

The Gorbals Thriving Place

October 2017



Section I – Introduction

What is a Locality Plan?

Community Planning Partnerships are tasked with tackling inequalities. One of the ways of doing this is through Locality Plans. Ten areas of Glasgow, including, have been identified for the preparation of Locality Plans by October 2017. Locality Plans set out what will be different for communities 10 years from now.

It is important to note that this document has been prepared quickly and that we will use the period between October 2017 and October 2018 to work with Gorbals residents and organisations to develop and refine the plan.

Community Planning Partnerships have been asked to prepare Locality Plans for two important reasons. Firstly, partnership working in a neighbourhood, using a place based approach, allows partners to develop well targeted and effective approaches that reflect the priorities of that community. Secondly, it allows residents to become directly involved in informing the decisions that affect their lives.

The Gorbals Regeneration Group

This Locality Plan for Gorbals has been prepared by the Gorbals Regeneration Group. This group was formed in 2011 to tackle poverty and inequality in The Gorbals. It was well placed to take responsibility for the Gorbals Thriving Place, when it was established by the Community Planning Partnership in August 2013.

The Group is chaired by a local councillor and membership includes:

- all Gorbals elected members;
- public sector and voluntary sector organisations working in the Gorbals; and
- community organisations.

The work of the Groups is co-ordinated by New Gorbals Housing Association, which is the Community Anchor for the Gorbals.

Section 2 – Statement of Principles

The Gorbals Regeneration Group is committed to tackling poverty and inequality in the Gorbals. It believes that this can only be achieved by:

- an effective place based approach;
- a strong working partnership between organisations and staff working in the Gorbals, supported by appropriate procedures and protocols at a local and city-wide level;
- resources directed to community development and building social capital; and
- a focus on prevention and early intervention.

It is committed to the principles of Thriving Place, including:

- a long term (10 year plus) focus on partnership work;
- a willingness and ability to respond to local needs in a flexible way, and changing the way that resources are allocated;
- cross sectoral working – where staff from all local service providers share knowledge and experience and work together effectively;
- intensive community development activity to build social capital, empower communities and make the most of community assets; and
- a focus on co-production between communities and service providers.



It also supports the outcomes set for Thriving Place, including:

- the creation of more resilient, sustainable communities which people are proud to live in;
- residents have high aspirations; and
- services for local residents are designed and delivered in partnership between service providers and the community.

At this stage of the work there is a particular focus on:

- **Community development and building social capital.** This is currently being delivered by a full time Community Coordinator. Although other resources are available, these are generally over and above the 'day job'. Individuals and community organisations have been able to receive participatory budget grants from Spirit of the Gorbals and these have developed both resilience and social capital. There is a real need to grow the resources committed to community development and building social capital in the Gorbals.
- **Cross-sectoral workforce development.** Thriving Breakfasts bring together about 50 local staff on a regular basis to share experience, learn lessons and break down any barriers to effective joint work.
- **Co-production.** By strengthening community capacity and cross-sectoral working, there will be increasing opportunities for residents to be directly involved in shaping the decisions that affect their lives. Organisations have worked together on identifying the value of co-production (and the barriers to achieving it). Research has been carried out. One of the recommendations being taken forward is to agree a shared co-production policy that staff and community members can agree on and adhere to in their working and volunteering practice.

