

Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Strategic Development Planning Authority

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

On: 14th June 2021

**Report by
Stuart Tait, Manager**

Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership Evolution

1. Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is for the Joint Committee to note the changes agreed by the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership (GCVGNP) at its Board meeting held on 12th May 2021 to its remit, staffing, funding and governance.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Joint Committee note the evolution of the Green Network Partnership to the new '*Strategic Environment Partnership*'.

3. Context

- 3.1 At the GCVGNP Board Meeting held on 19th August 2020 the Green Network Programme Manager, Max Hislop, indicated it was his intention to retire in June 2021.
- 3.2 Since the establishment of the GCV 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 GCVGNP team including
- the Central Scotland Green Network has been established as a National Development in NPF3,
 - the GCV Green Network '*Blueprint*' has been endorsed by the Glasgow City Region Cabinet and featured in the Scottish Government's 2019/20 Programme for Government.
 - the development and launch of the '*Clyde Climate Forest*';
 - the development of Green Infrastructure policy advice - which will hopefully feature in the review of Scottish Planning Policy and in National Planning Framework 4.
- 3.3 The team also provides support for amongst others the constituent local authorities, key agencies, Green Action Trust and Scottish Government in terms of strategy development, policy development, shared learning and project delivery.
- 3.4 The role for green networks have been identified as an important component of the city region's green recovery from the current Covid-19 pandemic.

4. Green Network Partnership Evolution

- 4.1 Following the Green Network Programme Managers decision to retire the Green Partnership Board and Clydeplan Steering Group considered it was an opportune time to evolve the Green Network Partnership into a more delivery focussed partnership working model.
- 4.2 The proposal involved not filling the Programme Managers post, putting a stronger focus on delivering the core elements of the Green Network 'Blueprint' namely
 - forestry (through Clyde Climate Forest);
 - peatlands;
 - biodiversity - other habitats including wetlands; and,
 - active travel;
- 4.3 The proposal sought to change the funding model with partners focusing their current financial contributions from partnership support to delivery related activity and the local authority contributions supporting the existing staffing resource costs.
- 4.4 The proposal also sought to integrate the work of the Clydeplan Environment Topic Group into the new Partnership.
- 4.5 The Green Network Partnership Board at its meeting on 12th May 2021 agreed to it evolving to become the '*Strategic Environment Partnership* (SEP)' with its remit and governance and staffing structure set out in the Appendix.
- 4.6 Following the Green Network Programme Manager's departure line management of the remaining Green Network staff (1.6FTE's) would fall to the Clydeplan Manager.
- 4.7 For the current financial year the local authority contributions, along with the use of the Partnership's reserves if required, will now fund the remaining staff resource with the external partners now supporting specific project delivery with dedicated funding and resources for example the Director of Clyde Climate Forest and two Engagement Officers being funded directly by Scottish Forestry and the Woodland Trust.
- 4.8 The local authority annual funding contributions for the staffing resource for the 2022/23 financial year will be agreed at the December meeting of the Clydeplan Joint Committee.

Appendix

Remit for the Strategic Environment Partnership

Purpose: *to add value to those organisations involved in delivering a quality environment for Glasgow City Region by working strategically and in partnership*

Aim: *to develop and communicate a co-ordinated approach that will deliver: a quality natural environment; placemaking; improved health and wellbeing of people; and climate action across the region, in particular.*

1. Oversight of the Green Network - Co-ordinator: Ally Corbett, Development Officer, SEP

- strategic oversight for the delivery of the Blueprint as a regional component of the CSGN;
- project development for delivery the Green Network through the 'Blueprint';
- supporting local planning for the Green Network;
- a centre for leadership, expertise and resource for Green Networks.

2. Spatial Planning - Co-ordinator: Alison Laurence, East Dunbartonshire Council

- strategic environmental input to the RSS;
- supporting local planning - LDPs, Local Place Plans, OSS;
- a centre for expertise and resource for spatial planning on environmental matters.

