

To: Planning and Climate Change Board

On: 1 November 2022

Report by: Chief Executive

Heading: Clyde Climate Forest – Update

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.
-

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) Notes successful delivery of planting events supporting early phases of the initiative within Renfrewshire;
 - (iii) Approves the Clyde Climate Forest Concordat as a basis for commitment to future phases of the initiative;
 - (iv) Delegates authority to the Head of Economy and Development, in consultation with the Convenor, to explore delivery of future phases of the initiative, subject to consultation with local communities and stakeholders.
-

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.
- 3.3. The initiative was endorsed by the Glasgow City Region Cabinet on 9 February 2021 and reported to the Council's Climate Change Sub Committee on 17 November 2021. Initial phases of the project are funded by a £400,000 grant from the Woodland Trust.
- 3.4. 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, and a Plan for Net Zero was approved by the Planning and Climate Change Board on 23 August 2022. The Clyde Climate Forest initiative supports delivery of the plan through the planting of trees which offset carbon emissions.

4. Clyde Climate Forest – Early Phases

- 4.1. Initial tree planting events have been delivered in each of the City Region local authority areas to support early phases of Clyde Climate Forest. In Renfrewshire this has involved the planting of approximately 3,000 trees ('whips') at Barwood Park, Erskine and Glennifer Braes, Paisley, following consultation with local ward members, local community groups and stakeholders.
- 4.2. Following the successful delivery of early phases, the Clyde Climate Forest team have prepared a concordat as a basis for formalising the initiative and future commitment from local authority partners. The concordat (appendix 1) was endorsed by the Glasgow City Region Cabinet on 30 August 2022 as a basis for agreement by each of the local authority partners. The concordat:-
 - Sets out the role of trees and woodlands as a response to climate change across the city region;

- Defines the concept and targets of the Clyde Climate Forest initiative and provides a framework through which additional resources supporting delivery will be sought;
- Sets out a commitment from local authorities across the City Region to support Clyde Climate Forest by embedding the initiative in plans and policies, working to protect, manage and enhance trees within local authority ownership and identifying opportunities for tree planting which increase canopy cover in priority neighbourhoods.

5. Future Delivery Phases

- 5.1. Each of the City Region local authorities have now been tasked with identifying locations which could support future phases of the initiative. Analysis commissioned by the Clyde Climate Forest team has identified the neighbourhoods of Foxbar and Ferguslie Park as priority areas within Renfrewshire which have relatively low levels of canopy cover and provide opportunities for additional planting.
- 5.2. In view of this analysis it is proposed that subject to Board approval, officers (Chief Executive's Service and Environment and Infrastructure Service) will work with the Clyde Climate Forest team to identify appropriate sites for planting within the identified neighbourhoods of Foxbar and Ferguslie, supporting further phases of the initiative in Renfrewshire over the next two years.
- 5.3. The identification of sites and their delivery will be progressed in consultation with ward members, local residents and community groups, in a similar manner to successful early phases. Progress on delivery of the next phases of the initiative will be reported to the Board as appropriate.

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.
Property/Assets – None.
5. **Information Technology** – None.

6. **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.

7. **Health & Safety** – None.

8. **Procurement** – None.

9. **Risk** – None.

10. **Privacy Impact** – None.

11. **COSLA Policy Position** – None.

12. **Climate Change** – Implementation of the Clyde Climate Forest within Renfrewshire will support the Council's Plan for Net Zero through planting of trees which offset carbon emissions.

Appendices

- (a) Clyde Climate Forest Concordat

List of Background Papers

- (a) Planning and Climate Change Sub Committee, 17 November 2021 – Clyde Climate Forest

Author: Euan Shearer, Regeneration and Place Manager
ewan.shearer@renfrewshire.gov.uk Tel: 07483 136235



Clyde Climate Forest
CANOPY • CONNECTIVITY • CARBON

The Clyde Climate Forest

Glasgow City Region Concordat



The Clyde Climate Forest will see 18 million trees planted across the region over the next decade as a response to the Climate and Ecological Emergencies. Glasgow City Region's (GCR) local authorities are important stakeholders in its delivery.

