



**Glasgow City Council**  
**City Administration Committee**

**Item 2**

10th October 2019

**Report by Councillor David McDonald, Depute Leader of the Council and City Convener for Culture, Vibrancy and International Co-operation**

**Contact: David McEwan      Ext: 20463**

**GLASGOW GREEN PEOPLE'S PALACE & WINTER GARDENS**

**Purpose of Report:**

To provide the City Administration Committee with an update on the People's Palace and Winter Gardens at Glasgow Green and to request funding to enable further technical surveys, design work and public participation to progress.

**Recommendations:**

It is recommended that the City Administration Committee:

1. notes and welcomes the public participation approach to the People's Palace and Winter Gardens and its commitment to working to international standards;
2. endorses the creation of a Sounding Board to inform public participation and discussions regarding the People's Palace;
3. approve the request to utilise up to £750,000 funding from the Community Asset Fund to enable further technical surveys, design work, public participation and fundraising activity; and
4. notes the intention to submit an "expression of interest" to the National Lottery Heritage Fund and that regular updates on progress associated with this proposal will be provided.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

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

## 1. Background

- 1.1. The People's Palace opened in 1898. At the opening, Lord Roseberry declared it as "*a palace of pleasure and imagination around which the people may place their affections*". Its aim was to improve the lives, health and wellbeing of Glasgow's poorer citizens. It has been a focus of community spirit and belonging since then and has remained a beacon of civic empowerment and social engagement for 120 years.
- 1.2. Surveys of the glazing and the cast iron structure of the winter gardens carried out in 2014 confirmed extensive structural repairs were required, and that the winter gardens' glazing was nearing the end of its serviceable life and required significant remedial works to re-bed the existing glass with new pointing and glazing compound.
- 1.3. A specialist structural engineers' report dated January 2017 specifically relating to the metal structure, noted a number of defects and stated that remedial works should commence no later than January 2019, beyond which, the structural integrity of the glasshouse could no longer be guaranteed, and that if not commenced, then the winter garden should be closed as a public health and safety matter.
- 1.4. Given the recommendations in the structural engineer's report, and not for the first time in its history, the People's Palace and Winter Gardens were closed to the public on the 31st December 2018.
- 1.5. Following some internal reconfiguration works to adjust the fire escape routes and make provision for a relocated café, the People's Palace portion of the complex was opened to the public again on 5th April 2019, however, the glass house remains closed as the structural integrity of the structure and glazing cannot be guaranteed.
- 1.6. This was considered at the City Administration Committee on [1st November 2018](#). Also considered within the same report was a commitment to reviewing the other glasshouse structures within the city and this work is currently ongoing.

## 2. Securing a Future for The People's Palace and Winter Garden

- 2.1. The administration has pledged its commitment to securing a long-term sustainable future for the People's Palace and Winter Gardens, with Glasgow's social history museum at its heart.
- 2.2. Officers from across the Council family have taken part in a series of technical workshops facilitated by Architecture and Design Scotland.
- 2.3. This has looked at areas including how to ensure that the buildings remain part of the civic infrastructure; how to co-create the space within the People's Palace museum so that it reflects multiple communities and their social history of the

city; and how to create this as a space that is agile and responsive to the needs of the people living around Glasgow Green.

- 2.4. From these workshops a number of 'givens', which any future of the People's Palace and Winter Gardens should deliver, have been developed. These are:
  - Revitalising and enhancing the museum displays and content that tell the social history of Glasgow;
  - Retaining the existing glasshouse structure;
  - Access to the museum elements and public areas will continue to be without charge for public events.
- 2.5. Glasgow Life, in conjunction with Property & Land Services, are currently leading on work to submit an "expression of interest" to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for a significant level of funding to support the redevelopment, refurbishment and reimagining of the People's Palace and glasshouse. This is due to be submitted by the 11th October and notification of a successful bid will be known by the end of the year. If successful, work will commence on submitting a full business case backed funding application by the summer of 2020.

