

## Notice of Meeting and Agenda

### Infrastructure, Land and Environment Policy Board

Date	Time	Venue
Wednesday, 27 January 2021	13:00	Microsoft TEAMS Platform,

KENNETH GRAHAM  
Head of Corporate Governance

#### Membership

Councillor Jennifer Marion Adam-McGregor: Councillor Stephen Burns: Councillor Jacqueline Cameron: Councillor Michelle Campbell: Councillor Carolann Davidson: Councillor Eddie Devine: Councillor Audrey Doig: Councillor Neill Graham: Councillor John Hood: Councillor Karen Kennedy: Councillor Scott Kerr: Councillor James MacLaren: Councillor Will Mylet:

Councillor Cathy McEwan (Convener): Councillor Natalie Don (Depute Convener):

#### Recording of Meeting

This meeting will be recorded for subsequent broadcast via the Council's internet site. If you have any queries regarding this please contact Committee Services on 07534 058160. To find the recording please follow the link which will be attached to this agenda once the meeting has concluded.

#### Apologies

Apologies from members.

#### Declarations of Interest

Members are asked to declare an interest in any item(s) on the agenda and to provide a brief explanation of the nature of the interest.

<b>1</b>	<b>Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring Report</b>	<b>1 - 10</b>
	Joint report by Director of Finance & Resources, Director of Environment & Infrastructure and Director of Communities & Housing Services.	
<b>2</b>	<b>Service Update and Performance Scorecard: Environment &amp; Infrastructure</b>	<b>11 - 28</b>
	Joint report by Director of Environment & Infrastructure and Director of Communities & Housing Services.	
<b>3</b>	<b>Renfrewshire Council Carbon Management Plan 2014/20: Update 2019/20</b>	<b>29 - 34</b>
	Report by Director of Finance & Resources.	
<b>4</b>	<b>Renfrewshire Biodiversity Duty Report 2018/20</b>	<b>35 - 60</b>
	Report by Chief Executive.	
<b>5</b>	<b>The Renfrewshire Council (Clyde Waterfront and Renfrew Riverside, City Deal) (Number Two) Compulsory Purchase Order 2021</b>	<b>61 - 68</b>
	Joint report by Chief Executive and Director of Finance & Resources.	
<b>6</b>	<b>Howwood Public Park - Community Asset Transfer Request Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015</b>	<b>69 - 74</b>
	Report by Director of Finance & Resources.	
<b>7</b>	<b>Outcome of 2017 Rating Revaluation</b>	<b>75 - 80</b>
	Report by Director of Finance & Resources.	




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**To:** Infrastructure, Land and Environment Policy Board

**On:** 27 January 2021

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**Report by:** Director of Finance & Resources, Director of Environment and Infrastructure & Director of Communities and Housing

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**Heading:** Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring as at 13 November 2020

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## 1. Summary of Financial Position

- 1.1. The projected Revenue outturn as at 31 March 2021 for Infrastructure, Land and Environment is an overspend position of £1.824m (5.9%) against the revised budget for the year.
- 1.2. The projected Capital outturn as at 31 March 2021 for Infrastructure, Land and Environment is break even.
- 1.3. This is summarised over the relevant services in the table below and further analysis is provided in the Appendices.
- 1.4. For the financial year 2020/21, the projected outturn position is split into Core (or business as usual) and COVID-19 related variances to help readers understand the impact of the pandemic on service finances.

Division	Revised Annual Budget £000	Projected Outturn Core £000	Projected Outturn COVID-19 £000	Total Projected Outturn £000	Budget Variance £000	Budget Variance %
Environment and Infrastructure	29,468	28,664	2,530	31,194	(1,726)	5.8
Communities, Housing and Planning (Regulatory Services)	1,621	1,654	65	1,719	(98)	6.1

<b>Division</b>	<b>Revised Annual Budget £000</b>	<b>Projected Outturn Core £000</b>	<b>Projected Outturn COVID-19 £000</b>	<b>Total Projected Outturn £000</b>	<b>Budget Variance £000</b>	<b>Budget Variance %</b>
Environment and Infrastructure	14,412	14,412	0	14,412	0	0%

## **2. Recommendations**

Members are requested to:

- 2.1. Note the projected Revenue outturn position as detailed in Table 1 above, considering that the forecast position is based on best estimates and confirmed government support at this point in time; forecasts are likely to be subject to considerable fluctuation as the full service implications and associated costs of the pandemic become clearer;
- 2.2. Note the projected Capital outturn position as detailed in Table 2 above; and
- 2.3. Note the budget adjustments detailed in section 5.

## **3. Revenue**

- 3.1. The Revenue Budget Monitoring report at Appendix 1 identifies a projected annual overspend of £1.824 million (5.9% of total budget) for Infrastructure, Land and Environment. Narrative is provided to provide context and explanation to the budget position for service areas.
- 3.2. The projected outturn is based on information currently available and assumptions made by service budget holders. Any changes to these projections will be detailed in future reports to this Board.
- 3.3. The main reasons for the projected outturn position are indicated below the tables showing both the subjective analysis (what the budget is spent on) and the objective analysis (which division is spending the budget).

## **4. Revenue Budget Adjustments**

- 4.1. Since the last report, budget changes of £0.048m have arisen

## **5. Capital**

- 5.1. The Capital Investment Programme 2020/21 to 2024/25 was approved by the Council on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

- 5.2. The Capital Monitoring report at Appendix 2 indicates adjustments in the approved capital programme of £0.334m. This mainly arises due to changes in the cashflow timings of various projects.
- 5.3. Further detail, including reasons for significant variances, can be found at Appendix 2.

## 6. Capital Budget Adjustments

- 6.1. Since the last report, budget changes of £0.334m have arisen which reflect the following:

Budget carried forward to 2021-22 from 2020-21 (£0.453m):

- Roads/Footways Upgrade Programme (£0.100m) for Road Markings not expected to be completed until early 2021-22 to allow analysis of Council wide traffic regulations to be completed before associated lining and signage is carried out.
- Bridge Assessment/Strengthening (£0.125m) to allow tender process for work at Crosslee Bridge to be completed.
- Parks Improvement Programme (£0.228m) to allow scope of works and contract initiation to be completed at Barshaw Park Pond and Robertson Park before main works commence in early 2021-22.

Budget Increases in 2021-22 (£0.119m):

- Vehicle Replacement Programme (£0.119m) for grant received for electric vehicles in 2021-22.

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## Implications of this report

1. **Financial** – The projected budget outturn position for Infrastructure, Land and Environment Revenue budget is an overspend of £1.824m. Income and expenditure will continue to be monitored closely for the rest of the financial year and steps will be taken to mitigate any overspend as far as possible within existing budgets.

The projected outturn position for Infrastructure, Land and Environment Services' Capital budget is break even. The Capital programme will continue to be monitored closely for the rest of the financial year.

Any changes to current projections in either Revenue or Capital budgets will be reported to the board as early as possible, along with an explanation for the movement.

2. **HR and Organisational Development**  
None directly arising from this report.

3. **Community/Council Planning**  
None directly arising from this report.
4. **Legal**  
None directly arising from this report.
5. **Property/Assets**  
Capital projects result in lifecycle improvements and replacements to Roads & footways network and vehicles.
6. **Information Technology**  
None directly arising from this report.
7. **Equality and Human Rights**  
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 because for example it is for noting only. 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 and Safety**  
None directly arising from this report.
9. **Procurement**  
None directly arising from this report.
10. **Risk**  
The potential risk that the Council will overspend its approved budgets for the year will be managed at a Council-wide level by the Chief Executive and Directors.
11. **Privacy Impact**  
None directly arising from this report.
12. **Cosla Policy Position**  
N/a.
13. **Climate Risk**  
None directly arising from this report.

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### List of Background Papers

Revenue Budget and Council Tax Policy Board report. Council 9<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Non-housing Capital Investment Programme, Prudential Framework and Treasury Management Strategy, and Capital Strategy 2020/21 – 24/25. Council, 9<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

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**Authors:** Director of Finance & Resources, Director of Environment & Infrastructure and Director of Communities & Housing

**RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL**  
**REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING STATEMENT 2020/21**  
**1st April 2020 to 13th November 2020**

**POLICY BOARD : INFRASTRUCTURE, LAND AND ENVIRONMENT**

Objective Summary	Revised Annual Budget at Period 6	New Budget Adjustments	Revised Annual Budget	Projected Outturn Core Business	Projected Outturn COVID-19	Total Projected Outturn	Budget Variance (Adverse) or Favourable		Previous Projected Outturn Variance	Movement
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	%	£000	£000
Directorate and Service Co-ordination	1,563	26	1,589	1,487	12	1,499	90	5.6%	108	(19)
Refuse Collection	5,054	(4)	5,050	4,975	768	5,743	(693)	(13.7%)	(876)	183
Household Waste Recycling Centres	671	0	671	671	442	1,112	(441)	(65.8%)	(186)	(255)
Refuse Disposal	7,256	0	7,256	7,283	504	7,787	(531)	(7.3%)	(928)	398
Streetscene	5,122	(6)	5,116	4,786	224	5,010	106	2.1%	129	(23)
Sustainability and Place	522	(1)	521	390	5	395	126	24.1%	123	3
Fleet Services	(219)	26	(193)	(399)	0	(399)	206	106.8%	180	26
Social Transport	1,712	(45)	1,667	1,618	(364)	1,254	413	24.8%	398	15
Roads Operations	2,754	(10)	2,744	2,846	105	2,951	(207)	(7.5%)	(329)	122
Infrastructure and Assets	1,575	150	1,725	1,594	40	1,634	91	5.3%	(18)	109
Transportation & Development	1,431	(179)	1,252	1,040	0	1,040	212	16.9%	226	(14)
Parking of Vehicles	(1,092)	(5)	(1,098)	(793)	794	1	(1,099)	(100.1%)	(1,159)	61
Strathclyde Partnership for Transport										
Requisition	3,168	0	3,168	3,168	0	3,168	0	0.0%	(500)	500
Regulatory Services	1,621	0	1,621	1,654	65	1,719	(98)	(6.1%)	(69)	(29)
<b>NET EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>31,138</b>	<b>(48)</b>	<b>31,089</b>	<b>30,318</b>	<b>2,595</b>	<b>32,913</b>	<b>(1,824)</b>	<b>(5.9%)</b>	<b>(2,901)</b>	<b>1,077</b>

	<b>Key Reasons for Projected Variance</b>
Refuse Collection	Increased employee costs of shielding, absence due to the pandemic, PPE, and adherence to social distancing measures are partially offset by management controls to reduce non essential overtime for core service delivery. In order to adhere to social distancing measures, additional vehicle support is required for each collection vehicle, resulting in additional transport costs of approximately £0.240m for the year. There is also an under recovery of income from special uplifts. It is forecast that these costs pressures will continue to the end fo the financial year.
Household Waste Recycling Centres	In order to ensure the public can adhere safely to social distancing measures when visiting HWRC sites increased staffing is required to direct and control the operations. It is expected that these additional measures and resultant costs will continue to the end of the financial year. A high level of traffic management was also required for the initial period of re opening.
Refuse Disposal	A significant increase in household waste for both residual and recycling tonnages, resulting in a forecast increase in the costs of disposal. Tonnages presented at kerbside now appear to be dropping and this combined with more up to date data has resulted in the forecast overspend being lower than previously expected. In addition there is an expected loss of income from both scrap metal and textile contracts. This is partially offset by a reduction in the tonnages processed through the HWRC's due to closure at the start of the financial year due to the pandemic.
Streetscene	Management controls and actions to mitigate the overall costs of the pandemic have resulted in projected underspends on supplies and services, overtime, and fuel costs.
Social Transport	Additional driver support is required to adhere to service social distancing measures mainly within refuse collection, resulting in increased income recovery.
Roads Operations	A one of cost pressure on materials cost and increased employee costs during reponse to the pandemic. Capital improvement works carried out by the service have decreased since 2019/20. Work is underway to increase efficiencies with a view to reducing projected service delivery costs.
Traffic Management	Management controls and actions to mitigate the overall costs of the pandemic have resulted in an underspend in employee costs due to vacancy management, and within supplies and services
Parking of Vehicles	Parking charges were suspended from March 2020, and reintroduced during August, however usage of spaces is currently at a much lower level than previous years. Due to the pandemic it is forecast that this reduction in parking will continue to the end of the financial year.
Strathclyde Partnership for Transport Requisition	It is now forecast that SPT will manage the current financial year without the need for additional financial support from Councils due to the pandemic. This is due to a significant use of reserves as a one off measure to manage the current year budget, however SPT are likely to face financial pressures next financial year, which may result in increased requisition requirements from the Council.

**RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL**  
**REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING STATEMENT 2020/21**  
**1st April 2020 to 13th November 2020**

**POLICY BOARD : INFRASTRUCTURE, LAND AND ENVIRONMENT**

Subjective Summary	Revised Annual Budget at Period 6	New Budget Adjustments	Revised Annual Budget	Projected Outturn Core Business	Projected Outturn COVID-19	Total Projected Outturn	Budget Variance (Adverse) or Favourable		Previous Projected Outturn Variance	Movement
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	%	£000's	£000's
Employees	21,208	(50)	21,158	20,391	811	21,202	(44)	(0.2%)	(108)	64
Premises Related	1,094	0	1,094	1,177	5	1,182	(88)	(8.1%)	(80)	(8)
Transport Related	5,926	0	5,926	5,529	265	5,794	132	2.2%	106	26
Supplies and Services	12,149	210	12,359	12,213	782	12,995	(636)	(5.1%)	(974)	338
Third Party Payments	3,203	0	3,203	3,209	0	3,209	(6)	(0.2%)	(505)	499
Transfer Payments	59	1	60	114	0	114	(54)	(89.7%)	(15)	(39)
Support Services	228	0	228	218	0	218	10	4.4%	10	(0)
Depreciation and Impairment Losses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0	0
<b>GROSS EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>43,867</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>44,028</b>	<b>42,851</b>	<b>1,863</b>	<b>44,714</b>	<b>(686)</b>	<b>(1.6%)</b>	<b>(1,567)</b>	<b>880</b>
Income	(12,729)	(209)	(12,939)	(12,533)	732	(11,801)	(1,138)	(8.8%)	(1,334)	196
<b>NET EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>31,138</b>	<b>(48)</b>	<b>31,089</b>	<b>30,318</b>	<b>2,595</b>	<b>32,913</b>	<b>(1,824)</b>	<b>(5.9%)</b>	<b>(2,901)</b>	<b>1,077</b>



RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL  
CAPITAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY - NON-HOUSING SERVICES  
1st April to 13th November 2020  
POLICY BOARD: INFRASTRUCTURE, LAND & ENVIRONMENT

Project Title	Prior Years Expenditure to 31/03/2020* £000	Current Year 2020-21						Full Programme - All years			
		Approved Budget 2020-21 £000	Budget Adjustments in 2020-21 £000	Revised Budget 2020-21 £000	Projected Outturn 2020-21 £000	Budget Variance (Adverse) or Favourable		Total Approved Budget to 31-Mar-25 £000	Projected Outturn to 31-Mar-25 £000	Budget Variance (Adverse) or Favourable	
<b>ENVIRONMENT &amp; INFRASTRUCTURE</b>											
Cycling, Walking & Safer Streets (Funded by Specific	0	783	0	783	783	0	0%	1,533	1,533	0	0%
Roads/Footways Upgrade Programme	0	7,800	(439)	7,361	7,361	0	0%	30,861	30,861	0	0%
Vehicle Replacement Programme	0	1,800	590	2,390	2,390	0	0%	2,390	2,390	0	0%
Bridge Assessment/Strengthening	0	300	37	337	337	0	0%	562	562	0	0%
Lighting Columns Replacement	0	500	258	758	758	0	0%	758	758	0	0%
Traffic Management	0	1,000	0	1,000	1,000	0	0%	1,000	1,000	0	0%
Core pathways & cycle network	0	0	200	200	200	0	0%	200	200	0	0%
Waste Transfer Station Upgrade	397	0	3	3	3	0	0%	400	400	0	0%
Parks Improvement Programme	2,030	60	32	92	92	0	0%	2,350	2,350	0	0%
LED Street Lighting Strategy	9,370	0	0	0	0	0	0%	9,370	9,370	0	0%
Multi Purpose Bins	52	0	28	28	28	0	0%	80	80	0	0%
Improvements to Cemetery Estate	949	0	300	300	300	0	0%	1,441	1,441	0	0%
Underwood Depot - Workshop Improvements	40	209	(4)	205	205	0	0%	245	245	0	0%
ANPR Recognition Equipment Underwood Road Recy	0	0	80	80	80	0	0%	80	80	0	0%
Strathclyde Partnership Transport	0	0	875	875	875	0	0%	875	875	0	0%
<b>TOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE, LAND &amp; ENVIRONMENT BOARD</b>	<b>12,838</b>	<b>12,452</b>	<b>1,960</b>	<b>14,412</b>	<b>14,412</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>52,145</b>	<b>52,145</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>

\*Rolling programmes have a prior year year expenditure of £0 as the expenditure is not directly linked from one year to the next as a singular project.

Objective Heading	Key Reasons for Potential Variance



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**To:            Infrastructure, Land and Environment Policy Board**

**On:            27 January 2021**

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**Report by:   Director of Environment & Infrastructure and  
                  Director of Communities and Housing**

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**Heading:    Service Update and Performance Scorecard**

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## **1.        Summary**

- 1.1        Following on from the previous Service Update presented to this board on 4 November 2020, this report provides a further update to the Infrastructure, Land and Environment Policy Board on key areas within the Board's remit. It also outlines the priorities through to Spring 2021, highlighting key areas of focus and plans for next steps to support the Council's recovery plans. Whilst developing these plans, the local and national position remains fluid and services will remain flexible and able to respond quickly in relation to changes in restrictions and local outbreaks as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 1.2        Further restrictions were introduced on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021 which will apply until the end of January in areas currently under Level 4 restrictions, including Renfrewshire. New laws will require people to stay at home and work from home where possible. Those previously asked to shield by the Chief Medical Officer have been advised not to attend work. All staff required to attend work to deliver or support essential work, have the required workplace guidance, Health and Safety measures and PPE (if required) in place. HWRCs will remain open as per current arrangements. Waste management and street scene services will continue as normal, as will the council's winter weather response. Safety measures are well established and in place.
- 1.3        Appended to this report are performance updates for those indicators that are reported on a quarterly basis. It covers the period for quarters 1 (April to June) and 2 (July to September) of 2020/21. A performance update covering 2019/20 was provided to this board on 4 November 2020. Appendix 1 covers the performance indicators for Environment and Infrastructure and Appendix 2 for Communities and Housing as both contain actions and indicators relevant to this Board's remit. The

Service Update Report for Communities and Housing Services is being presented to the Communities Housing and Planning Policy Board. Environment and Infrastructure will also report to the Finance, Resources and Customer Services Policy Board to cover the areas within that Board's remit.

- 1.4 Service Improvement Plans for 2020/21 were developed for all Council services and the plans for Environment and Infrastructure and Communities and Housing Services were approved by this Board prior to the lockdown. The majority of the actions and activities did not proceed or were not undertaken in the same way due to Covid-19 and, new Service Improvement Plans for 2021/22 will reflect the greater focus on recovery and renewal rather than solely improvement activity. These plans will be linked to the recovery plans being developed and delivered by council services. It is proposed that these draft Service Improvement Plans will be presented to the spring 2021 Board cycle and this will restart the normal scrutiny and governance activity associated with these high-level plans.
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## **2. Recommendations**

It is recommended that members of the Infrastructure, Land and Environment Board:

- 2.1 Approves the content of this report and notes the performance information for quarters 1 and 2 2020/21 as appended to this report.
  - 2.2 Approves the suspension of car parking charges in the Council owned Car Parks of Paisley Town Centre until the end of March 2021 as set out in paragraph 4.7 of this report.
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## **3. Background**

- 3.1 In the previous service update reported to Infrastructure, Land and Environment Policy Board on 4 November 2020, the Council's response to the coronavirus pandemic from March 2020 to November 2020 was outlined – our partnership approach, our move to protect and support our employees and communities, particularly vulnerable people across the area.
- 3.2 Employees across the Council continue to show great commitment and resilience during this time delivering essential services, volunteering to support frontline services and helping others to remain safe at home.
- 3.3 The service remains acutely aware of the impact on Renfrewshire's communities of the pandemic – of those who have sadly been bereaved, who feel isolated, have concerns about their income, have had their health impacted, have supported their children and young people with home learning or have contended with other challenges made more difficult by the pandemic and consequent restrictions. Across services, and with our partners, the Council continues to support our communities

and develop our operational and policy response both now and as we continue to move through the recovery route map.

- 3.4 Further restrictions were introduced on January 5 which will apply until the end of January in areas currently under Level 4 restrictions, including Renfrewshire. New laws will require people to stay at home and work from home where possible. Those previously asked to shield by the Chief Medical Officer have been advised not to attend work. All staff required to attend work to deliver or support essential work, have the required workplace guidance, Health and Safety measures and PPE (if required) in place.
- 3.5 HWRCs will remain open as per current arrangements. Waste management and street scene services will continue as normal, as will the council's winter weather response. Safety measures are well established and in place.
- 3.6 Council services continue to operate flexibly in order to respond to whatever challenges the pandemic brings for local communities but there is also a continuing focus on the recovery position and the opportunities to 'build back better'. Alongside this, new opportunities are emerging, potential funding streams, information and learning is being shared across local government and the service will also continue to respond to this.
- 3.7 This report gives a broad overview of the key areas which continue to be impacted by the Covid-19 crisis, further areas the service has paused and restarted, the particular areas of focus now and in the near future, and any specific risks and priorities of relevance to this Policy Board.
- 3.8 The report also provides an overview of the service's performance against the indicators in the 2020/21 Service Improvement Plan. These indicators were approved by members before lockdown and therefore reflect expectations for service delivery in a business as usual context rather than during a pandemic response period.

#### **4. Updates for Infrastructure Land and Environment Policy Board**

##### **Refuse Collection Services**

- 4.1. The service continues to deliver all essential frontline collection services including collections for residual waste, recycling, food and garden waste and commercial collections. To ensure a consistent service continues to be delivered in the current climate, the service has adopted a shared resources model to deal with any disruption to resource supply.

##### **Assisted Collection Service**

- 4.2. The service is updating the information we hold in relation to the assisted collection service which was previously reviewed in November 2019. There are currently over 4,000 properties in Renfrewshire in receipt of an assisted service with many properties registered for the service for a long period of time. The service has started the process of contacting residents who receive this service to ensure our records are updated and our collection crews have more accurate information to ensure they

provide reliable collections. Residents will be contacted on a phased approach, leading to an ongoing programme of periodic reviews.

If there is no response to our initial contact, Waste Services will follow this up with contact by phone if needed. If it is not possible to reach the resident by letter or phone then a waste advisor will visit the property and speak to the householders in person. This will be done in a safe and controlled manner, following physical distancing rules. The timing and process for visits to households will reflect the status of coronavirus controls in place and no visits will take place until it is safe to do so. The service will continue to promote the assisted service to those who need it and over 300 new households have been added during 2020.

#### **Waste Collection In-cab system**

- 4.3. Following a pilot of the in-cab route management system in six waste service vehicles, the In-cab system will be rolled out across the waste and recycling collection fleet over the next few months, enabling collection crews to follow the routes on an interactive screen and supervisors to monitor progress in real time. This system enhances the Routesmart route optimisation system, giving drivers better information about their routes and allowing real life productivity data to be captured.

In a linked project, the waste team has been working with the Digital First Team and Contact Centre to improve the processes for resolving missed collections. This will enable the staff who handle phone calls from the public about missed collections to view information recorded by crews and to prioritise households with assisted collections.

#### **Household Waste Recycling Centres**

- 4.4. The household waste recycling centres remained open during the festive period and lockdown restrictions, only closing on 25th December and 1st January. The centres were busy over the whole festive period, as has been the case in previous years.

#### **Roads, Fleet and Social Transport**

- 4.5. The roads capital investment programme for 2020/21 commenced in July following the covid-19 lockdown. Given the loss of the first three and a half months of the 7 month programme, a number of schemes have carried into financial year 2021/22. However, during the months since July there have been 52 carriageways resurfaced, 16 carriageways surface dressed, 5 carriageways micro-surfaced and pre-patching in advance of next year's surface dressing carried out on 15 carriageways. In addition, works to reconstruct Braids Road carriageway in Paisley are almost complete.
- 4.6. Footway works have also commenced with 9 footways slurry sealed and 5 footways resurfaced. A further 18 footways will be resurfaced before the end of the financial year.

### **Town Centre Car Parking**

- 4.7. In March 2020 when Scotland entered into lockdown, Council owned car parking charges were suspended to support key workers to undertake their duties. As the vast majority of Scotland is currently under further lockdown restrictions it is proposed that off street car parking charges are suspended until the end of March 2021 to support key workers to undertake their duties at this time. Normal traffic restrictions e.g. double yellow lines will continue to apply.
- 4.8. A programme of bus stop improvement works, in partnership with Strathclyde Partnership for Transport, has been delayed by Covid-19 restrictions with works carried into the 2020/21 programme to encourage greater bus patronage. Work has started on the programme and the contractor has been given instructions to accelerate projects where possible to complete the programme by the end of the financial year. Ward Members will be advised of any improvements works in the area prior to works commencing.
- 4.9. The design work for a bus turning circle at Linburn Road in Erskine is out to tender. Responses are expected to enable design by Spring 2021, allowing the publication of a construction tender thereafter.
- 4.10. Phase 2 of the £300,000 segregated shared cycle way project from Bishopton to Glasgow Airport is underway, with the section from M8 Junction 29A to the Red Smiddy Roundabout nearing the half-way mark with the intention of completing by March 2021. This is an important element in the Council's cycling strategy network and will connect to City Deal's proposals for around the airport.
- 4.11. The contract for the refurbishment and reopening of the White Cart footbridge at Abercorn Street in Paisley was awarded on 23 November and is expected to commence works in January with project completion in Spring 2021. This will create an important connection to the proposed cycle way between Paisley and Renfrew.
- 4.12. The Service has been awarded £1million funding from the Mission Clyde fund to build the first part of the cycle way from Paisley to Renfrew along the abandoned rail line parallel to Renfrew Road as far as Wright Street. The project will begin an important active travel link from Paisley town centre and Gilmour Street Station to a number of new development opportunities proposed for this corridor including the AMIDS site.
- 4.13. The contract to strengthen the weak footways on Crosslee bridge, over the national cycle route 7, will be awarded in late January 2021. This is one of the last in the programme to bring all the Council's bridges fully to national weight bearing standard.
- 4.14. All the Council's school flashing twenty mph signs have been surveyed and responses to a tender document for their repair and replacement are currently being evaluated for award of the contract and completion of the works by the end of March 2021.

