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Glasgow Canal Cultural Heritage and Arts Strategy

December 2019



Glasgow Canal Project

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Updated 16 December 2019

1 Context, brief + interpretation

Glasgow City Council submitted a successful Partnership bid on behalf of the Glasgow Canal Regeneration Partnership to the Heritage Lottery Great Places Fund. The funding is for a range of projects in the Port Dundas to Firhill Canal corridor area that seeks to use heritage to locally contribute to social, environmental and economic change in the area.

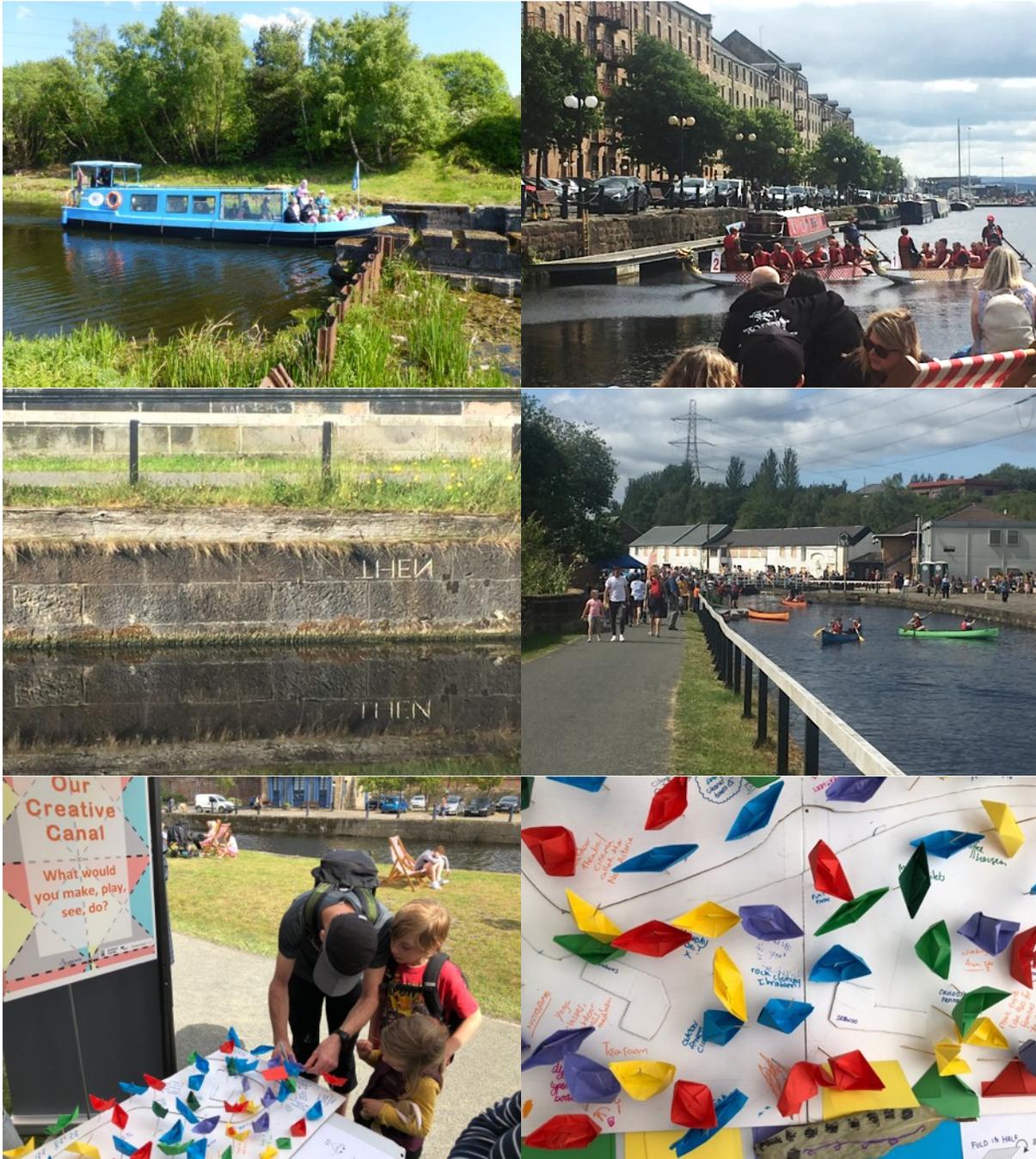
The Glasgow Canal Regeneration Partnership and Glasgow Canal Coop commissioned Kevin Murray Associates to lead the team with Lesley Kerr Historic Buildings Consultant, Barry Neeson Art, Two Roads Planning (Paul Ede) and Prof. John Lennon of the Moffat Institute in Tourism Research and Development to undertake this work during February to October 2019.

The successful Heritage Lottery Great Places fund has 10 approved activities, one of which is the development of this **cultural heritage strategy**. The objectives of this strategy process are as follows:

- *Highlight the main Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats that face the Canal and surrounding area and set the vision for its regeneration, with heritage embedded at the core.*
- *Is produced through grass roots engagement and empowerment of the local community and captures the strong cultural identity and sense of place that is engrained within communities lying along the edge of the canal or those that live, worked and enjoyed the canal through generations.*
- *Further develops the canal's identity as a creative destination, acting as a catalyst for attracting visitors and businesses and further develops a sense of pride in the canal's unique cultural and heritage offer.*
- *Is innovative and strategic in its scope and provides a platform to link together the existing work in the area and has the potential to attract external funding.*

In response to this, this project has produced a **heritage audit** that goes on to identify the challenges and opportunities that the area has, with heritage at the core of these. An ongoing programme of **dialogue and engagement** with key stakeholders and communities has resulted in **over 500 interactions**. This has provided a rich bed of material from which to grow and develop strategic thinking.

This strategy aims to excite and chime with aspirations in the area. It creates a framework for a “permission agenda” - an open programme for activity where people can be creative and (re)generative. It suggests and promotes creating and getting the right infrastructure and place-making building blocks in place to facilitate innovation based upon the authentic elements of cultural heritage and the arts in the locality. It features heritage and the regenerated post-industrial green space at its core and the base that everything else can build from. This place is not starting from ‘zero’ – a lot has already been done, and is being done to take the place forwards. This strategy helps to create further synergy and give a way forward that can take the canal and the organisations here to the next level.



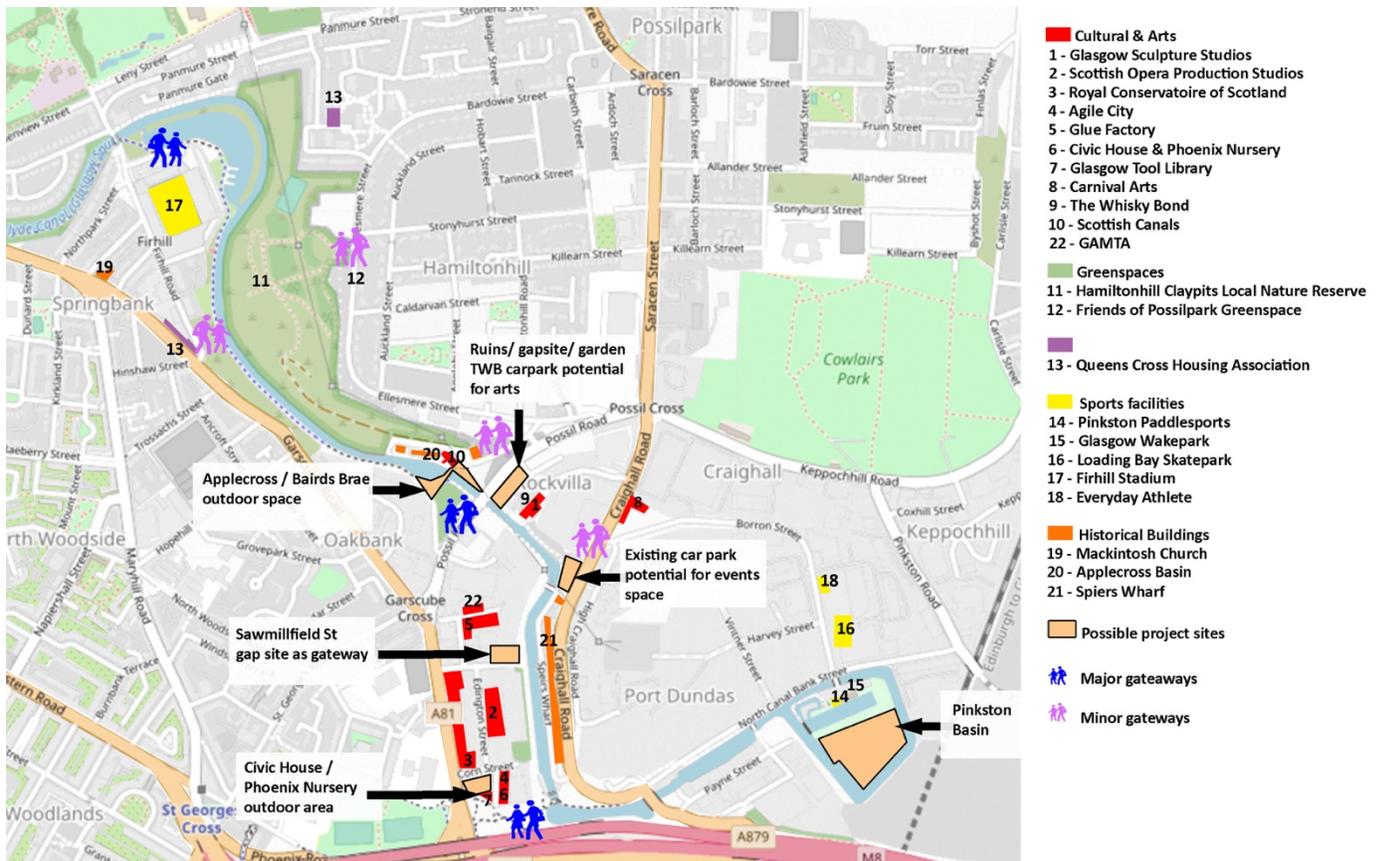
From top left clockwise, all at the 2019 Canal Festival: boat trip at Firhill Basin, dragon boat racing at Speirs Wharf, paddle sports looking towards Applecross Basin, mapping paper boats and ideas (x2), engraving on canal side opposite The Whisky Bond.