Section 3 - The Locality Assets

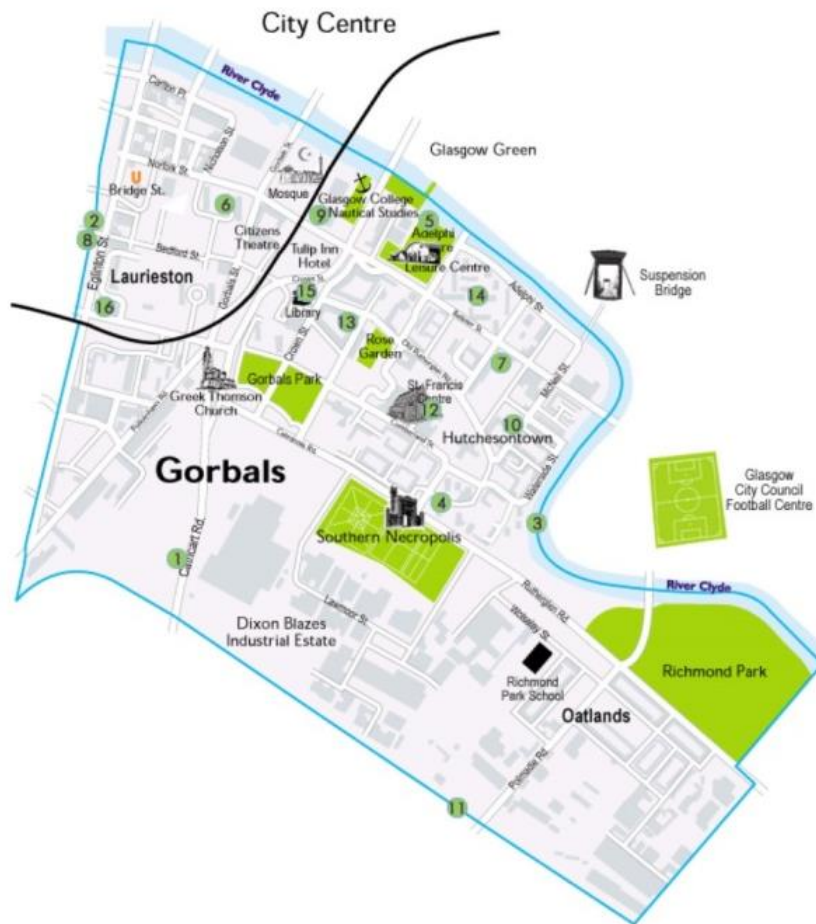
The area has a wide range of physical assets, including a sports and leisure centre; the Barn; St Francis Centre; TASK; two primary schools; a health centre and GP surgeries (with a new Health and Social Care Centre for the Gorbals being developed); a library; and local shops and post office.

The area is well located and is close to the city centre. It has transport links through buses and the Subway (from Bridge Street). The 2014 Health and Wellbeing Survey showed that Gorbals residents had a very positive perception of the services in the area, compared to other areas. This is demonstrated in the following table.

Positive Perception of:	Thriving Places			Glasgow
	The Gorbals	Parkhead and Dalmarnock	Ruchill and Possilpark	
Public Transport	87%	76%	82%	78%
Police	75%	54%	37%	57%
Leisure and sports	74%	49%	18%	46%
Childcare	55%	41%	28%	47%
Activities for young people	44%	34%	18%	38%
Local schools	73%	71%	61%	75%

The community has a wide range of community assets. A community directory containing hundreds of services and activities has been published and can be found at www.newgorbalsha.org.uk/directory.

A new web-site www.gogetgorbals.org allows residents and community organisations to share assets. In a few weeks, it has gathered 122 active members.



History of the Area

The Gorbals lies just to the south of the River Clyde in the city of Glasgow. It is bounded by the Clyde to the north; the city boundary to the east; the M74 to the south; and Eglinton Street to the west. Its population grew to 85,000 by 1931. It has always been a diverse community, with a succession of migrants settling to live in the area, before dispersing more widely. This included immigration from the Scottish Highlands; Ireland; Eastern Europe (particularly Jewish people) and Pakistan.

But building decay, overcrowding and poor sanitation led to significant problems. Larger flats had been subdivided in many cases. The population density was more than 450 persons per acre compared to a modern suburban density of 30 persons per acre – and on average three houses shared one toilet.

The Gorbals was the first of 29 areas in Glasgow where it was planned to demolish the entire area and replace it with new buildings. Demolition went ahead from the early 1960s and included virtually all the existing stone tenements (which incorporated shops and pubs, as well as flats).

The replacement housing, built in the 1960s and 1970s was high rise or

deck access and non-traditional. Few community facilities were provided initially – and little thought was given to the replacement of the elaborate infrastructure of shops, pubs and small businesses which were an integral part of the previous tenement structures.

By 1981, the population of the Gorbals had fallen to 10,000. Problems had arisen with the non-traditional design of the multi-storeys and deck access blocks – with a major problem of dampness in many recently built properties.

