

# The Loop Newsletter

## 10 May 2024



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### For Action

### Important messages that require action

## Exchange House, 229 and 231 George Street Electrical mains power shut down test planned for Friday 24 May until Monday 27 May 2024

The five yearly fixed electrical installation test at Exchange House is due to commence over the next holiday weekend.

#### Downtime

- **From 8.00am on Friday 24 May** all power and communication to the building will start to go down
- This will then be brought back up again **from 5pm on Monday 27 May**
- There will be **NO ACCESS** to Exchange House for staff for the duration of this test

#### Staff action

- If you work in Exchange House please make sure you fully power down on **Thursday 23 May** when you leave for the evening to help the testing take place
- Remote workers that have connectivity through a PC within Exchange House will not be able to connect during this event. The PC will require to be powered back up on return to work on Tuesday 28 May
- When returning to the building on **Tuesday 28 May** if you experience connection issues when you first try to log back into your device, please restart your machine and try again. If the problem persists after you have attempted a restart you should contact CGI for assistance on 0141 287 4000
- Users of electric vehicles take note during the electrical power down time frame there will be **NO** charging facility at Exchange House basement car park



## Return of IT kit to CGI

This is a reminder that unused Windows 10 IT kit should not be stored within NRS for the purpose of backfilling posts or for new starts. Devices should be returned to CGI as part of the GCC leavers process. If there are any devices currently being stored in your area, please arrange for collection by submitting an equipment collection request to CGI as soon as possible. See process below.

#### To arrange uplift of IT device

Equipment Collection and Asset Replacement Form available [here](#).

Submit via [MyIT](#). Use icon "IT Equipment Collection"

From this point onwards, only where there are robust justifications, will unlocking approval for any laptops/desktops be granted.

If you need to discuss any aspects of this email, please contact [Pauline Devlin](#).





## Whistleblowing 2024

We have arrangements in place to support employees reporting any concerns of serious wrongdoing under our Whistleblowing Policy. Further details can be found by visiting our [website](#).



## NRS Service and ALEO Information Risk Owner (SAIRO) Update

Please note that following the retirement of Eileen Marshall, her role as the Service and ALEO Information Risk Owner (SAIRO) for NRS will now be carried out by Alison Duffy, Divisional Director for Finance and Transformation. Please ensure this is updated on any documentation relevant to your area of NRS. A copy of the updated Service and ALEO Risk Owners (SAIROs) is available on [Connect](#).

## Microsoft Teams - Approved GCC Backgrounds

Most of the staff within Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability will now be utilising Microsoft Teams on a daily basis.



The use of Microsoft Teams and appropriate background images form part of the council's acceptable use of IT facilities policy. Regardless of working from home or from the office, it has been decided within NRS that all colleagues must use one of the three council approved backgrounds. **Colleagues must not use one of the stock images or any other personalised image on Microsoft Teams.**

The approved backgrounds can be downloaded from [Connect](#), you must save them to your computer / network and then upload them to MS Teams. To do this, once you have saved the three files downloaded, start a new Microsoft Teams Call, click background filters, add new, select the three images and click open. This will then add the three approved corporate images to your available backgrounds and you can choose which one to apply.

Colleagues are asked to ensure they update their background as soon as practically possible.



## Managers' Briefings

There has been no Managers' Briefs issued in the last fortnight. A full list of past briefings is available on the intranet using the button on the left.

**For  
Information**

**Service News and Corporate  
Updates that might affect you**



## Modern Apprenticeship Opportunities

NRS currently has a number Modern Apprenticeship Opportunities varying from posts such as administration, engineering and practical jobs. Modern Apprenticeships offer an excellent opportunity to study and work at the same time, giving young people the prospect of being part of the future workforce of Glasgow City Council. Any Interested young people can apply via the [Glasgow Guarantee website](#). They are also advertised on [Apprenticeships.Scot](#) and soon on [My Job Scotland](#).

## Nearly 4,000 City Streets Set For A Safer 20mph Speed Limit

The speed limit on almost 4,000 Glasgow streets is set to be lowered to 20mph.

The proposed changes, which follow an in-depth analysis of the city's road network, supports the National Strategy for 20mph which will see the rollout of this safer speed limit in built up areas across Scotland.

With 340km of streets including Glasgow city centre already assigned a 20mph limit, a wider lowering of vehicle speeds is expected to make our roads safer and encourage more walking, wheeling and cycling in quieter and less congested neighbourhoods.

