

**Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Strategic Development Planning Authority**

**To: Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Strategic Development Planning Authority  
Joint Committee**

**On: 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

**Report by  
Stuart Tait, Manager**

**Annual Report 2022**

**1. Summary**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is for the Joint Committee to consider and approve for publication its Annual Report for 2022.

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Joint Committee
- approve the 2022 Annual Report as set out in the Appendix; and,
  - agree that, in accordance with the practice of previous years, an enhanced version of the Annual Report be produced in order to promote the work of the Joint Committee.

**3. Context**

- 3.1 Clydeplan's Minute of Agreement requires the preparation of an Annual Report to set out the work of the Authority for the previous calendar year.
- 3.2 The Appendix sets out the 2022 Annual Report and provides a summary of the work undertaken by Clydeplan during the year under the following broad headings:
- Clydeplan Joint Committee;
  - Glasgow City Region;
  - Planning (Scotland) Act - Regional Spatial Strategies and National Planning Framework 4;
  - Glasgow City Region Green Network Partnership;
  - Annual Accounts and Audit Report; and,
  - Priorities and Issues affecting the future work of Clydeplan.



## Appendix



### **CLYDEPLAN**

### **ANNUAL REPORT 2022**

#### **Introduction**

The eight Clydeplan Local Authorities are committed to strategic planning and working in partnership with a wide range of stakeholders in support of the delivery of its Vision and Spatial Development Strategy as set out in the Clydeplan Strategic Development Plan for the Glasgow City Region which was approved by Scottish Ministers on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

The Clydeplan Strategic Development Plan provides a sound foundation upon which the city region can deliver growth for Scotland's largest city region and a context for its Local Authority Local Development Plans, Local Housing Strategies and Development Management decisions as well as supporting the Glasgow City Region's Economic Strategy.

The scale of work that has been undertaken by Clydeplan during 2022 has only been made possible by the willing support that it has gratefully received from both private and public sector partners.

The Annual Report sets out the work that has been undertaken by Clydeplan along with its partners during 2022.

Further information on the work of Clydeplan can be found at [www.clydeplan-sdpa.gov.uk](http://www.clydeplan-sdpa.gov.uk).

#### **Clydeplan Joint Committee**

The Clydeplan Joint Committee met five times during 2022 in March, June, September and December with a Special Meeting in October to consider the Annual Audited Accounts.

Details of the meeting's agendas, papers and minutes can be found at <https://bit.ly/2TAaTZo>.

During 2022, the Joint Committee published its Annual Report 2021 and its Development Plan Scheme and Participation Statement 2022/2023.

In December 2022 the Joint Committee approved its revenue budget for the period 2023/24.

## **Glasgow City Region**

During 2022 Clydeplan continued its support for the various work streams of the various Glasgow City Region thematic portfolios including Land Use and Sustainability, Infrastructure and Assets, Housing and Equalities, Transport and Connectivity based portfolios and both the Economic Delivery Group and the Intelligence Hub.

Clydeplan's involvement with the Glasgow City Region activities is likely to continue to grow and develop during 2023 particularly given the economies of scale and general benefits that can be gained through city region scale joint partnership working.

This regional joint working approach also supports the Planning (Scotland) Act which seeks for local authorities, working together, as groupings to support the delivery of National Planning Framework 4 through the development of Regional Spatial Strategies.

Further information on the work of the Glasgow City Region can be found at <https://glasgowcityregion.co.uk/>.

## **Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 - Regional Spatial Strategies and National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4)**

The Planning (Scotland) Act which was enacted on 25th July 2019 removes the statutory requirement to prepare a Strategic Development Plan and replaces it with a duty for planning authorities to work together to prepare and adopt a '*Regional Spatial Strategy*'.

The eight Clydeplan Local Authorities have agreed to continue to work together to prepare a future Regional Spatial Strategy for the Glasgow City Region.

It is anticipated that the formal duty to prepare a Regional Spatial Strategy will come into effect once NPF4 is adopted in early 2023.

### **NPF4**

It is anticipated that NPF4, which for the first time will form part of the statutory Development Plan along with the Local Development Plan, will be approved in January 2023 and adopted in February 2023.

<https://www.transformingplanning.scot/national-planning-framework/>

NPF4 seeks to address the climate emergency and the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the future impacts of climate and also the nature crisis. and to work together to enable development that addresses the social and economic legacy of the coronavirus pandemic, the cost crisis and longstanding inequality.

To achieve this NPF4 sets out a National Spatial Strategy for Scotland to 2045 which seeks to deliver sustainable places, liveable places, and productive places and sets out six spatial principles

- just transition;
- conserving and recycling assets;
- local living;
- compact urban growth;
- rebalanced development; and,
- rural revitalisation.

NPF4 will also set out the regional spatial priorities for Scotland along with 18 National Developments which will support the National Spatial Strategy.

In the context of the Glasgow City Region this is included as part of what is described as 'Central' aimed at transforming and pioneering a new era of low carbon urban living with a focus on regeneration.

The key National Developments for the Glasgow City Region are the

- 'Metropolitan Glasgow Strategic Drainage Partnership';
- 'Clyde Metro';
- Central Scotland Green Network (incorporating the Glasgow City Region Green Network);
- Clyde Mission; and,
- High Speed Rail.