In the late 1980s, the Crown Street Regeneration Project was established (as was New Gorbals Housing Association). Operating initially in the Hutchesontown area, the emphasis was on recreating more traditional streets; clearly defined open spaces; better building materials and robust maintenance arrangements. New housing has also been developed in Oatlands and is currently being built in Laurieston. The housing and broader environment of much of the Gorbals is now hugely improved. In addition to the housing there has been substantial expenditure on facilities for the community, including shops, a library, a sports centre and a church.

Despite the huge (and ongoing) improvements in the physical environment (and particularly the quality of the housing), there are still serious issues relating to unemployment and poverty; drug and alcohol misuse; and health. For example, a BBC television programme broadcast in late 2011 highlighted the depth of child poverty in the area.

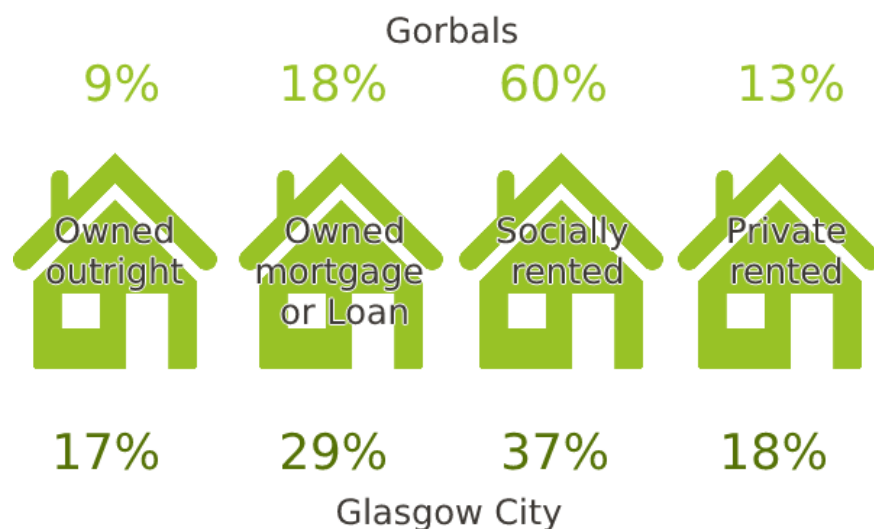
This imbalance between the rate of physical improvement and economic and social improvement led to discussions between the local councillor and the agencies operating in the area. This led to the establishment of the Gorbals Regeneration Group which brings together all the main public and voluntary sector organisations working in the Gorbals, with the aim of ensuring that the successful physical regeneration of the area is matched by economic and social regeneration.



Local Needs and Circumstances

When Glasgow Community Planning Partnership was considering which areas of Glasgow should be Thriving Places, they produced a wide range of information for all Glasgow's neighbourhoods. For this purpose, Glasgow was divided into 56 neighbourhoods. The Gorbals was one of these.

The data showed that the Gorbals had changed for the better – with a transformation well underway in the housing and environmental conditions. But the Gorbals still ranked amongst the most deprived neighbourhoods in Scotland.



For example:

- **Child poverty** – 51% of children lived in poverty compared to the Glasgow figure of 34% and Scottish figure of 19%. This was the third highest of the 56 neighbourhoods in Glasgow.
- **Male life expectancy** – 63.4 years compared to 70 in Glasgow and 75 in Scotland. This was the third lowest of the 56 neighbourhoods in Glasgow.
- **Alcohol** – 2.6 times the Scottish rate of alcohol related hospital discharges. This was the second highest of the 56 neighbourhoods in Glasgow.

Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD)

The Gorbals Regeneration Group reviewed the data from the 2012 and 2016 SIMD. Critically, the boundaries of the datazones were changed between 2012 and 2016. The main points were:

- In 2012, there were 11 datazones covering the Gorbals area. Eight of these (73%) were in the 10% most multiply deprived areas in Scotland. The Gorbals performed poorly in relation to income, employment, health and education. It performed relatively better in relation to crime.
- In 2016, there were 13 datazones covering the Gorbals area. Eight of these (62%) were in the 10% most multiply deprived areas in Scotland. The Gorbals continued to perform relatively poorly in relation to income, employment and health and continued to perform relatively better in relation to crime. It appeared that relative performance on education had improved – but this could be an impact of the changed datazone boundaries.