2 What is the area of focus?

There is a need to be clear about the geographic focus of the emergent Cultural Heritage and Arts (CHA) Strategy, given that the linear extent of canal in the city is very extensive. The approach of this strategy is about understanding the connectivity the Canal network offers between leisure, art, culture and local organisations. It is as much about connection as it is about connectivity. The natural regenerative ecology of this post-industrial corridor creates a context for work and leisure that can contribute significantly to wellbeing, sense of place and excitement.

As a ‘contour canal’, rather than ‘valley canal’, it contributes to Glasgow’s balcony overlooking the city. The canal area offers a unique opportunity within the city, with views, wild parkland, outdoor space for events, and home to cultural, production, making and sports activities.

The area of this study, as established by the Partners, is focused between Firhill Basin to Port Dundas. However, in developing the approach it is clear that there is wider applicability further along the canal corridor, for instance towards Stockingfield Junction at Maryhill, and beyond. However, at this point the agreed spatial context between Firhill and Port Dundas is what we and the communities and stakeholders have engaged with.



Key nodes of activity

Key nodes of activity within the CHA Strategy area are:

Firhill Basin - including living by water, fishing, water sports, key access/gateway points, sports stadium

Claypits Local Nature Reserve – key green space, viewpoints, wildlife, access (including new bridge and landscape link), growing community at Hamiltonhill

Applecross Basin – Scottish Canals HQ, houseboats - living on water, key access/gateway points, built heritage, events space, water activities, key institutions

Spiers Wharf – living by water, living on water, viewpoints, key access/gateway points, built heritage, events space, water activities, key cultural institutions

Port Dundas – new communities at Dundas Hill and Sighthill, key access/gateway points, watersports, urban sports, greenspace opportunities.

Heritage overview + opportunities

A separate, detailed heritage audit report has been prepared as part of this process. It is attached in full at Appendix A. This section captures in brief the conclusions from this report: *The canal's industrial heritage is part of the genius loci, or spirit of the place. It is hoped that this can be retained through an understanding of the heritage and become a source of inspiration for this phase of regeneration.*

The 18th century buildings at Applecross Basin are the most significant surviving built heritage on the Glasgow Canal. Reinstating the visual link between the original canal buildings would go some way to restoring the setting of the Old Basin. External works are underway to restore Old Basin House. The restoration of the vacant workshop range could create office and studio space, enabling the brick office building and portacabin to be removed in a future phase. New historical research, site investigation, a digital model and traditional skills training could all be incorporated in the project work. Design proposals for the south gateway to the Claypits, which runs behind the workshops, should be sensitive to the history of the place.

Improved access to the canal and the surrounding amenity is a high priority. There are opportunities to introduce artwork in a strategic way to mark gateway which connects to the heritage of the area, routes and nodal points and through interpretation signage, wayfinding and street furniture. The regeneration of Sighthill, Port Dundas, Hamiltonhill and Firhill Basin are at the forefront and will include new connections to Maryhill and Possilpark. The new bridge over the M8 motorway at Sighthill is due for completion in 2020. The cultural heritage and arts strategy will have to take into account the pace of these developments and include long and short-term aims. The Port Dundas redevelopment involves several landowners and the sites are more challenging. Development will be phased and possibly slow at the canal side. The challenge there will be to achieve a coherent character through a coordinated approach. A programme of temporary uses along North Canal Bank Street might be appropriate in the short-term. A Visitor Interpretation Strategy can be developed from new research, site investigations and surveys carried out during redevelopment.

Spiers Wharf mills, being the first buildings of the Glasgow Canal to be successfully redeveloped, now require a coordinated maintenance and repair programme. Car parking now dominates the east bank of the Scheduled Monument and alternatives should be reviewed.

There are a few sites adjacent to the canal that could be considered for cultural or leisure use: Pinkston (infilled) timber basin, Sawmillfield Street at the bottom of the steps, the car park at Rockvilla (east bank) and the gap site west of TWB car park. The use could be temporary, shared or permanent, depending on availability and demand.



Road between the Firhill Basin & stadium



Firhill Basin & island



Pontoons at Firhill



Doocot at Firhill



Unlisted brick canal workshops



Canal workshops looking east- towards brick offices & portacabin



View of TWB & remains of industrial buildings



Bascule bridge at Applecross Basin



View of the converted mills with house boats



View along the east bank towards Rockvilla



Water sports at Pinkston basin



Early-C19 Bascule bridge

Canal as destination

Waterways have played an increasing part in tourism development in both urban and rural settings (British Waterways and Birmingham City Council 2002; Hall & Page 2014; Valder 1998). In the case of Scotland, the transformation of the Scottish Canals (SC) estate deals with industrial and transport heritage in post-industrial locations wherein the leisure and tourism visitor market is now viewed as highly significant to economic development (Scottish Government, 2015). The use of waterways by leisure traffic now dominates and the network has hosted the development of successful visitor attractions which have in turn helped catalyse destination awareness.

Tourism and Canal visitation in Scotland

Edinburgh and Glasgow are the most visited regions of Scotland and the nation is a popular short break (1-3 night) destination with more than 65% of visits to Scotland located in this category affirming appeal of urban and rural short breaks (VisitScotland, 2018). Canal visitation in Scotland is estimated at 22 million visits a year, (Scottish Canals, 2016) and the range of activities on the waterways network has increased. However, visitation and awareness has been catalysed by significant revitalisation, and specifically by the development of key attraction sites.

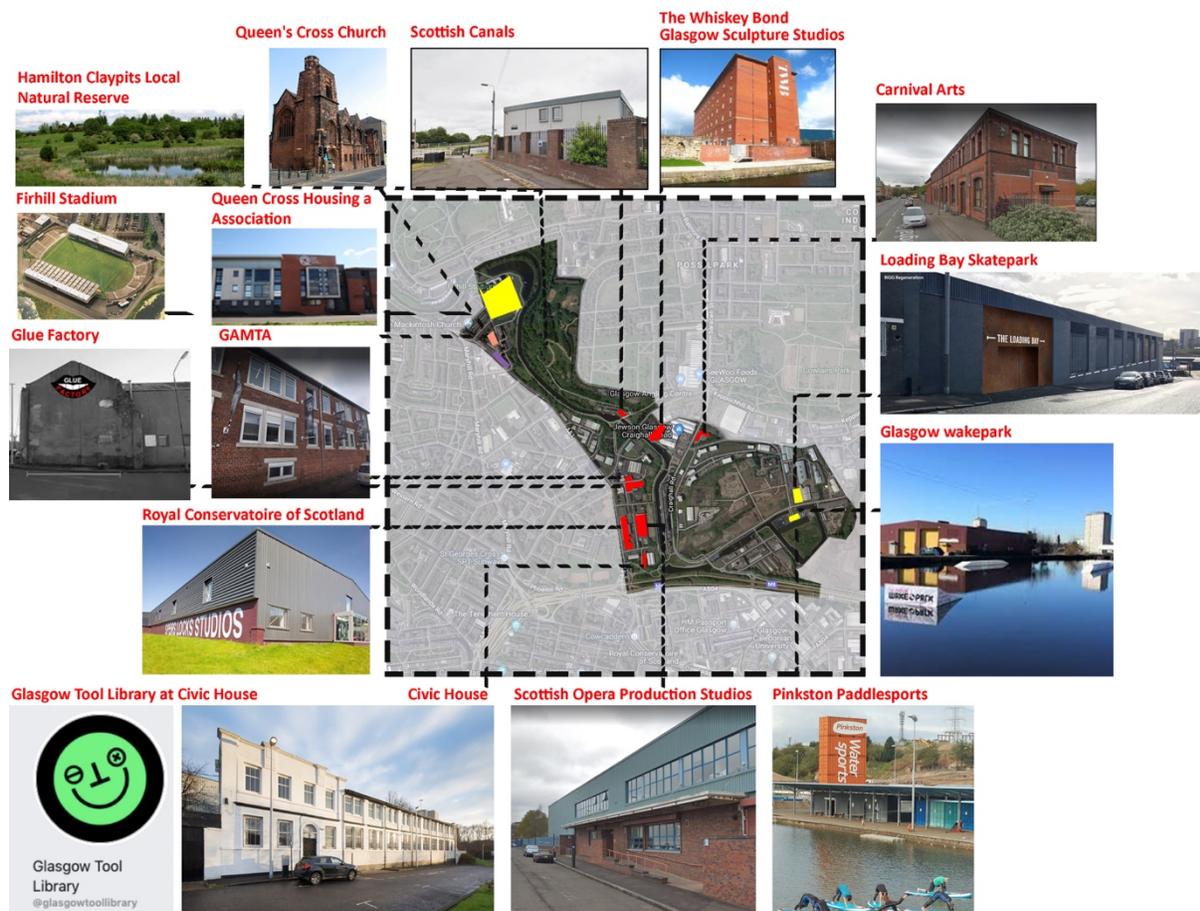
This proves that revitalised and improved tow paths, public spaces and canals in this part of North Glasgow can catalyse visitation and appeal for both residents and other visitors to this part of the city. An approach that enhances the area as a visitor attraction and also increases the capacity of the place for visitors and events can capitalise on the destination and visitor opportunities around the canal.