- 4.15. Work to modernise the Council's urban traffic control system and to replace its life-expired traffic signals continues. Communications issues between the signals and the system are being rectified by the installation of new technology and a group of seven priority junctions are having their equipment replaced. Two junctions were completed in December 2020 at High Street and MacDowall Street in Johnstone and A726 Barrhead Road and Saucel Crescent in Paisley. The programme of works from January to April 2021 is Mill Street and Seedhill Road, A726 Barrhead Road and Thread Street, Maxwellton Street and Corsebar Road, Lawn Street and Gauze Street and concluding with Barrhead Road and Lochfield Road.
- 4.16. Renfrewshire Council has secured funding of £173,000 from Transport Scotland for 24 electric vehicles. A mix of cars, light vans and 3.5 tonne vans will replace diesel vehicles at Underwood Road. In addition, grant funding for Non-Public Workplace Charging of £75,000 followed a successful application process with Energy Savings Trust. Ten new chargers will be installed at Underwood Road Depot prior to the delivery of the new electric vehicles. Two electric minibuses have started road trials and will play an important role in supporting Social Transport services as well as increasing the percentage of the vehicle fleet which uses alternative fuels.
- 4.17. The Social Transport team continue to assist colleagues in Waste and StreetScene Services to ensure they are safely transported by physical distancing measures around Renfrewshire to deliver vital services.

#### **Spaces for People – Temporary Cycle Routes**

- 4.18. After initial consultation, further engagement took place with communities, businesses and elected members in late November on the first two proposed temporary cycle ways, Howwood to Paisley and Bridge of Weir to Gryffe High School. Online webinars were presented on 3 and 10 December to explain the designs further. Comments were gathered from both engagement sessions for consideration before finalising the designs to move to installation phased in early 2021.
- 4.19. **Architectural Lighting Improvements – Renfrew and Johnstone Town Centres**  
As part of the Scottish Government's Town Centre Capital Funding programme, Transportation and Infrastructure have been working in partnership with Council's regeneration team to deliver architectural lighting improvements in Renfrew and Johnstone. The lighting improvements have been completed for the Bandstand, War Memorial and trees in Houstoun Square in Johnstone and White Cart Bascule Bridge and Avenue of Trees in Robertson Park Renfrew. The lighting works for Renfrew Town Hall has been instructed and is anticipated to be completed by end of March 2021. The second phase of Robertson Park lighting improvements including CCTV was contract awarded in December 2020 with an expected start date in late January 2021.

#### **StreetScene and Team Up to Clean Up**

- 4.20. StreetScene have been targeting areas of high leaf fall over the autumn/ winter period and deployed resources to target these areas to keep pavements clear and safe for the public. This has involved both daytime and night time activity to reduce the number of gullies that would have become blocked and in turn reducing flooding at these locations.
- 4.21. The arboriculture squad were busy installing and maintain Christmas trees across our communities and have raised the tree canopy in Robertson park to enable lighting and CCTV improvement works.
- 4.22. The grass cutting service has being reviewed as part of the Council's Right for Renfrewshire Programme. Following the review, it is proposed the grass currently maintained by the service across communities and Council house properties will move to a regularised service, undertaken on a fortnightly basis. The regularising of the grass cutting service for communities and Council tenants will be supported with a communication plan that will enable members, tenants and communities to know on what weeks and days grass within their community and property will be maintained. A more detailed report will be brought back to the March cycle of the Policy board setting out the detail of the proposed service change to be implemented in late March and early April 2021.
- 4.23. Community activity in Team Up to Clean has increased despite the challenges of COVID-19. The Team Up to Clean Up community has doubled in number from 2019 with 1,571 volunteers taking part in community clean ups during 2020. 707 picks have taken place and 4430 bags have been removed from communities in 2020.
- 4.24. The Facebook group is also steadily growing with almost 1600 members. The group's messages have been adopted by Bishopton Community Council in particular Dargavel Village where 15 active solo community litter pickers have joined from the beginning of the year. The Community Council are ensuring Team Up to Clean Up designs are visible throughout the community.
- 4.25. New marketing designs, directed by our communities, have seen posters delivered to local shops reminding customers to dispose of masks and gloves responsibly. Volunteers also requested posters, they will personally erect after cleaning an area, to will inform local residents local volunteers cleaned the area asking them to be mindful of this.
- 4.26. #WinterWarriors kits have been offered to the larger Team Up to Clean Up community this year as oppose to caddy holders only in 2019. Bishopton, Foxbar, Glenburn, Renfrew, Shortroods and Spateston communities can now offer a snow shovel, salt and a grit spreader for use in their communities.

**Asymptomatic Test Site, Johnstone Town Hall**

- 4.27. In December, Johnstone Town Hall became a pilot asymptomatic testing site facility for Covid-19 testing. This was the first pilot testing site in Scotland and operated for a week from 2 December to 9 December and was an opportunity for all those living and working in Johnstone who were not displaying Covid-19 symptoms to take a test.

- 4.28. This was a jointly delivered project by several services across the Council, with the Director of Environment & Infrastructure taking the lead on the delivery. Environment and Infrastructure were heavily involved in supporting the process within the test centre and in the traffic, street cleansing and waste management requirements of the asymptomatic testing site. More than 5000 people visited Johnstone Town Hall throughout the eight days, and the findings will play a key role in helping inform future public health decisions on large-scale testing and public health data that will help contain the virus and protect our communities.

### **Communities and Housing – Regulatory Services and Communities**

- 4.29. When Renfrewshire went into Level 4 restrictions in November 2020, the Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Restrictions and Requirements) (Local Levels) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 remained in place, however, legislation and guidance continued to change. When initial lockdown started in March/April, there was a lot of discussion/messaging around “essential” and “non-essential” businesses. The legislation does not define these terms, but instead either closes businesses, restricts their method of trade or allows them to trade subject to meeting all legislative controls, as outlined below:

- **“Listed”** businesses must close entirely in any capacity. These include cinemas, nightclubs, concert halls, indoor or outdoor theatres, comedy clubs, museums or galleries, soft play centres, sports stadia, snooker or pool halls, bowling alleys, betting shops, bingo halls, funfairs, amusement arcades, premises which provide a close contact service (beauty services, hairdressing, massage, tattoos/piercing, tailoring and similar), skating rinks and indoor fitness studios, gyms, swimming pools or other indoor leisure centres or facilities. Mobile close contact services are also not permitted.
- **“Permitted”** businesses may trade provided they can meet all requirements relating to physical distancing etc. These include food retailers, including food markets, takeaways, supermarkets, convenience stores and corner shops, off licences and licenced shops selling alcohol (including breweries), pharmacies (including non-dispensing pharmacies) and chemists, newsagents, homeware, building supplies and hardware stores, petrol stations, car repair and MOT services, bicycle shops, taxi or vehicle hire businesses, financial institutions of any kind, post offices, funeral directors, laundrettes and dry cleaners, medical or health services of any kind, including services relating to mental health, veterinary surgeons and pet shops, agricultural supplies shops and agricultural markets, storage and distribution facilities, including delivery drop off or collection points, car parks, public toilets, livestock markets or auctions, garden centres, plant nurseries, outdoor markets and outdoor car lots.
- **“Restricted”** businesses are those retail businesses/services which do not appear on either list. These can only be provided under level four measures if they can do so by distance e.g. by delivery or collection only, with those orders being arranged by telephone, post or electronic communication. Customers are not permitted on these types of premises during this Level, for

anything other than takeaway food. The majority of hospitality sector will fall within this category, if they choose to trade by distance.

- 4.30 Officers continued to work with businesses to understand the changes, however, this was a particularly busy and challenging time for Officers.
- 4.31 An extensive funding package was introduced which is allocated to support these measures and is administered by the Economic Development Team. The criteria for assessment includes that a business must not have breached previous Coronavirus controls. The Serious Organised Crime and Trading Standards Manager liaises with the Economic Development Team to determine whether there are any applications which should be rejected. To date there have only been 3 refusals for funding due to a breach of controls.

## **5. Key priorities and risks until next board cycle**

### **Environment & Infrastructure**

- 5.1. The service-specific key priority areas over the next few months will be to continue to deliver frontline essential services under the current tier restrictions, these include; maintaining the refuse collection service and deployment of our Winter Maintenance Plan to keep Renfrewshire's roads and footpaths safe and accessible.
- 5.2. The service remains on alert with agile contingency plans in place to continue delivering essential services should another local lockdown be required.

### **Communities and Housing – Regulatory Services**

- 5.3. As detailed at the previous Board, the Minister for Public Health and Sport agreed to extend the deviation for the Food Law Code of Practice in November 2020 for local authorities. This allows local authorities to focus on Covid-19 work, whilst ensuring that higher risk premises are still inspected and interventions are undertaken where required in other premises. Renfrewshire Council are represented on the Scottish Food Enforcement Liaison Committee (SFELC) Recovery Group and this is discussed often at the West of Scotland Food Liaison Group. Environmental Health is currently working on a recovery plan that will be required to be signed off by Food Standards Scotland and will include the production of a new business plan inspections in 2021-2022.
- 5.4. Recruitment has started for the Environmental Health Compliance Officer posts following funding being secured from the Scottish Government for Covid-19 related work. The recruitment of these Officers will allow Environmental Health Officers and Trading Standards Officers to focus on other work as well Covid-19 related duties. It is anticipated that Officers will be recruited in early 2020.

## **6. Performance Scorecard for Q1 and Q2 2020/21**

- 6.1. Appendix 1 to this report contains a performance scorecard for Environment & Infrastructure covering Quarter 1 (April-June) and Quarter 2 (July-September) of 2020/21. As noted above, these indicators were agreed prior to a knowledge that a prolonged lockdown and subsequent restrictions would be in place. Targets were set in a pre-Covid position and may not reflect the operating context services have been working in since March 2020. Commentary is provided for each indicator and where relevant, includes an assessment of how the pandemic has impacted on performance.
- 6.2. Performance of the scorecard indicators were impacted by Covid restrictions during the initial period of lockdown. The relatively strong performance of the 8 scorecard indicators should be viewed in the context of this challenging operating environment. Of the 8 indicators with targets: 3 were performing on or above target, 2 were near target and will require monitoring, and 3 were below target.

6.3. The following areas show areas of positive performance:

- 79% of pothole repairs were completed within timescales, up from 37% at the end of 2019/20 reflecting better management information and weekly reporting which has helped to identify and address emerging issues;
- 86% of members enquiries completed within timescale by Environment & Infrastructure, the performance target of 85% was exceeded in both quarters (93% in Q1 and 86% in Q2); and
- 24.5% of the vehicle fleet which uses alternative fuels, such as electricity, this was up from 18.2% at the end of 2019/20 reflecting the service's continued commitment to work proactively to make Renfrewshire carbon neutral by 2030.

6.4. The following areas show areas of performance that are near target and require monitoring:

- The Council collects 8.08million domestic bins each year, 99.8% of bins are uplifted first time during the first 2 quarters of this financial year. The service is committed to improving the customer experience and has introduced a new process to allow residents to report a missed bin online;
- 92% of complaint investigations completed within timescale by Environment & Infrastructure

6.5. The scorecard highlights the following indicators as being below target:

- 62% of frontline resolutions dealt with within timescale by Environment & Infrastructure
- 93% of FOI requests completed within timescale by Environment & Infrastructure during quarter
- 3.99 Average number of work days lost through sickness absence per Environment & Infrastructure employee (FTE) (cumulative). The average number of work days lost through sickness within Operations Services has significantly improved and is below Council target of 3%.

6.6. Two of these indicators below target relate to enquiries and complaints handling. The Council introduced a new complaints handling system in April 2020 and staff were trying to adjust to working on the new system whilst managing the response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Performance has improved from Quarter 1 to Quarter 2.

6.7. In terms of sickness absence, officers from the service and from HR & Organisational Development meet every 2 weeks to monitor and support the progress of employees through the Council's Supporting Attendance process to ensure they are provided with the appropriate support required to return to work.

6.8. Appendix 2 to this report contains a performance scorecard for Communities, and Housing covering Quarter 1 (April-June) and Quarter 2 (July-September) of 2020/21.

The performance scorecard contains 3 indicators. All three indicators show areas of positive performance.

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### **Implications of the Report**

1. **Financial** – due to the suspension of car parking charges until the end of March 2021 there will be a loss of income to the Council and this will be captured as part of the ongoing work to identify costs and income losses as part of COVID 19 pandemic through the financial management.
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – None.
3. **Community & Council Planning** –  
  
**Our Renfrewshire is thriving / Reshaping our place, our economy and our future** - the service is actively involved in the Invest in Renfrewshire scheme and investing in road network to support and facilitate economic growth.  
  
**Creating a sustainable Renfrewshire for all to enjoy** - working in partnership with the community to deliver a cleaner Renfrewshire. Promoting and encouraging waste minimisation through reducing, reusing and recycling. Reducing carbon emissions, through LED streetlights and electric and low emission vehicles within the Council fleet.  
  
**Our Renfrewshire is well** - the services encourages use of our parks and open spaces to promote a healthy and active lifestyle.
4. **Legal** – None.
5. **Property/Assets** – The Council's roads, fleet and open space infrastructure is maintained and enhanced.
6. **Information Technology** – None.
7. **Equality & Human Rights** - 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** – CRMG are continuing to review the Council’s risk profile in light of the coronavirus pandemic.
11. **Privacy Impact** – None.
12. **CoSLA Policy Position** – none
13. **Climate Risk** – The Council continues to explore opportunities to secure external funding to deliver sustainable, green infrastructure projects.

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**List of Background Papers: none**

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## Environment & Infrastructure Service Improvement Plan 2020-2023: Performance for Q1 & Q2 2020/21



### Local Outcome 01: Reshaping our place, our economy and our future

Performance Indicator	Current Status	2018/19		2019/20		Q1 2020/21		Q2 2020/21		Explanation of Performance
		Value	Target	Value	Target	Value	Target	Value	Target	
% of pothole repairs completed within timescales		50%	75%	37%	75%	78%	75%	79%	75%	In 2019/20, 37% of pothole repairs were completed within timescales.  Data analytics has also been introduced to improve performance monitoring with weekly reports being used to identify and resolve issues. Performance during Q1 was 78% rising to 79% in Q2. Both quarters saw performance exceed the target of 75%.

