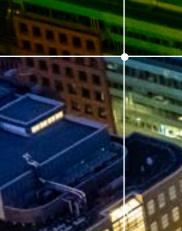
## GLASGOW CITY CENTRE STRATEGY

GLASGOW CITY COUNCIL

2024 2030









### A NEW SHARED VISION FOR THE CITY CENTRE

Over the last generation, Glasgow city centre emerged as one of Europe's stand-out urban destinations and a master of reinvention following its industrial past.

Through the Covid 19 pandemic it has become clear that Glasgow city centre has been a favoured destination for people who chose to travel in order to work, shop, learn, congress, collaborate, and innovate. However, to build resilience and sustainability, sources of localised internal demand must be unlocked.

This strategy refocuses attention on three thematic pillars designed to enrich the inherited features of Glasgow's city centre and shape a new cycle of shared opportunity by continuing to enhance its attractiveness at local, metropolitan and international levels; exploiting its unique innovation potential and creating a sustainable place that people want to live in.

### FOREWOR

### INTRODUC

GLASGOW'S TRANS WHERE ARE WE NO PLAN OF PLANS

### **PILLARS**

### MAGNETIC EXPERI

River Connected & Green Culture and Heritag Business Economy FRONT DOOR TO IN

> Innovation & Digital Wellbeing Economy Property

A PLACE TO LIVE City centre Living Net Zero

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### **PRIORITY**

SAUCHIEHALL AND COWCADDENS TOWNHEAD LEARNING QUARTEL MERCHANT CITY ST ENOCH BROOMIELAW BLYTHSWOOD CENTRAL

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2D	5
CTION	6
ISFORMATIVE REGENERATION	9
OW?	14
	18
	20
IENCE	24
-	24
en Places Ige	24 25
	25
NNOVATION	26
al	26
У	27 27
	28
	28
	29
ACTIONS	30
GARNETHILL	32
	34 36
ER	38
	40
	42 44
	46
	48
US	50





**Cllr Angus Millar** City Convener for City Centre Recovery **Glasgow City Council** 

lasgow city centre is at the heart of the city's civic, cultural and economic life, the centre of Scotland's largest city and only metropolitan region. It's home to a third of Glasgow's jobs, numerous of our higher and further education institutions and a vibrant cultural and creative scene. It's also in a process of transition, not least as we continue to recover from the impacts of the pandemic.

We know that we must encourage a diverse, vibrant and sustainable mix of economic uses in our city centre, recognising that the footprint required by the brick-and-mortar retail sector has reduced significantly as we have all changed how we shop. We will take forward efforts to support the conversion and repurposing of vacant city centre buildings, and work to proactively seek positive solutions for key city centre sites.

"And we will continue to transform Glasgow city centre into a greener, more walkable and more breathable place, delivering 'people-friendly' streets through our City Centre Transport Plan and rolling out a programme of greening through a new Landscape Action Plan."

> And we will seek to address barriers at the traditional 'edges' of the city centre – unlocking the potential of the riverfront at the Clyde to the south. We will continue work to revitalise the historic High Street corridor to the city centre's east, and taking forward the conversation on the future of the city centre stretch of the M8 to the north and west.

The City Centre Strategy presents a shared vision for the future of our city centre - and of how we can support its continued evolution into a more thriving, liveable, well-connected and greener place. I look forward to working with partners and communities across our city centre towards that common goal.

## **FOREWORD**

The City Centre Strategy 2024-30 sets out how the Council and its partners will work together over the course of this decade to meet the city centre's challenges, harness its successes, and strive towards a better city centre for all.

> This Strategy will also advance our efforts to double the city centre's residential population, encouraging the growth of new communities in the heart of Glasgow. So too will it harness the city centre's crucial role in the journey to Net Zero carbon, and support its status as a hub for innovation and the digital economy. We will progress local actions and priorities for every part of the city centre, from the "Golden Z" historic retail core, to the established city centre neighbourhoods of Garnethill and Townhead.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The City Centre Strategy 2024-30 (CCS 2024-30) will continue to support Glasgow's city centre's journey towards becoming an inclusive, sustainable, walkable, connected, liveable, green and vibrant place.



**Getting Ahead of Change** 2014-19

**City Centre Recovery Plan** 2022-24

As a continuation of the first City Centre Strategy, Getting Ahead of Change 2014-19, and the interim City Centre Recovery Plan 2022-24, the CCS 2024-30 is a non statutory planning document focusing on the delivery of a range of actions supporting a more sustainable and greener city centre with more jobs, better transport options, and with a wider range of living opportunities.

Glasgow's vibrant city centre is intricately defined by three elements: the M8 motorway, High Street, and its historic lifeline, the River Clyde. These features converge to shape the urban landscape, each playing a pivotal role in the city's dynamic character. For the city centre to thrive, it's crucial that these boundaries become transparent, fostering a sense of connectivity, permeability, and fluidity, allowing for seamless movement, harmonious integration, and the stitching together of the urban fabric.

Glasgow city centre is the source of the city's DNA and identity. This calling has endured throughout its recent chapters of reinvention. A place that had for centuries been synonymous with discovery, commerce and design has become the engine of Glasgow's business recovery, the flagship for new kinds of inward investment, the primary venue for retail and entertainment, and the setting for Glasgow's artistic flair and civic character to be celebrated and communicated.

**City Centre Strategy** 2024-30

The distinctive nature of Glasgow city centre makes it a unique focal point in Scotland to work, study, spend and socialise. No other location benefits from such a depth and variety of relationships, nor so many layers of competence and specialisation that sit side-by-side.

Since hosting COP 26 in 2021, the city has an even greater ambition of reducing the scale of climate change and building a climate resilient city in which nature is supported, by decarbonising heat, providing attractive alternatives to private vehicle travel, and addressing the embodied carbon impact of the built environment.

Glasgow holds the prestigious title of being a UNESCO City of Music and the city centre has a vibrant and diverse music scene and rich musical heritage, which significantly contributes to the development and promotion of music at the local, national, and international levels.

Similarly Glasgow has become renowned for successfully hosting a range of major international events bringing thousands of visitors each year to the city, including Cop 26, Commonwealth Games and more recently the UCI World Cycling Championships.

Glasgow's city centre stands as a testament to the seamless integration of architectural heritage, contemporary design, and compact urban form, making it a dynamic and enchanting "City of Architecture" that continues to evolve and captivate the world.



A popular location for many film and television productions, the city's unique architecture, historic buildings, and vibrant urban atmosphere make it an attractive setting for filmmakers. Notable films and TV shows have been shot across many locations, showcasing its versatility in representing different settings and time periods.

Change is already afoot in the city centre. Since the first CCS 2014-19 a number of significant regeneration projects such as the Barclays Campus, the Avenue in Sauchiehall Street and the delivery of a new neighbourhood in Sighthill, have already made a transformative impact.

Several more projects in the pipeline will considerably contribute to the placemaking vision for the city centre, such as the implementation of the Avenues programme, Buchanan Quarter and St Enoch Centre Masterplan, all of which will be delivered in the next five to ten years.

Glasgow is also committed to fostering a feminist city, advocating for an intersectional, inclusive, accessible, and climate-friendly places, acknowledging diverse needs. Aligning with genderequal city principles, the CCS 2024-30 highlights the importance of walkability, proximity to services, mixed-use environments, safe public spaces, and open green spaces for a healthy city, benefiting everyone's physical and mental well-being.

The CCS 2024-30 will support Glasgow's City Development Plan by identifying key areas with higher potential for change, informed by the

recommendations of evidence based reports commissioned by Glasgow City Council in an effort to identify the most effective approach to the post-Covid 19 recovery.

The city centre is home to four prominent higher education institutions: the University of Strathclyde, the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Glasgow School of Art, and Glasgow Caledonian University. Additionally, the City of Glasgow College, situated in Cathedral Street, is the largest college in Britain. These institutions play a crucial role in the local ecosystem, fostering innovation and entrepreneurship, developing strong connections between industry, further and higher education, and civic society, fostering peer-topeer learning and a sense of community.