3 Who is in the area, what activities are taking place?

Within the CHA Strategy area there are a number of groups, organisations, venues, networks and individuals who are relevant to the content and direction of the CHA Strategy and are in a position to help develop and evolve it, as well as contribute to its implementation.

The organisations that have located in this area form a “progressive cultural production campus”, several of which are internationally renowned, and the clustering effect and benefits are being harnessed through the establishment of the Glasgow Canal Coop. The presence and activity of these organisations (both inward and outward facing) is key to the character of the area. Just as the canal was established to facilitate industrial production, the area now hosts cultural production. This is a meaningful development, providing a narrative thread through time, and a hook that communities, small businesses, cultural and heritage organisations and social enterprises (to name a few) can participate in the growth of the area.

There is a huge effort and work underway by the organisations in the area to not just develop and sustain their own work, but to also promote the area as a destination, to engage with the local community and put on events, exhibitions and other innovative projects. They engage with a wide variety of audiences, and have a scope ranging from the local to national.



Some of the organisations and locations in the area.

Who is here? *(This section is organised in an approximate geographic order, as if you were taking a walk from Cowcaddens to Firhill).*

Agile City

“Agile City is a Community Interest Company that creates space for work, events and learning.” They have been the driving force behind the redevelopment of the Glue Factory and Civic House (see below) and deliver a programme of events that focus on and explore new ways of thinking about development and place.

The main event that they operate on an annual basis is a summer school called Test Unit which uses the area as a living lab to enable participants to think about art, design and architectural interventions in new ways. The summer school is an intensive week’s programme and it is accompanied through the year by a series of talks and workshops.

Civic House and Phoenix Nursery

Civic House is the former print press warehouse of Civic Press Ltd which produced materials for the workers’ union movement and other political activism. It was acquired in 2016 and now operates as:

“...a workspace, venue and canteen that supports creative learning and socially engaged approaches to city making.”

The building is being redeveloped through a phased design process, retaining as much of the original building as possible, while also upgrading the energy efficiency of the building’s fabric in a process that is learning and leading on how it is possible to retain built industrial heritage and repurpose it for alternative creative uses.

Space outside Civic House is being transformed from derelict land, formerly a children’s play area, back into an area that can be used for play and outdoor events. This process embodies using an understanding of heritage to reimagine the future for spaces and places.

Glasgow Tool Library

A new organisation and initiative in the area, The Glasgow Tool Library, is a tool resource centre and hire service that is currently based opposite Civic House. The service is open to all and provides a library of tools and other resources on building, recycling, repairing and sharing. The goal of the GTL is to challenge the unsustainable relationship between use and ownership and to build a sustainable economy based on collaboration, inclusivity and sharing.

Scottish Opera Production Studios

Scottish Opera was founded in 1962 and subsequently went on to purchase and operate the King’s Theatre as Scotland’s first opera house. Now Scottish Opera performs in around 35 towns and villages across Scotland every year and at four mainstage venues: Theatre Royal, Glasgow; Festival Theatre, Edinburgh; His Majesty’s Theatre, Aberdeen; and Eden Court Theatre, Inverness.

The Production Studios on Edington Road house Scottish Opera’s Technical and Education teams, from where outreach and production activities take place. While not directly performance, this space provides the production and creative value of what is ultimately enjoyed in the stage productions.

Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland is a world top 10 performing arts education institution and is the only institution in Europe offering degrees in all the performing arts. This creates a rich environment and atmosphere. The RCS are also firm believers in what Glasgow has to offer its students as a place that embraces performing arts: *“We firmly believe that to make it in the competitive performing arts sectors, you need more than talent and determination. You need to make the right choices, learn in the right environment and live in a city which creates opportunity for your skillset.”*

At the Wallace Studios, Speirs Locks, RCS has additional space for Technical and Production Arts, Musical Theatre and Modern Ballet, including four large high-specification dance and musical theatre rehearsal studios and design, set and wardrobe construction studios. The RCS recognise that this location is significant, being a key part of a creative hub in Glasgow.

Glue Factory

The Glue Factory is a heritage factory building designed by John Keppie and a connection to Charles Rennie MacKintosh (John Keppie’s junior assistant), that has been reused as an independent arts and culture venue and workspace since 2010. The Glue Factory Community Interest Company was established in 2011 and has operated the venue since.

25% of the building is given over to affordable artists’ studios with the remainder functioning as flexible space across a series of rooms from Gallery/Exhibition space to rooms suitable for screenings, photography or events.

National Theatre of Scotland

NTS is a national “theatre without walls’ organisation that produces, supports and develops theatre production across Scotland. With a national remit, their productions and support are spread throughout Scotland, while headquartered at Speirs Wharf on the canal.

Rockvilla, named to acknowledge the industrial and social heritage of the site, was opened in 2017 and is “a hub for supporting and developing talent and a place where people of all ages and abilities can learn and create.” There was a strategic purpose in locating here, being a driver for regeneration and a key cultural production facility in the north of Glasgow.

Carnival Arts

Carnival Arts manage artist studios by the canal which provide a unique environment for artists and creative producers and space for building large structures associated with Carnivals. They have significant experience of delivering community outreach and carnival skills workshops for a mix of audiences and work closely with a wide network of artists who also provide workshops which link in with Glasgow’s leading events.

GAMTA

A performance arts institution, GAMTA was founded in 1994 and is the “home and pioneer of world-class musical theatre training in Scotland.” Providing training to a BA in Musical Theatre, GAMTA has proven success in getting graduates into the performance industry. GAMTA is based in The Brickhouse Building on Farnell Street.

Ricefield Arts & Cultural Centre

Established in 2004, Ricefield works to promote Chinese arts and culture in Scotland through innovative and engaging exhibition, workshops and film. Ricefield work with schools, community groups, public institutions and communities across Scotland.

Glasgow Sculpture Studios

A membership organisation for artists and sculptors, the Glasgow Sculpture Studio is the largest production facility in Scotland. Based in The Whisky Bond GSS has specialist workshops allowing for production and fabrication across a wide range of media from metalwork to ceramics. In addition to providing these facilities for members there is also private studio space available for use. Within GSS there is a team that provide workshop users with support and operate a specialist fabrication service for clients.

GSS operate a learning and engagement programme that takes their work outwith the walls of the Whisky Bond and reaches local communities and collaborates with local partners.

The Whisky Bond

A Whisky Bond dating from the 1950s (and briefly used as a mushroom factory), this building was redeveloped in 2012. It is the home of the Glasgow Sculpture Studios and to a growing community of creative businesses and organisations.

Scottish Canals

Headquartered at Applecross Basin, Scottish Canals care for and manage Scotland's canal network and surrounding estate. This stewardship includes care for the Scheduled Monument status of the canals and other heritage along these waterways.

Hamiltonhill Claypits Local Nature Reserve

A 6.7hectare Local Nature Reserve, the Claypits won this status in May 2016. The name comes from the 'borrow pit' where clay was excavated to create a waterproof seal along the banks of the canal as it was being developed.

As the area has rewilded it has become home to a wide array of flora, fauna, bugs, beasties and creatures. The Claypits is managed by a board of local people and has been highly successful in engaging its local community in exploring nature and using the reserve as a place for exercise, finding peace and wellbeing.

Recent funding has increased the number and quality of pathways through the site, making this key green space more accessible. This will be contributed to further on completion of the bridge opposite the new Woodside Health Centre. The Claypits contributes significantly to the green infrastructure of an urban area, and to the wider blue and green linear network of the canal.

The Hamiltonhill Claypits Local Nature Reserve Management Group (HCLNR) is a group of people who are passionate about the nature reserve from the surrounding communities and further afield. The group is keen on enabling as many people as possible to experience the beauty of the nature reserve, with a focus on natural heritage and the arts. In the past couple of years they have run events and festivals and worked with artists to explore and collect stories and experiences of the Claypits from members of the surrounding communities.

Friends of Possilpark Greenspace

Friends of Possilpark Greenspace is a group of local residents who are concerned to raise the standard of their local environment. The group aims to tackle the blight caused by vacant and derelict land in the communities of Possilpark and Hamiltonhill. They go about this through making environmental improvements and organising community activity and events that create new stories and life around these spaces.

Queens Cross Housing Association

QCHA are a community-based housing association in the north of Glasgow. They have recently developed new homes around the north of Firhill Basin, and in addition to homes provide a lot of programmes for local residents that focus on wellbeing.

NHS Woodside Health and Care Centre

Opened in July 2019, this new NHS Health and Care Centre is taking steps to integrate with its neighbouring canal and greenspace, through art and activity. As part of the development process art has been commissioned to sign-post the connection to greenspace, and its benefit to health. The immediate environment has been made as green as possible, but on a constrained site, creating a pathway that leads patients and staff up to the extensive neighbouring greenspace has been an important dimension. This is further enhanced through artist-led mapping and sculpture on the site. This approach has engaged the local community in the building and built positive relationships.

Sports Activity

In addition to the culture and arts organisations, at Port Dundas there is a cluster of sport activity.

Pinkston Paddlesports

Offering both flat water and Scotland's only artificial white-water course, Pinkston Paddlesports is a social enterprise that promotes access to watersports through giving access to clubs, events and activities. Pinkston also provides storage and other dry-side facilities for clubs and users.

Glasgow Wakepark

A cable-system Wakeboarding park and facility. As skiing is to water-skiing, so snowboarding is to wakeboarding. This facility provides coaching and a unique watersports experience on a canal in an urban setting.

Loading Bay Skatepark

Glasgow's first indoor skatepark, this large indoor facility will offer over 30,000 sq ft of space for skateboarding and other urban sports. Opening later in 2019, the project is lead by Vision Ramps who are a creative force in their own right in the urban sports world, building ramps and sets for the likes of Danny MacAskill, Cirque de Soleil and Red Bull.

We have consulted most of these during the course of the Strategy engagement and formulation. Appendix B lists the consultation and engagement activity.

Everyday Athlete

Everyday Athlete is a functional fitness gym that provides users with a unique training environment when compared with traditional gym and exercises centres.

Other partners not based in the area include **Glasgow City Council**, who are the statutory body for the area including responsibility for regeneration, planning and development. **Igloo Regeneration** are also partners, currently they are leading the development of Dundas Hill.

Scottish Benchmark: Developing a vision for Transforming this area

It is important to consider the catalytic role of Scottish Canals who have transformed an estate of post-industrial waterways capitalising on the network to offer residential development, commercial premises, leisure and visitor activities as well as developing two major visitor attractions in Scotland. This offers many lessons and blueprints for how this can be achieved, details on how Scottish Canals transformed The Falkirk Wheel and The Helix Park and The Kelpies are in Appendix C. **This project located to the north of Scotland's most populous city can only prosper from these benchmarks and the strategic input of a partners such as Scottish Canals.**

Canals and development of connective spaces

Canals and related infrastructure can be central to the development of leisure visitation and improving the environment for residents and local employees. This can help; increase visitation and grow dwell time in this part of the city.

This can help change perception and attitudes to Scotland's waterways and an environment in the north of Glasgow which has for some time seen a relatively negative perception. Such a step change in perception and attitude can only help in the creation of a foundation for further investment, tourism development and increased leisure activities.

4 Overarching Vision and Strategy

The following overarching vision has been evolved as a provisional statement of purpose, based on contributions received:

The Firhill to Port Dundas Canal area is a city destination that has a growing number of regional, national and international visitors that come for the natural and cultural heritage, the unique location and the creative responses to this expressed through art, events and sport.

Its attraction is rooted in its distinctive heritage assets, post-industrial ecology and people, giving it an authenticity and quality that sets it apart. The opportunities which this unique heritage destination opens up to the city, linking to a World Heritage Site, the medieval high street and River Clyde will begin to tell the story of the evolution of Glasgow and where it is heading in the future.

Organisations embedded within the area work co-operatively to deliver projects across creative mediums and activities that are accessible to all, particularly to the immediate communities but looking to widen that access. Tapping into all of this creates an area that supports a canal community and place of increased well-being and sustainability.

This document will serve several functions:

1. **For organisations/stakeholders in the area** - this strategy should support activity and provide a basis for funding applications. The strategy aims to be permissive and not narrow down the types of activities that can or should take place along the canal corridor.
2. **For new initiatives** - the strategy aims to be generative and inspire/excite new activity in the area, creating a framework of “permission”, an open programme, for activity and action.
3. **For communities** - the strategy supports the stories we have been told and the need around creating new perceptions and a positive narrative for the place. There is much to be celebrated and we hope that the strategy enables communities to unlock this.
4. **For developers** - add value to the area by participating in its character and identity. Involve communities, they really care about their place and want high quality work to be done in the area. Use the strategy to consider how you can add heritage interpretation through a variety of creative mediums to your development.
5. **For funders** - this strategy has consulted with near on 500 people in an area that in recent history was sparse of people. This exercise in itself demonstrates (as does all the good work done in the area by organisations that live and breathe the area) that there has been a marked stepchange, but this needs to be supported for it to sustain, for the communities in the vicinity to really benefit and for the area to become a place of note, not just for what it has become but also because of the story and energy that has been poured into it to get there.

5 Strategic Principles

The following key principles have been developed, tested and refined, with respect to underpinning the operation of the CHA Strategy. The purpose of these principles is to give a common baseline across the delivery themes, embedding the principles in projects and development throughout the area.

Involvement and Ownership

People who live and work around the canal, and Canal Coop members and local organisations should all feel involved and empowered in shaping the canal's change and use. Creative interventions and events should be recognisable to the local community and organisations because at some level they have been involved and feel a sense of ownership over what is happening. This shouldn't restrict activity to be delivered by only those in the area, city wide and national organisations are encouraged to come to the area too and embed this principle.

Quality and Authenticity

Events, installations, engagement from the local area are all renowned for the quality of research, interpretation, fabrication, installation and participation. The participation has resulted in products that are embedded in the heritage, people and place, creating authentic responses.

Health and Wellbeing

A place that offers opportunities for improvement in terms of mental and physical wellbeing through access to open blue and greenspace, and participation in cultural heritage, creativity and social activity.

Environment and Sustainability

Creating a place that celebrates its intangible and tangible history, enhances the environment and provides a city and nation-wide exemplar for sustainable urban development. From building refurbishment, water drainage, energy use and generation, nature conservation and how events look to minimise impact.

Curation and Coordination

Stitching it all together and creating a coherent narrative about this distinctive place. This does not mean that there is a homogeneity to the place, but that there is a clear interpretive narrative, acknowledging its past celebrating, its richness and positive evolution and not simply a continuous ad hoc approach to creative interventions or developments.

Sense of Place

The two common threads of heritage and post-industrial ecology and nature create the sense of place in the canal corridor. The heritage of the place provides a narrative thread that is physically present in the canal, but also there in the stories and communities along it that can be further understood through historical research. The other part of this thread is a thrilling discover in an urban environment – the post-industrial ecology and environmental recovery along the corridor can be engaged with and responded to in many ways. Drawing this out through creative engagement, activity and projects helps further embed that sense of place and character.

6 Strategic Delivery Themes

SD Theme 1: Access and Gateways



The moment that we cross a boundary and enter into a different experience, be it physical or sensory, has the power to shape our understanding of a place.

Key gateways into the canal area, and its different character areas, generate rich opportunities for meaningful interpretation and creative expressions and solutions that can engage us on a physical and emotional level.

The strategy aims to identify and unlock heritage, as a platform to create opportunities for creative responses at the gateway nodes and access points of the canal. It looks at stimulating exciting possibilities that express the area's unique identity and enables inclusive participation. Iconic artistic expression and subtle moments of discovery alongside innovative technical solutions in the right locations can open up possibilities for local and visitor alike to fall in love with their place and find their way around. Such place-defining interventions have the potential to become the well-loved heritage of the future, with foundations in the heritage of the past.

Why is this important?

Growing the number of people who use the canal corridor will need improved and increased ease of access. In addition to this, knowledge of the existence of the canal, and what is possible around it is necessary for its growth.

Project examples/outcomes

- Identify **additional entry/exit points** to the canal towpath and enhance existing entry points
- Improve **lighting for safety** and ambience
- **Gateway points with artistic interventions** to create known, recognisable entry/access points to the canal
- **Information on activities and events** - what's available for people to do and participate in up at the canal.
- **Signage and wayfinding markers** – a visually consistent set of signs that provide visibility, a welcome and clear directions/distance to people using the area. This can link up with heritage interpretation projects.
- **Improved physical access** – new ways to access and get into the corridor proposed at Hamiltonhill and Port Dundas, and upgrade required at Cowcaddens.



We only truly know we belong and are welcomed in a place when we are part of an active, vibrant and inclusive community.

The strategy aims to create a place with the capacity to offer pop-up and regular events that embrace all that the area has to offer, and where perceptions can be challenged and changed. Collaboration with the community is key to achieving this alongside hard-work and resources.

It also takes creative flair to effectively tell a shared story. The strategy seeks to articulate ways in which a rich foundation of fun, intergenerational events that draw on all the artistic and sporting disciplines can be built on and reinforced for local people, citizens and international visitors alike. These should showcase the heritage of the area to maximum effect.

Why is this important?

The canal corridor has changed immensely over the last decade, but there is still work needed to shift perceptions of the place, particularly around changing the narrative of the place for local people. Giving them outlets for expression are an important way to shift this to authentically celebrate their place and community. Celebrations, events and performances can draw people into the area, to enjoy the place and the unique experiences that can be created here.

Project examples/outcomes

- Support for the growth and **expansion of the Canal Festival** in a sustainable manner
- **Community-led North Glasgow event/celebration** (suggestions so far, Carnival, Kite Festival – it could be all of the above and more) – can include call for community ideas (events)
- **Community heritage events and activities** – could include boat building, traditional skills, creation of cultural heritage brand, local guides project, storytelling of the canal, heritage centre or hub and exhibition.
- **Events spaces** – develop unique outdoor venues at points on the canal corridor – spaces identified include Sawmillfield Street site, car park at Rockvilla (east bank) and the gap site west of TWB car park.
- **Events venues** – support and develop the growth of internal venues for events, exhibitions, community action etc
- **International events** – attract Glasgow International¹ to use the canal as an outdoor venue.
- **Social prescription** – participation in creative activity as a holistic approach to improving health and wellbeing.

¹ Glasgow International is “Scotland’s largest festival for contemporary art, taking place over three weeks every two years across the city...” <https://glasgowinternational.org/about-5/>

SD Theme 3: Memory & Artefacts



The future grows out of the past, and storytelling has the power to both evoke nostalgia and break us into new visions of possibility and hope for the future. Places can be shaped and invested with rich meaning by re-narrating the past and recycling old and new experiences into many new stories.

Such narratives will be articulated across all the artistic mediums and embodied in the unique built and natural heritage of the canal. The strategy aims to

encourage us to capture the living memory of the canal as it transitions from industrial powerhouse to post-industrial neglect to vibrant green corridor. Places that have rich artefacts from the past, interpreted well, can inspire new intervention and change. The canal can enable us to explore our emotions and reactions as we physically move through the area and encounter what it has to offer – from views to wildlife to people-watching. And art – both installation and event-based – has a particular role in stimulating these connections as we progress.

Why is this important?

Tapping into the lived heritage of the canal corridor can play a huge role in letting communities' author the place narrative. The authenticity of the place will be borne out when the memories of those that live there are used to create objects, performances and other interventions in the area. Authentic places are attractive, and this plays well into making the canal a destination for visitors.

Project examples/outcomes

- **Collective memory history project** – working to capture the voices of those who have a memory of the transition period of the canal, and a community mapping project
- **Interpretation project** – consistent interpretation unpacking the areas rich heritage story, including use of the material generated by the collective memory history project. This may include a series of pop-up events and exhibitions.
- **New memories** – an intergenerational project, working with young and old to share around mapping the future of the area.
- **Digital project for you people in formal learning** – a local heritage approach to learning, a digital curation of objects, images and research, through a wide variety of curriculum subjects.
- **Archaeological participation opportunities** – community involvement in archaeological investigation and interpretation at various sites (Rockvilla Flour Mill, Applecross). Digital mapping of key areas could bring to life in 3D how the place used to be, and importantly inform how the place should be developed in the future.
- **Reflective gardens** – places to reflect and memorialise incidents in and around the canal corridor.



The canal is a green and blue asset, a migratory corridor for wildlife and a lung for the city, rich in existing and potential ecology and environmental art. Industrial heritage has given way to ecology. It offers incredible viewpoints across the urban landscape and beyond. Its different character areas enable a diverse variety of distinct habitats and an even richer variety of unique transitional zones that flourish between those habitats. Fostering and diversifying this natural heritage and tapping the power of art to both beautify and interpret this environment can help release the area's rich potential. The strategy aims to establish the area as a showcase of post-industrial self-regenerating ecology, nurtured to enable people and nature to flourish side-by-side. It also aims to establish the area as an attractive destination for both visitor and local alike, both as a 'balcony to the city' and a collection of hidden gems for the curious to discover.

Why is this important

Accessible greenspace is a key building block of a vibrant community and place. The intention of the place was not necessarily that it would become this green-blue asset, but as it has it can now play an essential role in developing this vibrancy of place and community. With a huge role to play in improving health and wellbeing, and a unique urban ecology, this place deserves protection, enhancement and extension.

Project examples/outcomes:

- Support **development of Claypits and Expansion of Local Nature Reserve status** to protect the park-character of much of the corridor and support for activities that access and interpret the **local wildlife and fauna** – guided walks, nature play, walking groups etc
- **Linear park** development – enhancements to the place to make more of the linear park. Bench seating, picnic areas, viewing places
- **A long-distance viewpoint** – on a clear day there are views to Arran, Ben Lomond etc. Creating an attraction by way of a viewpoint in the vein of a Scenic Routes type stop. These viewpoints could include interpretation points that help people to understand and orientate themselves to the mid to long distance views. This could be supplemented with a digital app developed out of an interpretation strategy.
- **Trails** – establish short, mid and longer distance trails within the area and wider canal corridor. The scope of this could take the form of sculpture or other interpretation which looks to draw on the local character but has a wider national appeal and reach.
- **Park Space opportunity at Port Dundas** - infilled timber basin area - creating an important space that reconnects to the footpath by bridge.



In Glasgow's past the canal took produced or raw materials all over the world. The canal area was a place that would have been full of workshops and warehouses all producing, designing and making. Today this unique identity is re-expressed by the many cultural organisations now producing and making things here. From sculpture to performance, design to dance, the canal is an area of production as well as play. The strategy wants to capture the need to ensure that the canal area grows an increasing infrastructural capacity to

support and sustain such enterprise and enable collaboration between established and emerging organisations from all sectors and disciplines. Within the process of placemaking, acknowledgement of the heritage of a place can reinforce the vitality of the local economy and attract inward investment. By favouring local insight and expertise in its delivery, an inclusive economy can be fostered, and a unique identity emerge.

Why is this important

The heritage assets in the area constantly remind anyone in the place of its background as an industrial area, from the artefacts to the place names (Timber Basin). The narrative of the canal from industrial to creative production may not be apparent, but this connection has always been strong, the two strands working together in innovation and industry. There is an opportunity to revisit this relationship and further develop the area's unique character.

Project examples/outcomes:

- **Local/Co-op Art and Fabrication Framework** – establish a local framework for commissioning, design, production and fabrication of local artwork, sculpture or other physical objects. For example, this could be for design and fabrication of interpretation boards and materials, designed covers for technical equipment etc.
- **Training and skills** – create pathways for school-leavers in the local community to undertake apprenticeships or training and qualifications in fabrication, craftsmanship, stage craft etc with the creative production companies in the area.
- **Traditional skills** – training for adults in blacksmithing, boat building, building conservation, etc.
- **Call for Community Ideas (making)** – small scale community interventions at key nodes, created with assistance from the area's production/making community.
- Attract further **“production” based organisations** and businesses into the area to strengthen the ‘clustering’ effect.
- **Place-based learning** – support the area as a “classroom” for high quality learning opportunities such as Test Unit and other innovation/digital learning and provide opportunities for the local community to access these learning experiences.



Art and nature are interconnected just as water reflects the light and entrances us with the images it portrays back to us. The canal itself is what gives the area its unique character. Biodiversity flourishes within and around the canal, sport and recreation happens on it and beside it, the motion of the world is reflected in it. The water and light of the canal offers unique opportunities to create exciting installations, form backdrops to events and performances and support water-based sports. The water offers a place of

sanctuary and peace to collect our thoughts as we gaze at its reflections. The strategy places water and light as rich generative inspiration at the heart of a creative heritage vision for the area.

Why is this important

Great places utilise waterside settings in a way that attract people to visit and stick in a place. This is not just about waterside seating, but about creating an atmosphere that is inviting and refreshing. Water is not just a passive asset in the strategy, but an active part of the place. Pinkston Basin is a hub for urban watersports and this idea of activity on the water is one that people find exciting and attractive, even just to watch, and would welcome an extension of this all along the canal to Firhill.

Project examples/outcomes:

- **Lighting** for safety and ambience along the canal, but also key routes that give access. Lighting also a key part of creating the right kind of atmosphere up at the canal, particularly in areas that have been identified for more intensive uses such as around Applecross Basin.
- **Light and seasonal festivals** – create opportunities for installations throughout the year that make more of the reflection and light opportunities. Also includes scope for Community heritage Ideas and an opportunity to reflect the cultural heritage of the wider communities who live, work and visit around the canal.
- Explore **heritage through projection** projects – creating memory of place and telling stories using large scale projection onto buildings/objects, moving pictures, objects, storylines and reminiscence.
- **Extending water activity** up to Firhill – Glasgow Kayak Club base development, including promotion of activity and support moves to accommodate paddle sports and angling in the area.



The canal is as close to the city centre as Glasgow Green is to the east and offers the same potential to its surrounding communities as a place for play, exercise and peace. A healthy lifestyle of work, rest and play depends on the accessibility of attractive places where we are indeed free to play and rest. The canal offers itself as such in the north of the city.

As a place to walk, run, cycle, get fit and mess about it already offers many opportunities, and this strategy aims to build on these. It works equally as a sanctuary for relaxing in the sun, nodding off beside a fishing rod, absorbing the view and watch people passing by. The

strategy wants to build on the canal's possibilities for urban rest and play by understanding and promoting key character areas for the different active and passive pastimes that can be indulged here. It aims to articulate how the arts and the sporting disciplines can maximise the delight and energy that the canal has to offer.

Why is this important

Activity in a place makes it dynamic and somewhere to go. Creating opportunities for active fun could draw people up to the area for reasons that they do not currently have and opportunities that it would normally take travelling out of Glasgow to get, such as watersports or engagement with ecology and nature. Similarly, the opportunity for peace and tranquillity minutes from the busiest of urban areas is too good an opportunity not to tap into.

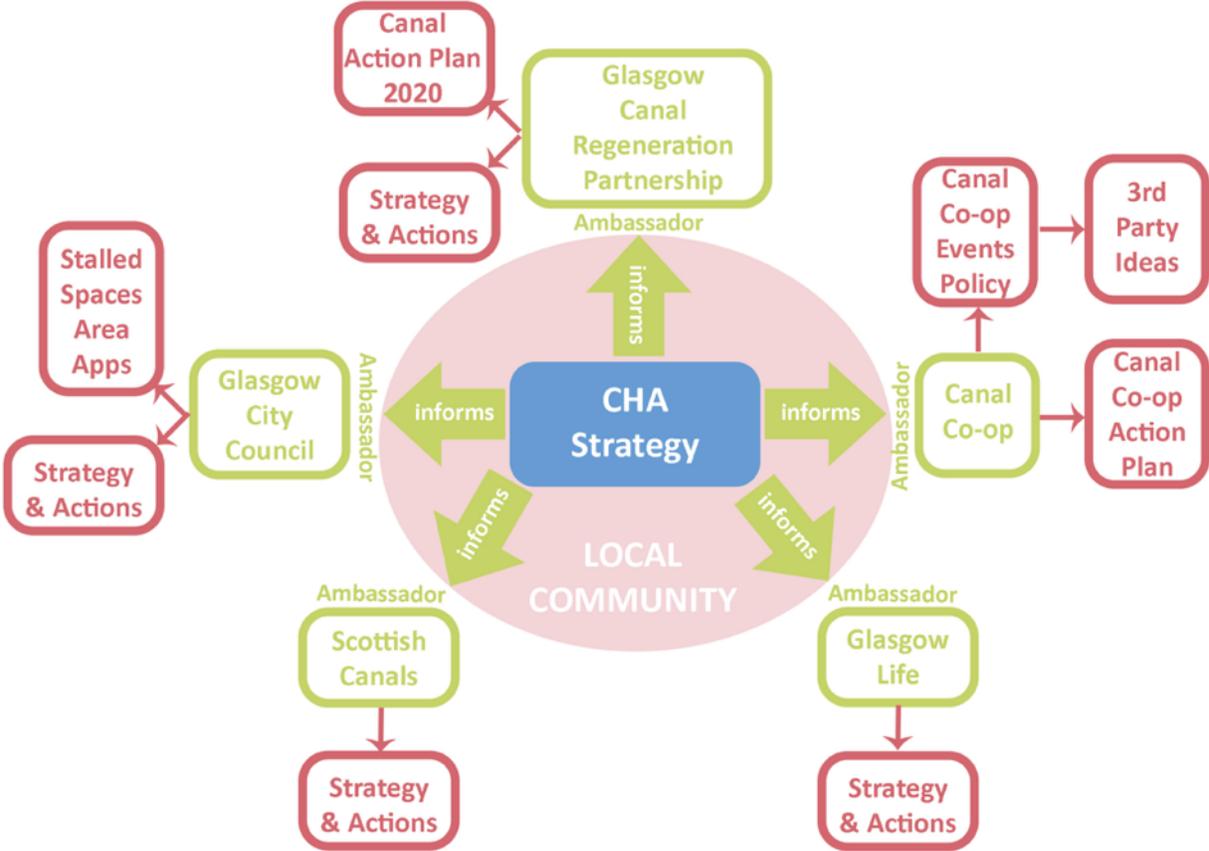
Project examples/outcomes:

- **Children's Play** – in both formal and informal settings. Landscaping work around development will consider play and create places for natural/landscape play with an accent on freeplay and heritage.
- **Watersport activities** - Pinkston Watersports presents a nationally unique opportunity for attracting people to the area for paddle sports and outdoor swimming. In addition to leisure there are training opportunities for rescue services etc.
- **Urban sports** - the new skatepark as an attractor to the area. Large scale attraction, plus additional activities around ramp building for international projects, circus training, parkour etc. Opportunity to build on this hub with meanwhile activity on Dundas Hill and build on events such as the Youth Urban Games.
- **Rest areas** – creating different types of rest areas, from benches by the canal for people watching (Firhill, Applecross), to finding more secluded areas such as in the Claypits for people to find peace and tranquillity in the middle of urban life.
- **Angling** – this is an important past-time along the canal and should be encouraged and facilitated in a way that it is not disturbed by other uses along the canal or on the water.

7 A Structure for Delivery

This strategy provides the framework within which art, culture, heritage and other creative contributions to the area could follow. For this framework to be applied and useful however it needs to be embedded in current decision-making frameworks for development of activities, artwork, projects and real estate development in the area.

This approach serves three purposes, for organisations to have the strategy embedded and be champions of the strategy and area, to support activity and projects relating to it, and to coordinate and collaborate on delivery. Wider community interest can be supported through the Coop. It is recommended that 'embedding' is enacted through keeping the strategy as an agenda item for GCRP and Canal Coop meetings.



In addition, there is a need for an action plan to develop the infrastructure, early projects and programmes. We have noted throughout the strategy potential projects and outcomes. The action plan in the following section presents a way forward with these and ties in with the Glasgow Canal Coop Action Plan.

8 Action Plan

The action plan sets out a high-level approach to delivery of the strategy. The action plan suggests actors/participants based on our understanding of organisations interests and aspirations, plus work that they are already undertaking. There is also an indicative timescale and potential budget lines, or funding sources are suggested where known. The table below sets out the Heritage Lottery funding allocations, plus definitions of timescales.

Digital HL Stream(s) - future mapping, heritage archiving, local stories			£32k – to be spent Dec 202
Community Ideas Fund - criteria around how this is distributed sits within HL funding			£34k – to be spent Dec 2020
Physical HL Stream			£64k – to be spent Dec 2020
Q – quick win, either underway or can be actioned immediately	S – short term, initiated and delivered in a 1 – 2-year timeframe.	M – medium term, delivery in 3 – 5 years	L – longer term, delivery in 5+ years.

Project/Programme	Involvement + Ownership	Quality and Authenticity	Health and Wellbeing	Environment Sustainability	Curation + Coordination	Sense of Place	Description	Actors/ Participants	Timeframe Q/S/M/L	Potential Budget Line
Ratify Canal Cultural Heritage and Arts ownership and roles							- Embedding CHA Strategy - Coordination of action	GCRP Canal Coop	Q	-
Claypits Gateways and Artwork 'Siting' Strategy							Developing a strategy for the siting of artwork within the Claypits, tied in with recent improvements to the path infrastructure in the area.	Claypits Local artists GSS	Q	-
Canal Stalled Spaces - event spaces, infrastructure	<i>Dependent on individual projects that come forward – likelihood is that across the projects funded all strategic principles covered.</i>						The most recent round of applicants has been awarded funding for projects. These range from environmental enhancement to space for events.		Q	£4k per project
Promotion and marketing as visitor destination							- raised awareness of locations - increased number of visits/events/activities	Canal Coop	December 2019 – ongoing	Within remit of recently hired marketing coordinator at Canal Coop
Organisations and Activities Audit							Follow on mapping project to develop more detailed understanding of the activity in the area and the audiences that this currently attracts. This mapping exercise should highlight areas of opportunity around future activity and audiences.	Canal Coop	Q/S	

Project/Programme	Involvement + Ownership	Quality and Authenticity	Health and Wellbeing	Environment Sustainability	Curation + Coordination	Sense of Place	Description	Actors/ Participants	Timeframe Q/S/M/L	Potential Budget Line
Theme 1: Access and Gateways										
Identify additional entry/exit points to the canal towpath and enhance existing entry points							Further mapping and audit of entry/exit points, including informal routes.	SC Canal Coop	Q	
Gateway points with artistic interventions – these points act as an enticing signpost for what lies beyond.							To create known, recognisable entry/access points to the canal. Artwork acting as a signpost and signal to something special.	Canal Coop GSS Local artists GCC SC	Q	Physical HL Stream
Information on activities and events - what's available for people to do and participate in up at the canal.							Develop material and narrative around what's on and available for people to do and participate in up at the canal. Getting this information out to the right audiences.	Canal Coop SC	Underway	Within remit of Coop marketing coordinator, SC marketing team
Signage and wayfinding markers – a visually consistent set of signs that provide visibility, a welcome and clear directions/distance to people using the area. This can link up with heritage interpretation projects.							Project needs to consider the purpose of signage and wayfinding, its main target audience and how it fulfils this function. For instance, is it for commuters, or for visitors, what venues/places/spaces does it need to tie in with? What heritage interpretation should be included in this? What heritage is picked up elsewhere?	SC GCC Canal Coop	S	Physical HL Stream GCC Sustrans
Improved physical access – new ways to access and get into the corridor proposed at Hamiltonhill and Port Dundas, and upgrade required at Cowcaddens.							Creation of key access points at links to new/growing communities at Hamiltonhill and Port Dundas – Medium term, as housing is developed Upgrade of key access point at Cowcaddens/City Centre – short term	GCC SC (Agile City)	S - M	Physical HL Stream Sustrans GCC