### Local Outcome 04: Creating a sustainable Renfrewshire for all to enjoy

Performance Indicator	Current Status	2018/19		2019/20		Q1 2020/21		Q2 2020/21		Explanation of Performance
		Value	Target	Value	Target	Value	Target	Value	Target	
% of the vehicle fleet which uses alternative fuels, such as electricity		9.8%	8%	18.2%	21%	22.5%	23%	24.5%	23%	The percentage of the vehicle fleet which uses alternative fuel such as electricity was 24.5% at the end of quarter 2 in 2020/21. This is up from 18.2% at the end of 2019/20. This figure is based on a total of 114 electric vehicles. 14 additional electric vehicles were added to the fleet in July 2020 resulting in almost a quarter of the fleet now using alternative fuel.
% of bins uplifted first time		New PI 2019/20		99.8%	99.95%	99.76%	99.95%	99.76%	99.95%	The Council collects 8.08million domestic bins each year. A new process was introduced to allow residents to report a missed bin online themselves. This system

Performance Indicator	Current Status	2018/19		2019/20		Q1 2020/21		Q2 2020/21		Explanation of Performance
		Value	Target	Value	Target	Value	Target	Value	Target	
										is still undergoing some improvements, for example a resident can report every colour of bin as missed on one report, even when that colour of bins was not due to be serviced. Work is ongoing to make the process more accurate. The figures quoted are based on the number of reported missed bins and not on actual missed bins.

### Local Outcome 05: Working together to improve outcomes

Performance Indicator	Current Status	2018/19		2019/20		Q1 2020/21		Q2 2020/21		Explanation of Performance
		Value	Target	Value	Target	Value	Target	Value	Target	
Average number of work-days lost through sickness absence per employee (FTE) (cumulative)		13.88	10.74	16.44	13.7	5.39	3.5	3.99	3	The absence performance for Q2 was 3.99 days lost per FTE employee, which was above the target of 3 days, however, does represent a reduction since Q1.  Officers from the service and from HR & Organisational Development meet every 2 weeks to monitor and support the progress of employees through the Council's Supporting Attendance process to ensure they are provided with the appropriate support required to return to work.
% of members enquiries completed within timescale by E&I		New PI 2019/20		85%	85%	93%	85%	86%	85%	Performance remains at over 85% with the volume received in Q2 increasing by almost 95% on Q1.
% of FOI requests completed within timescale by Environment & Infrastructure		97%	100%	96%	100%	93%	100%	99%	100%	During Q1 staff were familiarising themselves with home working and some information was more complex to provide in the initial stages.
% of front line resolutions dealt with within timescale by Environment & Infrastructure		75%	100%	67%	85%	55%	85%	62%	85%	A new complaints recording system was introduced across the Council from 1 <sup>st</sup> April. Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 pandemic training has had to be online. Staff are also undertaking other duties relating to the pandemic. However as can be seen performance did improve in Q2 as staff become familiar with the new system
% of complaint investigations completed within timescale by		69%	100%	85%	95%	45%	100%	92%	95%	A new complaints recording system was introduced across the Council from 1 <sup>st</sup> April. Unfortunately, due to

Performance Indicator	Current Status	2018/19		2019/20		Q1 2020/21		Q2 2020/21		Explanation of Performance
		Value	Target	Value	Target	Value	Target	Value	Target	
Environment & Infrastructure										the Covid-19 pandemic training has had to be online. Staff are also undertaking other duties relating to the pandemic. However as can be seen performance did improve considerably in Q2 as staff become familiar with the new system

**Strategic Outcome 4 - Creating a sustainable Renfrewshire for all to enjoy**

Performance Indicator	Current Status	Trend	2018/19		2019/20		2020/21				Comments	
			Value	Target	Value	Target	Quarter 1		Quarter 2			
								Value	Target	Value	Target	
Air Quality - Annual average PM10 value across all continuous monitoring sites			13.75	18	14.3	18	Not measured for quarters				Paisley Air Quality Management Area has had no exceedances for 5 years therefore Communities, Housing and Planning Services will review the data in 2021 with a view to possibly revoking or amending the AQMA following the new Annual Progress Report (APR). Data is calculated annually and not available until the middle of the following year.	
Air quality - average nitrogen dioxide value of monitoring sites, within AQMA(s) exceeding limits			40.8	43	41.1	42	Not measured for quarters				Overall good performance for 2019/20, however, one failure located at Renfrew Cross within the Renfrew AQMA, related to traffic emissions. Data is calculated annually and not available until the middle of the following year.	
Food Hygiene Information Scheme - % of premises which currently achieve a Pass rating			98%	97%	99%	95%	99%	95% (+/3%)	99%	95% (+/3%)		In April 2020, Food Standards Scotland (FSS) secured Ministerial agreement to allow a relaxation from the Food Law Code of Practice and the Interventions Code of Practice. This was to enable Environmental Health Services to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic. The relaxation has been extended twice and currently expires on 28th February 2021. Renfrewshire Council have not carried out any programmed Food Law interventions for almost 8 months and consequently a backlog of "missed" programmed interventions exists





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**To: Infrastructure, Land & Environment Policy Board**

**On: 27 January 2021**

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**Report by: Director of Finance & Resources**

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**Heading: Renfrewshire Council Carbon Management Plan 2014/15 – 2019/20,  
Update 2019/20**

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## **1. Summary**

- 1.1. Reducing carbon emissions has been one of the principle measures to address climate change and remains a key priority for all Local Authorities.
  - 1.2. The Council's Carbon Management Plan was approved by the Planning & Property Policy Board on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2014. The Plan set a target reduction of 36% carbon emissions from the 2012/13 baseline by March 2020. The Plan covered a number of sectors across the Council. Renfrewshire Council has subsequently declared a climate emergency and plans to develop a climate change adaptation plan in Renfrewshire that will guide any future associated plans.
  - 1.3. This Report provides the final update on the achievements of the Carbon Management Plan measured to March 2020. Future plans and initiatives will be set as part of Renfrewshire's aspiration to become carbon neutral by 2030.
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## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Infrastructure, Land and Environment Policy Board note the Report.
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### **3. Background**

- 3.1 Renfrewshire Council recognises that climate change will have far reaching effects on Renfrewshire's economy, its people and its environment and is determined to lead by example in tackling the causes of climate change. As such, Renfrewshire have declared a Climate Emergency (Council – 27 June 2019), with a view to working towards Renfrewshire being carbon neutral by 2030.

The Cross Party Sounding Board met on 12 September 2019 to discuss the climate emergency and to agree proposals for the establishment of a Climate Emergency Working Group. Membership of the working group was subsequently agreed with the first meeting held on 24 October 2019.

A timetable of meetings and a programme of work is now underway. A climate sub-committee has been established with key priorities developed to March 2021, including an adaptation plan, engagement etc.

- 3.2 The Council's Carbon Management Plan (CMP), quantifies the Council's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from an established baseline for the financial year 2012/13. In the baseline year 2012/13 the Council generated carbon emissions of 53,515 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> from buildings, fleet, waste, street lighting and staff travel.
- 3.3 The Council identified a target to reduce these carbon emissions by 36% by March 2020, which equates to 19,397 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> over the same period. All services contribute to the achievement of the carbon reduction targets.
- 3.4 The programme of carbon reduction activities contained within the Plan not only deliver carbon reductions in line with the Climate Change Declaration and deliver significant cost savings for the authority, but also positioned the council well for the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) – Energy Efficiency Scheme. The CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme is a mandatory UK scheme aimed at improving energy efficiency and cutting carbon dioxide emissions in large public and private sector organisations and came to an end on 31 March 2019.

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### **4. Update**

- 4.1 As detailed in the CMP, Renfrewshire Council's 2019/20 target equated to a reduction of 36% from the baseline position. The final figure shows a reduction of 32,118 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>, which equated to 60%, considerably more than anticipated.

4.2 A full breakdown of the target is provided below:

	2012-13 Baseline	2019-20 Actual	2019-20 Actual
	CO2 Emissions (tonnes)	CO2 Emissions (tonnes)	% Reduction
Electricity (buildings)	12,505	5,054	59.6%
Gas (buildings)	14,479	8,349	42.3%
Oil (buildings)	1,735	0	100.0%
Water (buildings)	395	437	-10.6%
Transport (Council Fleet)	3,521	3,427	2.7%
Street Lighting	7,016	1,374	80.4%
Waste	13,348	2,439	81.7%
Staff Mileage	516	317	38.6%
<b>Total CO2 Actual</b>	<b>53,515</b>	<b>21,681</b>	<b>60.0%</b>

4.3 This target has been achieved through a variety of measures, including:

1. Building Management Systems and plant room controls have been installed to provide a greater control over the operation of our heating systems within public buildings and provides remote access to the majority of our larger 'consuming' properties.
2. Additional investment has been made to increase the energy performance of the new build Early Years Estate.
3. Photovoltaic Panels have been installed on the roofs of a number of buildings. Installations have been undertaken to date at the following buildings:

Castlehead HS,	Gryffe HS,
Johnstone HS,	Trinity HS,
Renfrew HS,	Park Mains HS,
Montrose Care Home,	Renfrew Care Home,
Weaver Linn Respite,	Hunterhill Care Home,
St James PS,	Houston PS,
St Peters PS,	Heriot PS
Williamsburgh PS,	St Charles PS,
Ralston PS,	St Marys PS,
West PS,	St Pauls PS
Inchinnan PS,	

4. Boiler upgrades have been installed at various properties such as a biomass boiler at Underwood Rd.
5. LED internal lighting has been installed at East Fulton PS, Houston PS, Thorn PS and Wallace PS. LED lighting is now standard specification in our re-wiring programmes.

6. Carbon emissions from the council's transport fleet increased on the baseline. This is partly due to an increased number of vehicles being purchased and the roll out of pool vehicles. This increase in pool cars is reflected in a reduction in CO2 attributed to staff mileage with a reduction of 68 tonnes of CO2 (18%) from the previous year.
  7. The council has achieved its target to provide 5% of its fleet from electric vehicles.
  8. The diversion of waste from landfill has greatly reduced the tonnage of carbon from waste and is presently exceeding target by creating energy from waste through combustion.
  9. The council have invested on the replacement of our street lighting with energy efficient LED's. This has resulted in significant reductions in electricity consumption and carbon emissions.
- 4.4 Officers are now engaged, through the Climate Change Officers Working Group, in preparation of proposed projects aimed at helping Renfrewshire's aspirations to become carbon neutral by 2030.
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## Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – The Energy Investment Fund is used to implement initiatives within our public buildings. Reducing our energy consumption will result in lower fuel costs (although, this is dependent on the utility tariffs agreed through the Scottish Procurement Contract).
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – *none*
3. **Community Planning** - *the Carbon Management Plan will reduce carbon emissions.*
4. **Legal** - *none*
5. **Property/Assets** - Projects were identified and implemented throughout our public buildings portfolio.
6. **Information Technology** - *none*
7. **Equality & Human Rights** - *none*
8. **Health & Safety** - *none*
9. **Procurement** - *none*
10. **Risk** - *none*
11. **Privacy Impact** - *none*

12. **Cosla Policy Position** – None

13. **Climate Risk** –The Carbon Management Plan helps to reduce Renfrewshire Council's carbon emissions.

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### **List of Background Papers**

(a) Background Paper 1 – Carbon Management Plan 2014/15 – 2019/20

The foregoing background papers will be retained within Finance and Resources for inspection by the public for the prescribed period of four years from the date of the meeting. The contact officer within the service is Craig Doogan, Energy Manager, Tel. 0141 618 6198, e-mail address: [Craig.Doogan@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:Craig.Doogan@renfrewshire.gov.uk)

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**To:** Infrastructure, Land and Environment Policy Board

**On:** 27 January 2021

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**Report by:** Chief Executive

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**Heading:** Renfrewshire Biodiversity Duty Report 2018-2020

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## 1. Summary

- 1.1 In accordance with the statutory requirements set out in the Wildlife and Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2011, Renfrewshire Council is required to prepare a Biodiversity Duty Report every three years and in this context this report asks the Board to note the attached Renfrewshire Biodiversity Duty Report for 2018-2020.
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## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Board:
- (i) notes the Renfrewshire Council Biodiversity Duty Report 2018 – 2020.
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## 3. Background

- 3.1. The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 sets out that all public bodies have a duty to further the conservation of Biodiversity. In addition, the Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011 amended the 2004 Act to include a requirement to the effect that public bodies must publish a report every three years on the actions undertaken to meet biodiversity duties.

Renfrewshire Council published its second Renfrewshire Biodiversity Duty Report covering the period 2015 to 2017 in January 2018 and in compliance with statutory requirements, this third Renfrewshire Biodiversity Duty Report has been prepared to highlight the actions undertaken by the Council to support biodiversity over the period 2018-2020.