Following an analysis to national guidelines of 5,740 streets with a 20mph or 30mph speed limit it is proposed that:

- 3,868 streets currently assigned a 30mph speed limit should be reduced to 20mph.
- 1,400 streets currently assigned a 20mph speed limit should all remain at 20mph.
- 472 streets currently assigned a 30mph speed limit should remain at 30mph.

In 2020, Glasgow [approved a policy](#) that would see a mandatory 20mph speed limit become the standard for all residential streets, the city centre, other main shopping areas or where there are high levels of walking, wheeling or cycling. Other streets in the city would generally remain at 30mph.

The move to a reduced 20mph speed limit is a key element of the council's [Road Safety Plan](#). It also ties in with [Glasgow's Transport Strategy](#) which supports road safety and active travel, as well as creating people friendly public spaces and transport decarbonisation.

Alongside capital funding, the delivery of the scheme is being supported by a grant from [Places for Everyone](#), an active travel infrastructure fund backed by Transport Scotland and administered by Sustrans.

## Community Football Trust To Take Over Local Sports Complex In Castlemilk

Castlemilk Community Football Trust was granted a 25 year lease for the Barlia Sports Complex at a council committee today.

This off market letting has been delivered through the People Make Glasgow Communities (PMGC) programme, where local people, community groups, third sector and other organisations can express an interest in having a greater involvement in the management of local venues.

Castlemilk Community Football Trust has been occupying the complex since June 2022, and has carried out a series of improvements there, with Barlia being the home pitch of 24 football clubs, with 31 teams using the training facilities. Free football camps are on offer during school holidays.

The complex is well used by children, young people and families, presents volunteering and community engagement opportunities, and the Trust's aim to secure its future at Barlia led to their application to the PMGC programme for the lease.

The Barlia Sport Complex which opened in 1992 is a four acres site featuring a club house and changing pavilion, a full size synthetic football pitch, three five a side football pitches, two storage containers and a car park.

The complex was closed in March 2020 due to the pandemic, and the difficulties faced by Glasgow Life in reopening it led to a real desire for a transfer to community ownership.



## Nationwide Shut out Scammers Campaign

A nationwide Shut out Scammers campaign is currently underway by Trading Standards Scotland and Police Scotland to empower consumers to avoid doorstep scams

As more Scottish consumers struggle with price increases and rising energy bills, Trading Standards Scotland and Police Scotland launched a nationwide Shut out Scammers campaign.

The campaign aims to raise awareness of doorstep crime, the misselling of energy efficiency measures and other forms of financial harm to which consumers are susceptible. It aims to empower consumers rather than make them fearful and to encourage the reporting of scams.

Rogue traders and companies are attempting to exploit the cost of living crisis and scam consumers by providing misleading information about products and services and posting misleading adverts and reviews online.

In addition to more traditional doorstep scams reported during the spring and summer months, with rogue traders offering to carry out home maintenance, roof repairs, gardening work or services such as gutter cleaning or pressure washing, fraudsters have adapted their methods to take advantage of consumers' anxieties and uncertainties around the cost of living crisis.

In recent months there has been an increase in scams related to roof and wall coatings, with cold callers telling consumers that having the coating applied will save them money on their energy bills. They may say that a government subsidy is available and offer a discount if the consumer agrees to pay a deposit on the spot. However, once a deposit has been paid, the rogue traders usually fail to return to complete the work, or they do a sub standard job. In several cases, they have power washed roofs before applying the coating, which has caused damage to the tiles.

The Shut out Scammers campaign ran throughout April. As part of the campaign, a scam awareness van has been travelling across Scotland between April and July, with local police and trading standards officers on hand to provide advice on avoiding doorstep scams. Resources such as no cold calling stickers and information leaflets will be available from the van, which will visit various community events and public spaces.



## Botanics Host 25th Annual Orchid Fair

Scotland's only annual orchid show and fair returns to Glasgow Botanic Gardens for its 25th year on 11 and 12 May 2024.

Held in the historic Kibble Palace, with the support of the Scottish Orchid Society and the Friends of Glasgow Botanic Gardens, there will be displays of flowering tropical orchids by regional orchid societies.

Alongside displays of flowering orchids, there will be educational stands with all you need to know about orchids. Members of the Scottish Orchid Society also will be on hand to answer questions.

Orchids and rarely available tropical plants, along with accessories and supplies to grow them will also be on sale.

Glasgow Botanic Gardens hold the National Collection of Dendrobium orchids, and on Saturday afternoon there will be an exclusive behind the scenes tour of the greenhouses, led by Orchid Propagator Christine Nicholson. Places will be limited and on a strictly first come first served basis, so be sure to head to the Scottish Orchid Society stand early to book your place.