### **3. Public Participation**

- 3.1. Our approach will be to put citizen engagement at the heart of the development, consulting and involving people on all aspects of the project and moving along the engagement spectrum towards collaboration and empowerment.
- 3.2. From the outset an innovative public participation plan will be co-produced working alongside the public. This work will be supported by the Democratic Society (Demsoc) and mySociety. Glasgow City Council are currently a partner in "The Public Square" action-research programme and will support the evidence base of meaningful citizen participation in the UK.
- 3.3. The public participation plan will have clear digital and 'in person' strands to reach as many people as possible who wish to take part, and ensure the widest range of views are heard. As the project progresses the plan will evolve to ensure we continue to create opportunities to collaborate and coproduce elements of the project over longer periods.
- 3.4. An element of this will be bringing together a Sounding Board of interested groups and stakeholders to explore and inform opportunities regarding the People's Palace and glasshouse. It is envisaged that this will involve locally elected members from neighbouring wards (Calton and Southside Central); a range of local and heritage groups; stakeholders with an investment in the immediate local area such as housing associations; communities of interest such as Glasgow Disability Alliance, and, world leading institutions such as Glasgow Women's Library,

3.5. Our work will be guided by the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2)<sup>1</sup> and informed by the European Cultural Heritage Strategy For The 21st Century<sup>2</sup>.

3.6. A Public Participation Coordinator will support the public participation activity and gather data from all these strands and ensure they inform the project and its outputs.

#### **4. Additional Fund Raising Activities**

4.1. Officers will continue to identify other possible sources of external funding to support the ultimate cost of the project.

#### **5. Technical Survey**

5.1. Regardless of the outcome of the public participation activity in determining the future uses and operating models for a reimagined People's Palace, the glasshouse structure and the existing sandstone building are in need of essential repairs and refurbishment.

5.2. In order to inform the ultimate cost of the project, additional survey and design work is required so that this essential repair and refurbishment work can be identified, designed and accurately priced and be ready to commence as soon as a funding package has been secured. This will include:

1. Detailed condition survey activity and design works to produce a full technical design document for the restoration of the glasshouse structure, which will enable more accurate costs to be prepared.
2. Detailed condition survey work on the services infrastructure within the buildings (Heating, electrical systems, ventilation, drainage, water distribution, etc).
3. Additional design based feasibility work on possible configurations for future sustainable uses (informed by the public participation activity), including flexible spaces that can have multiple uses and potential co-location or relocation of services and the involvement of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and voluntary sector.

#### **6. Policy and Resource Implications**

##### **Resource Implications:**

*Financial:* Capital to come from the existing Community Asset Fund

*Legal:* N/A

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<sup>1</sup> [IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation](#)

<sup>2</sup> [European Cultural Heritage Strategy For The 21st Century](#)

*Personnel:* N/A

*Procurement:* Procurement will be in accordance with the Council's policies and procedures

**Council Strategic Plan:** A Vibrant City

- 13; 15; 19;

A Sustainable and Low Carbon City

- 68

Resilient and Empowered Neighbourhoods

- 74; 75; 78; 83; 88;

**Equality Impacts:**

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

The proposal in this report is for funding to develop proposals for the repair and restoration of the People's Palace and Winter Garden and at this stage has no impact on the Council's Equality Outcomes 2017-22.

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

No significant impact identified at this stage

**Sustainability Impacts:**

*Environmental:* The proposal in this report will ultimately lead to a more sustainable asset at the People's Palace and Winter Gardens.

*Social:* The proposal in this report will have a positive social impact as it confirms the council's commitment to the long term sustainable future of the People's Palace and Winter Gardens.

*Economic:* Capital only at this stage.

**Privacy and Data Protection impacts:** N/A

**7. Recommendations**

7.1 It is recommended that the City Administration Committee:

1. notes and welcomes the public participation approach to the People's Palace and Winter Gardens and its commitment to working to international standards;

2. endorses the creation of a Sounding Board to inform public participation and discussions regarding the People's Palace;
3. approve the request to utilise up to £750,000 funding from the Community Asset Fund to enable further technical surveys, design work, public participation and fundraising activity; and
4. notes the intention to submit an "expression of interest" to the National Lottery Heritage Fund and that regular updates on progress associated with this proposal will be provided.