The vision of the CCS 2024-30 revolves around three thematic pillars:

- Magnetic Experience
- Front Door to Innovation
- A Place to Live

The proposals included in this strategy set a programme of activity for the next six years focused upon the three pillars and a number of "Big Moves", which are further explained later in this document. The Council will work in partnership with businesses, stakeholders and communities to respond to the dynamic environment of the city centre, and to shape its future collaboratively.



## GLASGOW'S TRANSFORMATIVE REGENERATION

Getting Ahead of Change, the Glasgow City Centre Strategy and Action Plan 2014–19, supported the start of an intense period of change in the city centre, paused during the Covid 19 pandemic which brought a difficult and abnormal period for investors and businesses.

This section and the diagram on the left will provide an overview of the transformative projects delivered — and in the pipeline — across Glasgow since the CCS 2014-19.

The pilot street for the Avenues Programme, was delivered in Sauchiehall Street 1 in 2019. The Avenues Programme will illustrate the change of transport hierarchy in the city centre, where people come first, followed by cycling and wheeling, public transport and then private vehicles. Wider pavements, accompanied by segregated cycle lanes and nature based solutions will be delivered in new Avenues. Glasgow's main civic space, George Square, will also be redeveloped as a part of this ambitious programme.

The new look and feel of Sauchiehall Street was a deciding factor in the conversion of the Victorian building now hosting McLellan Works, a dynamic and creative new workspace, supporting a vibrant and innovative entrepreneurial culture in the city centre.

Home to 5,000 staff, the Barclays Campus comprises 500,000 sq ft of sustainable office, training and leisure facilities across three new buildings and two renovated listed buildings on the south bank of the River Clyde. Enhanced connectivity through the campus, new cycle lanes, nature based solutions and attractive public realm deliver the vision that will have a lasting impact on the southern banks of the city centre, its people, and the local economy.

A £250 million regeneration is transforming Sighthill (4) on the edge of Glasgow city centre, with an area equivalent in size to 60 football fields. The new neighbourhood will welcome 1000 new homes, a new school campus and an iconic pedestrian bridge opened in Spring 2023 – providing improved connections across the M8 to the city centre.

The period following the pandemic has seen private investment return to the city centre with the expansion of the built to rent market, the provision of flatted developments and student accommodation: schemes responding to identified demand.

The Further Education estate is also delivering transformational and aspirational projects, such as the forthcoming reconstruction of Glasgow School of Art's Charles Rennie Mackintosh Building 3 and the Climate Neutral District as part of the development of Glasgow City Innovation District 9 at University of Strathclyde.

## Delivered

### Sauchiehall Avenue

Year of completion: 2019 Budget: £7 million

Sauchiehall Avenue has significantly improved the physical environment of this east/west corridor which acts as a gateway to the city centre thanks to high-quality, public realm; enhanced and widened pavements; new (two-way) cycle paths; junction upgrades; 27 new trees; new bus shelters, cycle stands, and seating; intelligent street lighting.

### McLellan Works

Year of completion: 2021

McLellan Works includes a raft of contemporary workspaces, holistically designed with fixed spaces for key anchor tenants, collaborative coworking space and collective shared spaces and facilities for meetings, social events and exhibitions.

Holland Park Year of completion: 2023

Budget: £125 Million

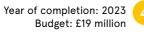
Converted from the former Strathclyde Police headquarters which has laid vacant since 2013, Holland Park will provide high quality mix of accommodation and shared spaces for a community of nearly 1000 people, with 433 BTR units spread across four buildings.



**Sighthill Bridge** 

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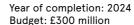
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Bridge is 74 metres in length, has a landscaped approach that includes 800 trees, 10,000 plants and a ramp of 210 metres.

The project is a component of the Sighthill TRA being delivered by Transforming Communities: Glasgow, which brought transformational development to Sighthill and 100 Acre Hill, with 967 new homes (Mid-Market Rent: 198; For Sale: 628; Social Rented -already built and occupied: 141).

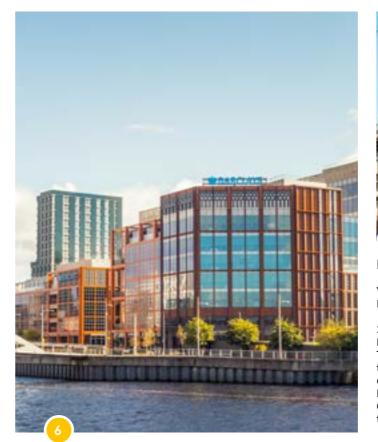




**Candleriggs Square** 

The development includes mix of residential accommodation, offices, hotels, restaurants, and local amenities, delivering 346 BTR apartments, offices and the Student Hotel, the first of its kind in Scotland.

The development will provide a new public square, attractive landscaping and walkways.



### **Barclays Campus**

Year of completion: 2021

Budget: £330 million

500,000 sq. ft office development which has created space for 5,000 staff, the former brownfield area has been transformed, and comprises of 5 buildings (3 new and 2 restored), and new outdoor green spaces.

Barclays development has created 2,500 new jobs in Glasgow and is working with universities in Glasgow and Edinburgh to develop graduate and apprenticeship opportunities.

The campus is also home to the latest Barclays Eagle Lab hosting members of the Glasgow technology start-up community. The lab will focus on supporting and developing skills in new and emerging technologies, innovation, and entrepreneurship



