

Glasgow City Council case for Merchant City Park - "in its own words" - extracted from:-

CITY CENTRE 2050 - STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK DRAFT

Executive summary - (p3) - *Vibrant, Liveable, Connected and Green and Resilient.*

..six Strategic Place Ambitions.. ..- Reduce traffic dominance and car dependency and create a pedestrian and cycle friendly centre,. - Green the centre and make it climate resilient with a network of high quality public spaces and green/blue infrastructure that caters for a variety of human and climatic needs

1. Introduction (p7) - A Collaborative Journey ..between Government, City Council, key agencies, ..local residents, ..—that places people at the centre of the city's transformation.

Planning *for* people ..multi-functionality of the centre's physical environment ..to address ..climate change ..attractiveness to investors, workers, res- idents and visitors ..

Collaborative working ..can empower local people and can unlock creative approaches to ..multi-functional infrastructure (such as ..green/blue drainage systems, .. natural networks, public space, and energy networks).

..a *people-focussed ...transformation* ..to become a ..healthier, greener, more inclusive ..city.

(p9) - **Priority Issues** ..- creation of public space – addressing the severe lack of public spaces in the centre, including child-friendly space. ..- reduce the dominance of the car and negative environmental and 'place' impact of vehicular traffic. - Significantly improve the walking and cycling experience ..- reuse and redevelop vacant land .., repair lost walking connections.

(p10) - **Vision: In 2050**, A green, attractive and walkable city centre will create a people friendly place that fosters creativity, ..promotes social cohesion, environmental *sustainability...six strategic place ambitions to* - Green the centre and make it climate resilient with a network of high quality public spaces and green/blue infrastructure that caters for a variety of human and climatic needs

3. Sustainable City Centre (p18) - What we want to achieve ..- a transformed public realm of walkable, quieter and greener streets linking new and improved public spaces

(p22) - **Priority Issues** ..- Improve public environment to tackle issues that inhibit city living; traffic dominated streets, lack of greenery, lack of public spaces, noise and poor air quality

(p23) - **strategic propositions.** ..- High quality open space, including green and play space
- Streets that are more walkable and cycleable, more child- friendly and less traffic dominated

4. Connected City Centre (p26) - want to achieve ..- The streets will be greener, cleaner and healthier and contribute to the environmental management ..of the city; softened by street trees, rain gardens and attractive green spaces and containing less vehicle traffic. ..- A transformed streetscape that is part of an outstanding people friendly and climate resilient environment;

(p27) - **Priority** ..- *Excess car parking, on and off street, ..supporting car-based commuting*

5. Green and Resilient (p34) - Place Quality - High quality public spaces ..are fundamental to our enjoyment of a city. Feature parks, squares and promenade spaces - for interaction or quiet reflection—alongside rich architectural heritage are key components of sustainable, attractive and globally competitive cities and their centres.

Open spaces are crucial for health and wellbeing and are vital to support the city centre's ambition to be more liveable. Green spaces and play spaces are essential neighbourhood components that enable physical activity, engagement with nature and social contact.

Critically, the ..urban landscape ..must radically adapt and improve its environmental performance to respond to the climate and ecological emergency. ..green (such as trees, planting, ..nesting opportunities for pollinators, bird and bat boxes) and blue water, (such as raingardens, ..) is needed to absorb surface water, absorb CO2, filter micro-particles, reduce urban heating and allow nature - with greater biodiversity—to permeate the city.

(p34) - What do we want to achieve .. - is attractive, liveable - with a network of high quality public spaces linked by walkable streets, serving a diverse population - is healthy, inclusive and promotes well-being of all through ..civic spaces and green/blue infrastructure that encourages social cohesion, exercise, relaxation, play

Where we are now - ..a critical lack of public space .. Blythswood Square is not open for public use, the riverside is significantly underutilised and George Square lacks the quality and dignity ...

