

Glasgow Urban Design Panel

Feedback Report

Date: 31st October 2019

Project: Govan Partick SDF

Planning Status: Consultation

Presentation by: GCC Forward Planning – Eamonn Campbell

Panel Consensus

- The panel welcomed a clear presentation which was well structured and also included a rich historical overview.

- The Draft Strategic Development Framework creates a compelling case for a new bridge link between Govan and Partick. The regeneration benefits of these communities being better connected is significant.

The strategy makes clear a strong North/South linear relationship, but the panel felt that the links East and West on either side of the river were not made strongly enough. Improving connections from the 'bridge' to the Hydro, Finnieston, Glasgow Harbour would all be beneficial.

- Panel felt strongly that much more consideration should be given to the back-land area beyond Govan Cross which is currently low density/low value. The potential to incorporate more mixed-use activity into this location including innovative residential and live work development, and 'gently' intensify land use in this location without displacing employment could be explored; i.e. helping nurture the existing social structure instead of attempting to create a new one.

- The connection from the Botanic to the Burrell is a key link for the City and an opportunity for the SDF, especially in reinforcing green corridors and natural habitats.

- There is a conflict between the aspirations for development on the edge of the River Clyde and SEPA flood risk assessments in line with climate change which negate development along the river. The SEPA recommendations have the potential to condemn large parts of the waterfront to being development exclusion zones. More collaborative working is required between GCC and SEPA to explore technical solutions that will help protect sites against rising water levels.

- A more ambitious, holistic and sustainable approach to our civic greenspace should be detailed that provides surety on the maintenance of the significant areas of public park and heritage tree planting within the SDF area.
- The increased connectivity is hugely positive, but it was questioned whether one bridge is enough.

As a result of increased activity along the river there should be an aspiration for a river transport system that could provide more crossing opportunities and also connect different parts of the city along the length of the river.

- The Governance of the river is a critical issue. Consultations with Scottish Canals, Scottish Enterprise & Scottish Government were recommended to explore the potential of a more proactive agency tasked with programming the River corridor and leveraging the significant economic opportunities.
- The river should be treated as an urban space in its own right and should be of national importance in order to attract the level of funding that is required for infrastructure improvements.

Panel Recommendations

- Explore more ambitious opportunities to improve linage in East west directions on both sides of the River in support of the bridging location.
- Consider a bold 'evolutionary' strategy that sets out to intensify the character and use of the Govan industrial 'back-land areas'.
- Make more prominent the opportunities that the link from the Botanics to the Burrell provides.
- Engage with SEPA to explore different options that will address the effects of climate change to ensure that development on the edge of the river is feasible.
- Consider a strategy with a holistic approach to the maintenance of proposed green space to ensure that the aspirations are sustainable.
- Promote a River transport system and carry out a precedent study to understand how other cities have successfully achieved activation.
- Further engagement with Scottish Canals and Scottish Enterprise to address the lack of governance associated with the River.
- The river is of national importance and should be promoted to that effect.