Glasgow Health and Wellbeing Survey

The Gorbals Regeneration Group worked in collaboration with the Glasgow Centre for Population Health on a two-year research project. The first piece of work undertook an analysis of the Glasgow Health and Wellbeing Survey. The Survey had been boosted in the Gorbals (and the two other initial Thriving Places) to provide statistically significant data. The main findings in relation to the Gorbals were:

- Gorbals respondents were more positive than Glasgow respondents (and the other Thriving Places) about local services such as local schools, public transport, police, leisure facilities, childcare provision and activities for young people. They were significantly less positive about food shops.
- Gorbals respondents were as positive as the Glasgow average (and much more positive than the other Thriving Places) in relation to issues such as hate crime, drug and alcohol activity, unemployment and troublesome neighbours.
- Gorbals respondents were more positive about environmental issues such as litter and safe place spaces than Glasgow (and much more positive about these than the other Thriving Places).



- Gorbals respondents were less positive in relation to the indicators of social capital (such as trust and reciprocity; volunteering and social activism) than Glasgow. Gorbals respondents were a great deal less positive about valuing social friendships than Glasgow and the other Thriving Places.

The Centre for Population Health developed a resilience indicator using 6 indicators from the Health and Wellbeing Survey:

- feel in control of decisions which affect their lives;
- do not feel isolated from family and friends;
- feel valued as a member of the community;
- feel they can work with other to influence decisions;
- agree that people look out for each other; and
- had volunteered in the past twelve months.

10% of local people have volunteered
in the previous year
compared with Glasgow as a whole 19%



A composite of these 6 factors was drawn together by creating two groups:

- The low resilience group (those that had 0 - 3 resilient factors).
- The high resilience group (those that had 4 - 6 resilient factors).

As the table below shows, the Gorbals community had hugely lower resilience than Glasgow and the other Thriving Places.

Area	Low resilience	High resilience
Glasgow City	35%	65%
The Gorbals	51%	49%
Parkhead and Dalmarnock	35%	65%
Ruchill and Possilpark	43%	57%
Glasgow South	37%	63%
Glasgow North West	38%	62%
Glasgow North East	28%	72%

Section 4 – Locality Action Plan

A first outline action plan is attached at Annex 1. It is at an early stage of development, but is intended to demonstrate the ambition for bringing about real change for people in the Gorbals.

How People can get Involved

Thriving Places supports residents to influence or jointly deliver the development of services in their community.

There are a number of ways the Gorbals community can get involved in their local area including linking with a local organisation that either would assist or signpost in the right direction.

Community engagement takes place throughout the Gorbals in various forms and includes:

- Community Events – Gorbals Fair, Christmas Fair, Gorbals Market, Community BBQs
- Community Engagement Pop up events – Events held throughout Gorbals aimed at speaking with local people about their local neighbourhood
- Various organisations hold regular community activity which provides opportunity to get involved and more information can be found in the comprehensive Gorbals Timetable which can be accessed at:
www.thegorbals.co.uk



Go Get Gorbals

An online sharing platform for the local area has been developed. The platform is currently available through a bespoke website and a Facebook page and is designed to help local people build projects, make connections, and share resources and can be accessed via www.gogetgorbals.org.

Organisations and individuals in the area are able to create accounts, and staff can make professional profiles for using the site. New Gorbals Housing Association will also act as a hub for the project, facilitating those in the community who may not have internet access so that they can still engage with this project.

This sharing platform has been created with Thriving Place approach very much front and centre, and is about expanding the capacity of the community to make connections.



Spirit of the Gorbals

The Gorbals community were granted with a £250,000 resource budget as part of Spirit's 'Fourteen' project. The resource budget is to be used to increase participation levels in the Gorbals.

The budget is managed by a panel of local people and is supported by Foundation Scotland and New Gorbals Housing Association. The main panel has been established to oversee the distribution of the budget and informed by ideas and aspirations of community groups and local people.