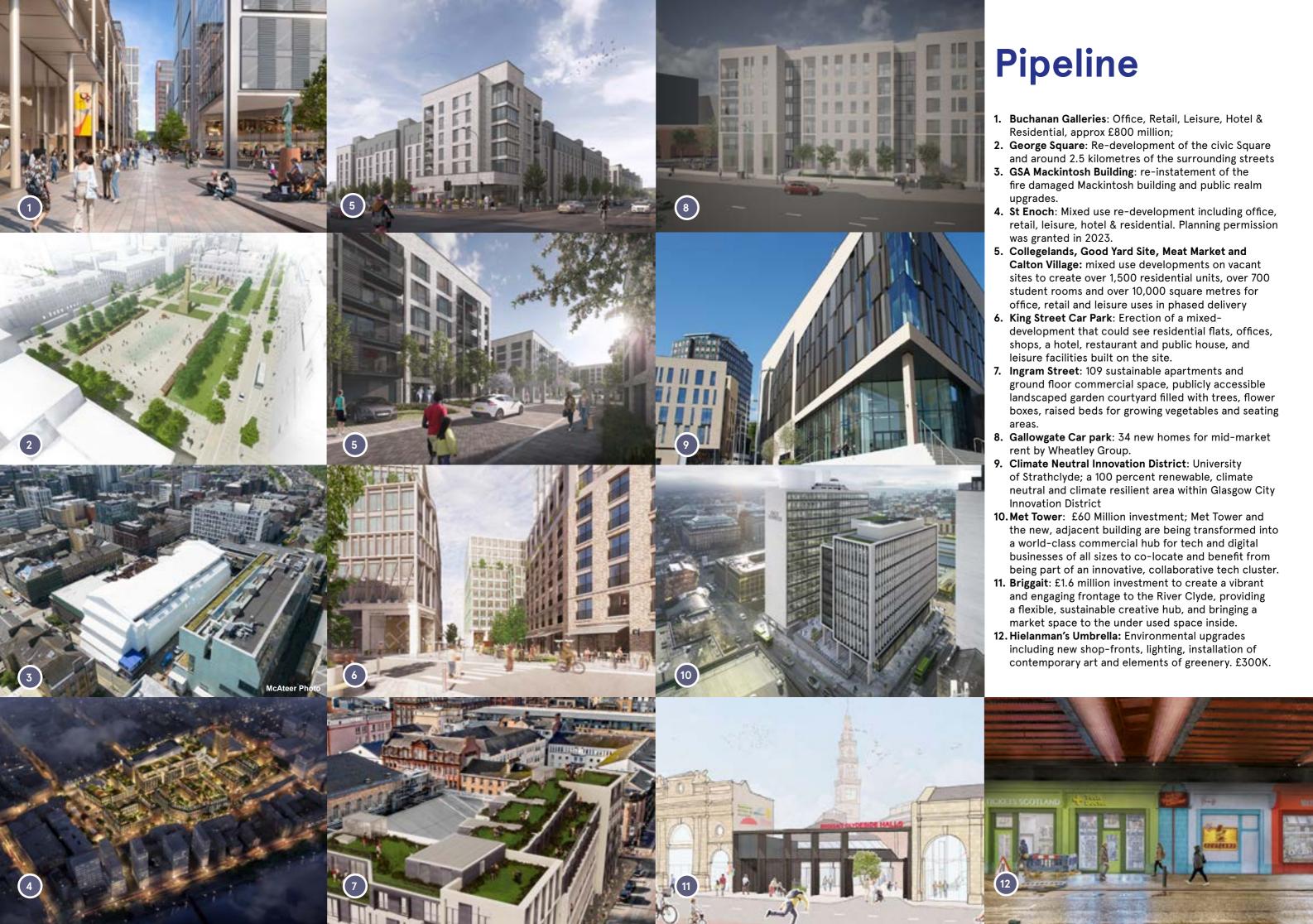




### Love Loan

Year of completion: 2023 Budget: £100 million

245 bed Marriott Hotel, 168 unit residence, Restaurants, bars, leisure venues and a private members club. The Avenues project has been extended to incorporate the streets and lane around this development which will deliver both public benefit and increase connectivity between the University of Strathclyde and the Glasgow City Innovation District in the east, and the station to the west.



## WHERE ARE WE NOW?

### Glasgow is Scotland's largest city and its economic powerhouse, accounting for 34% of Scotland's jobs (CBRE, June 2023).



Glasgow scored third in the Top UK Residential Investment Cities, H1 2023, topping the Property indicator thanks to solid house price growth over the past five years and the highest rental yields across the 20 cities analysed. The city also has favourable affordability and EPC credentials.

Glasgow has seen improvements in several indicators such as employment prospects and broadband connectivity.

The pandemic and the accelerations it has brought in virtual working, online retail, distance learning, changes in consumer and investor behaviour/preferences, hybrid conferences, and localisation of entertainment near to where people live, have exposed limitations in Glasgow city centre's otherwise formidable progress.

To enhance the magnetism of the city centre, the size of the city centre population base will have to increase, together with the growth of locally-owned city centre-based innovative smaller firms, the character, quality and **efficienc**y of the local experience.

The CCS 2024-30 looks forward to entering a new chapter with a new sense of urgency and possibility - and a revised set of expectations and demands for what a city centre must deliver for the millions of people who work, live, study, meet, trade, visit, enjoy and rely on it.

Well over half of Glasgow's population is educated to degree level or above, and a third of the working population is engaged in professional, tech or associated services, with large corporates including Scottish Power, Virgin Money and BAe systems.









**Employment in the Creative Industries** (BRES, 2021)

Television Programme Sound and music recording Radio broadcasting Performing arts Support activities to performing arts Artistic creation Operation of arts facilities

The office take-up pattern across 2020 and 2021 illustrates that demand for the best **new office space** in the city centre has bounced back with a clear signal that occupiers are seeking to provide an exceptional ESG-focused (Environmental, Social, and Governance) working environment to attract staff back to the workplace post-pandemic.

Market engagement suggests tha post Covid offices are less densely occupied, and must provide collaborative spaces as well as quiet areas for concentration and online meetings .

Q4 2021

400000 Office take up in Glasgow city centre 300000 200000 100000 0 Q2 2020 Q32020 Q4 2020 Q1 2021 Q2 2021 Q3 2021

### Office

8.6% increase in office employment expected over the next decade (CBRE, June 2023)

### Life Sciences

14.9% increase in Life Sciences employment expected over the next decade (CBRE, June 2023)

### **Tourism Conventions**

Glasgow hosts more international delegates than any other city outside London, with £2.2billion GVA from visitor spend and £100m economic benefit annually from delegate spend.

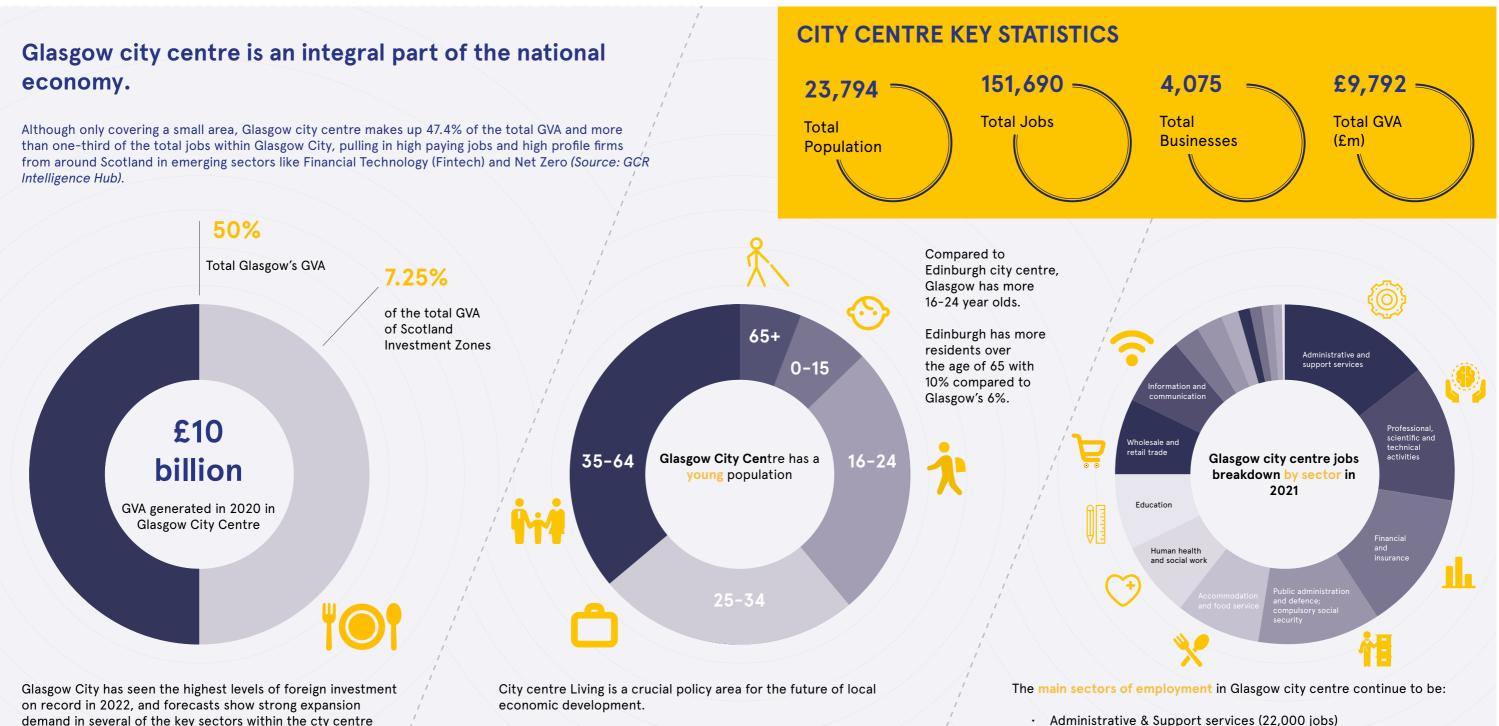
# Motion Picture, Video and

### **Creative Industries**

In Glasgow city centre the Creative Industries make up 1,185 jobs, 90 businesses, and generated almost £320m worth of GVA in 2021 (47% increase over last 6 years).