#### 4. **Progress during 2018 - 2020**

- 4.1 The Council has made good progress in enhancing biodiversity, particularly through embedding biodiversity considerations in the delivery of the Green Network identified in the Renfrewshire Local Development Plan. This progress has been successfully supported by a range of partners and stakeholders who have assisted in the delivery of a variety of biodiversity activities over the period.
  - 4.2 An important achievement during this period has been the recognition of biodiversity as a key strand of the Council's response to the Climate Change Emergency, particularly in supporting carbon capture through restoration of Renfrewshire's natural environment which was the subject of a report to the Council meeting of 27 February 2020.
  - 4.3 In 2019, Council agreed to work towards achieving net zero carbon emissions in Renfrewshire by 2030 and work is currently progressing locally on the development of a climate change adaptation plan which will set out how partners in Renfrewshire will work together to achieve these targets. Oversight of this programme of work is provided by the Climate Change Sub Committee. This biodiversity report will be shared with members of the sub-committee as part of that work.
  - 4.4 The Biodiversity Duty Report 2018-2020 demonstrates that the Council will continue to support biodiversity through implementation of the actions set out in the Community Plan, the Renfrewshire Local Development Plan and the Local Biodiversity Action Plan.
  - 4.5 The report will be published on the Council's website.
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#### **Implications of the Report**

1. **Financial** - None
2. **HR & Organisational Development** - None
3. **Community/Council Planning** – The strategy seeks to support and enhance biodiversity and the network of green spaces across Renfrewshire
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 – Not applicable.**

13. **Climate Risk – None.**

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**Appendices**

1. Renfrewshire Council Biodiversity Duty Report 2018-2020

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# RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL BIODIVERSITY DUTY REPORT 2018 - 2020



**The term 'Biodiversity' is short for biological diversity. It includes every plant and animal, as well as the range of habitats on which all flora and fauna depend.**





## RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL BIODIVERSITY DUTY REPORT 2018 - 2020

The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 gives public bodies a duty to further the conservation of biodiversity. The Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011 requires public bodies to publish a report every three years on the actions undertaken to meet biodiversity duty.

This report highlights the actions undertaken by Renfrewshire Council to support biodiversity over the period 2018-2020 and is the third Biodiversity Duty Report produced by Renfrewshire Council.

In September 2020 the Scottish Government amended its advice to public bodies and provided a revised template, setting out the main areas that it considers important for public bodies to include in their Biodiversity Duty Reports. This Report follows the Scottish Government template.

## 1. Biodiversity in Renfrewshire

Renfrewshire covers an area of some 270 square kilometres (102 square miles) and on 30 June 2019 had an estimated population of around 179,100 people.

The natural character and biodiversity of Renfrewshire is a valuable asset, providing the basis for many social and economic activities of direct benefit to the local community. Renfrewshire Council provides a range of services which seeks to support and enhance biodiversity conservation in this context. These include:

- Communities, Housing & Planning Services guide the use of land and its development, along with the maintenance and enhancement of places within Renfrewshire, through the Local Development Plan and Development Management functions.
- Environment & Infrastructure Services through the management of parks, cemeteries, Gleniffer Braes Country Park and open spaces.
- Children's Services promote an increasing range of environmental education through schools, encouraging children to become more conscious of biodiversity conservation and other sustainability issues.

The Council seeks to positively use, manage and maintain its land assets to support and enhance biodiversity conservation. This relates particularly to habitats prioritised on the Scottish Biodiversity List and these form the framework of the Renfrewshire Biodiversity Action Plan 2018-2022, which the Council coordinates on behalf of 25 local biodiversity partner organisations.



## 2: Actions to improve biodiversity and connect people with nature

As in previous reporting periods, Renfrewshire Council has continued to protect and improve biodiversity, as well as connecting people with nature, predominantly through a series of innovative partnership projects, as summarised below.

Section 2: Actions to improve biodiversity and connect people with nature			
Ref. No.	Action	Inputs/Outputs	Outcomes
2.1	“Renfrewshire Living Waters” Project in partnership with Froglife.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11 ponds created or renovated in and around Paisley - Barshaw Park, Jenny’s Well Local Nature Reserve, Gleniffer Braes Country Park.</li> <li>Froglife ran interactive stands at three high profile events: Barshaw Gala Day, Renfrew Gala Day and Grow in Glenburn’s open day in Gleniffer Braes.</li> <li>Training programmes in amphibian identification, habitat conservation and practical pond planting sessions at the same three locations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Frogs spawning in a high proportion of the ponds, even in the first breeding season.</li> <li>People made more aware of amphibian and pond conservation issues.</li> <li>Increasing numbers of volunteers directly involved in conserving priority habitats.</li> </ul>
2.2	Butterfly Conservation Scotland “Bog Squad” project completed at Sergeantlaw Moss in Gleniffer Braes Country Park.	Bog Squad volunteers carried out a series of sessions clearing colonising scrub and installing ditch blocking dams to retain more water in the living surface of the bog.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lowland Raised Bog habitat in Renfrewshire enhanced.</li> <li>Provided local demonstration project for peatland conservation techniques.</li> <li>Increasing numbers of volunteers directly involved in conserving priority habitats.</li> </ul>
2.3	Implementation of Muirshiel Country Park Woodland Management Plan 2016-2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Removal of 7ha of mature Sitka Spruce during winter 2017/18. 4000 native trees had been planted by June 2020 over 5ha of the cleared area, including Scots pine, silver birch, downy birch, common alder, hazel, rowan and oak. The rare aspen trees, planted in 2018, were also growing well two years later.</li> <li>Remaining 2ha left unplanted to protect an area of blanket bog which extends into the Country Park from surrounding moorland.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extent of Scottish Biodiversity List priority habitats, Upland Birchwood, Upland Oakwood and Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland, increased.</li> <li>Increasing numbers of volunteers directly involved in conserving priority habitats.</li> <li>Area of upland blanket bog (another Scottish Biodiversity List priority habitat) enhanced.</li> </ul>

## Section 2: Actions to improve biodiversity and connect people with nature

Ref. No.	Action	Inputs/Outputs	Outcomes
2.4	Cample Burn Juniper Conservation Project in Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park.	Planting and maintenance of the 750 planted juniper, aspen and eared willow has been carried out during this period, using volunteers and partner organisations to facilitate the project.	The planted trees, along with protected blueberry and heather, are establishing an enhanced upland habitat and providing a local rewilding demonstration project
2.5	Support for Castle Semple Volunteer Group.	In 2018/19 Clyde Muirshiel staff helped the Group to make several successful grant applications to support its activities.	Group delivered 1,493 hours of voluntary biodiversity conservation work on tree planting, alien species removal, hedge maintenance, litter removal and wildflower garden work.
2.6	Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park staff managing conservation volunteers	Supervised volunteering hours: 2017/18 1,900 2018/19 1,784 2019/20 2,123	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Equivalent to 1.3 FTE members of staff working on important habitat improvements up until Covid-19 prevented group volunteering activities.</li> <li>Key milestone was Regional Park's first ever pair of nesting Ospreys breeding successfully in 2018, raising two chicks.</li> </ul>
2.7	Volunteers at Gleniffer Braes Country Park led by on-site staff from Council's Environment & Infrastructure Services.	Supervised volunteering hours: 2018 514 2019 401 2020 72 (activities curtailed by Covid-19)	Rhododendrons controlled, hedgerows managed, litter lifted, trees planted, sensory garden restored, bug hotels constructed and erected, scrub managed, pond planting, access improved and ditches cleared.
2.8	Glasgow & Clyde Valley Green Network for Habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data collection stage included Council organising workshops for local biodiversity organisations to input data and advice to habitat opportunity mapping process.</li> <li>Continuing inputs by Council to habitat opportunity maps produced by Glasgow &amp; Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership.</li> </ul>	Outputs provide the opportunity to link Renfrewshire's habitat networks with wider framework across the Glasgow & Clyde Valley area and Central Scotland Green Network area.



## Section 2: Actions to improve biodiversity and connect people with nature

Ref. No.	Action	Inputs/Outputs	Outcomes
2.9	Planned Dargavel Community Woodland Park	Meeting between Renfrewshire Council, BAE Systems and Government Agencies, including Scottish Environmental Protection Agency, Scottish Natural Heritage, Scottish Forestry, West of Scotland Archaeology Service, to discuss regeneration opportunities which could be incorporated into the conservation management plan required from BAE Systems .	Priorities for future conservation management to ensure benefits for biodiversity and future site users are maximised.

### 3: Mainstreaming

Renfrewshire Council has continued to make good progress in mainstreaming biodiversity duties into core activities and has taken several opportunities to integrate biodiversity conservation into corporate projects, plans and strategies.

Section 3: Mainstreaming			
Ref. No.	Action	Inputs/Outputs	Outcomes
3.1	Council plays lead role in supporting and implementing the Renfrewshire Biodiversity Action Plan 2018 - 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public consultation on Plan completed in February 2018.</li> <li>Council's Communities, Housing &amp; Planning Policy Board approved Plan in May 2018.</li> <li>Officer time dedicated to coordinating implementation of the Biodiversity Action Plan throughout reporting period.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>25 partner organisations actively supporting biodiversity conservation locally.</li> <li>Improved levels of public awareness of biodiversity conservation in Renfrewshire.</li> </ul>
3.2	Renfrewshire Local Development Plan - Proposed Plan - 2019 reached the examination stage in 2020.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy ENV 2 provides protection and encourages enhancement of a variety of features which make up Renfrewshire's natural heritage.</li> <li>The Spatial Strategy for Places recognises the importance of enhancing and strengthening the Green Network by preparing and delivering a Green Network Strategy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biodiversity continues to be protected through the Council's planning policy and processes.</li> <li>Biodiversity enhancement is supported and encouraged.</li> </ul>
3.3	Renfrewshire Vacant and Derelict Land Strategy (2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourages the creation of amenity green space, biodiversity enhancements, green corridors/links and actions to 'clean-up' vacant and derelict land</li> <li>The Action Plan commits the Council to engage with local communities regarding the future use of small sites not recorded on the vacant land register and work in partnership to identify sites which may be suitable for greening, growing, planting or biodiversity opportunities and publicise these for Renfrewshire's Communities.</li> </ul>	Renfrewshire Council endorses a naturalising approach to regenerating vacant and derelict land, as such sites sometimes develop interesting plant and animal populations with deliberate human intervention.
3.4	Procurement policies and practices	Procurement Framework Agreements require an environmental policy to be submitted with tenders.	Increased awareness of biodiversity in business sectors.

### Section 3: Mainstreaming

Ref. No.	Action	Inputs/Outputs	Outcomes
3.5	Employing authority for Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park Authority	Five year strategy for Clyde Muirshiel (2016) supports the park an attractive and ecologically important visitor destination with increased biodiversity value.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Woodland, moorland, wetland, loch and coastal areas are effectively managed and enhanced;</li> <li>• Biodiversity is effectively conserved;</li> <li>• Best practice is shared and utilised.</li> </ul>
3.6	Renfrewshire Community Plan 2017-2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supports healthy lifestyles and wellbeing of communities.</li> <li>• Public consultation supporting preparation of the plan using the Place Standard includes an evaluation of “natural space” as one of 14 criteria.</li> </ul>	Renfrewshire Council has opportunity to communicate biodiversity conservation message to its 22 community planning partners.



## 4: Nature-based solutions, climate change and biodiversity

Renfrewshire Council has continued to make good progress in developing and implementing a positive response to the Climate Emergency which it declared on 27 June 2019, committing to making Renfrewshire carbon neutral by 2030. This response recognises the potential role of biodiversity in achieving the carbon neutrality target and includes nature-based solutions.

Section 4: Nature-based solutions, climate change and biodiversity			
Ref. No.	Action	Inputs/Outputs	Outcomes
4.1	Renfrewshire Council Climate Emergency Declaration, 27 June 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All-party Climate Emergency Working Group set up to gather evidence from service specialists and outside agencies, and then report back to Council by February 2020 with an Action Plan. Reported findings and recommendations to Full Council on 27 February 2020.</li> <li>Evidence about CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration and storage capability of semi-natural vegetation—especially peatlands—presented to Working Group on 5 December 2019.</li> </ul>	Increased awareness of issues amongst a range of stakeholders.
4.2	Renfrewshire Local Development Plan - Draft Proposed Plan - 2019	Policy 13 (Flooding and Drainage) recognises the importance of the management of flood risk through natural flood management and green infrastructure within the context of a flood management scheme. It also states that flood measures should have a positive effect on the water environment as well as the natural heritage interests of the site and land surrounding the site.	Additional habitats potentially created as a result of flood management initiatives.



## 5: Public engagement and staff development

Renfrewshire Council has continued to deploy resources to promote biodiversity conservation throughout its communities and worked with partners to maximise the benefits of these efforts. New technologies have been used where appropriate to reach wider audiences and skills development in these new technologies is becoming an important feature of staff training activities.

Section 5: Public engagement and staff development			
Ref. No.	Action	Inputs/Outputs	Outcomes
5.1	Co-ordination of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan Steering Group for Renfrewshire, East Renfrewshire and Inverclyde.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 meetings held between 2018 and 2020 and electronic communications coordinated during this period.</li> <li>Electronic communications maintained and reinforced during 2020's Covid-19 lockdown restrictions.</li> <li>Membership expanded from 27 to 35 organisations during this reporting period.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementing Renfrewshire Biodiversity Action Plan.</li> <li>Regular liaison has resulted in practical conservation works on the ground in Renfrewshire.</li> </ul>
5.2	Renfrewshire Growing Grounds Forum (coordinated by Renfrewshire Council and Renfrewshire Health & Social Care Partnership).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9 meetings held with an average attendance of 14 people.</li> <li>Regular electronic communications between meetings, intensified during the Covid-19 lockdown in the absence of face-to-face meetings.</li> <li>Membership of the Forum has expanded from 43 to 53 organisations during this period.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased number of organisations responding to opportunities to incorporate biodiversity conservation into their activities, e.g. ponds, orchards, wild areas, beehives, bug hotels, wild flower planting projects, schools work.</li> <li>Closer links between biodiversity conservation and health awareness activities.</li> </ul>
5.3	Renfrewshire Council website and associated social media channels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Renfrewshire Council website has been updated and the biodiversity pages expanded to include pages about local conservation projects, places to enjoy biodiversity in Renfrewshire and summaries of designated sites.</li> <li>Social media channels have been used for consultation purposes, e.g. for the Biodiversity Action Plan.</li> </ul>	Increased awareness of Renfrewshire's biodiversity and opportunities to become involved in biodiversity conservation initiatives.

