



**Glasgow City Council**

**Operational Delivery Scrutiny Committee**  
**22 May 2014**

**Report by Executive Director of Land and Environmental Services**

**Contact: Brian Devlin, Ext 79100**

**GEORGE SQUARE: UPDATE**

**Purpose of Report:**

The purpose of this report is to inform Committee of the refurbishment phase of George Square recently completed in September 2013, and the ongoing maintenance regime currently in place.

**Recommendations:**

It is recommended, therefore, that Committee notes the content of the report.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

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

## 1. Background

During the summer of 2013, works were carried out to George Square. The works included the installation of two new grass beds to the western side of the Square, the replacement of the previous red surface with a new grey bauxite stone material, together with the following ancillary works:

- Existing statues, monuments and artefacts within the Square were cleaned and, where necessary, given new protective coatings.
- Existing landscaping was refurbished and, where necessary, replanted.
- Existing stone work and kerbing was re-pointed, and
- The stainless steel bases of the existing lighting columns within the Square were cleaned and re-polished.

## 2. Contract Status

The works, completed in September 2013, are currently within a one year maintenance period during which any defects will be repaired. Inspections have been carried out in collaboration with the Contractor and a number of minor defects to be repaired have been recorded.

Arrangements have been made for remedial works to be carried out during week commencing 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2014.

## 3. General Maintenance Plan

**Grass Beds** -The recent surfacing contract included the installation of two new grass beds at the west side of the Square together with the re-turfing of the two existing beds at the east side. Included in the contract is the provision to carry out an additional three re-turfs after events. To date, a re-turf was carried out following the Christmas events, and it is anticipated that another will be required after the BBC Radio One Big Weekend which takes place over the May Bank Holiday (24/25th May 2014).

**Cleansing** - The Square has been categorised as a high priority for street cleansing activity with twice daily inspections and cleaning operations being carried out each day. In addition to routine cleaning, power washing and chewing gum removal is carried out as and when required.

**Statues and Lighting** – Detailed inspections were carried out on the statues in the Square prior to the contract to identify future maintenance and repair needs. During the contract, the statues were cleaned and given a protective coating to ease future cleaning which will be carried out as necessary. At the same time as the statue inspections, the street and decorative lighting in the Square was refurbished and re-lamped using “white light” lamps to improve lighting levels.

**Cenotaph Cleaning** – There has been a significant and disfiguring algae growth on the Cenotaph since its cleaning in July 2013. Development and Regeneration Services, who are responsible for its maintenance, arranged to have the Cenotaph cleaned and re-pointed during April 2014 by City Building Glasgow, which included fencing off the Cenotaph and erecting scaffolding to allow access. In addition, further cleaning in advance of the World War One Centenary event will be undertaken, if required.

#### **4. Management**

Events on the Square are managed by LES Events who receive bookings through detailed discussion with organisers and provide technical advice during the planning stages, together with on-site support during an event. All requested events go through a formal process to ensure that they meet the required criteria, including the following:

- Appropriateness and availability of the location
- Experience of the organisers
- Credibility of the proposals and evidence of
  - A proposed layout plan
  - Risk Assessments and Method Statements
  - An event delivery plan
  - Appropriate insurance
  - A business plan
  - Compliance with Health & Safety legislation

#### **5. Council Strategic Plan Implications**

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|--|---|
| <i>Economic Impact:</i>                        | To maintain the vibrancy of George Square and the City Centre |
| <i>Sustainability:</i>                         | N/A   |
| <i>Financial:</i>                              | Within existing allocations                                   |
| <i>Legal:</i>                                  | N/A   |
| <i>Personnel:</i>                              | No impact on existing resources                               |
| <i>Sustainable Procurement and Article 19:</i> | N/A   |

#### **6. Recommendations**

It is recommended, therefore, that Committee notes the content of the report.