Objectives –

- **Urban trees** – 1.5 million trees to increase tree canopy cover in urban areas vulnerable to climate impacts
- **Woodland habitats** – new woods in over 200 locations to connect our habitats and create migration routes for wildlife
- **New forests** – doubling the current rate of woodland creation to lock up carbon and create new jobs and a renewable resource for the region.

GCR acknowledge that:

Trees, woodlands, and forests have a vital role to play in making Glasgow City Region resilient to the impacts of a changing climate, helping to achieve 'Net Zero', and repairing our damaged ecosystems;

Additional effort must be made to manage, protect and enhance our existing trees and increase the number of trees in urban and rural areas if we are to gain the climate and ecological benefits that they can afford;

We must plan to deliver the benefits and values that trees, woodlands, and forests can provide to all the region's people equally;

Delivering the change at scale required for our regional tree, woodland and forest resource can only take place over a long period with sustained resourcing;

GCR welcome:

The government's support for the Clyde Climate Forest (CCF) through its inclusion in Scotland's National Planning Framework;

The CCF concept and targets as described in the CCF brochure

The opportunity the creation of the CCF provides to deliver our economic, social and environmental aims;

The opportunity to develop and enhance our partnerships with other Local Authorities, National Agencies, NGOs and communities in delivering CCF ambitions.

The Clyde Climate Forest* commit from this date to:

Work to achieve CCF targets within each Council area and to seek additional resources and funding to facilitate their delivery;

Promote the interests and activities of each Council toward trees and their management, protection and enhancement wherever possible within the architecture of the CCF;

Ensure that CCF communications work is compatible with, and supportive of GCR communications.

*The Clyde Climate Forest here refers to the CCF staff team and the CCF Delivery Partners (namely: Scottish Forestry; Woodland Trust Scotland; TCV Scotland; Green Action Trust; Trees for Cities and Glasgow City Region).

GCR Councils commit from this date to:

Actively participate in, and promote, the realisation of CCF targets within each council area;

Support the work of the CCF team and the CCF Delivery Partners as part of the Council's commitment to partnership working;

Ensure the CCF is integrated and trees are embedded, as appropriate, into development plans, development frameworks, masterplans, design briefs along with corporate policy and investment documents;

Manage, protect and enhance the council's tree resource through robust tree canopy cover strategies and appropriate policies and practices;

Identify council owned land holdings appropriate for woodland creation as part of the council's plans to achieve 'Net Zero';

Work with the CCF team to identify 'target neighbourhoods' to increase urban canopy cover, and to identify potential tree planting sites, target available resources and facilitate delivery;

Actively participate in the CCF 'Canopy Working Group' and other CCF working groups as they arise;

Actively promote a cultural change in relation to tree provision and management and overcome perceived barriers to the planting and the retaining of appropriate trees;

Actively work toward achieving the globally recognised status as a 'Tree City of the World' for each council.

Councillor Owen O'Donnell, Leader, East Renfrewshire Council

Councillor Jim Logue, Leader, North Lanarkshire Council

Councillor Gordan Low, Leader, East Dunbartonshire Council

Councillor Iain Nicolson, Leader, Renfrewshire Council

Councillor Susan Aitken, Leader, Glasgow City Council

Councillor Joe Fagan, Leader, South Lanarkshire Council

Councillor Stephen McCabe, Leader, Inverclyde Council

Councillor Martin Rooney, Leader, West Dunbartonshire Council



Clyde Climate Forest
CANOPY • CONNECTIVITY • CARBON

**The Clyde Climate Forest is
being delivered with the help of:**



**Green
Action
Trust**



GLASGOW
CITY REGION



**TREES
FOR
CITIES**



**Scottish
Forestry**
Coilltearachd
na h-Alba




WOODLAND
TRUST SCOTLAND



Clyde Climate Forest
CANOPY • CONNECTIVITY • CARBON

Contact Us

Clyde Climate Forest
c/o TCV, Unit M1, Rosemount Workspace
141 Charles Street Glasgow G21 2QA

 @ClydeClimateFor

www.clydeclimateforest.co.uk



gcv green network

**The Clyde Climate Forest is
a Green Network Blueprint
delivery project.**