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## Section 5: Public engagement and staff development

Ref. No.	Action	Inputs/Outputs	Outcomes
5.4	Renfrewshire Leisure: Natural History Department	Paisley Museum Reimagined project in full swing during this period, a 4 year long £42m transformation which - amongst many other things - will bring new life to the natural history collections and exhibits. In the meantime, the natural history collections have been open to the public via guided tours of Paisley: The Secret Collection, the new storage facility in the town's High Street.	Targeted fourfold increase in visitor numbers (i.e. 125,000 per annum) after reopening in 2022, so clear opportunities for raised awareness and increased participation in biodiversity conservation.
5.5	Environment and Infrastructure Services: staff deployed for outdoor environmental education and interpretation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental education provided at Gleniffer Braes Country Park for 86 pupils in 2018, 39 in 2019 and 3 in 2020.</li> <li>• Face-to-face interpretation provided at a number of parks and local nature reserves in the Paisley area for 194 adults in 2018, 161 in 2019 and 3 in 2020 (prior to Covid-19 lockdown)</li> <li>• Six nurseries using the woodlands at Gleniffer Braes Country Park for Forest Kindergarten activities in 2018 and 1 in 2019 and 2020.</li> <li>• Wide variety of other groups using Gleniffer Braes for self-programming or staff led activities.</li> </ul>	Raised awareness of Renfrewshire's biodiversity and the need for biodiversity conservation.
5.6	Renfrewshire Schools supporting biodiversity education.	Keep Scotland Beautiful website records that 125 educational establishments in Renfrewshire registered with "Eco-Schools" sustainable schools programme and that 40 Green Flags have been earned.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity is incorporated into activities across the school curriculum.</li> <li>• Raised awareness and increasing participation in biodiversity conservation.</li> </ul>

## Section 5: Public engagement and staff development

Ref. No.	Action	Inputs/Outputs	Outcomes
5.7	Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park's Ranger led educational programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental education sessions were delivered to 7,769 people in 2017/18, from pre-nursery up to secondary and tertiary education.</li> <li>8,758 children and young people took part in outdoor learning and eco school activities in 2018/19</li> <li>In 2017/18 6,352 people attended 103 Ranger supported events. Work has been done with nine schools on their Eco-School Awards.</li> <li>Digital marketing and promotional activities support many education and outdoor learning messages and information provision with over one hundred thousand people engaging online in 2017/18.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Raised awareness and increased participation in biodiversity conservation.</li> <li>Cample Burn Juniper Restoration Project enhanced, allowing maintenance of the 750 planted juniper, aspen and eared willow has to be completed. All these trees, along with blueberry and heather – create a 'local' wild upland.</li> <li>Uncommon reptiles surveyed at Muirshiel Country Park, woodland surveys completed, water quality monitored at Castle Semple Loch SSSI.</li> </ul>
5.8	Tag-n-Track Project implementation at Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park	Project continued during this period, developing and promoting activities for schools and volunteers, including training courses on fieldcraft, species ecology and conservation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More school pupils have participated in biodiversity focused activities and have raised awareness of biodiversity conservation issues.</li> <li>Potential for volunteers with new biodiversity conservation skills.</li> </ul>



## Section 5: Public engagement and staff development

Ref. No.	Action	Inputs/Outputs	Outcomes
5.9	Muirshiel Country Park's "Branching Out" mental health recovery programme	585 participants in 2017/18.	Improved health and quality of life for the people of Renfrewshire, through their direct involvement in investing in the care of green space, nature and landscapes.
5.10	Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park's extensive use of social media channels on PCs and mobile devices.	<p>Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park has a growing presence on social media:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facebook "likes": 2,500 on by March 2018 and 3,000 by March 2019,</li> <li>• 1,800 Twitter followers by March 2018 and 1,900 a year later,</li> <li>• 55,000 video views on YouTube by March 2018 had risen to 80,000 a year later.</li> <li>• 550 followers on Instagram by March 2018 and 900 by March 2019.</li> </ul>	Wider range of people of Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park, its biodiversity and opportunities to become involved directly in its conservation.
5.11	Specialist training for staff, which supports development of biodiversity conservation skills.	In 2018 Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park staff attended training in social media integration, mountain woodland conservation and wetland bird survey techniques.	More staff with appropriate biodiversity conservation and communication skills.
5.12	Renfrewshire Council Environment & Infrastructure Services' grass maintenance programme	2020's Covid-19 lockdown and resulting suspension of grass cutting programmes gave opportunity to investigate future opportunities to amend cutting regimes on selected areas to favour biodiversity conservation. After survey and evaluation of 122 sites, results were subject of consultation, using web site, direct emails, targeted letters and social media.	

## 6: Research and monitoring

Biodiversity research and monitoring has continued during this period. Its resource demanding nature means that most of this work is undertaken to support specific policies or to guide improved management of Council land.

Section 6: Research and monitoring			
Ref. No.	Action	Inputs/Outputs	Outcomes
6.1.	Review of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs)	To date 41 SINCs resurveyed and documented in schedule format.	Availability of enhanced information on Renfrewshire's local priority biodiversity sites.
6.2.	Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>57 habitat surveys and monitoring activities were undertaken each year in 2017/18 and 2018/19. Data from these were fed into appropriate national survey databanks for butterflies, dragonflies, plants/vegetation, reptiles and birds.</li> <li>Water quality at Castle Semple Loch monitored and reported, to check for levels of chemicals associated with algal blooms.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved knowledge of numbers and distribution of species available locally and at a national level.</li> <li>Risk of damaging algal blooms affecting biodiversity and recreational uses is evaluated effectively.</li> </ul>
6.3	Renfrewshire Council Environment & Infrastructure Services' grass maintenance programme - 2020 public consultation exercise.	122 grass "panels" subject to ecological survey work in July/August 2020, with biodiversity evaluation reports produced for each site.	Up-to-date field survey biodiversity information available.



## 7. Biodiversity highlights and challenges

In a year when the Covid-19 pandemic has overwhelmingly dominated the focus of everyone, it is inevitable that the repercussions of the pandemic should also dominate a Biodiversity Duty Report's attempt to predict future challenges. It also means that highlights from the last three years have to be viewed in the context of the impacts the pandemic will have on Renfrewshire's economy, health and social structures. The report has placed a strong emphasis on partnerships and cross-sector working and biodiversity conservation will have to be linked even more firmly with community recovery in order to progress targets in future years.

Section 7: Biodiversity highlights and challenges			
Ref. No.	Action	Inputs/Outputs	Outcomes
7.1	<b>HIGHLIGHT:</b> Renfrewshire Biodiversity Action Plan 2018-2022 and its ongoing implementation during this reporting period.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Following public consultation, approved and published by Renfrewshire Council in May 2018.</li> <li>Implementation of actions underway and progressing as resources permit.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partnership approach to delivering biodiversity conservation initiatives supported.</li> <li>Growing community interest in biodiversity conservation.</li> </ul>
7.2	<b>HIGHLIGHT:</b> partnership approach started to yield positive results for biodiversity on the ground.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Renfrewshire Living Waters project with Froglife.</li> <li>Butterfly Conservation Scotland's Bog Squad volunteers completing habitat enhancements at Sergeantlaw Moss.</li> <li>New Council funding awarded to Foxbar Community Garden Group to develop plans to regenerate vacant land.</li> <li>Erskine Community Allotments boosting populations of pollinating insects on Council owned land.</li> </ul>	Greater community engagement and voluntary involvement in biodiversity conservation. Council's (and partner organisations') resources used efficiently and effectively in a challenging economic environment.
7.3	<b>CHALLENGE:</b> integrating biodiversity conservation into Council Covid-19 Recovery Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environment &amp; Infrastructure Services reviewing parts of its grass cutting programmes and consulting public about proposed changes.</li> <li>Schools encouraged to make greater use of outdoor environment for lessons.</li> </ul>	
7.4	<b>CHALLENGE:</b> scaling up biodiversity conservation work to meet need for increased carbon sequestration by semi-natural vegetation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plans for peat restoration projects on the ground being developed.</li> <li>Preparation of a Renfrewshire Forestry &amp; Woodland Strategy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Renfrewshire Council in a position to achieve its target of carbon neutral Renfrewshire by 2030.</li> <li>Biodiversity Action Plan commitments to landscape scale habitat enhancements achieved</li> <li>Habitat networks strengthened.</li> </ul>

## 8. Contribution to national and international targets

Council activities highlighted within this report make a positive contribution to targets identified in Scotland's Biodiversity Strategy: 2020 Challenge.

Section 8: <u>Contribution to national and international targets</u> Healthy Ecosystems: Scotland's ecosystems are restored to good ecological health so that they provide robust ecosystem services and build our natural capital.	Contribute to Scottish Biodiversity Strategy National Outcome?	Renfrewshire Council contributions
Encourage and support ecosystem restoration and management, especially in catchments that have experienced the greatest degradation.	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Woodland Management Plan for Muirshiel Country Park now being implemented to create semi-natural woodland and restore peatland habitats.</li> </ul>
Use assessments of ecosystem health at a catchment level to determine actions.	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In-house review of SINCs continuing.</li> <li>Biodiversity monitoring in Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park .</li> <li>Grassland survey and evaluation to guide future management.</li> </ul>
Government and public bodies will work together towards a shared agenda for action to restore ecosystem health at a catchment-scale across Scotland.	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LBAP Steering Group for Renfrewshire, East Renfrewshire and Inverclyde.</li> <li>Involvement in Glasgow &amp; Clyde Valley Green Network Blueprint for habitats.</li> </ul>
Establish plans and decisions about land use based on an understanding of ecosystems. Take full account of land use impacts on the ecosystem services that underpin social, economic and environmental health.	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biodiversity conservation and enhancement embedded within Renfrewshire Local Development Plan.</li> <li>Renfrewshire Biodiversity Action Plan 2018 - 2022 being implemented.</li> </ul>





<b>Section 6: <u>Contribution to national and international targets</u></b> <b>Natural Capital: Natural resources contribute to stronger sustainable economic growth in Scotland, and we increase our natural capital to pass on to the next generation.</b>	<b>Contribute to Scottish Biodiversity Strategy National Outcome?</b>	<b>Renfrewshire Council contributions</b>
Encourage wide acceptance and use of the Natural Capital Asset Index, including a comparable measure for the marine environment.	<b>No</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outside remit of Renfrewshire Council.</li> </ul>
Use this index to influence decision-making and market-based approaches, so that the wider monetary and non-monetary values for ecosystem services are recognised and accounted for	<b>No</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outside remit of Renfrewshire Council.</li> </ul>
Undertake a major programme of peatland conservation, management and restoration.	<b>Yes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration project at Sergeantlaw Moss.</li> <li>• Early discussions underway about storing other sites.</li> </ul>

Section 6: <u>Contribution to national and international targets</u> Biodiversity, Health and Quality of Life: Improved health and quality of life for the people of Scotland, through investment in the care of green space, nature and landscapes.	Contribute to Scottish Biodiversity Strategy National Outcome?	Renfrewshire Council contributions
Provide opportunities for everyone to experience and enjoy nature regularly, with a particular focus on disadvantaged groups.	Yes	Staff led events and activities at Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park and Gleniffer Braes Country Park. Renfrewshire Council website provides information about several biodiversity-rich places where public access is readily available, including sites owned and managed by partner organisations.
Support local authorities and communities to improve local environments and enhance biodiversity using green space and green networks, allowing nature to flourish and so enhancing the quality of life for people who live there.	Yes	Partnership projects completed with other organisations, concentrating on areas in and around settlements. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volunteer activity at Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park</li> <li>• Renfrewshire Growing Grounds Forum supported existing and aspiring growing groups.</li> </ul>
Build on good practice being developed by the National Health Service (NHS) and others to help encourage greenspace, green exercise and social prescribing initiatives that will improve health and wellbeing through connecting people with nature.	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Renfrewshire Growing Grounds Forum supported existing and aspiring growing groups.</li> <li>• Staff-led activities at Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park and at Gleniffer Braes Country Park.</li> </ul>
Increase access to nature within and close to schools, and support teachers in developing the role of outdoor learning across the Curriculum for Excellence.	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High proportion of schools participating in the Eco-Schools sustainable schools programme.</li> <li>• Opportunities from new focus on lesson outdoors .</li> </ul>
Encourage public organisations and businesses to review their responsibilities and action for biodiversity, and recognise that increasing their positive contribution to nature and landscapes can help meet their corporate priorities and performance.	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2016 Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park Strategy specifically encourages “increased biodiversity value”.</li> <li>• Renfrewshire Biodiversity Action Plan 2018 - 2022 aims to reach all economic sectors.</li> <li>• Close liaison with BAE Systems regarding future 450ha Dargavel Community Woodland Park as part of regenerating former ordnance factory grounds.</li> </ul>

Section 6: <u>Contribution to national and international targets</u> Wildlife, Habitats and Protected Places: The special value and international importance of Scotland’s nature and geodiversity is assured, wildlife is faring well, and we have a highly effective network of protected places.	Contribute to Scottish Biodiversity Strategy National Outcome?	Renfrewshire Council contributions
Ensure that the management of protected places for nature also provides wider public benefits.	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policies embedded within Renfrewshire Local Development Plan.</li> <li>• Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park Strategy 2016.</li> </ul>
Integrate protected areas policy with action for wider habitats to combat fragmentation and restore key habitats.	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policies embedded within Renfrewshire Local Development Plan processes.</li> <li>• Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park Strategy 2016 .</li> <li>• Renfrewshire Biodiversity Action Plan 2018 - 2022.</li> </ul>
Involve many more people than at present in this work and improve understanding of the poorly known elements of nature	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Main strand of Renfrewshire Biodiversity Action Plan 2018 - 2022.</li> <li>• Growing use of websites and social media.</li> <li>• “Tag-n-Track” project in Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park.</li> <li>• LBAP Steering Group support.</li> </ul>



