

# STAFF NEWS



[www.glasgow.gov.uk/staffupdates](http://www.glasgow.gov.uk/staffupdates)



29 September 2020

## Views Sought on Draft Begging Strategy



Opinions are being sought on a new draft strategy aimed at helping vulnerable people involved in street begging in Glasgow.

Public consultation on the document is underway and you are invited to study the strategy then contribute your views through the council's website – **by 23 October**.

The document outlines measures to help people involved in street begging to improve their lives long term and help lift them out of poverty so they have no need to beg.

A key feature of the strategy is Street Change Glasgow (SCG), a new alternative giving scheme which was launched

earlier this year with a public donation point installed in Central Station and others now installed in a number of city centre venues – with further public donation points planned.

SCG offers the public an alternative option to dropping change into a cup - a kindness which only helps the recipient short term. Street Change Glasgow will help vulnerable people improve their lives long term. The fund will be led and managed by Simon Community Scotland and payments will be made to individuals through Glasgow's Street Team which works with people on the streets and is funded by the city's Health & Social Care Partnership.

### How to have your say

- You can read the draft strategy and take part in the consultation [here](#)
- The closing date for submissions is 23 October.

## Sign up for Climate Emergency Training and help Glasgow make a difference

# Carbon Literacy Glasgow City Council



[www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org](http://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org)



In August, Glasgow became the first local authority in Scotland to launch a bespoke Climate Emergency Training course developed in association with Keep Scotland Beautiful.

Initially undertaken by elected members, the course is now being offered to the council family - with spaces available to begin the training in November. Upon successful completion of the course, participants will receive official accreditation from the Carbon Literacy Project and be awarded with a certificate.

**Councillor Anna Richardson, City Convener for Sustainability and Carbon Reduction** recently completed the training and said: "The course provides a comprehensive overview of climate change and puts it in a Glasgow context.

"Sometimes the subject can feel daunting but it breaks the issue down and makes it manageable. It highlights why it matters and where we need to go further both personally and in our organisation. It also explains the critical role of local authorities and outlines the risks if we don't change.

**Councillor Richardson** added: "I would definitely recommend the training, it's important to understand that decarbonisation is everyone's job and not just that of the sustainability team. The training gives us the confidence to apply changes to our everyday working lives.

"It really is an essential course for everyone and we can only start making the shift if we all put climate change at the heart of our work."

## Register your interest now

There are spaces available on the Climate Emergency Training course – one hour a week for four weeks - starting on the following dates:

- Monday 2 November, 2pm to 3pm
- Tuesday 3 November, 10am to 11am
- Wednesday 4 November, 3pm to 4pm

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To register for the course please email **Sonia Milne, Project Development Officer** at [Sonia.milne@glasgow.gov.uk](mailto:Sonia.milne@glasgow.gov.uk)



### Managing our safe return to work

The **Property and Land Services (PALS)** team at **Development and Regeneration Services (DRS)** have played a vital role since lockdown - managing a range of council properties across the city.

The team are responsible for managing the property and land assets and facilities management for the council family – including care homes, schools, offices across the city and operational depots.

Following lockdown, the team followed government guidelines to manage a phased and controlled shut down of council buildings and assessed the risk for the future re-opening of buildings.

The team managed essential processes to make sure our buildings were alarmed, had relevant insurance and were properly maintained to keep them in good order - ready for a return to work.

The team were also responsible for making sure that buildings that were remaining open followed government guidance for the safe operation and continuation of services. The work prioritised the safe and wellbeing of staff and protecting customers to allow essential services to be delivered.

**Bob Cree, Head of Operations** said: “Our buildings have very different operational requirements. We worked closely with Heads of Service from across the council family to apply the government guidelines.

“This was a huge challenge affecting the opening and closing of around 680 properties across the city. We also had to make sure that our direct support services, such as our caretakers managing the facilities at care homes, were kept advised of and also followed government guidelines.”

**Bob** added: “As a result of the pandemic we needed to think differently about how our property estate operates. The team have certainly risen to the challenge.

“As we work towards the recovery phase, the focus has shifted. For example, the city centre complex had a pre-lockdown capacity of around 3,300 staff. But as a result of government guidelines around maintaining physical distancing and providing staff with a safe working environment, we won’t have these occupancy levels.

“We’re working with each service area to understand their requirements. In some areas this means we will need to take a phased approach to recovery and prioritise our most essential services.”

**Bob** concluded: “We are working to meet the challenges of moving from lockdown to recovery and renewal. The work that we do to manage the council’s property is fundamental to how we deliver our services now and in the future.

“We will continue to work in partnership with the council family and city partners to support the delivery of the council’s renewal strategy.”

### For more information

You can also watch [the video](#) and read the [staff guide](#) about a safe return to the workplace.



