



Gorbals
Ideas Fund

Strategy 2026-2029



Prepared By :

Melissa Gillen

Participatory Budgeting Officer



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1 Background and context.

Since 2018, the Gorbals Ideas Fund (GIF) has supported local people to shape funding decisions and influence change in their community. The previous strategy highlighted that the initiative is “led by local people, for local people” and that Community Advocates help to “design, develop and deliver participatory budgeting activity” alongside the Participatory Budgeting Officer.

From 2026–2029, GIF will build on this foundation by strengthening participation, expanding learning opportunities, and deepening collaboration with partners and service providers.

Since the previous strategy period, Gorbals Ideas Fund (GIF) has supported a range of community-led activities, including wellbeing programmes, creative groups, growing spaces, a community cinema, participatory voting events, and the development of the Gorbals Community Pantry. These projects demonstrate the value of people-led decision making and the key role of Community Advocates, volunteers, and partners in shaping local priorities and strengthening community connections.

YOUR VOICE





YOUR CHOICE





YOUR COMMUNITY





2 Principles

The Gorbals Ideas Fund is based on three principles that put local people at the heart of everything we do:

1

The Gorbals Ideas fund is led by local people, for local people.

2

All decisions about Gorbals Ideas Fund money are taken collectively, by the whole community.

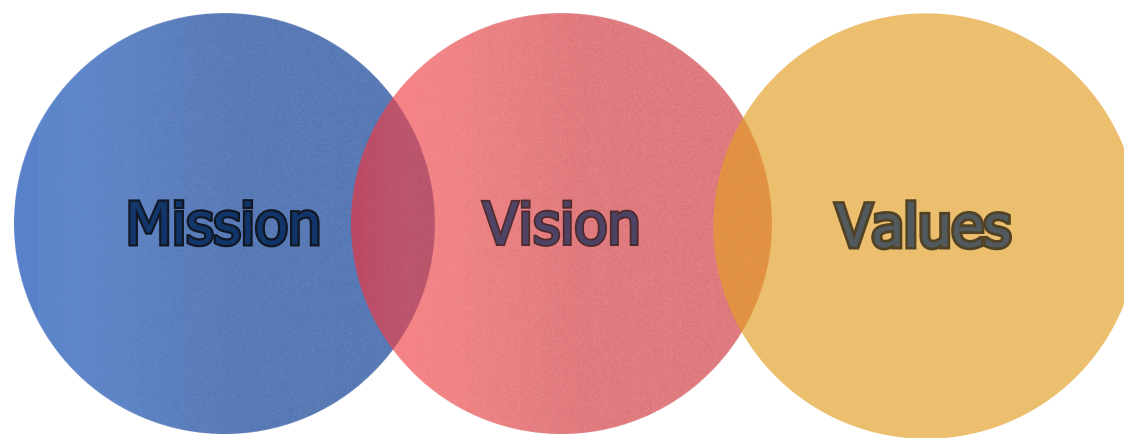
3

The Gorbals Ideas Fund create opportunities for local people and groups to tackle Inequalities, widespread challenges and barriers through Participatory Budgeting and Co-production.



Community
Empowerment (Scotland)
Act 2015

“The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 is reflected in our principles, and everything we do. Recognising the importance of local people leading decisions in the Gorbals.”



Mission

To create spaces for people of the Gorbals, to discover their power, to influence decisions, shape priorities and lead positive change. We create accessible, meaningful ways for local voices to drive community action.



Vision

A Gorbals where everyone has power, knowledge, and confidence to influence decisions and shape the future of their community.



Values



Community-Led

Local people guide our priorities, decisions, and direction.



Inclusive

We remove barriers so everyone has the chance to take part.



Transparent

We communicate openly and make decisions fairly.



Collaborative

We work together with residents, partners, and services as equals.



Respectful

We value lived experience and create spaces where every voice matters.



Equity Focused

We prioritise fairness and tackle inequalities across the community.



Goals

1. Participation

To increase meaningful involvement from people across the Gorbals in shaping local priorities.

2. Knowledge

To build confidence, skills and understanding so residents can influence decisions that affect them.

3. Collaboration

To work with partners and services to co-produce solutions rooted in community experience.

4. Impact

To measure, share and grow the long-term impact of community-led action.

Strategic Aims & Objectives



AIM 1: Deepen Community Participation

GIF will expand opportunities for residents to shape priorities, influence decisions, and take part in meaningful dialogue.

Objectives

- Grow the Community Advocate network.
- Establish a Youth Participatory Budgeting (YPB) structure.
- Deliver two community-shaping processes per year.
- Increase participation from under-represented groups.
- Provide multiple accessible ways to take part (digital, in-person, postal), building on the previous commitment to ensure equal access through digital voting, community voting events and postal ballots.

Outcomes

- More diverse and representative participation.
- Increased sense of belonging and value among residents.
- Stronger community ownership of local priorities.



AIM 2: Build Community Knowledge & Confidence

The 2022–25 strategy emphasized training in PB, co-production and local democracy. For 2026–29, this becomes more focused and accessible.

Objectives

- Offer short, practical learning sessions on PB processes, and local decision making.
- Develop peer-led learning models, reflecting the previous commitment to “*peer education techniques to share information with local people.*”
- Create simple communication materials explaining decisions, budgets, and processes.
- Support Community Advocates to develop facilitation, research, and engagement skills.

Outcomes

- Residents understand how decisions are made and how to influence these decisions.
- Advocates feel confident representing the Gorbals.
- GIF is recognised as a trusted, credible source of information.