Section 6: <u>Contribution to national and international targets</u> Land and freshwater management: Nature is faring well, and ecosystems are resilient as a result of sustainable land and water management.	Contribute to Scottish Biodiversity Strategy National Outcome?	Renfrewshire Council contributions
Promote an ecosystem approach to land management that fosters sustainable use of natural resources and puts biodiversity at the heart of land-use planning and decision-making.	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Green network policies embedded within Renfrewshire Local Development Plan.</li> <li>Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park Strategy 2016.</li> <li>Renfrewshire Biodiversity Action Plan 2018—2022.</li> <li>Involvement in regional green network strategies.</li> </ul>
Ensure that measures taken forward under the Common Agricultural Policy encourage land managers to develop and retain the diversity of wildlife habitats and landscape features.	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outside remit of Renfrewshire Council.</li> </ul>
Support 'High Nature Value' farming and forestry	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outside remit of Renfrewshire Council.</li> </ul>
Put in place the management necessary to bring Scotland's protected areas into favourable condition and improve the ecological status of water bodies.	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Largely restricted to SSSI/SPA area which fall within Renfrewshire Council ownership in the Renfrewshire Heights SPA and Castle Semple Loch SSSI.</li> </ul>
Ensure that biodiversity and ecosystem objectives are fully integrated into flood risk management plans, and restore wetland habitats and woodlands to provide sustainable flood management.	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing through liaison within LBAP Steering Group and as expressed in the Renfrewshire Biodiversity Action Plan 2018 - 2022, Local Development Plan.</li> </ul>
Restore and extend natural habitats as a means of building reserves of carbon and to help mitigate climate change.	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Muirshiel Country Park Woodland Management Plan being implemented.</li> <li>Sergeantlaw Moss conservation works by Butterfly Conservation Scotland's "Bog Squad".</li> </ul>
Provide clear advice to land and water managers on best practice	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing and as requested, particularly in relation to planning applications and enquiries about new forestry proposals.</li> </ul>

**Section 6: Contribution to national and international targets**  
**Marine and Coastal: Scotland's marine and coastal environments are clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse, meeting the long-term needs of people and nature.**

**Contribute to Scottish Biodiversity Strategy National Outcome?**

**Renfrewshire Council contributions**

Achieve good environmental status for Scottish seas.

**Yes**

In 2020 Renfrewshire Council involved in virtual meetings about beneficial uses of materials dredged from the River Clyde, particularly where proposals affect the Special Protection Area off Longhaugh Point.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information please contact:

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**To:** Infrastructure, Land & Environment Policy Board

**On:** 27 January 2021

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**Report by:** Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources

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**Heading:** The Renfrewshire Council (Clyde Waterfront and Renfrew Riverside, City Deal) (Number Two) Compulsory Purchase Order 2021

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## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 To submit details for land required to implement the Clyde Waterfront and Renfrew Riverside, City Deal Project (the "**Project**") and to be included in a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) to facilitate the proposed City Deal infrastructure development.
- 

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Board is asked to approve the making of a Compulsory Purchase Order to acquire the titles and interests in the land shown on Plan E3061 required to complete implementation of this Project should voluntary acquisition not have been achieved within the project timescales. The owners are Thos W Ward Limited Company Number 00081020, a subsidiary of Rio Tinto Metals Limited.
- 2.2 Note that all land outwith Renfrewshire Council administrative area has been secured and The Renfrewshire Council (Clyde Waterfront and Renfrew Riverside, City Deal) Compulsory Purchase Order 2018 (which covers all of the other land required within Renfrewshire Council's administrative area), was approved by Scottish Ministers and became operative on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

- 2.3 Note that voluntary acquisition discussions will continue concurrently with the publication of the Compulsory Purchase Order and voluntary acquisition will be progressed if practicable.
- 

### **3. Background**

- 3.1 Scottish Ministers encourage authorities to recognise that in some cases acquiring all interests by agreement will not be possible or practicable in a reasonable time or at a reasonable cost. Ministers encourage authorities to use CPO proactively and positively to promote sustainable economic growth, improve the quality of life and bring real benefits to Scotland's Communities.<sup>1</sup>
- 3.2 The Clyde Waterfront and Renfrew Riverside (CWRR) project comprises a new 'opening' bridge across the River Clyde; the Renfrew Northern Development Road and new cycle routes, all of which are aimed at providing improved access to development opportunities, employment, education, health and leisure locations. The Project will link the communities of Renfrew, Yoker and Clydebank and will provide improved access to the considerable job opportunities that will be delivered by the Glasgow Airport Investment Area Project (GAIA), which will be home to the national development to be known as the Advanced Manufacturing Innovation District Scotland (AMIDS) which will also include the new National Manufacturing Institute for Scotland (NMIS). AMIDS is a national development comprising ground at the former Netherton Farm (now in Council ownership as a result of voluntary acquisition due to GAIA) and both Inchinnan and Westway Business Parks. NMIS is to be located on the former Netherton Farm site and an early phase of this, the Lightweighting Manufacturing Centre, funded by the Scottish Government and announced by the First Minister in June 2017, is already located in the Westway site.
- 3.3 Planning consent for the Project was granted by Scottish Ministers on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2018.
- 3.4 The Renfrewshire Council (Clyde Waterfront and Renfrew Riverside, City Deal) Compulsory Purchase Order 2018 was approved by Scottish Ministers and became operative on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2020.
- 3.5 The CWRR Project will facilitate delivery of significant public benefits including much needed new housing (including affordable housing), new retail space offering facilities and choice for the community, new public realm space, job opportunities for the local population (including a boost to the incomes of young people, those in longer term unemployment and those tackling barriers to gaining employment) and improved access links to the AMIDS area, feeding into the inclusive growth agenda.

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<sup>1</sup> Circular 6/2011 compulsory Purchase Orders,

The main public benefits from the CWRR Project include the following:

- regeneration of the waterfront as an attractive, vibrant and sustainable urban area by improving access to key development sites, providing new housing, business and employment opportunities;
- highest contributing project of GVA to the Glasgow City Region City Deal;
- more efficient and better connected transport system, improving the mobility and opportunities for the area's workforce and enhance the attractiveness of the area to inward investment;
- significant expansion of active travel network removing barriers to cycling and walking;
- improved safety and conditions for pedestrians and cyclists;
- improved access to and enhanced local green space;
- relieving traffic congestion in Renfrew;
- provision of high quality road infrastructure improves driver choice;
- improved connectivity between communities and key facilities north and south of the River Clyde which will improve access to healthcare (including QEUH & Golden Jubilee hospital), education, employment and leisure facilities;
- release land for development and regeneration, create jobs and provide better access to wider job opportunities;

3.6 In order to complete the Project it is necessary to progress land assembly for one area not covered by the original 2018 compulsory purchase order.

#### **4. Compulsory Purchase Powers**

4.1 Scottish Government guidance (Planning Circular 6/2011) recommends a "twin track" approach to land acquisition in order to provide a greater degree of certainty on programme should voluntary negotiations falter and to resolve any defects in the title in the land to be acquired and the Infrastructure, Land and Environment Board approved the use of CPO in Principle on 6 June 2017. The Council therefore continues to adopt this approach i.e. pursuing acquisition of land required on a voluntary basis while at the same time progressing with the preparation of a compulsory purchase order ("CPO"). The CPO would be used as a fall back in the event of failure to reach agreement with the affected parties.

- 4.2 The use of CPO powers is considered appropriate for this Project and was approved by the Council at the Infrastructure, Land & Environment Board in May 2018 and by Scottish Ministers with the approval of The Renfrewshire Council (Clyde Waterfront and Renfrew Riverside, City Deal) Compulsory Purchase Order 2018.
- 4.3 The planned infrastructure referred to in 3.2 above requires the acquisition of an area of land, extending to 29 square metres, at Lobnitz Dock, Meadowside Street, Renfrew, as identified on drawing E3061. This land was originally identified as being within the ownership of the Crown Estate and was therefore excluded from the CPO detailed above (it is not competent to include Crown Estate land in a CPO). Subsequent title checks and discussions with the Crown Estate have confirmed the property remains in the ownership of Thos W Ward Limited, Company Number 00081020, a subsidiary of Rio Tinto Metals Limited. Title to the land remains in the Sasine Register. The surrounding land was transferred to Archibald Young (Storage) Limited (SC020387), by virtue of a 1967 Disposition in their favour. It would seem that during this 1967 transfer this small area of land was omitted from the plans and was not transferred over to Archibald Young (Storage) Limited. The Council has already completed voluntary acquisitions for most of the required land in this location and has agreed terms with the Crown Estate for the rights required from them.
- 4.4 The Council, as Roads Authority, will use powers of compulsory purchase under the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 in order to acquire the land required for this Project. As the land being acquired is solely to construct the infrastructure this is the appropriate power for the Council to use.
- 4.5 The Council will continue to attempt to reach agreement with Thos W Ward Limited but requires the CPO to be progressed to ensure the Project is not delayed by this one land acquisition.
- 4.6 This paper relates to the use of compulsory purchase powers for the acquisition of one remaining land interest within the Renfrewshire Council boundary. Voluntary purchases have been completed for all land and rights within the Glasgow City Council boundary area and within the West Dunbartonshire boundary area. The Board have previously approved voluntary acquisitions and the main CPO.
- 

### **Implications of the Report**

1. **Financial** - Project Budget of £90.6m for Clyde Waterfront and Renfrew Riverside Project funded through City Deal. Cabinet authorisation of £10.84m includes for land acquisition for this project.
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – N/A.

3. **Community/Council Planning –**

- *Our Renfrewshire is thriving* – the completed infrastructure will provide connectivity and access to new and existing jobs for people in our communities.
- *Creating a sustainable Renfrewshire for all to enjoy* - The completed infrastructure will include segregated provision for walking and cycling. It will also enable improved public transport links.
- *Working together to improve outcomes* - By linking the communities of Renfrew, Yoker and Clydebank the CWRR project will provide improved connections between key educational and health centres, such as: Queen Elizabeth University Hospital; Golden Jubilee Hospital; West College Scotland (Clydebank and Paisley Campuses) and West of Scotland University. The GAIA development will facilitate new development opportunities and business growth with both projects improving educational and health opportunities for people within the local communities as well as aiding employees to access these major existing and new employment centres. The cycle ways will link west to the boundary of the complementary City Deal Project at Glasgow Airport Investment Area.

4. **Legal** - Acquisition of the property as outlined in the body of the report.

5. **Property/Assets** – as detailed in this report.

6. **Information Technology** – None.

7. **Equality & Human Rights** - 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** - Should the additional CPO not be approved timeously then this would delay Project delivery and realisation of Project benefits.

11. **Privacy Impact** – None.

12. **COSLA Policy Position** – None.

13. **Climate Risk** – None.

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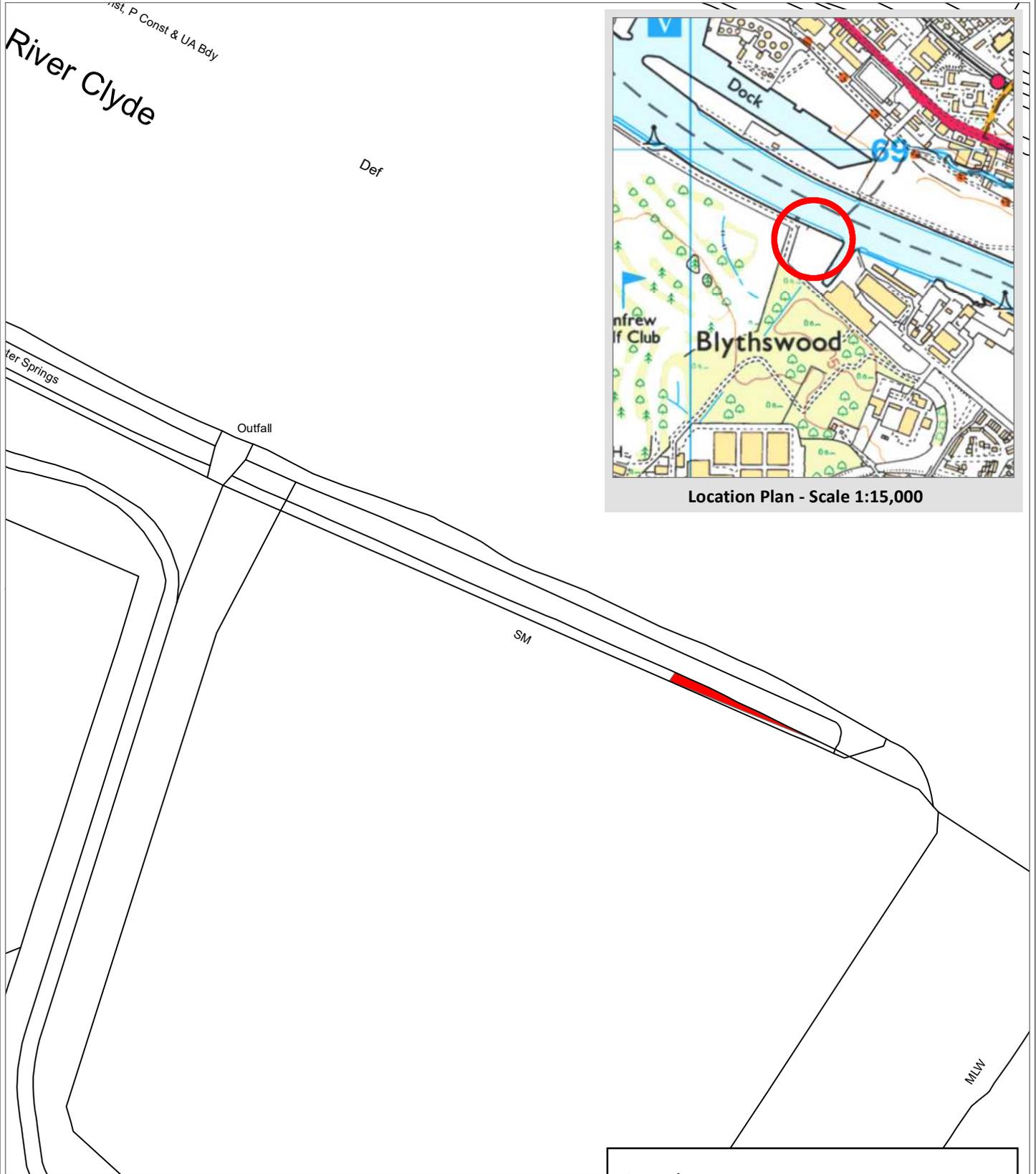
## List of Background Papers