Compared to the UK, there are greater concentrations of employment and businesses in the Arts, TV and Motion Picture development in Glasgow city centre.





such as Accommodation and Food, Professional, Scientific and Technical activities are also the industries that are projected to grow.

Glasgow city centre has more affordable housing compared to Edinburgh city centre.

### **Science and Tech**

The last two years saw high levels of investment in the life sciences, and average levels of graduates in aligned subjects staying within the Region to work (Source: GCR Intelligence Hub).

## **51%**

of Glasgow's graduates stay on to work in the city.

Glasgow is home to globally renowned universities, which help provide skilled workers, business owners, and innovators.

## £3.4bn

The value of the Glasgow City Region's Tech Ecosystem is estimated to be at £3.4bn, rising by 89% since 2018.



The market sectors that have seen the highest growth over the last decade in the Region were Edtech and HealthTech - supported by the various Glasgow City Region innovation locations and anchor partners.



Software and IT services was the top sector that accounted for more than one-fifth of projects, whilst also generating the highest number of total jobs.

 Professional, Scientific & Technical Activities (20,000) • Financial & Insurance activities (20,000 jobs).

## £199m

Total investment from 2008 to 2022 in Health and Life Sciences Lab space conversion offers an opportunity to capitalise on this market and to address the growing issue of empty office space within the city centre.

## **PLAN OF PLANS**

The City Centre Strategy 2024-30 brings together the "big moves" that will transform Glasgow's city centre in the short to medium term and creates a unified vision supported by the transformative actions to be delivered by 2030.

The Glasgow Strategic Plan 2022-2027 sets four Grand Challenges which draw together the Council's approach for the next five years. The specific strategies and policies developed by services across the Council strive to meet the four Grand Challenges, and achieve the commitments needed to make progress against each Mission set by the Glasgow Strategic Plan.

The City Centre Strategic Development Framework contains complementary actions to deliver place transformation of the city centre which will be progressed in parallel to the City Centre Strategy 2024-30

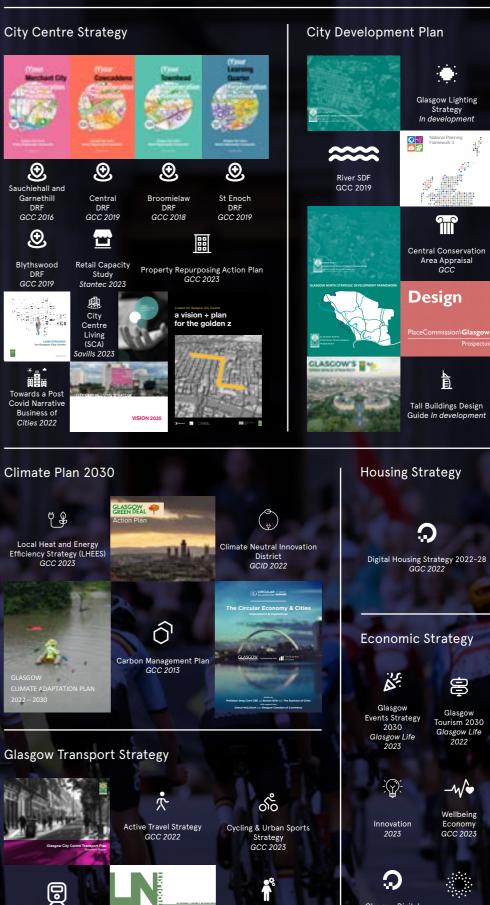
The City Centre will strive to become increasingly more sustainable thanks to the Climate Plan, and will economically thrive through the recommendations of the Economic Strategy 2022-2030.

Placemaking, inclusivity and connectivity will continue to be at the heart of the built environment, supported by the City Development Plan, Housing Strategy and the Glasgow Transport Strategy. There is an opportunity to coordinate connectivity challenges and opportunities with the Clyde Metro project and for modal shift.

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Advancements in Innovation and Digital will continue to improve the attractiveness of the city centre for investors and workforce alike.

### Glasgow Strategic Plan 2022-2027



Behaviour Change

Strategy GCC 2023

Clyde Metro GCC 2020



Glasgow Digital Strategy 2018-2023 GCC 2018

Culture Strategy Glasgow Life 2022

The City Centre Strategy 2024-30 sets out the basis for a shared narrative for Glasgow's city centre in the post pandemic period. It is based around three pillars which will enrich the inherited features of Glasgow's City Centre and shape a new cycle of shared opportunity:



Magnetic Experience

The three pillars encompass a number of **BIG MOVES**: calls to action to unleash the full potential of all the sectors (public, private, communities and institutions) to respond to the current challenges of Glasgow's city centre to fully exploit possible opportunities.

The **BIG MOVES** required to deliver the **VISION** for the city centre have been informed by:

The "Plan of Plans", mapping existing policies, strategies, documents and aspirations for the city centre, in consultation with internal and external stakeholders

Newly commissioned evidence based research:

- · Golden Z
- Retail Capacity Study
- Property Repurposing Action Plan
- City Centre Living (SCA)



### MAGNETIC EXPERIENCE

Development of more compelling reasons to visit, shop and enjoy the city centre which should have the power to surprise and inspire visitors

**BIG MOVES** 

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RIVER **BUSINESS ECONOMY CONNECTED & GREEN PLACES CULTURE AND HERITAGE** 

### FRONT DOOR TO INNOVATION

Welcome digital, health tech, climate science and creative industries into a mix that converges with arts, engineering and business;

**BIG MOVES** 

**INNOVATION & DIGITAL** PROPERTY WELL BEING ECONOMY

- Strategic Development Frameworks
- District Regeneration Framworks
- City Centre Living Strategy
- Business of Cities

### A PLACE TO LIVE

Responsible to planet and people Inclusive, balanced & connected Where people feel at home

### **BIG MOVES**

### **CITY CENTRE LIVING NET ZERO**

The City Centre's material problems require system-wide transformation across all sectors, and involve partnerships between different stakeholders to deliver the aspirations outlined in this section.

The city centre will double its residential population by 2035.

Districts will have affordable and quality homes, better access to schools and training, and a greater range of employment opportunities.



Glasgow City Centre as a place at the forefront of the low carbon transition.

A carbon conscious city centre that makes best use of its existing built and natural heritage guided by a placeled approach enhancing the diversity of the natural world.

A city centre which enables its citizens to make healthy environmentally friendly choices about how they live, work, play and interact with others.