(p35) - ..public realm. It is traffic dominated with little green relief; there are very few trees or raingardenshard public realm - with a lack of green/blue infrastructure - inhibits the survival of nature and stunts the natural biodiversity .. also inhibits surface water drainage .. need for .. the adaptation of the public realm —to manage surface water ..

(p36) - Priority issues.. - Critical lack of public spaces (green, grey, blue) ..- *Lack of 'green' throughout the centre, to detriment of nature networks, environmental performance and visual attractiveness* ..- *Traffic dominated* ;. air, noise, visual pollution

How .. - *High quality public space - as essential neighbourhood infrastructure*

Creation of new .. - Public space creation ..prioritised .. Pocket parks should be created ..to complement visitor attractions ..to encourage greater social interaction ..and promote community.

The DRFs will explore opportunities for public space creation at district level .. key opportunities:

(p37) - Sites with potential to incorporate public multifunctional open spaces. Including vacant / derelict land and surface car parking.

(p38) - Innovative design approaches in the creation of feature spaces and public realm will be encouraged that: - Create a variety of distinctive spaces that draw people to play and interact, provide shelter, shade, seating and rest areas, create a neighbourhood focal point and physical recreational opportunities - Green the city and promote biodiversity and nature -based design solutions - Embody multi-functionality, climate responsive design and climate adaptation measures ..- Reflect the culture of the city through art, lighting, wayfinding and events spaces ..

Activation of Public Space - ..to provide greater 'round the clock' activity. Public space and street frontages ..should be prioritised for activity.

Environmental Engineering.. - ..adaption of the urban landscape to be climate resilient measures including; urban greening, tackling pedestrian, cycle ..movement, ..creation of green/ blue infrastructure, water management and ..renewable and sustainable heat and power sources.

(p40) - (1) Increase ..canopy cover ..for carbon sequestering, improved air quality and urban cooling. (2) Moving from unipurpose vehicle dominated ..to dynamic connected green spaces for pedestrians with a diverse range of uses. (3) Capture storm water within newly formed landscapes and pocket parks. (25) Ground source heat-recovery from pavements and green spaces.

(p42) - *Green and Blue ..strategy* - for landscape and biodiversity improvement and adaptation ('greening the centre') and surface water management. ..will include pocket parks,

Open Space Strategy - ..all the city's open spaces to meet a variety of functions, such as water retention, urban greening, sport and play, biodiversity enhancement or food growing. ..inform the Integrated Green/Blue Infrastructure Strategy for the Centre.

6. Spacial strategy (p50) - placemaking priorities ..in collaboration with local stakeholders.

- ..Create a range of high quality public spaces – from child's play to tranquil oases ..- Ensure Pedestrian priority and friendliness – create a walkable and cycle-friendly streetscape - Green the public realm, ..introducing integral green infrastructure - Provide multifunctional ..and climate responsive/ resilient development, that addresses microclimate, manages surface water and climatic change impacts

(p51) - *Merchant City* - Extend and reinforce community ..and supporting community amenities, leisure uses and new public spaces - Realise the development of vacant land and gap sites -



Key



New multipurpose public spaces which include provisions for children and play



Reprioritisation of road space favouring the pedestrian, active and public transport, through the current, and an extended, Avenues Programme.



Indicative Street Greening



Indicative Improved strategic pedestrian routes .



Urban Repair— developments to activate key routes, streets and spaces with a mix of uses.



High Street Action Plan



Key Gap Sites for future development of new housing, business and creative work spaces.



Subway and Rail Stations—maximise interconnectivity by improved public realm & active travel provisions.



High Street Station: Improved built fabric and setting.



Historic context to be respected and enhanced—Listed Structures



Views to be protected and enhanced.

Note: Location of Merchant City Park shown within green oval -



Relevant Key features:-



New multipurpose public spaces which include provisions for children and play



Urban Repair— developments to activate key ..spaces with a mix of uses.



Indicative Street Greening



Key Gap Sites for future development ..



Views to be protected and enhanced