

## **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> September 2021**

**Report by  
Stuart Tait, Manager**

### **Resourcing the Delivery of the Green Network 'Blueprint'**

#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This report is for the Joint Committee to consider the delivery of the Green Network 'Blueprint' and the resources required to support that delivery.

#### **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Joint Committee agree the appointment of a Green Network Development Officer on a temporary two year contract/secondment plus contribution to Active Travel Sustrans bid to support the delivery of the Green Network 'Blueprint' to be drawn down over a period of three financial years totalling £125,000.

#### **3. Background**

- 3.1 The Joint Committee at its meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> June noted that the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership would evolve into the '*Strategic Environment Partnership*' (SEP) with a remit to support the delivery of the Green Network 'Blueprint' and local and regional spatial planning.
- 3.2 Under this change the Local Authority contributions would be used to support the existing Green Network staffing resource with other partners directing their support to the development and delivery of the elements of the 'Blueprint'.
- 3.3 Local Authority funding for 2022/23 to support the staffing resource will be considered by the Clydeplan Joint Committee at its meeting in December.

#### **4. Staffing Resource**

- 4.1 Following the Green Network Programme Manager's retirement and the decision not to fill that post the current staffing resource to support this change is one Green Network Development Officer plus 0.6 FTE of Communications Officer support.
- 4.2 Under the new arrangements these staff are now line managed by the Clydeplan Manager.

- 4.3 The current Green Network resource also provides support for amongst others the constituent local authorities, Scottish Government Key Agencies, Clyde Climate Forest, Green Action Trust and Scottish Government in terms of strategy development, policy development, shared learning and project delivery.
- 4.4 The role for green networks has been identified as an important component of the Glasgow City Region's green recovery and drive to net zero and from the current Covid-19 pandemic.
- 4.5 The Green Network 'Blueprint' identified 5 delivery focused project namely;
- Clyde Greenways;
  - Clyde Climate Forest;
  - Clyde Peatland Action;
  - Clyde B-Lines; and,
  - Clyde Wetland Initiative.
- 4.6 These projects are at various stages of development, work on which is being led and supported by the existing Green Network Development Officer.

## **5 Green Network Development Officer**

- 5.1 The role of the Green Network Development Officer in ensuring the successful delivery of the 'Blueprint' as well as providing wider green network support for local authorities and partners is vital.
- 5.2 Under the new SEP model local authority contributions along with this use of the Partnership's reserves will fund the remaining staff resource for this financial year with the external partners supporting project deliver with dedicated resources and funding e.g. the appointment of two Clyde Climate Forest officers (funded by Scottish Forestry) and two Peatland officers (funded by NatureScot) and hosted by South Lanarkshire Council.
- 5.3 Developing project delivery models for the delivery of the Blueprint plus providing ongoing support to the local authorities in the development of their local green network activities are key roles for the existing Development Officer however the lack of support to the Development Officer is undermining that effort particularly at a time when the agenda is becoming more visible and important in respect of placemaking, 20 minute neighbourhoods and the climate and ecological emergencies.
- 5.4 The development of the other components of the 'Blueprint' namely delivery of the strategic access network (Clyde Greenways) and the strategic habitat network (Clyde B-Lines and Clyde Wetland Initiative) are ongoing however progress is restricted as a result of the reduction in the resource within the Green Network team.
- 5.5 To develop the Clyde Climate Forest project to a point where funding and governance were secured took approximately two years and a similar timescale is envisaged for the remaining 'Blueprint' projects. So a two year funded temporary/secondment position is being sought at a cost of £95,000. This funding will also build in a degree of resilience to the staffing resource to take the 'Blueprint' projects forward.

- 5.6 In terms of the strategic access network Sustrans are encouraging an application to their National Partnerships Scheme for a dedicated post for two years to support the delivery of the strategic access network. To support the bid process a contribution of £30,000 from the Local Authorities to cover 50% of year two costs is required. This post amongst other things would support another potentially Sustrans funded active travel post within SPT.
- 5.7 To support the delivery of the 'Blueprint' including supporting the Sustrans funding bid it is proposed to utilise, over a period of three financial years, £125,000 of the Useable Revenue Reserves held by Clydeplan which is currently anticipated to be in the region of £284,000 at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.