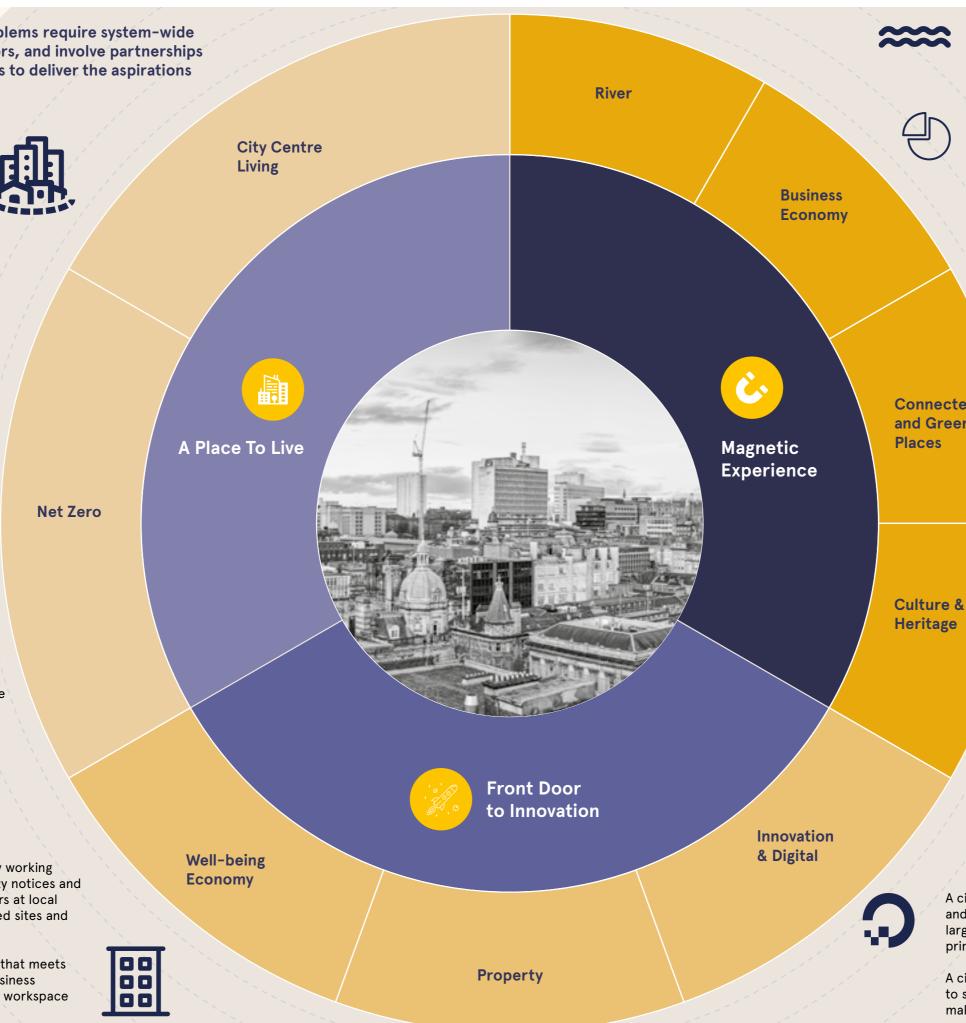


A city centre where no one is left behind, with access to jobs, training, housing and healthcare being available to all in the community. A radically inclusive and accessible place, addressing barriers and creating opportunities where all genders and minority groups can thrive.

Glasgow's city centre growth and transformation will be felt by all communities across the city.

Remove blight from the city centre by working with property owners, utilising amenity notices and exploring options for additional powers at local level, meanwhile uses, to unlock stalled sites and promote sustainable development.

A buoyant and responsive city centre that meets the evolving property needs for all business sectors within a supply of high quality workspace formats.



Reclaim the River Clyde Corridor as place for all of Glasgow's citizens, by making it more accessible, greener and vibrant.

A place where fresh investment and development are dispersed across Glasgow city centre, reaching beyond its current boundary, making it both a nationally and internationally competitive destination.

> A city centre distinguished by attractive and green districts with high quality, well maintained open spaces for relaxation or play, that are intimately connected by active travel routes and attractive streets.

> A safe city centre where everyone can choose to walk, wheel or cycle, and offers reliable/ affordable sustainable mobility options over private vehicle when getting to work, shops, entertainment and community facilities.

An accessible city centre connected to its edges, continuing the place-led discussion on the future of the M8 motorway and its impact on local communities.

A city centre that builds on culture, creativity, innovation, and diversity, whilst learning from the past, the legacy of slavery and colonialism, in order to continue to contribute to Glasgow's postindustrial renaissance history.

Each District will communicate its unique narrative of people, identity, history, and context.

A city centre which is a hub for innovation and connects start ups, small, medium, and large businesses, embracing circular economy principles.

A city enriched with resources and opportunities to support our youth in becoming leaders, makers, and creatives.

Connected and Green

050

## **MAGNETIC EXPERIENCE**

### **RIVER**

The River Clyde is the beating heart of Glasgow's history and identity.

We need to experience the River in a different way, without the barriers to the water that exist today.

The future of the River corridor is of a vibrant, sustainable, connected, green and resilient environment, to be enjoyed and accessed by all.

The delivery of the River Park and repair of the quay walls will kick-start the regeneration activity necessary to unlock the full potential of the Clyde.

Clyde within the city

### **CONNECTED & GREEN PLACES**

The public realm and open spaces in Glasgow's city centre are assets that can reinforce a sense of place and identity, improve health and wellbeing, boost environmental resilience and create a vibrant and sustainable city centre without barriers to inclusion, prioritising all people's needs.

A network of connected high quality places and green spaces will support economic vitality, improve health outcomes, provide opportunities for play, socialising and growing to support the low carbon transition, build resilience to climate change, support ecological networks and encourage community cohesion.

Night transport provision remains a concern. However, recent analysis by the Urban Big data Centre (UBDC) in 2023 indicates that across the UK Glasgow has fared relatively well with reductions in night time transport with only moderate reductions compared to many other urban centres.

Alongside the City Centre Avenues programme, under the Landscape Action Plan, we will look to deliver pocket parks, small-scale urban parks and gardens, strategically located to provide areas of respite and recreation whilst contributing to biodiversity, air quality improvement, and overall well-being.

As plans for the Clyde Metro progress and the key objectives from the City Centre Transport Plan are delivered, vehicular presence will be visibly reduced. Areas will be more people focused with on street parking reassessed and replaced with active travel and placemaking opportunities.

These transformative changes will help to tie together the international, metropolitan and everyday functions that our city centre provides (Place Commission 2022), and will have a positive impact on all three Pillars.

### CULTURE AND HERITAGE

Glasgow city centre will continue to leverage the power of culture to drive economic growth, social development, and urban renewal.

The city centre offers an incredibly rich architectural heritage, from medieval examples like Glasgow Cathedral, the variety of Victorian buildings, to contemporary masterpieces, like the Riverside Museum.

The strong existing role of Gaelic within the city's creative, and cultural offering is a unique attraction, part of Scotland's society and history.

The Golden Z Report (GCC, 2023) recommends that the cultural organisations and institutions which coalesce around the Sauchiehall Street corridor and Merchant City create the perfect environment for the creation of a Culture and Heritage quarter, fostering mutual improvement and positive celebration of the local cultural offer.

### 17 15 17 18

This strategy will continue to support the Business Economy in Glasgow's city centre by improving the magnetic attraction of its public spaces, enhancing connectivity and fostering collaboration between existing and future businesses.

### **BUSINESS ECONOMY**

A new Development Team in GCC will target blight, sites and buildings as a matter of priority.

We will increase the value of tourism to Glasgow's economy by enhancing the experiences that we offer in our vibrant city centre.

We will deliver tourism in a sustainable and inclusive way, to create value for all the people of Glasgow.

## **FRONT DOOR TO INNOVATION**

### **INNOVATION & DIGITAL**

Glasgow will continue to work with, and support, Glasgow City Innovation District (GCID) to accelerate its developments, and work to help secure investment, by delivering on current policy priorities. Through the work of the Innovation Partnership, the city will continue to encourage increased spend in research and development to help drive innovation and the just transition in the city centre.

And to support the ambition of being net-carbon zero by 2030, support for the city's innovation districts to become net-zero and climate resilient will take place, alongside the feasibility of a Climate Innovation Cluster and associated accelerator programme to support growth in the green economy. There will be greater encouragement of mixed use development within the Innovation Districts to support the respective business ecosystems and sector specialisms.

Key stakeholders, including the Scottish National Investment Bank (SNIB) and UK Infrastructure Bank, will continue to support mission-led, patient capital investment to businesses, projects, and communities.



Innovation





Net-carbon zero



L

The strategy will support the provision of a firm foundation for the growing digital economy by pro-actively engaging with the digital infrastructure industry to ensure a robust connectivity foundation that enables both resilience and competition.

Digital

Working with key stakeholders (digital infrastructure industry, housing sector, public sector partners and investors) digital inclusion will be supported by increasing the availability of affordable and fit-for-purpose connectivity options. Social, civic and economic benefits will be realised by providing digital skills training for those who require it.