Project/Programme	Involvement + Ownership	Quality and Authenticity	Health and Wellbeing	Environment Sustainability	Curation + Coordination	Sense of Place	Description	Actors/ Participants	Timeframe Q/S/M/L	Potential Budget Line
Theme 2: Celebration, Events + Performance										
Support for the growth and expansion of the Canal Festival in a sustainable manner							A growth opportunity for the canal area. The event is becoming a linchpin event in the canal's calendar and has the ability to attract new visitors to the area. New Festival Director recently appointed via Canal Coop. Community participation could be encouraged through Community Ideas Fund, bringing further activity to the Festival	Canal Coop	Ongoing	Community Ideas
Community-led North Glasgow event/celebration							Develop a unique event/set of events for the north of the city. Can play an important role for local people in continuing the positive shift in perception, through event, celebration and participation. Suggestions include Carnival, Kite Festival – it could be all of the above and more– can include call for community ideas (events).	Canal Coop Carnival Arts	S – M	Community Ideas
Community heritage events and activities – could include boat building, traditional skills, creation of cultural heritage brand, local guides project, storytelling of the canal, heritage centre or hub and exhibition.							Programme of heritage events and activities. Suggestions of what this could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Traditional skills workshops and training - Boatbuilding and chandlery - Cultural heritage brand - Local heritage guides - Canal storytelling - Heritage exhibitions – leading to development of heritage centre/hub 	SC Coop Local heritage groups (Lambhill)	S - M	Community Ideas Digital HL Stream
Events spaces – develop unique outdoor venues at points on the canal corridor – spaces identified include Sawmillfield Street site, car park at Rockvilla (east bank) and the gap site west of TWB car park.							As part of growing the capacity of the area, several outdoor event spaces have been identified where access improvements, infrastructure and management would allow a greater number and variety of outdoor events to be hosted along the canal. Short-term meanwhile use is a good start point for making improvements, which can be formalised in time.	Property owners – e.g. The Whisky Bond SC Agile City	S - M	Physical HL GCC
Events venues – support and develop the growth of internal venues for events, exhibitions, community action etc							Fabric and accessibility upgrades to make buildings more efficient to run as venues. Growing the awareness of these spaces to support their growth.	Property owners – Glue Factory Agile City Carnival Arts	S - M	
International events – attract Glasgow International to use the canal as an outdoor venue.							There are many opportunities for 'fringe' events to grow the use of the area as an outdoor venue. GSS are bringing Glasgow International up to the canal which will be a big step in terms of raising the profile of the area.	GSS Coop SC	S - M	
Social prescription – participation in creative activity as a holistic approach to improving health and wellbeing.							NHS Woodside are making connections between the site and nature as a way to promote use of greenspace for health by patients and staff. Extending the scope of this to prescription of participation in activity and creative outlets.	NHS Activity providers – GSS, Pinkston, etc	S	

Project/Programme	Involvement + Ownership	Quality and Authenticity	Health and Wellbeing	Environment Sustainability	Curation + Coordination	Sense of Place	Description	Actors/ Participants	Timeframe Q/S/M/L	Potential Budget Line
Theme 3: Memory + Artefacts										
Collective memory history project – working to capture the voices of those who have a memory of the transition period of the canal, and a community mapping project							Gathering memories and the oral history of the place at this historic pivot point for the canal. This could be a digital project that creates an audio archive.	SC Community groups/residents QCHA Claypits		Digital HL Stream
Interpretation project – consistent interpretation unpacking the areas rich heritage story, including use of the material generated by the collective memory history project. This may include a series of pop-up events and exhibitions.							In addition to memories and the oral history. This programme is more focussed on the physical place and artefacts. Again, this could be a digital-led project, with the focus on developing an archive that can then be utilised for exhibitions, events and a heritage centre.			Digital HL Stream
New memories – an intergenerational project, working with young and old to share around mapping the future of the area.							Events that engage the local community across generations, to think about and map the future of the place. This work has already begun through the extended Artist-in-Residence programme with Mitch Miller and could be further developed to highlight future opportunities in the area.	Claypits Coop GSS	S	Digital HL Stream Community Ideas Fund
Digital project for young people in formal learning – heritage archiving and interpretation.							A sub-component of the wider interpretation programme. A local heritage approach to learning, a digital curation of objects, images and research, through a wide variety of curriculum subjects. Opportunity to tie in with wider digital connectivity being rolled out across Glasgow City Council schools.	Local Schools Scottish Waterways SC	Q	Digital HL Stream
Archaeological participation opportunities – community involvement in archaeological investigation							There are good archaeological records in place, but there is scope for more participation and interpretation at various sites (Rockvillia Flour Mill, Applecross). Digital mapping of key areas such as the old Flour Mill and Applecross Basin could bring to life in 3D how the place used to be, and importantly inform how the place should be developed in the future.	SC Local heritage groups Community	M	Digital HL Stream
Reflective gardens – places to reflect and memorialise incidents in and around the canal corridor.							An example of an existing memorial garden within the canal area is the Memorial Garden on Hopehill Road, in memory of those who died in the plastics factory explosion in 2004.	Community SC	S - M	Community Ideas Fund

Project/Programme	Involvement + Ownership	Quality and Authenticity	Health and Wellbeing	Environment Sustainability	Curation + Coordination	Sense of Place	Description	Actors/ Participants	Timeframe Q/S/M/L	Potential Budget Line
Theme 4: Natural + Place										
Support development of Claypits and Expansion of Local Nature Reserve status							Protect the park-character of much of the corridor and support for activities that access and interpret the local wildlife and fauna – guided walks, nature play, walking groups etc	Claypits Coop SC FoPGS	Ongoing	
Linear park development – from Firhill to Applecross, Applecross to Speirs Locks							Enhancements to the place to make more of the linear park. Bench seating, picnic areas, viewing places. Could be developed in two phases from Firhill to Applecross, making more of the very green character of this stretch. Second phase is building on the work already undertaken from Applecross to Speirs Locks	SC Claypits GCC FoPGS	M	
A long-distance viewpoint – building on the idea of the area being the ‘balcony to the city’, a viewpoint and interpretation that allows people to take in views over the city, and beyond.							On a clear day there are views to Arran, Ben Lomond etc. Creating an attraction by way of a viewpoint in the vein of a Scenic Routes type stop. These viewpoints could include interpretation points that help people to understand and orientate themselves to the mid to long distance views. This could be supplemented with a digital app developed out of an interpretation strategy.	SC Claypits Coop GCC	L	Physical HL Stream Digital HL Stream
Trails – sculpture and themed trails that ultimately form a wide loop in the north Glasgow area.							Establish short, mid and longer distance trails within the area and wider canal corridor. The scope of this could take the form of sculpture or other interpretation which looks to draw on the local character but has a wider national appeal and reach.	SC GCC Coop GSS FoPGS	S – L	Physical HL Stream
Park Space opportunity at Port Dundas - infilled timber basin area - creating an important space that reconnects to the footpath by bridge.							An important link space between the canal and the new community at Sighthill. Also provides space for the proposed Enterprise Wharf development.	SC GCC	L	

Project/Programme	Involvement + Ownership	Quality and Authenticity	Health and Wellbeing	Environment Sustainability	Curation + Coordination	Sense of Place	Description	Actors/ Participants	Timeframe Q/S/M/L	Potential Budget Line
Theme 5: Production + Making										
Local/Co-op Art and Fabrication Framework – capture the value of spend on art/sculpture production and fabrication through a local framework.							<p>Establish a local framework for commissioning, design, production and fabrication of local artwork, sculpture or other physical objects. For example, this could be for design and fabrication of interpretation boards and materials, designed covers for technical equipment etc.</p> <p>The purpose of this idea is to capture spend on art/sculpture production and fabrication locally for art/sculpture and other creative production taking place in the area. Legal and procurement advice needs to be taken on the feasibility and structure.</p>	GSS Coop SC GCC	M	
Training and skills – create pathways for school-leavers in the local community to undertake apprenticeships or training and qualifications in fabrication, craftsmanship, stage craft etc with the creative production companies in the area.							Vocational training and qualifications create an essential route to work for school leavers and others. There is a great opportunity with the organisations in the area to work with local schools to create those pathways, leading to local people being trained and employed in the creative sector.	GSS National Theatre Scottish Opera Local schools	M – L	
Traditional skills – training for adults in blacksmithing, boat building, building conservation, etc.							Traditional skills have contemporary applications, and not just in areas such as building conservation. Tapping into this contemporary relevance unlocks the value of these skills and creates another sector to operate in the area.	SC GSS	M	
Call for Community Ideas (making) – small scale community interventions at key nodes, created with assistance from the area’s production/making community.							Collaboration between resident community and the production/making community – this could help more ambitious projects to be realised.	Local community Coop GSS Local artists Agile City	S	Community Ideas Fund
Attract further “production” based organisations and businesses into the area to strengthen the ‘clustering’ effect.							<p>Known availability of space for business and organisations compiled, potential tie in with property agency.</p> <p>Provision of additional new space for start-ups and small business ranging from coworking to business space (including light industrial).</p>	Coop Agile City SC	Ongoing	
Place-based learning – support the area as a “classroom”							There are high quality learning opportunities such as Test Unit and scope for further development of this and other innovation/digital learning and provide opportunities for the local community to access these learning experiences.	Agile City Coop members	S – M	

