

To: Infrastructure, Land and Environment Policy Board

On: 26 January 2022

Report by: Head of Economy and Development

Heading: Clyde Climate Forest

1. Summary

- 1.1 The Clyde Climate Forest initiative has been developed as a part of a wider response to tackling climate change across the Glasgow City Region. The purpose of the initiative is to support tree planting projects which contribute to a new urban 'forest' across the City Region that deliver a broad range of climate and ecological benefits.
 - 1.2 The purpose of this report is to update members on the Clyde Climate Forest initiative and delivery within Renfrewshire.
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2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Board:
 - (i) Notes development of the Clyde Climate Forest and role of the initiative in contributing to the Council's response to climate change;
 - (ii) Approves the delivery of future phases of the initiative in Renfrewshire, subject to consultation with local communities and stakeholders.
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3. Background

- 3.1. The Clyde Climate Forest initiative was developed in early 2021 as part of a wider response to tackling climate change across the Glasgow City Region.

The initiative has been led by the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership, which includes the region's eight local authorities and key agencies such as NatureScot and Forestry and Land Scotland.

- 3.2. The purpose of the initiative is to deliver a significant increase in tree planting across the Glasgow City Region by 2032, contributing to a new urban 'forest' which provides a range of climate and ecological benefits. In particular, the initiative seeks to:-
 - Undertake tree planting schemes in neighbourhoods where there are low levels of tree cover and which may be vulnerable to the impacts of climate change;
 - Support development of new native woodlands which join up existing habitats;
 - Double the current rate of planting in the region.
- 3.3. The initiative was endorsed by the Glasgow City Region Cabinet on 9 February 2021 and formally launched in June 2021. A small Clyde Climate Forest team is now engaging with local authorities, key partners and stakeholders on delivery. Initial phases of the project are funded by a £400,000 grant from the Woodland Trust.
- 3.4. The Council's Climate Change Sub-Committee considered the Clyde Climate Forest initiative at its meeting on 17 November 2021'.
- 3.5. Renfrewshire Council declared a Climate Emergency on 27 June 2019. A key element of the Council's approach to climate change is to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030, with a net zero carbon plan under development. The Clyde Climate Forest initiative will support the Council's work through the planting of trees which offset carbon emissions.

4. Clyde Climate Forest - Delivery

- 4.1. Inaugural tree planting events took place in each of the eight City Region local authorities to coincide with the formal launch of the Clyde Climate Forest in early summer 2021. In Renfrewshire a small area of native woodland (0.2 ha) was planted within Barwood Park, Erskine, following consultation with local ward members, local community groups and stakeholders.
- 4.2. Each of the City Region local authorities have now been tasked with identifying potential locations which could support future phases of the initiative. Guidance from the Clyde Climate Forest team has suggested that potential locations should meet the criteria set out in section 3.2 above, with a particular focus on priority Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) data zones.
- 4.3. Following consideration at the Climate Change Sub Committee of 17th November 2021 and to support delivery of the initiative within Renfrewshire, approval is sought from the Board for officers (Chief Executive's Service and Environment and Infrastructure Service) to work with the Clyde Climate Forest team to identify potential sites which align with the selection criteria and engage with ward members, residents, community groups and stakeholders as appropriate.

- 4.4. Progress on the delivery of the Clyde Climate Forest in Renfrewshire will be reported to the Climate Change Sub-Committee as appropriate.
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Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – Initial phases of the Clyde Climate Forest are funded by an external grant of £400,000 from the Woodland Trust.
 2. **HR & Organisational Development** – None.
 3. **Community Planning** –
Creating a sustainable Renfrewshire for all to enjoy – The Clyde Climate Forest will support the Council’s response to climate change and delivery of the Renfrewshire Biodiversity Strategy 2018-2022 through the offsetting of carbon emissions and planting works which support, enhance and connect existing habitats.
 4. **Legal** – None.
 5. **Property/Assets** – None.
 6. **Information Technology** – None.
 7. **Equality & Human Rights**
 - (a) The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals’ human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council’s website.
 8. **Health & Safety** – None.
 9. **Procurement** – None.
 10. **Risk** – None.
 11. **Privacy Impact** – None.
 12. **COSLA Policy Position** – None.
 13. **Climate Change** – Implementation of the Clyde Climate Forest within Renfrewshire will support the Council’s response to Climate change and achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030 through planting of trees which offset carbon emissions.
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Appendices

1. Minute of Glasgow City Region Cabinet, 9 February 2021
<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/councillorsandcommittees/submissiondocuments.asp?submissionid=99464>

2. Clyde Climate Forest Summary

<https://www.gcvgreennetwork.gov.uk/publications/793-clyde-climate-forest-synopsis>

List of Background Papers

- (a) None

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