Entry to the Glasgow Botanic Gardens and the Orchid Fair is free, so why not go along for a few hours? Doors open 10am until 5pm on Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 May 2024.



## Families for Children

Could you help to support families in Glasgow by inviting a child to your home?

If you have a spare bedroom and want to help children and young people then we would love to hear from you.

Families for Children is seeking foster carers for children who cannot remain at home and short breaks carers support children for short periods, such as one or two evenings per week or a weekend once a month.

Cathy Coll, Service Manager, said: "Many of our short break carers work full time and really enjoy providing a weekend or a few nights a month knowing that they are making a real difference."

Please raise vital awareness and encourage your friends and family to find out more on our [website](#).



Click here to read more

**NRS  
People**

**Supporting your health and wellbeing and wellness at work as well as learning and personal development**



## Meet Your Colleagues

Dr Emma Morton, Assistant Group Manager (Policy and Strategy)

How long have you worked for the council?

7 Years

What do you do in your role?

I am an Assistant Group Manager (Policy and Strategy) with the NRS Sustainability Team. Our current Team remit includes: Adaptation and Mitigation, Circular Economy, Net Zero Cities Mission, C40 Thriving Cities initiative (and The City Portrait), Community Renewable Energy Framework, Cities4forests Material Flow Analysis, Plastic Reduction Strategy, working with Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance on their Dramatically Reducing Embodied Carbon in Europe project, supporting the Sustainable Events Guidance, Statutory and Non Statutory Reporting and Specialist Advice to name a few.

What is your favourite part of your role?

Working with colleagues, local and international stakeholders evidencing and delivering climate innovative projects, the broad scope of our remit and ambition while being part of a multidisciplinary team with a shared vision who all bring a wealth of knowledge and energy to our work.

What are the biggest challenges within your role?

Time. It's a fast paced working environment, it's a climate emergency after all!



## Join us this May

You are invited to [Join us](#) this May for the following health, wellbeing, equality and diversity training events.

Visit the [website](#) to see the full calendar on offer each month. The page is regularly updated with new content, so please check back often.



Date, Time and Sign Up	Training and Events
Tuesday 14 May 10am until 4pm <a href="#">Sign Up</a>	<b>SAMH - Mental Health and; Wellbeing Awareness Class, City Chambers</b>  Danny Quinn from SAMH will provide participants with a basic understanding of mental health and wellbeing, and provide information on mental health diagnoses and how these can impact individuals. Participants will explore ways to look after their wellbeing through practical strategies and building resilience.
Tuesday 14 May 10am until 12.30pm <a href="#">Sign Up</a>	<b>Race Awareness for Managers Webinar</b>  In partnership with CEMVO, this course aimed at managers to give them the knowledge, skills and confidence to challenge racism when encountered in work and life. Managers will gain a good understanding of key legislation - to address racism both in relation to discrimination and hate crime.
Wednesday 15 May 2pm until 3pm <a href="#">Sign Up</a>	<b>Able Futures Webinar - Wellbeing at Work</b>  The aim of this webinar is to help managers and employers understand a little bit more about wellbeing and to give everyone information on how we can support our mental health at work. We'll cover how Able Futures can give nine months' advice and guidance to support mental health at

	work by delivering personalised information through the Access To Work Mental Health Support Service.
Wednesday 15 May 11am until 12 noon <a href="#">Sign Up</a>	<b>Renting, Mortgages, and Buying a Home</b>  Emily Goody from the Financial Capability Team at Money Advice Scotland, Scotland's money charity, will take us through some of the main considerations when it comes to renting. She will provide an overview of the different types of tenancies, how rent is paid, other costs to consider and how to protect your rights as a tenant. We will explore the main types of mortgage products, discuss options when looking for a mortgage, and the other costs involved when buying a home.
Thursday 16 May 9.30am until 4.30pm <a href="#">Sign Up</a>	<b>Preparing for Your Future Workshop</b>  In person, Room B.06, 40 John Street, City Chambers  Thinking of retiring fully or flexibly within the next 2 to 5 years? Then this session is for you! Delivered by experts in their fields, this workshop promotes a holistic approach to preparing for your future providing independent and impartial advice in key areas including financial, legal, careers and wellbeing to help you to decide on a future that's best for you.
Thursday 16 May 11am until 12 noon <a href="#">Sign Up</a> (requires sign up to free account)	<b>ENEI: Global Accessibility Awareness Day</b>  In recognition of Global Accessibility Awareness Day, this session will feature insights from a digital accessibility expert who will conduct an interview with the CEO of ENEI, Sandi Wassmer.
Thursday 16 May Various time slots <a href="#">Book now</a>	<b>Able Futures Virtual Appointment Day (NRS)</b>  If you work in Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability Services, you can book a 30 minute chat with a qualified mental health professional from Able Futures about anything that may be playing on your mind and affecting your mental health at work. Learn more about the 9 month Access to Work mental health support programme, available now and at no cost to you.
Friday 17 May Various time slots <a href="#">Book now</a>	<b>Able Futures Virtual Appointment Day (NRS)</b>  If you work in Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability Services, you can book a 30 minute chat with a qualified mental health professional from Able Futures about anything that may be playing on your mind and affecting your mental health at work. Learn more about the 9 month Access to Work mental health support programme, available now and at no cost to you.
Friday 17 May 12.30pm until 1.30pm <a href="#">Sign Up</a>	<b>Menopause Café</b>  Pop along for a cuppa and a chat (over lunchtime on Teams) in a menopause friendly space where you can share your experiences with your colleagues, hear some hints and tips or even just to connect with other people who are experiencing menopause right now.
Wednesday 22 May Bookable 15 min slots available throughout the day from 10am to 2.30pm <a href="#">Sign Up</a>	<b>Seated Acupressure Massage (Paid) with Incorporate Massage</b>  Discover the wellbeing benefits that can be gained from taking time out of your busy day to relax with a 15 minute (fully clothed) seated acupressure massage. The massage uses Swedish Massage Techniques and includes head, neck, shoulders, back, hands and arms, to help reduce stress.  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Booked sessions take place, with Grace Taylor from Incorporate Massage, in the privacy of our City Chambers Wellbeing Room at 2.25 East Building, John Street.</li> <li>• Your session costs £15 for 15 minutes, please pay Grace on the day.</li> <li>• 8 available morning slots, every 15 minutes from 10am to 12noon.</li> <li>• 8 available afternoon slots, every 15 minutes from 12.30 to 2.30pm.</li> <li>• Booking conditions apply and 24 hrs notice required for cancellations (or you may still be charged).</li> <li>• Use Sign Up to book your 15 minute slot with subject GCC Messages and your name, date and preferred 15 minute time slot.</li> <li>• See John Street reception for access to the Wellbeing Room</li> </ul>
Monday 30 May 9.30am until 12.30pm <a href="#">Sign Up</a>	<b>Unconscious Bias Webinar</b>  Learn how unconscious biases can lead to us

making judgement and take 'mental shortcuts' based on stereotypes about someone's race, gender, ethnicity, age, disability or other factors without even realising it. Identify your own unconscious biases and build better relationships.

myjobscotland

Click here to  
read more

## Vacancies within NRS

The following job vacancies within NRS have been added to myjobscotland. If you are interested use the button to the left to go through to the job adverts.

- GLA11830 - Team Supervisor (Admin)
- GLA11868 - Project Officer (Empty Homes)
- GLA11895 - LES Operative 3
- GLA11864 - Assistant Supervisor (Parks)
- GLA11892 - Assistant Group Manager (Energy Management)
- GLA11TBC - Project Officer (Housing Strategy) (Re-Ad)
- GLA11TBC - Neighbourhood Co-ordinator

## General Interest

## What other teams do and events and activities that you can join

### Charlotte Wallace – Childline Volunteer



Charlotte Wallace, Sustainability Group Manager within Glasgow City Council is looking to raise funds for a charity known as Childline. Charlotte volunteers at Childline as a counsellor. A child contacts Childline on average once every 45 seconds. It is a vital service to so many young people. As counsellors they are there 24 hours a day whenever a young person needs someone to listen, support and talk with them. You can find out more information about Childline on their [website](#).

In September 2025, Charlotte has decided to do a charity walk to fundraise for Childline. Charlotte says, 'I'm going to take on a great challenge and walk one of the most remote sections of the Great Wall of China with some of my fellow volunteers. My aim is to fundraise £3000 between now and then. As well as my charity walk, I have a range of other challenge events planned throughout this summer. I'm swimming the width of Loch Lomond and aim to undertake the Edinburgh Kilt Walk as a starting point generate ways to raise more funds'.

A link to the Just Giving Page can be found [here](#). Already we are nearly 15 percent of the way to reaching the final goal so any donations are greatly appreciated.

## Contact Us

**If you have any information you would like to share through this fortnightly email, please click here to contact the NRS Promotions and Engagement Team**

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