

The Loop Newsletter

26 September 2024

NRSloop

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Climate Week 2024 – Take the new GOLD course now!

We are now nearing the end of Climate Week 2024 during which organisations across Scotland have shared their stories for change relating to the climate emergency. Climate change is an urgent problem and therefore we need to embed climate adaptation and mitigation in every action we take. Events such as climate week allow us to promote and celebrate our achievements.

Throughout this week, we have shared information and resources on social media focusing on different topics relating to the climate action. We showcased the [Youth Climate Action Fund](#), [the City Change Makers](#) project and the importance of considering what we buy and use. More information on Scotland's climate week 2024 can be found [here](#) and for more information on the council's actions, please take a look at our social media or visit the sustainability webpage [here](#).

This week we also launched a new 'Climate Literacy for Glasgow' GOLD course available for all staff members. As **Gavin Slater, Head of Sustainability** explains "By providing all staff the opportunity to learn about climate change, we can empower action across the city. Understanding what is happening to our climate and what that means for Glasgow allows us all to apply learning to our everyday life."

Joanna, a Project Officer Graduate from Financial Services, has already completed the course and said "I really liked the Climate Literacy GOLD course. It was easy to follow and very informative. The way complex ideas were explained in a simple way made it much easier to understand. I especially appreciated the use of visuals like charts and images, which helped clarify the information. The short videos were also very helpful, providing examples that made the content more engaging. Overall, the course was a great balance of being informative and easy to grasp."

Take the [course](#) to learn more about climate change, the impacts we are experiencing and how you can take action.

We all need to take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change. What can you do?





Click here to read more

Managers' Briefings

There have been no Managers' Briefings issued in the last fortnight. A full list of past briefings is available on the intranet using the button on the left.

For Information

Service News and Corporate Updates that might affect you

Glasgow 850 Programme To Be Announced

On Monday 23 September, with just 100 days to go until Glasgow starts its year long birthday celebration, [details were announced on what people can get involved in throughout 2025](#).

Central to the programme are signature activities including a music event, a pop-up exhibition and citywide food trail.

These events will be enhanced at the beginning and end of year by St. Mungo and Celtic Connections activity. The Lord Provost of Glasgow will also host a civic programme celebrating Glasgow's famous faces and community champions, and a number of partnerships with businesses will add to the experience for visitors and citizens alike.

In addition, the new Glasgow 850 Festival Fund is supporting established and popular city events to strengthen their impact and reach in local communities.

More information can be found at the new look [glasgow850 website](#).



National Hate Crime Awareness Week 2024

Glasgow's Hate Crime Awareness Week takes place from 7 until 14 October 2024 and the overarching campaign message is 'Glasgow is my city, there is no place for hate'. You'll see our awareness campaign on show throughout the city on SPT Subway Carriages, on BT Hubs and hear about it on Go, Clyde, Awaz and Nation Radio. You can follow the social media campaign on the hashtags #NationalHCAW #NoPlaceForHate #SafePlaceForAll #PeopleMakeGlasgow.

Look out for daily posts on our council social media platforms drawing attention to each of the protected characteristics and a new video produced which will launch during the week, highlighting racist and offensive graffiti with details of how to report any accounts of vandalism through the My Glasgow App.

More Information:

- Find out more about hate crime and how to report it by visiting the [website](#)
- Find out more about National Hate Crime Awareness Week [here](#)

Colleagues within the Glasgow City Council Family are encouraged to undertake our Hate Crime Awareness course on GOLD. Please use the link to complete the [Hate Crime Awareness Gold course](#).



Environmental Health Tackle Counterfeit Vodka

Officers from Environmental Health have been helping to conduct spot checks on licensed shops amid concerns about Scottish sales of potentially harmful counterfeit vodka.

Food Standards Scotland (FSS) has issued information to consumers to help identify counterfeit vodka products following a number of recent seizures.

The counterfeit vodka, so far recovered in local convenience stores in Coatbridge and Glasgow, was sold in 35cl bottles (commonly known as half bottles) and fraudulently labelled as Glen's.



FSS have been working closely with the brand owner for Glen's vodka to try and mitigate the risk to consumers. As a result, additional information is being provided to help them distinguish between genuine and counterfeit products.

