For immediate release

GLASGOW CITY COUNCIL SCOOPS MAJOR AWARD FOR ENVIRONMENTAL LAND MANAGEMENT

Keep Scotland Beautiful, the charity for Scotland’s environment, has announced that Glasgow City Council has won one of its prestigious awards for excellence in improving local environments at a ceremony held in the City’s Central Hotel yesterday (Thursday). The award winners were said by the charity’s Chief Executive to demonstrate the “very highest level of achievement” in looking after the environment.

Glasgow City Council was successful in the “Support for Communities Award” for its widely acclaimed Govanhill Project.

About the Govanhill Project
The Govanhill Month of Action Project was established in February 2014. The main aim was to tackle a whole range of environmental / anti-social issues within the Govanhill Neighbourhood. The main aim was to improve the cleanliness and physical appearance of Govanhill.

A local working group was formed with Local Environmental Services (LES) and Cleansing Services facilitating a range of meetings with partner agencies in attendance. An environmental action plan was created over the 30 days of April. Each partner released resources on a daily basis to complete specific tasks identified as being key to improving the physical appearance of Govanhill.

The working group collated activity information from tasks completed daily which was monitored through the month of April. This proved successful in tackling a whole range of environmental issues within the area. The group agreed that moving forward further work would be required to maintain the positive outcomes achieved during the Month of Action.

Govanhill has always been a popular area for migrants coming to the city to settle. The population is around approximately 16,000. The demographics regularly change with around 57 languages spoken in Govanhill.

About the Awards
The annual awards celebrate success across Keep Scotland Beautiful’s Local Environmental Quality Network (LEQ Network), which aims to improve the cleanliness and quality of the environment on publicly accessible land in Scotland. Membership of the network is open to all environment improvement professionals, many of them employed by Scotland’s major land managers including local authorities and many private sector organisations. The Network aims to ensure the sharing of best practise amongst those responsible for maintaining Scotland’s open spaces.

The awards ceremony marked the closing of the LEQ Network conference, with the results declared after judging many outstanding entries. The prize-winners received their awards from Keep Scotland Beautiful Charity Trustee Colin Bayes, and Chief Executive Derek Robertson.
The full list of 2015 award-winners were:

- **PROGRAMME OF THE YEAR AWARD**
  - Winner - Fife Council

- **PROGRAMME MANAGER OF THE YEAR AWARD**
  - Winner - Russell Smith, River Clyde Homes

- **AWARD FOR SUPPORT OF COMMUNITIES**
  - Winner - Glasgow City Council for its Govanhill Project
  - Finalists also included Community Safety Glasgow, Falkirk Council and Stirling Council

- **BEST LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INNOVATION AWARD**
  - Winner - Fife Council for “Keep Fife Schools Bang Tidy”
  - Finalists also included Glasgow City Council and Stirling Council

After presenting the awards, Keep Scotland Beautiful Chief Executive, Derek Robertson commented:

“These awards recognise the very highest level of environmental achievement amongst land managers across the country and Glasgow City Council has every reason to be proud of what it has achieved. This was an innovative and imaginative response which has led to a tangible improvement in environmental quality in Govanhill.

“For locals and visitors alike, the quality of Scotland’s open spaces are a significant part of our sense of civic pride in the country. We know how much we depend on tourism revenues, and we understand the vast hidden costs in poor local environmental quality. That’s why it’s so important to celebrate the achievements of those who ensure our open spaces are as clean and green as they can be.

“I hope that Glasgow City Council’s successes will inspire others to improve the quality of their local environment, and for a new generation of land managers who will set new levels of achievement in the future. I hope also that these awards will add further to the developing national conversation on how we can turn the tide on environmental incivilities – it’s a conversation we are determined to lead.”

ENDS

Notes to Editors

1. **Keep Scotland Beautiful** is the charity that campaigns, acts and educates on a range of local, national and global environmental issues to change behaviour and improve the quality of people’s lives and the places they care for. We are committed to making Scotland clean, green and more sustainable. Further details at [www.keepscotlandbeautiful.org](http://www.keepscotlandbeautiful.org)

2. **The Local Environmental Quality Network (LEQ Network)** is a partnership programme for local authorities and other land managers or duty bodies which aims to bring about an improvement in the cleanliness and quality of the environment on publicly accessible land through effective, efficient management and targeted action. Further details at: [www.keepscotlandbeautiful.org/environmental-quality/local-environmental-quality-network/](http://www.keepscotlandbeautiful.org/environmental-quality/local-environmental-quality-network/)

3. **The LEQ Network** is closely linked to our Clean Up Scotland Campaign and many of the programme partners are actively supporting the campaign and taking action to clean up Scotland’s local environments.

4. **Media enquiries** to Peter Duncan on 07740 469949, or peter@messagematters.co.uk