Over the next 5 years we aim to increase the number of people employed in the city with digital skills, with a focus on anyone who finds the traditional training pathways inaccessible. Digital master planning policies will also be developed to further inform the Local Heat And Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES) and the City Development Plan, to exploit opportunities in all capital projects to support access, affordability and competition in provision of connectivity for all. Digital inclusion will be supported by working with these key stakeholders by increasing the availability of affordable and fit-for-purpose connectivity options.



### PROPERTY

Glasgow will tackle the issue of vacant and empty properties head-on. Glasgow City Council will work with property owners to bring these properties back into use or repurpose them for community benefit, contributing to the overall vitality of the city centre.

This will ensure that resources and efforts are concentrated on areas that can have the most significant positive impact on the city centre. Glasgow City Council will seek Scottish Government support for devolving additional powers to local authorities. GCC will also actively explore the possibility of using powers such as Amenity Notices, which could help to reduce blight and lead to improving the visual amenity of some of the city centre's most problematic and derelict sites.

By encouraging meanwhile use, such as pop-up shops, community spaces, and art installations, vacant properties can be given a new lease of life while awaiting more comprehensive redevelopment.

Stalled developments can significantly hinder progress, leading to blight and disrepair in the urban landscape.





**Empty Properties** 

Additional Powers

### WELLBEING ECONOMY

A wellbeing economy is one that delivers good quality of life, works in harmony with the environment, and puts people and the planet at the centre. A successful wellbeing economy is measured not only on traditional economic indicators, but also includes environmental, social and health related measurements as well as reducing inequality.

The city centre's economy is shifting towards a model that prioritises the overall wellbeing and quality of life of its residents, rather than focusing solely on economic growth and GDP. This approach recognises that economic indicators alone do not capture the full picture of a community's prosperity and aims to create a more holistic, sustainable economy. This strategy will focus on supporting local businesses, cooperatives, and social enterprises. It will aim to create a diverse and inclusive economy that provides fair wages, decent work conditions, and opportunities for all residents.

The Wellbeing Economy initiative encourages collaboration and participation from various stakeholders, including local government, businesses, community organisations, and residents. It seeks to involve the community in decision-making processes and foster partnerships for sustainable development. The ultimate goal of the Wellbeing Economy initiative in Glasgow is to create a more equitable, resilient, and sustainable city where the wellbeing of its residents is at the forefront of economic planning and development.

Community wealth building will be a key enabler of a more resilient and inclusive economy. By using the assets, power and wealth of anchor organisations to help redress our inequality problem, the approach will help make the city and the region more productive, and more sustainable.

The city will take proactive steps to identify such projects and work collaboratively with developers to revive them or, if necessary, facilitate alternative development plans to prevent stagnation. Property owners who neglect their responsibilities to maintain their buildings and contribute to blight will be held accountable.

The city will implement measures to challenge and enforce compliance with property maintenance regulations, encouraging a regular approach to building upkeep.

The CCS will establish a dedicated Development Team to proactively target long term vacant properties in high footfall areas in the first instance.



**Meanwhile Use** 



**Development Team** 

## **A PLACE TO LIVE**

### **CITY CENTRE LIVING**

Glasgow city centre will be a sustainable and healthy place for people and nature to inhabit. Forward thinking planning and adaptive repurposing, will increased opportunities for individuals and families of all ages to reside in the heart of the city. The emphasis on inclusion and diversity will actively address issues of equality, prioritize community safety, and underscore a people-first approach. The city centre should be a place where all people, including women and marginalised groups feel safe to live and visit.

By enabling large-scale residential development that include a mix of affordable housing and build-to-rent developments, retrofitted homes and offices, quality public realm, green networks and clean infrastructure, we are making our city centre a place that more people can call home, where they feel welcome, and where many more will thrive in future.

37% Emission Reductions

> Double the city centre residential population by

2035

Residential planning applications submitted in 2022

483

Converting underused floor space, including vacant upper floors, into housing, and overlooked green spaces into biodiverse and civic capital, are at the heart of this transition and already reflected in the Local Housing Strategy 2023-28 **Delivery Plan.** 

More people living in the city centre will create the customer base to support future amenities, a thriving cafe and food culture, local markets, services and innovation, and make the best and most responsible use of existing infrastructure and assets. This will result in a significantly expanded city centre seamlessly integrated as part of a larger whole, providing every citizen with opportunities to prosper. Considerations for income maximization and affordability, will ensure that no one is left behind in the progress.

Glasgow's Universities and Colleges are key strategic assets for Glasgow's city centre and its future development, and its ability to continue to attract students, resources, and quality staff in a highly competitive global market.

An important element of this relates to the city's residential offer, which has to be able to meet the expectations of students from home and abroad in facilities, close to the universities and beyond.

The City Centre Living Strategy Vision 2035 (CCLS) has already started the journey to deliver a sustainable, inclusive and diverse city centre population, by establishing six key objectives that will double the current population of around 20,000 by 2035. As this City Centre Strategy moves towards completion in 2030, substantial progress should be achieved in terms of a growing population.

Preparatory work for the new City Development Plan will include an Infrastructure Audit which will inform the city centre Social Infrastructure Plan.

### NET ZERO

Glasgow's city centre has a critical role to play in support of the local and national drive for Net Zero, climate change mitigation and adaptation measures. As a major economic centre of production and consumption, a large proportion of the city's carbon emissions come from infrastructure that is within its boundary.

The delivery of a Net Zero city centre will increase its attractiveness to investors and citizens alike. The city centre also features concentrated and complex infrastructure systems involving multiple stakeholders.

The new CCS will support the development of a system approach to plan holistically for sustainable and resilient services, in collaboration with local stakeholders and institutions.

Increase the average tree canopy cover in urban Glasgow to

> 20% by 2030





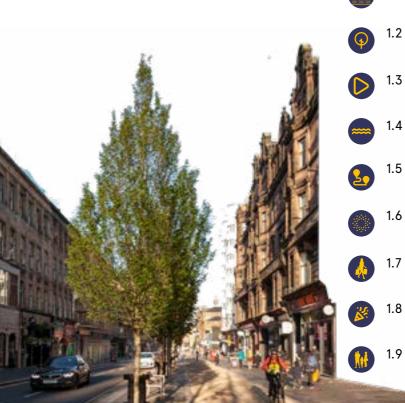
In the next 5 years the city centre's potential as a heat source will be fully explored through the Local Heat And Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES). Glasgow City Council will partner with heat operators to explore delivery options for a state of the art district heating system.

Positive water management and flooding challenges will be addressed building on the legacy of The Metropolitan Glasgow Strategic Drainage Partnership, through nature based solutions, green roofs and climate sensitive building design. Retrofit-first, new targets for biodiversity, and a new Carbon Management Plan will transform the city centre into a resilient place which is adapting to the climate challenges, whilst supporting the construction's industry contribution towards the achievement of Glasgow's Net Zero Targets in the city centre.

## PRIORITY **ACTIONS**

The CCS 2024-30 Action Plan will deliver the recommendations of the following reports, either directly or though coordinated action:

- Strategic Development Frameworks
- District Regeneration Frameworks
- Golden Z Report
- Property Repurposing Action Plan
- Increasing Residential Capacity Outcomes in city centre
- Retail & Commercial Leisure Capacity study



## 1. Magnetic Experience

- 1.1 Avenues Programme Complete Delivery
- 1.2 George Square Redevelopment **Completion January 2028**
- 1.3 DRFs programme **Priority Actions**
- **River Corridor** Custom House Quay/River Park
- 1.5 Visitor Marketing, Tourism and Events Tourism, Events, Conventions
- 1.6 Culture and Heritage Develop cultural/creative assets
- 1.7 Retail Capacity Study Respond to recommendations
- 1.8 Evening & Night-Time Economy Post pandemic SWOT analysis
- 1.9 People Friendly City Centre **Rebalancing Space Allocation**



Actions

2. Front Door to Innovation

CCS 2024-30

CCS 2024-30.

3.5 Sustainability

These actions comprise the major priorities from all strategies with a regeneration focus on the city centre (Plan of Plans) and each may contain a number of subprojects which will aid the delivery of the "Big Moves" highlighted in the Pillars Section.

The following section provides more detail on districtspecific opportunities, challenges and actions.

2.1 Innovation and Digital Support Innovation Districts and Digital Strategy

2.2 Wellbeing Economy Embed local benefits across the city centre

2.3 Development Team Focus on blighted sites

2.4 Repurposing Action Plan **Priority Actions** 



### 3. A Place to Live

3.1 Greening the Districts Landscape Action Plan

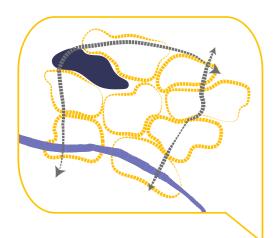
3.2 Infrastructure Plans Support infrastructure first approach

3.3 Local Community Projects Locally identified priorities and small-scale interventions

3.4 City Centre Living Increase Opportunities

Net Zero Route-map

## SAUCHIEHALL AND GARNETHILL



The Garnethill and Sauchiehall District is a place to live, learn, work, and enjoy the local thriving evening and nighttime economy.

Sauchiehall Street has over many years maintained its reputation as an entertainment destination. The area is in close proximity to some of the city's big green areas such as Kelvingrove Park and Blythswood Square.

This district also hosts a significant cluster of arts and cultural institutions, together with a rich history with a number of fine historic buildings.

### CHALLENGES

Sauchiehall Street was historically a popular retail destination. Over time many large brands moved to its close neighbour Buchanan Street, and Sauchiehall Street is now being reimagined as a cultural and heritage hub to fully capitalise on existing assets. Vacancy levels have become an increasing issue with the structural shifts in the retail sector.

The M8 corridor cuts through the District and creates both an actual and perceived divide between the Sauchiehall District and the West End of the city.

The strong night-time econom and perceived lack of safety.

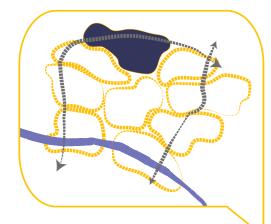
### ACTIONS





The strong night-time economy is also associated with issues of noise and disruption,

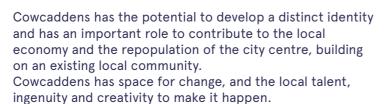
## COWCADDENS



- 1. St George's Cross + Subway
- 2. Glasgow School of Art @ Stow

(3)

- 3. North Woodside
- 4. Chinatown



Cowcaddens' existing communities, under-occupied buildings and land, its array of cultural and educational institutions and the proximity of the M8 motorway, provide tantalising clues for its future.

(17)

### CHALLENGES



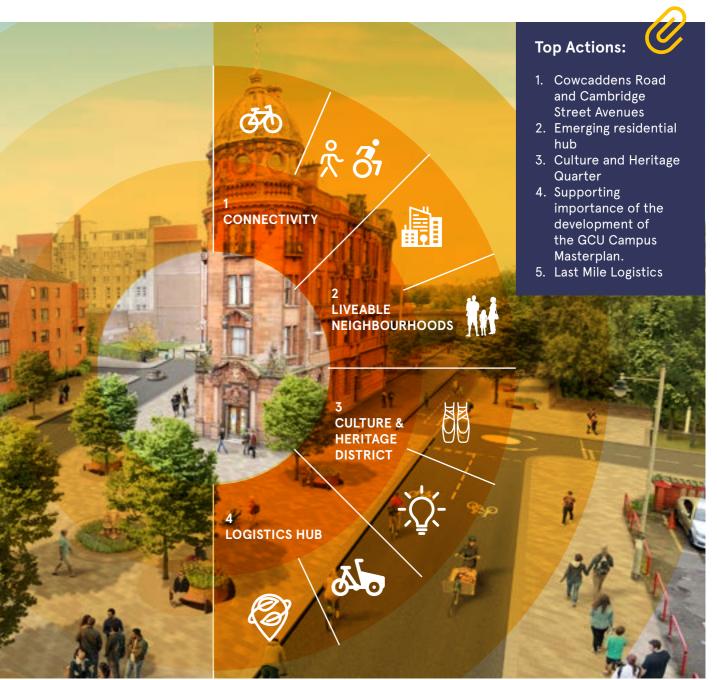
Poor housing quality, diversity and options (including retrofit upgrades, mixed tenures, types - families, elderly, students).

Poor quality of living at local level and lack of diverse economic development with focus on local production, logistics and cultural /creative economy.

Lacking a central "heart".

Cowcaddens is a gateway to the city centre, but connectivity could be improved.

### ACTIONS



- 5. Dundasvale Housing
  6. Piping Centre
- 7. Royal Conservatoire Scotland
- 8. Theatre Royal
- 9. Royal Concert Hall
- 10. New Sighthill Bridge
- 11. Glasgow Caledonian University
- 12. Buchanan Bus Station
- 13. Victoria's Key Opportunity
- Site
- 14. Pavilion Theatre
- 15. Forth and Clyde Canal
- 16. Cowcaddens Road Avenue
- 17. Dobbie's Loan Avenue
- 18. M8 corridor

### **OPPORTUNITIES**





(15)

18



10

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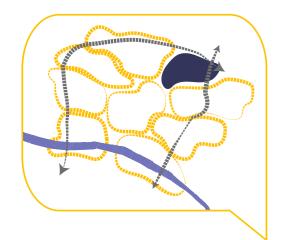
CULTURE

CANAL

RESIDENTIAL



## **TOWNHEAD**



4

( 4

10

INNOVATION

A residential area at heart, Townhead has long been home to many city centre residents. This district features a high proportion of green space with established tree cover and green spaces in between residential blocks.

Further and higher education campuses, and the proximity to the adjacent Technology & Innovation Centre, attract very high footfall throughout the year, particularly at peak times. Two of the city's main transport hubs, Buchanan Bus Station and Glasgow Queen Street Station, are within walking distance.





### **CHALLENGES**

campuses.

further education institutions.

The sustainability performance of the district requires to be upgraded with a focus on energy/biodiversity/water/community/circular economy and housing retrofit.

### **ACTIONS**



1. City of Glasgow College

- 2. Residential Community 3. Lister Street Bowling Green
- 4. Sighthill Bridge
- 5. Townhead Village Hall
- 6. Power League Pitches
- 7. Martyrs' Public School, Charles Rennie Mackintosh
- 8. High Street
- 9. Townhead Triangle
- 10. Parliamenta<mark>ry Path</mark>

**OPPORTUNITIES** 

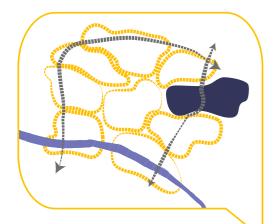




### Townhead is perceived as being on the edge of the city centre because of physical barriers, and poor connections to all surrounding neighbourhoods, including

### Existing communities rarely interact or collaborate with students or higher and

## **LEARNING QUARTER**



- 1. Met Tower
- 2. Glasgow Caledonian University
- 3. City of Glasgow College
- 4. Rottenrow Gardens
- 5. University of Strathclyde Campus
- 6. High Street
- 7. Cathedral Precinct, St Mungo's Museum
- 8. Glasgow Royal Infirmary
- 9. Necropolis
- 10. Tennent Caledonian Breweries
- 11. Meatmarket Development Site

The identity of the Learning Quarter is defined by the cluster of cultural and built heritage, centred on Strathclyde University campus, innovation institutions and the historic High Street area. This dual character offers clear starting points from which to strengthen its position as an inspiring, historic innovation hub.

This area has the potential to inspire; it brings people back to Glasgow's historic past while signposting its future. Local project focus on the High Street Area will continue to be supported.