The National Spatial Strategy will guide the preparation of Regional Spatial Strategies, Local Development Plans and Local Place Plans as well as being relevant to wider policies and strategies relating to land use.

NPF4 also sets out National Planning Policy which consists of 33 policies which set out the policies for the development and use of land which are to be applied in the preparation of local development plans; local place plans; masterplans and briefs; and for determining planning consents.

### Regional Spatial Strategies

The Scottish Government have stated that the new Regional Spatial Strategies will identify areas for future population growth, align with regional economic strategies and identify key sectors and clusters for future development and investment.

Regional Spatial Strategies should also set out a clear place-based spatial strategy that guides future development across different areas of Scotland. This will include identification of networks of regionally significant centres, growth and investment areas and ensuring that future development and infrastructure works with each area's assets and whilst conserving and enhancing nationally and regionally recognised natural and historic areas and assets.

The Scottish Government have stated that Regional Spatial Strategy guidance will be published late 2023/early 2024.

### Glasgow City Region Green Network

Since the establishment of the Glasgow City Region Green Network Partnership in 2007, the first partnership of its type in Scotland, green networks and related thinking has developed significantly much of which has been at the instigation of the work of the Green Network team including

- the Central Scotland Green Network established as a National Development in NPF4 and proposed to continue as a National Development in NPF4,
- the development of the Glasgow City Region Green Network '*Blueprint*' and the
- the development of Green Infrastructure policy advice.

The role for green networks have also been identified as an important component of the city region's green recovery and in respect of tackling the twin climate and ecological emergencies.

In this context the Strategic Habitat Network plays an important role.

Progress towards each of the key habitat network strands during 2021 is set out below:

- **Peatland** - The role of peatland restoration in contributing to the drive for Net Zero, and to flood mitigation, is well recognised. It is also a UK and Scottish priority habitat and therefore the case is strong for targeting effort and resources at the significant areas of peatland within the Glasgow and Clyde Valley.

The Green Network launched the Clyde Peatlands initiative at the Glasgow City Region Cabinet in June to coincide with the recruitment of 2 new Peatland Officers funded through the Scottish Government's Peatland ACTION Fund, administered by NatureScot.

The post will be hosted by Clydeplan/Green Network initially to April 2025 thanks to Clydeplan underwriting an additional year to the contract as agreed by the Joint Committee in September.

It is anticipated NatureScot will extend the post for a further year when the next round of Scottish Government funding is secured. The post will be advertised in the next two weeks.

The Clyde Peatlands launch generated a great deal of interest and requests for assistance. In the interim a substantial portfolio of potential project work has been collated which will allow the new officer to hit the ground running.

- **Grassland and Wetland** - The new Green Network Development Officer, funded for two years through Clydeplan reserves as agreed by the Joint Committee, joined the team in April with the specific remit of driving forward the grassland and wetland elements of the Blueprint.

Both of these habitat types have far less dedicated funding than woodland and peatland and are therefore more difficult to progress.

However, we currently await the decision on a Scottish Government Nature Restoration Fund application for developing a regional grassland network. If successful, this will give us the tools we need for public and private sector engagement and to make the case for substantial delivery funding.

The Development Officer has also been working with East Dunbartonshire Council on a pilot wetland project in the Kelvin Valley, spanning into neighbouring North Lanarkshire and Glasgow. The project will seek to maximise the biodiversity, flood management and visitor benefits of a strategic wetland network, and the work has just been awarded £50,000 from the Shared Prosperity Fund. We hope to use this as a pilot that can be learned from and replicated elsewhere in the City Region.

There is a strong correlation between the work described above and the development of Nature Networks as required by NPF. The SEP workshop gave a strong steer that some of the new Development Officer's time should be directed to supporting this workstream at the appropriate time.

- **Woodland** - the woodland element of the Blueprint is being driven forward by the Clyde Climate Forest (CCF).

After a difficult period with loss of staff, CCF is now making significant progress on each of its 3 strands of work: (i) urban tree canopy cover, (ii) rural planting for climate change and (iii) woodland habitat connectivity.

In addition to its core staff the CCF is now supported by seconded officers from the Green Action Trust and Trees for Cities. CCF continues to report to the Green Network on progress towards Blueprint delivery through SEP.

Further information on the work of the Glasgow City Region Green Network Partnership can be found at <https://www.gcvgreennetwork.gov.uk/>.

### **Annual Accounts and Audit Report**

The Joint Committee's Annual Audited Accounts and Audit Report for the period to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 were approved on 24th October 2022. Both documents are published on the Clydeplan's website.

### **Priorities and Issues affecting the future work of Clydeplan**

The priorities for the future work of Clydeplan will be influenced, amongst other things, by

- the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 and the requirements in relation to strategic planning and the National Planning Framework 4;
- ongoing developments around Glasgow City Region in terms of governance, subject based portfolios, City Deal and support for the delivery of the Glasgow City Region Economic Strategy and Action Plan;
- development of a work programme to support the development of the Regional Spatial Strategy; and,
- continuing challenges of delivery in the context of reduced financial and local authority planning staff resources.