Every genuine bottle of Glen's vodka has a laser etched lotcode applied to the bottle between the rear label and the base of the bottle.

They will also have the markings on the base of the bottle, three identifiers which will not vary in position or detail.

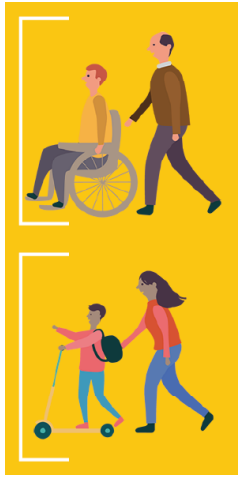
Lab results from counterfeit vodka sampled in August 2024 confirmed the presence of the chemical isopropyl. Isopropanol (isopropyl, IPA) is a toxic alcohol not suitable for human consumption. Ingestion of any amount can lead to toxicity and larger amounts can be fatal.

Ingested IPA will be converted to acetone and so onset of symptoms may be immediate or delayed, for up to 30 hours post ingestion. Symptoms include nausea, vomiting and abdominal pain, intoxication, respiratory depression and coma. Cardiovascular collapse is also possible.

Anyone with symptoms should seek medical attention call NHS 111 in the first instance or 999 in an emergency. FSS also communicated that IPA has a strong odour and it may be possible to detect contaminated products by smell alone.

If anyone believes they may have purchased such products, they are asked to contact the [FSS Scottish Food Crime and Incidents Unit](#) for further advice. Do not drink any of the product and please store in a safe place to allow FSS to collect and analyse.

If anyone has any information on the manufacture or sale of counterfeit alcohol then please contact the Scottish Food Crime Hotline (0800 028 7926) or [online](#), in partnership with Crimestoppers. The hotline is free and anonymous.



The City Network Inner North and South Public Consultation

The public consultation, on the first phase of Glasgow's City Network, continues **until Sunday 20 October**. Our [consultation survey](#) only takes around 10 minutes to complete but your input and feedback will help shape the City Network in these two areas as well as inform future phases.

See the [City Network StoryMap](#) for full information on the Inner North and South network areas including the draft concept route designs and street level visualisations.

For more information, please [email](#) the team.

**NRS
People**

Supporting your health and wellbeing and wellness at work as well as learning and personal development



Gary Walker Retirement Spotlight

Tell us a bit about your Career Background, when did you start in the Council and what was your job. How has the service changed in that time?

I left school immediately after my Highers in May 1984 and 4 days later started with the council as a trainee technician in Strathclyde Regional Chemist Department. I moved through all sections as part of my training testing food and beverages, air, soil and water samples. At the same time, I attended day release and gained an HNC in Chemistry. After a year of night school, I was granted 2 years unpaid leave of absence and studied Analytical Chemistry and Forensic Science at Strathclyde University.

I then went on to study for the Mastership in Chemical Analysis, which took around 4 years while working in the lab. This is the statutory qualification to become a Public Analyst and I was appointed in 1997.

Is there a standout highlight of your time in the Council?

There have been so many over my career, however the time I spent training the Romanian Fire Service in techniques to deal with hazardous materials emergencies was particularly memorable. A charity was set up with by the Fire Service here and we donated equipment and provided training in the Târgu Mureş area of the country.

What makes you proud to have held a leadership position within the service?

Being able to influence change, innovation and continuous improvement. Widening my areas of responsibility over the years to include, in addition to Scientific Services, Trading Standards, Environmental Health, Community Safety and Community Services, and all the dedicated and talented staff working in these teams.

What was the biggest challenge within your role or the most challenging project you worked on?

With the rest of the team, completing the latter part of the £24m Future City Glasgow programme within the timeframe.

What are your plans for retirement?

I am considering going back into science on a part time basis, however family time is the priority.

Any words of advice for someone just starting their career in the Council?

Take the opportunities that working with the council provide for you. We work for a large organisation and there will always be opportunities whether it is within your chosen career pathway or by trying out something new.

Biodiversity and Food Growing

Biodiversity and Food Growing staff at Eastgate ran a lunchtime stall on 18 September 2024 to provide information to colleagues as part of Green Unison Week. It was a great opportunity for informal conversations and finding out more about each other's roles in the Council. Information available ranged from wildlife gardening and food growing advice to leaflets about Glasgow's butterflies and Glasgow's unique protected species water voles living in grassland.