AIM 3: Strengthen Collaboration & Co-Production

The previous strategy highlighted the importance of “community conversations” and using the Community Empowerment Act when needed. For 2026 –2029 this will become embedded in our work.

Objectives

- Facilitate regular community conversations on key themes.
- Co-design solutions with service providers and partners
- Advocate for transparency and accountability in local decision-making.
- Use the Community Empowerment Act where necessary to ensure community involvement.
- Support residents to deliver solutions-focused activity.

Outcomes

- Services better reflect community needs.
- Stronger relationships between residents and decision-makers.
- Increased community-led action on local priorities.

AIM 4: Demonstrate Impact & Strengthen Sustainability

A new aim for 2026–2029– focus on long-term resilience and evidence of change.

Objectives

- Develop a simple, meaningful monitoring and evaluation framework.
- Share stories of change through digital platforms and community events.
- Secure long-term funding and partnerships.
- Support community groups to evaluate, refine and scale new ideas – (e.g. connect sessions).
- Produce an annual impact report and twice-yearly updates – (newsletter).

Outcomes

- Straightforward evidence of community impact.
- Sustainable community-led activity.
- Stronger reputation and influence for GIF.



5. Community Volunteer Advocates

The role of Community Advocate continues to evolve. The 2026–2029 strategy notes that Advocates will now have an:

“Outwardly focused role in engaging with local people, facilitating discussions and representing their community.”

For 2026–2029:

- Advocates act as connectors, facilitators, and ambassadors.
- Youth Advocates form a dedicated strand of the programme.
- Training is ongoing, practical and peer supported.



6 Engaging Young People

GIF remains committed to building a strong youth voice in local decision-making. Building on earlier efforts, disrupted by the pandemic, the next three years will focus on:

- Establishing a Youth PB Group
- Co-designing youth-led priorities
- Creating accessible, youth-friendly participation tools
- Supporting young people to develop leadership skills



7 Monitoring & Evaluation

GIF will implement a streamlined framework that includes:

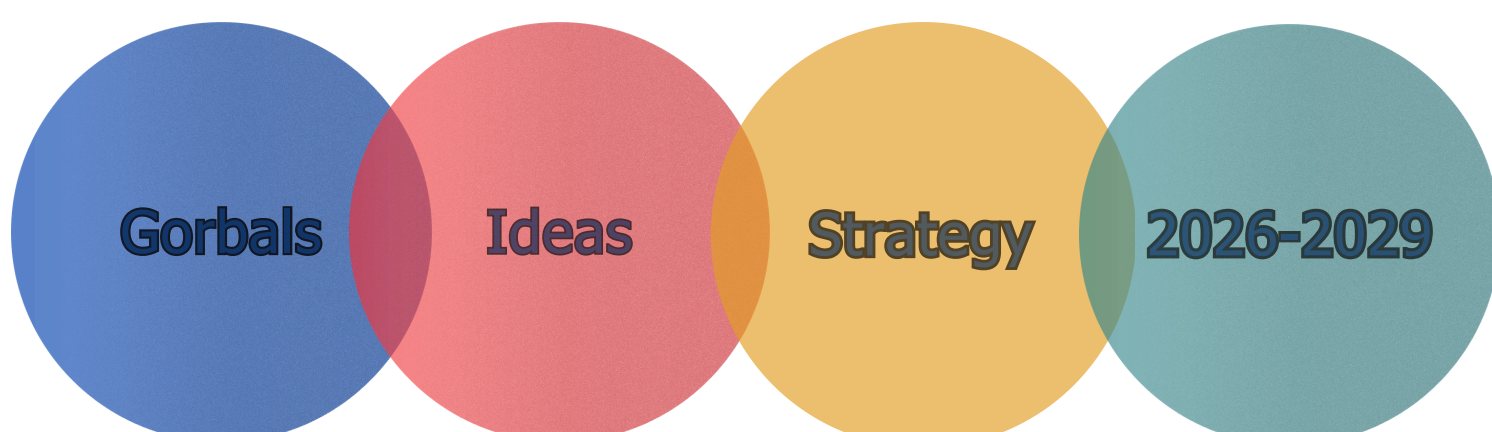
- Bi-annual progress updates
- An annual impact report
- Community-friendly dashboards
- Stories and case studies
- Reporting aligned with funder requirements



8 Commitment to Inclusion

Inclusion is a cross-cutting theme across all aims. GIF will:

- Provide multiple ways to participate.
- Remove barriers to involvement.
- Target outreach to under-represented groups.
- Ensure accessible communication formats.
- Promote fairness and equity in all decision-making.





Accessibility and Alternative Formats

This strategy document is designed to be accessible and inclusive. To support a wide range of needs, it is available in alternative formats and languages upon request.

Available Formats

- Large print
- Easy Read
- Digital accessible PDF (screen-reader friendly)
- Alternative colour contrast versions

Languages available

Translations can be provided in a range of languages to ensure the content is accessible to all communities.

How to Request an Alternative Format or Language

To request this document in another format or language, please contact us on the contact details on the next page.

When making a request, please specify:

- The format or language you require.
- Any additional accessibility needs.

Commitment to Accessibility

We are committed to ensuring that everyone can access and understand the information contained in this strategy.

If you experience any barriers or have suggestions for improvement, we welcome your feedback.



Gorbals Ideas Fund
c/o New Gorbals Housing Association
200 Crown Street
Glasgow
G5 9AY



0141 429 3900



Gorbalsideasfund



www.gorbalsideas.org.uk



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot