard Tool.
- 3.10 The LNP will be developed and delivered in two parts. Part 1 will focus on making the case for change, identifying the strategic, economic, commercial, financial and management rationale. The individual elements that make up this place-based approach will be described, and a toolkit-based methodology will be developed. Part 2 will develop the first phase of the Liveable Neighbourhoods programme to bring about real change to identified neighbourhoods in Glasgow.

Active Travel Strategy

- 3.11 It has been identified that Glasgow's Strategic Plan for Cycling 2016 -2025 <https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/article/20804/Cycling-Policy-and-Strategy> needs to be refreshed and to widen its remit to take account of all forms of Active Travel.

Bus Services Improvement Partnership

- 3.12 To achieve our goals on sustainable travel and to see the necessary modal shift away from the car, bus travel will need to play a more active role. The bus network needs to be better connected to the other transport systems and the

wider active travel network. We understand that someone's journey does not start and end at the bus stop but is between their origin and destination; as someone moves from A to B the bus is only part of that journey.

- 3.13 As a result of the Transport Scotland Act 2019 and the recently published Programme for Government, the development of a Bus Service Improvement Partnership for Glasgow will be undertaken. This partnership will ensure that the transport strategies closely align with the needs and requirements of the bus industry and provides an ideal opportunity to take forward these shared aims and goals.

4 Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

- Financial:* The cost of developing and delivery of the transport plans is £3,500,000. This will be funded with £3,000,000 from Sustrans and £500,000 from the Council, with the Sustrans funding to be spent by June 2021. GCC's funding is primarily to be spent on the Local Transport Strategy.
- Legal:* Glasgow City Council Legal Services will conduct due diligence prior to signing of grant award letters.
- Personnel:* A new team has been established to deliver the plans and engaged on temporary contracts.
- Procurement:* Works will be procured according to Standing Orders.

Council Strategic Plan: The projects supported by this funding in turn support the following Strategic Plan themes:

- A Thriving Economy
- A Vibrant City
- A Healthier City
- A Sustainable and Low Carbon City
- Resilient and Empowered Neighbourhoods

The following Strategic Plan outcomes are supported:

- A resilient, growing and diverse city economy where businesses thrive.
- Glasgow is a world class destination for tourism, culture, sport, events and heritage.
- Glaswegians are active and healthier.

- All citizens have access to the city's cultural life and its heritage.
- Glasgow is healthier.
- Citizens and communities are more self-reliant for their health and wellbeing.
- Citizens use active travel, including walking and cycling.
- We have more sustainable, integrated transport networks across the city, and less congestion.
- We have a low carbon footprint as a council and as a city.
- Citizens can access good facilities, jobs and services locally.

More specifically, the funding makes an important contribution towards the Council's commitment to 'prioritise sustainable transport across the city' (Priority 55).

Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2017-22

Generally supportive of the stated outcomes.

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

Individual EQIA screenings will be undertaken for the individual projects as appropriate.

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

Improving opportunities for access to sustainable and/or active travel and enhancing local environments through improving conditions for cycling/walking can help address barriers to social mobility, improve access to services and employment opportunities, and can help to address problems of physical and mental health and wellbeing.

Sustainability Impacts:

Environmental:

The projects funded by these grants will enhance existing and create new conditions for promoting and supporting sustainable forms of transport.

Social, including Article 19 opportunities:

Encouragement of cycling and/or walking for daily utility journeys. Cycling as a leisure activity and as a sport.

The projects will improve Glasgow's urban environment and connectivity, thus leading to an improvement in a range of outcomes for the city's population.

Economic:

The works may provide opportunity for local employment and regeneration.

Privacy and Data Protection impacts:

No data protection impacts identified

5 Recommendations

- 5.1 It is recommended that the Committee approves the acceptance of £3,000,000 in external funding to assist in updating Glasgow's transport strategies. This will cover the development of a Connectivity Plan for Glasgow (Local Transport Strategy), a City Centre Transformation Plan, Liveable Neighbourhoods Plan, Active Travel Strategy and work on a Bus Services Improvement Partnership.