The star of the show on the day was definitely the prize winning onion grown by keen and successful allotment gardener Elaine based at Eastgate. And the 'guess the weight' competition proved very popular with over twenty people entering and one colleague winning nectar rich wildflower seeds.



Did you know?

As part of Glasgow City Council's commitment to the environment the Biodiversity and Greenspace Team has produced the following action plans:

- [Glasgow's Local Biodiversity Action Plan](#)
- [Glasgow's Food Growing Strategy](#)
- [Glasgow Pollinator Plan](#)
- [Water Vole Conservation Action Plan](#)
- [Tree Plan](#)
- [Green Connectors](#)

For more information visit:

- [Biodiversity](#)
- [Food Growing](#)

The Big Govan Community Litter Pick

Last month **Jim Ellis, Govan Neighbourhood Coordinator, Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability** helped bring together several local businesses to work in partnership with the community to undertake a local litter pick.

The 'Glasgow Business for the Environment Group' (GBE) work with schools, housing associations and local partners to develop environmental projects that will benefit the surrounding community.

So, at the start of September this partnership group gathered together an amazing 300 volunteers to hit the streets and take part in a Govan wide litter pick.

As Jim explains: "This event was a great example of collaborative working - bringing together a whole host of local volunteers from schools, housing associations and businesses for a common community goal."

"Supported by our Neighbourhood Improvement and Enforcement Team it was not only really important for the community on the day as we removed a staggering 175 bags of waste from 10 local locations – but we were also able to help promote the 5 Litter Hubs in the Govan area. The outcome of all our hard work had such a positive impact on the local environment and raised positive interest with several local residents about future events."

"All GBE group members who took part, including, Barclays, House of Sher, BBC, STV and BAE Systems partners now have access to key information needed to hold their own future events locally – which are already in the planning stages for next year!"





NRS People Roadshows

In the past week NRS People Health and Wellbeing Roadshows have visited Dawsholm and Polmadie depots.

Staff were able to learn about services such as Health Plans from the Hospital Saturday Fund and Glasgow Credit Union while getting to take advantage of free occupational health checks and a seated massage.

The next roadshow will be at Cadogan Square on Friday 4 October.

Let your supervisor know if you want to book your slot with the nurse or massage!

Vacancies within NRS

The following job vacancies within NRS have been added to myjobscotland. If you are interested use the button to the left to go through to the job adverts.

MJS Ref	Job Title	Posts Available	Grade
GLA12594	Principal Planner (Developer Contributions)	1	8
GLA12581	Service Manager (Security)	1	CSG 7
GLA12596	Building Facilities Surveyor	1	7
GLA12576	Graduate/Technician (Project Management - Traffic and Road Safety)	4	6
GLA12586	Assistant Supervisor (Nightshift)	1	5
GLA12547	Building Standards Surveyors	3	7
GLA12585	LES Operative 3	4	3
GLA12626	Group Manager (Asset Management)	1	9
GLA12628	Fleet Compliance Officer	1	6
GLA12620	Storeperson (Gartcraig)	1	4
GLA12623	Stores Officer	1	4
GLA12627	Assistant Supervisor (Business Operations) (re-advertisement)	2	5
GLA12629	Planning and Enforcement Officer (re-advertisement)	2	6

myjobscotland

Click here to read more

General Interest

What other teams do and events and activities that you can join

Glasgow To Host Commonwealth Games in 2026

Earlier this week the Council received a letter from the Scottish Government, confirming that they have communicated their support for a bid to Commonwealth Games Scotland to host a version of the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow in 2026 and also informed the Scottish Parliament of their decision.

The Scottish Government also confirmed that the games will be funded from the Commonwealth Games Federation, Commonwealth Games Australia and Commonwealth Games Scotland and the bid will make clear that no public funding will be required or provided from either the city or the country.

The Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) has responded confirming that it is delighted that Commonwealth Games Scotland (CGS) has received government support to host the event in 2026.

Details of the proposals which will be made to the Commonwealth Games Federation are being finalised with the support of officers. A separate report will also be brought to the City Administration Committee in the coming weeks.



Contact Us

If you have any information you would like to share through this fortnightly email, please click [here](#) to contact the NRS Promotions and Engagement Team

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