



Dennistoun Community Council

www.DennistounCC.org.uk

Neighbourhood Infrastructure Improvement Fund recommendations ahead of 19 September 2023 Dennistoun Area Partnership meeting

The Neighbourhood Infrastructure Improvement Fund (NIIF) was discussed at the Dennistoun Community Council (DCC) meeting on 12th September 2023.

DCC has promoted and engaged constructively with the NIIF and Liveable Neighbourhood (LN) processes throughout their respective stages of progress, via consultations, DCC public meetings, Dennistoun Area Partnership (DAP) meetings, community council development sessions, councillor correspondence, and correspondence with Glasgow City Council (GCC) officers.

DAP AND NIIF TIMELINE

7th June 2022 – GCC News ('Communities central to decisions on £23m infrastructure investment') included the following:

<https://glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=29388>

- *"The NIIF will see £1m allocated for improvements in each of the city's 23 council wards with community representatives having a direct say on how the money will be spent."*
- *"Investment available through the NIIF will be in addition to finance routinely available for addressing the most pressing infrastructure issues across the city."*

22 June 2022 – DCC correspondence.

<http://dennistouncc.org.uk/2022/06/24/neighbourhood-infrastructure-improvement-fund/>

- *"DCC has substantial concerns about the NIIF options lists included in recent reports presented to both the Calton and Dennistoun Area Partnerships for consideration, and the manner in which they have been presented."*
- *"DCC requests that final decisions on chosen options are deferred to allow time for the Council to compile a list which better reflects community aspirations and the stated aims of the scheme, and to ensure appropriate communications with stakeholders are facilitated."*

28th June 2022 – Report to Dennistoun Area Partnership (DAP) by George Gillespie regarding the NIIF, included the following:

<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/councillorsandcommittees/Agenda.asp?meetingid=18259>

- *"The Area Partnership will have the opportunity to inform officers of what work they would like to be considered within their ward."*
- *"The investment will support key themes set out in the Council's Strategic Plan, Active Travel Strategies and Traffic and Road Safety Plans."*
- *"Consideration of Glasgow's Liveable Neighbourhoods must be accounted for and this will enable areas to be accessible and healthy places that allow people, of all ages and abilities, out to play and socialise in their local area. Neighbourhoods should perform in such a way that maximises the social, economic and environmental benefits of the area through interventions that improve localities and place and help to reduce the city's dependency on cars by making walking, cycling and public transport first choice. Our Neighbourhood Infrastructure investment strategy will also encompass the fundamental principles of the Council's Liveable Neighbourhoods ethos."*
- *"Public consultation and engagement form the key element of the investment strategy, ensuring a significant proportion of the investment is informed by local communities and a variety of*

stakeholders including: Elected Members, Community Councils, Resident Associations, Housing Associations, Public Transport Operators, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue."

The minutes for this meeting note that *"After consideration and having heard concerns regarding the lack of community engagement and the proposed short delivery timescales, the Partnership noted that further community engagement was required to be undertaken by officers in Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability"*.

21 September 2022 – Verbal Report by Director of NRS to DAP included the following:

<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/councillorsandcommittees/Agenda.asp?meetingid=18491>

- *That "a further engagement plan was required and that a range of consultations, both digitally and face to face with the community would be needed for suggestions for the use of the funds from residents of the Dennistoun Ward to be put forward; and that an update would be submitted to the next meeting of this Partnership outlining details of the consultation process."*

The DAP requested *"that an update would be submitted to the next meeting of this Partnership outlining details of the consultation process."*

7th November 2022 – Progressing Beyond The Liveable Neighbourhood Longlist

<http://dennistouncc.org.uk/2022/11/07/progressing-beyond-the-liveable-neighbourhood-longlist/>

- *"GCC NRS has committed to providing a written report to the next meeting of the DAP [23/11/2022], detailing an engagement plan with online and in-person consultations to gather investment ideas from residents, including a detailed breakdown of costs for each proposal. The NIIF, therefore, should be used as a key that begins to unlock some the potential identified by the LN plan."*