Project/Programme	Involvement + Ownership	Quality and Authenticity	Health and Wellbeing	Environment Sustainability	Curation + Coordination	Sense of Place	Description	Actors/ Participants	Timeframe Q/S/M/L	Potential Budget Line
Theme 6: Water + Light										
Lighting for safety and ambience along the canal.							Lighting is essential infrastructure for safe and desirable accessibility, along canal towpaths, but also key routes that give access. Lighting is also a key part of creating the right kind of atmosphere up at the canal, particularly in areas that have been identified for more intensive uses such as around Applecross Basin	SC GCC Coop	S – M	Scottish Canals Sustrans
Light and seasonal festivals – opportunity for calendar of events based around the theme of “light”, e.g. summer solstice, winter solstice etc.							Create opportunities for installations throughout the year that make more of the reflection and light opportunities. Also includes scope for Community heritage Ideas and an opportunity to reflect the cultural heritage of the wider communities who live, work and visit around the canal.	Coop Carnival Arts GSS Local artists Community groups	S – M	Community Ideas Fund
Explore heritage through projection projects							Creating memory of place and telling stories using large scale projection onto buildings/objects, moving pictures, objects, storylines and reminiscence.	Local groups SC TWB	S	Community Ideas Fund Digital HL Stream
Extending water activity up to Firhill – Glasgow Kayak Club base development, including promotion of activity and support moves to accommodate paddle sports and angling in the area.							Identifying opportunities for extending watersport activity, while being mindful of the need to balance with other activity along the water’s edge, such as angling. Firhill Basin is structured in such a way that it could be possible to create space for both these types of activity.	Glasgow Kayak Club Local users SC	S - M	

Project/Programme	Involvement + Ownership	Quality and Authenticity	Health and Wellbeing	Environment Sustainability	Curation + Coordination	Sense of Place	Description	Actors/ Participants	Timeframe Q/S/M/L	Potential Budget Line
Theme 7: Urban Play + Urban Rest										
Children's Play - informal and formal opportunities. Landscaping should incorporate space for freeplay and imagination							Creating opportunities for fun along the canal, through imaginary play, exploration and play equipment. Development should seek to integrate play in some form in landscape schemes, likewise with any public realm works.	SC Coop Developers	Ongoing as opportunities/ Development arises	
Watersport activity - support Pinkston as watersports and training facility							Pinkston watersports provides a national level facility. Promotion and support for attracting a wider audience will include thinking about the broader infrastructure in the area, such as café/food and other facilities.	Pinkston Paddlesports Glasgow Kayak Club SC	Ongoing	
Urban sport - skatepark is an important attractor to area, plus other opportunities to build on events such as Youth Urban Games							Loading Bay Skatepark, Glasgow Wakepark and others create a unique cluster. There is scope for additional urban sport as 'meanwhile' activities in the area, and for the development of events that have a wider reach and appeal such as the successful Youth Urban Games.	Loading Bay Coop Wakepark SC	Ongoing	
Rest areas							Creating different types of rest areas, from benches by the canal for people watching (Firhill, Applecross), to finding more secluded areas such as in the Claypits for people to find peace and tranquillity in the middle of urban life.	Claypits FoPGS	S	Physical HL Stream
Angling – and other related/similar activities such as pigeon fancying.							This is an important past-time along the canal and should be encouraged and facilitated in a way that it is not disturbed by other uses along the canal or on the water.	Local users SC Glasgow Kayak Club	Ongoing	

Appendix A: Heritage Audit

See Separate Doc.

Appendix B: List of events and consultees

Date	Location	Area Walked	Attendees	
14/5/19	Civic House	From Civic House up to Spiers Wharf to just beyond Applecross Basic, along the canal	6 plus team	
18/5/19	Hamiltonhill	From Westercommon along Panmure Street to Firhill basin	5 plus 10 youth	
21/5/19	Maryhill	From Maryhill Halls along Trossachs Street to the site of the proposed bridge, up to Nolly Bridge, along the canal past Firhill basin and down the desire line to the Arnold Clark garage	4 plus team	
Additional Sessions				
24/6/19	Possilpark	The Grove Community Networking Breakfast	5	
24/6/19	Possilpark	St Matthew's Centre – Still Scribbling Adult Art Class	6	
10/7/19	Wester Common	Stag Group – Men's Group	10	
Canal Festival				

21/7/19	Canalside	Boat building and “flat model” drop in engagement	330	
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Arts and Culture Organisation Interviews

4/6/19	Glasgow Sculpture Studios	Mhairi Sawyer Clare Simpson
11/6/19	Carnival Arts	Julie Murray
11/6/19	Canal Festival	Dawn Taylor
13/6/19	The Necessary Space	Simon Sharkey
14/6/19	Claypits Local Nature Reserve	Reuben Aspden
14/6/19	National Theatre Scotland	Brenna Hobson
02/12/19	NHS Woodside H&C Centre	John Thompson

Appendix C: Case Studies

As an evidence base for canal side regeneration and destination investment, Scottish Canals can point to the success of The Falkirk Wheel and The Helix Park and The Kelpies as case studies for investment.

These developed attractions maintain a place amongst the ten most visited sites in the country. They show demonstrably that waterways can catalyse visitation and build destination awareness. The sites introduced below offer contrast in terms of approach and investment:

The Falkirk Wheel - This is a rotating boat lift that connects the Forth and Clyde Canal with the Union Canal. It is a unique and innovative engineering structure which was opened in 2002 and is located in the central belt of Scotland some 23 miles from both Edinburgh and Glasgow. It was a central part of the regeneration agenda for the Scottish Canals network and this £78 m development received funding from local authorities, Scottish Enterprise (the lowland Scotland economic development agency) the Millennium Commission and the European Regional Development Fund. The Wheel raises boats some 24 m (79 ft) and replaces the previous route involving some 11 locks. (See Figure 1)



Figure1: The Falkirk Wheel

The Helix Park and The Kelpies - This is a 350 hectare (860 acre) urban greenspace development on a former brown field site that was opened in 2014 at an investment cost of £43 million (Falkirk Community Trust, 2017). It incorporates performance areas, watersports, play areas and most notably two large equine steel sculptures known as, the Kelpies, representing the working horses used in the industry. These structures are 30m (100 ft high) and are highly visible from the passing motorway network. (See Figure 2)



Figure 2: The Kelpies

Such contrasting sites in relatively close proximity have helped build awareness of the transformation of the waterways and stimulated visitation to these destinations (Scottish Canals 2013, Moffat Centre, 2017). They constitute the most recent tourism development of the canal network, a process which occurred later in Scotland than in the rest of the United Kingdom.

Clearly, the public profile of Falkirk and the region, and its reinvention as a destination for leisure and tourism visitors, is inextricably linked to the Scottish Canals developments. What has been undertaken at this site goes well beyond the typical transformation of waterways from freight route ways to leisure and tourism use. In this case, we have seen iconic developments straddling; engineering, design and the arts. This has generated significant visitation, locating this former brown field site amongst the top twenty most visited attractions in Scotland. This was achieved in a destination with low tourism and visitation profile and evidences how waterways can play a vital role in creating valuable assets that benefit both resident and visitor in a symbiotic way. This project located to the north of Scotland's most populous city can only prosper from these benchmarks and the strategic input of a partners such as Scottish Canals.

Building a secure foundation for residents and visitors

The initial success of The Helix and Kelpies, in terms of profile and visitation, allowed for the greater acceptance of this post-industrial town as a tourism destination. It successfully levered the proximity of the Scottish Canal network to help build awareness. This also gained support at various political levels, exemplified by Falkirk Council being invited as a key stakeholder in discussions surrounding a new destination development fund. The Area Tourism Strategy 2015 – 2020 (Falkirk Council 2015b) was specifically produced to align with the national tourism strategy, Tourism Scotland 2020 (Scottish Tourism Alliance 2012). One of the key aims of the

area tourism strategy is to increase overnight accommodation by 20%. It is notable that a UK hotel chain announced in 2015 that it was expanding three of its properties and refurbishing a fourth within the district (Falkirk Council 2015c). This indicates that investment is at least in part being encouraged by the development of the canal-based attractions and the destination awareness of the area. Investment in connectivity and such vital public space can only serve to improve the environment.

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