### Gordon’s Covid-19 journey

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Gordon's  
rehabilitation –  
supported by  
hospital staff.

**Gordon Fulton** was unlucky to catch Covid-19 in early March, suffering from a severe form of the virus – requiring him to spend 63 days in hospital, including a spell in ICU connected to a ventilator – and thankfully making a remarkable recovery.

**Gordon**, the council's **Processions Officer** within **Licensing and Democratic Services** in the **Chief Executive's Department**, is making good progress with his lengthy recovery. He's not yet back at work, but recently got in touch to share his experience.

**Gordon** said: "My journey began in mid-March. Initially I felt as though I'd caught a cold but by the weekend I was confined to bed with a persistent cough and excruciatingly painful headache. The following Thursday I was taken to the hospital by ambulance – and unbeknown to me, spent 23 days in an induced coma on a ventilator, which apparently saved my life.

"I was brought out of the coma and the ventilator reattached via a tracheotomy. Over the next 19 days I was slowly weaned off the ventilator allowing me to eventually begin to breathe on my own and eventually begin to talk."

**Gordon** added: "I was in Intensive Care for 42 days, unable to move from the bed, initially unable to speak or eat and cruelly but necessarily, unable to have any visitors.

"I lost four stone and five pounds and over forty percent of my muscle mass and needed intensive physiotherapy to be able to do the simplest of tasks which we all take for granted, like walking.

"On the day I was transferred to a recovery ward my consultant told me that when I was admitted to the ICU, I was only given a twenty percent chance of survival and despite the overwhelming odds, I had managed to battle through the virus and survive – but had a long road to recovery ahead."

**Gordon** added: "The simple facts are that I would never have pulled through, if it was not for the dedicated staff, from consultants, doctors, nurses and other health care professionals of the NHS who all did their very best to ensure my survival.

"The whole council family has also been absolutely brilliant, particularly in providing support to my wife, whilst I was in hospital, with regular phone calls and texts of encouragement and providing a listening ear. I'm now about 75% recovered and look forward to the day I can return to work.

Gordon concluded: "I wanted to share my story with colleagues. We shouldn't be complacent about Covid-19. It's really important that we all continue to act responsibly, take the proper precautions and do everything we can, to prevent the spread of this horrible virus."

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StepChange Debt Charity Scotland have launched their new national debt awareness campaign - [Solving the nation's financial "what ifs"](#).

StepChange provide free, impartial and confidential expert advice that is tailored to help individuals deal with their debts.

Lots of households have been financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in people having worries like: "What if I can't pay my mortgage?" or "What if I fall behind in loan repayments?"

The new campaign launched on 21 September and will run for three months, aiming to raise awareness of the StepChange Debt Charity and how they can help people find solutions to their financial "What ifs".

In support of the campaign, we are sharing the following tips from StepChange.



### **"What if I'm stressed about money?"**

#### **Recognise the signs of stress**

Are you feeling sick or overwhelmed because you're worrying about money? Maybe you're struggling to sleep and withdrawing from friends and family, or finding it difficult to concentrate on work and other responsibilities? Once you recognise you need support it's time to seek out the help you need.

#### **Talk to someone you trust**

You might feel uneasy about talking to your loved ones about debt, but talking to someone you trust can help you feel less alone. See the 'Your Health and Wellbeing' section on our [Staff Updates page](#) for helpline information and support.

#### **Tell your creditors you need their support**

You might be scared to do this, but it's important to remember they want to help you deal with money worries, not make them worse.

#### **Get free and confidential debt advice as soon as possible**

A debt charity, such as StepChange, will look at your income, spending and debts and provide you with free and impartial debt advice tailored to your circumstances. For free online debt advice now, see the StepChange website [here](#).

#### **More information**

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If you need advice, you can visit the StepChange website: [www.stepchange.org/start.aspx](http://www.stepchange.org/start.aspx), or phone them on **0800 138 111** Mon-Fri (8am-8pm) and Sat (8am-4pm).

▶ **Got a story to share, a colleague to thank or a photograph to publish?**

We'd like to hear **from you!**

**Insider@glasgow.gov.uk**



▶ **Make a tax-free donation to your favourite charity**

# Charities need you more than ever



**StC will match new donations by £10 for the first month, to any of our charity partners, during September 2020**

**Click Here to Donate**

As we try and return to the new normal, we want to thank all you amazing Payroll Giving donors for your continued support for UK charities who need you, so they can continue their vital work.

These are challenging times for everyone, and your regular donations are invaluable, to support this any new donations to one of our charity partners will also receive up to £10 matched donation from StC as a thank you, during September.

▶ **We're still recruiting**

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## Current vacancies

- Internal vacancies are on [myjobscotland](https://myjobscotland.gov.uk/).
- For vacancies in home care, facilities management and catering click [here](#).

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Covid-19 Renewal Programme

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at all times on the website



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