23 November 2022 – No NIIF update provided to DAP.

14 February 2023 – Verbal update to DAP on the NIIF by Mr Martin Lundie, NRS, included the following:

<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/councillorsandcommittees/Agenda.asp?meetingid=18826>

- *"Work was ongoing in relation to the provision of written reports to future meetings of the Partnership."*
- *"An update of the consultation process of the Infrastructure Improvement Fund and of the next steps of the engagement design plan that would be finalised in June 2023 and would be handed over to Community Empowerment and Equalities to co-ordinate the engagement process with the local community."*
- *"Suggestions or ideas regarding projects" were invited.*

The DAP agreed to wait until the consultations to commence with local communities (in June 2023) prior to spending from the fund.

25 April 2023 – NIIF Progress Update to DAP, included the following:

<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/councillorsandcommittees/Agenda.asp?meetingid=18880>

- *"Options reports in relation to the NIIF were presented to all Area Partnerships in Spring 2022, across a number of infrastructure categories, and feedback from some was that this process required wider community input to determine what residents would like to see the money spent on."*
- *And "it was suggested that options presented could be circulated to Community Councils and other Partnership Organisations for their feedback and some have done so or are in the process of doing so."*
- *"It is worth noting that this funding is capital expenditure and therefore can be carried forward to be spent in future financial years."*
- *"This is a capital fund and the intention is that it is spent on physical improvements in communities."*
- *"Wider community involvement in decision making will continue" [and it is important] "to deliver the best outcomes for citizens from this significant investment opportunity."*

5 September 2023 – DCC proposes improvements to pedestrian infrastructure.

<http://dennistouncc.org.uk/2023/09/08/proposals-for-improvements-to-pedestrian-infrastructure-provision/>

- With various NIIF reporting, engagement and consultation milestones missed, and in the absence of any direct consultation with the public or the community council, DCC took the step of creating a collection of proposals for improvements to pedestrian infrastructure. These were provided to GCC Neighbourhoods Liaison Manager Martin Lundie, all Cllrs for the DCC area, and shared with the public for comment. The agenda for the 19 September DAP was not available.

12 September 2023 – GCC publishes agenda for 19 September 2023 DAP meeting.

<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/councillorsandcommittees/Agenda.asp?meetingid=19032>

- The published DAP agenda for the meeting to take place on 19 September includes an NIIF progress update report requesting approval for several items of road resurfacing work with a total cost of £252,000 to be paid for from NIIF funding.
- The report states "It is worth noting that this funding is capital expenditure and therefore can be carried forward to be spent in future financial years."

LIVEABLE NEIGHBOURHOOD

It is additionally noted that, since the announcement of the NIIF, the LN Stage 1 and 2 reports have been published, including longlists and shortlists identifying various interventions to improve active travel infrastructure provision within our neighbourhood, based on in-depth area-specific research and extensive public consultation.

DCC RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. Councillors (and Area Partnership members) are asked to agree that only projects which introduce new and materially improved infrastructure should be approved for NIIF funding, and that the proposed roads *maintenance* (like-for-like resurfacing) resurfacing schemes listed in the 19 September 2023 DAP agenda do not meet that criteria or the stated intent of NIIF funding.**
- 2. Councillors (and Area Partnership members) are asked to reject any proposal for NIIF spending on roads *maintenance* work (carriageway or footway resurfacing or similar), and that such work should be carried out under existing maintenance budgets.**
- 3. Councillors (and Area Partnership members) are asked to submit the DCC proposals for pedestrian infrastructure improvements to GCC, with the request that each of the identified proposals (listed with a numbered or lettered reference in the table on page 5 and 6 of the proposal document) are reviewed and costed by GCC, and that this information is reported back to the next DAP meeting (on 28 November 2023) for review. This may be as part of a broader GCC process for compiling costed suggestions to be submitted to the DAP for NIIF funding approval.**