### **CHALLENGES**

Retain and attract residents with improved quality of living on local level, with great public amenities/facilities. Enable partnership working between Universities, College, Glasgow Royal Infirmary and other public institutions within a network of alliances to drive innovation economy.

Open up enclosed spaces, create inviting frontages and attractive public destinations, improve connectivity, active travel and public transport networks, and reducing traffic (specifically on High Street / Castle Street).

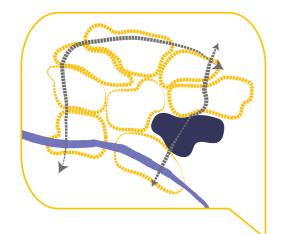
Enhance the setting of historic landmarks and monuments. Boost Climate Neutral Innovation District Initiative.

### **ACTIONS**





## **MERCHANT CITY**



This district is a gateway between the city centre and the East End: a great local neighbourhood of international renown that is well connected to the future River Park and Glasgow Green.

The Merchant City District is a vibrant part of the city with a network of entrepreneurs, creatives and innovators based here. The district's location and amenities make it a popular location for residents to live in with a mix of families, students and elderly residents calling it home. There are over 7,000 people living in the district.



Improve connectivity to all surrounding neighbourhoods (active travel networks, key transport corridors and public transport) and with the River Clyde.

Enhance public space and access to green spaces. Enhance and reinterpret the complex historic character of the District. Support economic development (entrepreneurship, innovation, creative economy, (craft) food and drink, experiential retail).

Space to live, including updated diversity of housing options, tenure, house types and providing better access to local services/community infrastructure.

### ACTIONS

**CHALLENGES** 

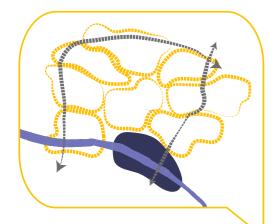








## **ST ENOCH**



St Enoch district acts as a connector between the central area, Merchant City, Glasgow Green and the river. Custom House Quay and Carlton Place gardens are crucial sites for the aspired River Park, overall future adaptation of the City Centre and connections to local communities.

This is a mixed-use district, where people live, work and shop. St Enoch's Shopping Centre is located here along with the Argyle Street train station. The creative sector has a strong presence, very well integrated with Glasgow City Innovation District.

### CHALLENGES

Reinstate urban grid and improve permeability around St Enoch Centre, by improving public spaces and connections to the river.

Greening the District and reducing the dominance of cars; redesign/repurpose car parks to enable placemaking outcomes.

Improving the riverside promenade with a future-proof design, accommodating anticipated future flood levels, and improving access to the south of the district. South of the river, the Gorbals has received significant regeneration, however the benefits have not yet flowed through the southern St Enoch district.

### ACTIONS



ΞΞΞ

ΗĒ

1. Central Station

3. St. Enoch Centre

2. St Enoch Square and

4. Argyle Street Station

**Underground Station** 

(13)

7. Panopticon and Trongate 103







## **BROOMIELAW**

This easily accessible district is traversed by the River Clyde and is an important gateway into the city centre, providing a first impression for visitors arriving by train into Central Station or from the M8 motorway, and investors in the International Financial Services District (IFSD).

Residential and student housing developments are flourishing West of the Kingston Bridge. Its busy public realm animates this stretch of the river with people enjoying lunch breaks, running, cycling or wheeling.

### **CHALLENGES**



sites and investment opportunities.

### **ACTIONS**



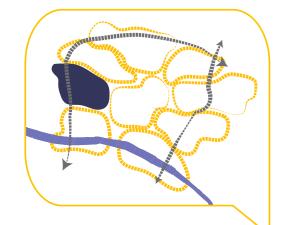






- The area is currently dominated by busy car traffic, and presents a number of vacant
- The lack of mixed-use in the area means that public life decreases after office hours making it a less attractive and safe place to be when offices are closed.
- The area is severed by the M8 which dominates the landscape creating a barrier.
- Future-proof design, accommodating anticipated future flood levels. An integrated approach is crucial to ensure an attractive place-making approach.

## **BLYTHSWOOD**



The urban grid of Blythswood Hill was Glasgow's first suburb, a handsome residential development of Georgian townhouses laid out west of the medieval heart of Glasgow. As Glasgow prospered the area became the commercial heart of the city.

More recently, the area has been undergoing further change with significant new office, hotel and residential developments starting to redefine the area and repurpose historic buildings.

### CHALLENGES

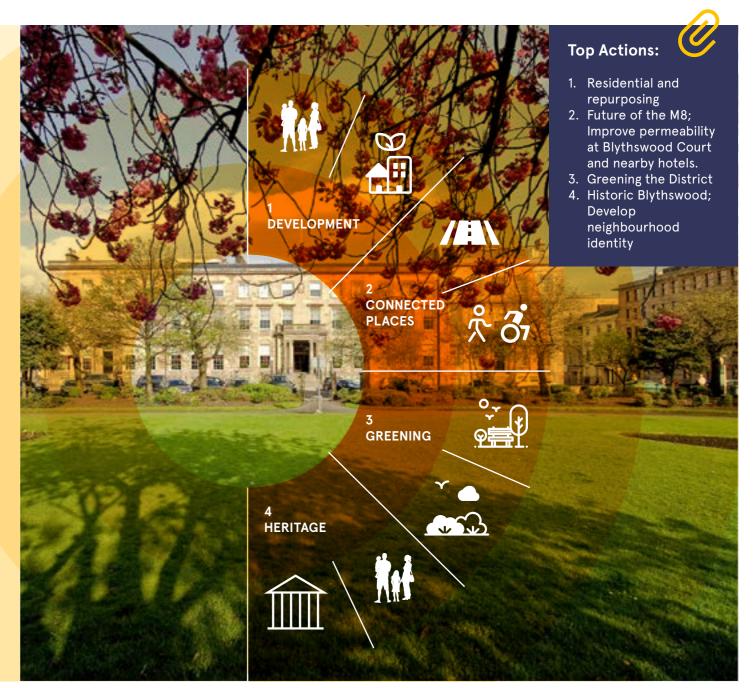


The M8 Bothwell Street off-ramp and Waterloo Street on-ramps create an abrupt interface between city and motorway.

The tentacles of Junction 19 and the Clydeside Expressway compound the severance caused by the M8.

centre.

### **ACTIONS**



**OPPORTUNITIES** 



.....

(6)

2

1



CONNECTED



1. Mitchell Library 2. M8 Corridor

Church

Avenue

3. Blythswood Square 4. St Vincent Street

5. Glasgow High School 6. King's Theatre

7. Elmbank/Pitt/Holland Street Avenues

8. Argyle Street West

9. Blythswood Court



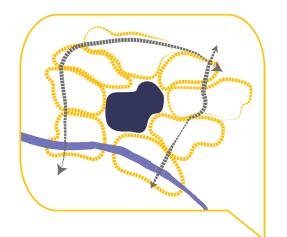






Empty converted offices in the area are often of a lower grade and not as desirable as the newer grade A office space being offered in other locations across the city

## **CENTRAL**



The Central District is at the heart of the city and the wider city region and includes a strongly defined urban street grid, two major terminus rail stations, the city's principal retail area and its most prominent civic space, George Square.

The Golden Z is centred around Sauchiehall, Buchanan and Argyle Streets, all well established for their variety of shops, bars and restaurants.

This part of the city centre is critical to the city's economic, cultural, social and civic health and future prosperity.

### **CHALLENGES**



Bus Station.

### **ACTIONS**





- Vehicular traffic is heavy throughout the central district and the compact street grid and dense building layout means there is limited green space available for public use.
- The points of arrival are not considered welcoming and there is a disconnect between the main travel points which are Glasgow Central, Queen Street Station and Buchanan
- Lack of mixed-use development; change in office and retail trends.
- Increase residential offer prioritising repurposing opportunities.

## 

If you have any questions, comments, or would like further information on the City Centre Strategy 2024-2030, please contact:

citycentrestrategy@glasgow.gov.uk