A youth panel has also been developed made up of young people between the ages of 11 and 19 and known as 'The Young Deciders'.

This work is a great example of community involvement

and local people being part of the decision-making process and distributing funding that makes a difference to their area, focused towards improving community outcomes and clearly linked to the Thriving Places approach.

Structure of Local Organisations involved in Community Engagement/Community Activity

Gorbals Regeneration Group – Strategic body initially set up in response to the BBC ‘Poor Kids’ documentary about child poverty in Gorbals. The GRG was approved as the implementation group for Thriving Places in 2013. Representation from area managers and strategic partners from Glasgow Community Planning Partnership, Local Councillors, Community Councils and 5 members of the 3rd Sector Forum.

Community Engagement Sub Group – Group aims to support and plan the development of community engagement in the Gorbals with regard to Thriving Places. Representation from New Gorbals Housing Association, HSCP, Glasgow Life and 2 members from 3rd Sector Forum.

Gorbals 3rd Sector Forum – Self organised forum with aim of exchanging information and ideas, creating collaboration, sharing good practice and resources and building relationships within the sector. All non-statutory organisations operating in the Gorbals are welcome to attend.

Cross Sectoral Workforce Development – Thriving Breakfast Network set up to develop network of front line staff working in the Gorbals from both voluntary and public sector. Provides opportunity to build more effective relationships and share practice, ideas.

Key Contact Details for Community Involvement

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Annex I – Outline Action Plan

(Note – This is a first picture of some of the issues. It needs development with partners and with the community. The important thing is to set challenging outcomes that can bring about real change.)

Thematic area	Key activities (2018)	Medium Term Outcomes (2020)	Long term outcomes (2027)
Tackling poverty	<p>Service providing partners identify a range of opportunities to stop 'firefighting' and transfer resources to prevention and early intervention. Initial focus on early years and childcare, but progress to be made in all areas.</p> <p>Partners to focus on the key priorities of early years and food poverty and develop resourced action plans for these.</p> <p>Gorbals Regeneration Group (and community) to identify areas for additional activity (for example youth unemployment, isolation, drugs and alcohol, domestic abuse).</p> <p>Continue to build cross sectoral work – including the Thriving Breakfasts.</p>	<p>Service providing partners identify households where there is intensive 'firefighting'.</p> <p>Service providing partners support actions that prevent repeated negative outcomes. Service providing partners can demonstrate a resource shift from reactive to preventative action.</p> <p>Demonstrate improved outcomes in relation to early years and food poverty.</p> <p>Put in place resourced action plans for agreed additional activities.</p> <p>Increasing number of place based cross-sectoral projects.</p>	Gorbals residents are less likely to suffer relatively poverty

Thematic area	Key activities (2018)	Medium Term Outcomes (2020)	Long term outcomes (2027)
Ensuring residents can influence decisions	<p>Continue to build on the Gorbals Directory and Go Get Gorbals.</p> <p>Identify long term resources for community capacity building.</p> <p>Service providing partners agree a shared co-production policy and increase the opportunities for residents to be involved in co-production.</p> <p>Put follow up to Spirit of the Gorbals in place.</p>	<p>Gorbals residents have a better understanding of what activities take place in the Gorbals.</p> <p>Gorbals residents and community organisations have greater influence on local decision making as a result of a significant increase in funding for community capacity building.</p> <p>Gorbals residents are increasingly involved in the design and delivery of services through co-production.</p> <p>Gorbals residents and community organisations have access to participatory budgeting resources to develop innovative ideas.</p>	Gorbals residents can influence the decisions that affect their lives

Thematic area	Key activities (2018)	Medium Term Outcomes (2020)	Long term outcomes (2027)
Increasing the resilience of Gorbals people		<p>Gorbals residents feel in control of the decisions that affect their lives.</p> <p>Gorbals residents do not feel isolated from families and friends.</p> <p>Gorbals residents feel valued as a member of the community.</p> <p>Gorbals residents agree that people look out for each other.</p> <p>Gorbals residents are increasingly more likely to volunteer.</p>	Gorbals residents are more resilient