### Plan E3061

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Date: 15/07/2020



Notes:

**Legend**

 Area to be acquired from Thomas W. Ward Ltd (29 sqm or thereby)

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**To: Infrastructure, Land & Environment Policy Board**

**On: 27 January 2021**

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**Report by: Director of Finance & Resources**

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**Heading: Howwood Public Park- Community Asset Transfer Request  
Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015**

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## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Board approval for the grant of a lease to Friends of Howwood Park for 10 years, in terms of a Community Asset Transfer request under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.
- 

## **2. Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Board :-

- 2.1 Approve the grant of a lease to the Friends of Howwood Park group in terms of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.
- 2.2 Authorise the Head of Property and the Head of Corporate Governance to conclude the lease on the terms and conditions detailed and to protect the Council's interest.
- 

## **3 Background**

- 3.1 The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 (Part 5) seeks to encourage Community groups to take control of publicly owned assets by lease or ownership, where the Community group are a community controlled body, and propose to utilise the asset for the wider benefit of the community.

- 3.2 The Council hold the Howwood Public park in terms of a Trust Deed granted to it by William and Margaret Houstoun in 1929, to retain the park for the benefit of the residents of Howwood for recreational purposes. The Head of Corporate Governance has confirmed that this burden, would not prevent the Council from granting of a lease to a group, as long as the aims of the Group was to continue with the requirements of the Trust deed.
- 3.3 The Pavilion, as indicated hatched on plan E2890, has not been used for a considerable period and has fallen into disrepair, such that it is no longer in a fit condition. Neither the Park or the Pavilion was transferred to Renfrewshire Leisure when the Cultural Trust was formed by the Council to manage its' sporting and cultural facilities in 2015, the reason being the property was in disrepair and not part of the Council's football hiring or letting stock. While the Council has been maintaining the football pitch and the play equipment, the pavilion has, as stated, fallen into disrepair.
- 3.4 Friends of Howwood Park is a recently constituted group of 22 individuals from the village of Howwood who have been looking to improve the park for the benefit of the community. This has seen them upgrade the play equipment within the park working closely with the Council's Environment & Infrastructure Parks team.
- 3.5 The group has submitted a Community Asset Transfer request seeking a 10 year lease for the Pavilion( not the park) at an annual rent of £1, if asked, with a view to refurbishing the Pavilion such that it can become a Community Asset and used by a number of local groups.
- 3.6 The Group meets the requirements of the Community Empowerment Act as they are a constituted Community controlled body with 20 or more members. Their constitution enables the Group to hold property for the benefit of its' members and for it to achieve its' aims. However, this will require to be amended to name the Committee members who will hold the property on behalf of the Group in any lease.
- 3.7 In respect of the Groups current funding position, while their bank account is positive, they rely primarily on grant funding to achieve its' aims, which is to improve Howwood Park for the benefit and health & wellbeing of the Howwood Community and Park users.

#### **4. Consultation**

- 4.1 As a Group they have undertaken a consultation with the local community in respect of this Community Asset Transfer application. This was in 2 parts via social media, using facebook which has over 824 followers. This received 70 positive comments on the proposal. In addition, the group undertook a paper consultation with various Community groups, Howwood Community Council, Howwood Primary School Parents and Carers, Howwood Parish Church, Howwood Weight Watchers and Bowfield Country Club. A positive response was again received with those who completed the questionnaire. They all wanted the pavilion back in use as a hub for community activities at the park.

## **5. Officer Asset Transfer Panel**

- 5.1 The panel was convened on the 4 December 2020, and was chaired by the Head of Property, and consisted of the relevant Heads of Service and Council Officers to consider the application.
  - 5.2 While concern was raised about the Groups reliance on grant funding to undertake its' proposal, in particular an assumption of a substantial grant from the Council's Community Empowerment Fund, which is not guaranteed, it was acknowledged by all that the Groups proposal had considerable merit. It was well costed and presented. In terms of the Scoring Matrix used to determine such applications a positive outcome was obtained.
  - 5.3 Furthermore, it was recognised by all that this was a well constituted group who had brought forward a proposal which, if successful, would bring into use a facility which was in disrepair, and assist the community in working together to improve its' community facilities, for the benefit of the community. A Group who had already proven itself in terms of working with Council officers to upgrade the play equipment within the park.
  - 5.4 To obtain the grant funding, the Group required to secure the property by lease, and while currently they have not secured sufficient funding for their proposal, the Asset Transfer Panel agreed it would recommend the application to Board, with the proviso that it is subject to the Group securing sufficient funding to achieve its' refurbishment proposals.
- 

## **Implications of the Report**

1. **Financial** - The Council has established funds that can provide financial support for community proposals, it is anticipated the group will make an application for assistance via the Council's Community Empowerment Fund.
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – None.
3. **Community Planning**
  - Our Renfrewshire is thriving – will help to support the Howwood Community;
  - Our Renfrewshire is well – Improvement of the facility via this CAT will help to promote health and well-being;
  - Our Renfrewshire is fair – Positive outcome for the Howwood Community;
  - Reshaping our place, our economy and our future – ensures there is community involvement in the upgrade of this pavilion.
4. **Legal** – Conclude a lease with the group.

5. **Property/Assets** – As per report.
  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 because no groups or individuals have any involvement currently at the property. 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** – Not applicable.
  10. **Risk** – None.
  11. **Privacy Impact** – Not applicable.
  12. **Cosla Policy Position** – Not applicable.
  13. **Climate Risk** – None.
- 

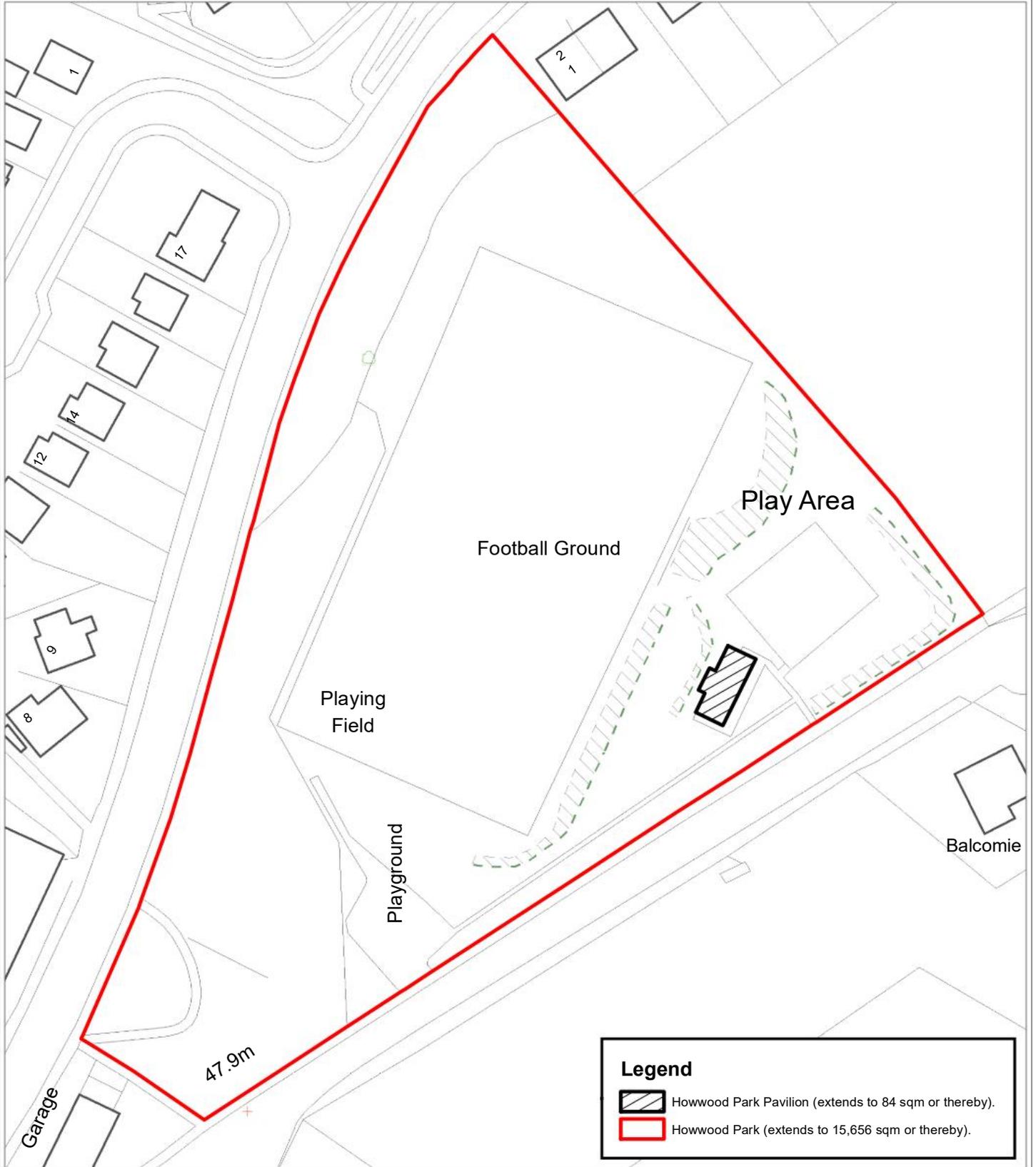
#### **List of Background Papers**

- (a) Background Papers- Community Asset Transfer Application from Friends of Howwood Park.
- 

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User: hocraigj1

Date: 16/10/2019



Notes:  
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**To: Infrastructure, Land & Environment Policy Board**

**On: 27 January 2021**

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**Report by: Director of Finance & Resources**

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**Heading: Outcome of 2017 Rating Revaluation**

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## **1. Summary**

1.1 This report advises the Board on the outcome of the 2017 Non-Domestic Rating Revaluation appeals process for Renfrewshire Council property interests.

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## **2. Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Board note: –

- 2.1 Renfrewshire Council's property portfolio has been reviewed by the Asset and Estates Section to ensure that the Council pays what is appropriate for Non-Domestic Rates for its' operational and non-operational property interests (where it has an interest).
- 2.2 The total (appealed) Rateable Value, taken from the Valuation Roll prepared by the Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board (the Assessor) for Renfrewshire Council's property interests with effect from the revaluation date of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017, was recorded at £18,578,750 for 354 properties appealed, where there is an actual or potential tax liability.
- 2.3 The 354 properties were considered appropriate for the Council to appeal the valuations to seek reductions. These appeals resulted in a reduction in Rateable Value of £954,450, which translates into an estimated cash value saving of c. £553,905 per annum (including default water rates), or an estimated total cash value saving of £3.23 Million over the financial years from 1/4/2017 to 31/3/2023, when the next revaluation is to take effect, now that future revaluation has been delayed.

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### 3. Background

3.1 Non-domestic rates payments are collected by the Local Authority (Renfrewshire Council) and the Council as occupier is liable to pay non-domestic rates as a property running cost. It is therefore in the Council's interest to endeavour to minimise new rating assessments proposed by the Assessor in each revaluation cycle. For the 2017 revaluation, generally, all assessments where the Council has an operational interest were appealed. This report summarises the approach to the settlement of these appeals and the results.

#### 3.2 Progression of Appeals

Up to and after the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017, discussions were had with the Assessor to attempt to limit the extent of appeals which were required for the Council's property portfolio.

The result of this exercise was that non-operational commercial retail and industrial properties (let to external Tenants), along with vacant low value operational property which was below the NDR collection threshold of £1,700 NAV, generally were not appealed, except where the Council had some specific interest, in order to concentrate resources.

All other operational properties generally were appealed en-masse in September 2017 to seek to minimise their rating assessments.

Upon advice from the Assessor that properties had been cited for future Valuation Appeal Committee (VAC) hearings, which have occurred periodically since the appeals process started, all appeals were concluded for the properties concerned in advance of their relevant VAC hearing dates, unless there were mitigating circumstances confirmed by the Assessor which governed further reasonable delays, or lingering disagreements requiring attendance at VAC hearings.

The last VAC hearing covering Renfrewshire Council entries appealed as at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 convened on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020, however all outstanding appeals remaining for this committee were concluded and agreed in advance with the Assessor. We did not require to attend any of the prior VAC hearings.

### 4. Results Summary

No. of RC properties in Assessor's Valuation Roll appealed	354
Total value of RC property portfolio appealed as at 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2017	£18,578,750
No. of reductions achieved	113
<b>Total value of reductions achieved during appeals process</b>	<b>£954.450</b>

<b>Total value of reductions achieved during appeals process as % of Total value of RC property portfolio appealed as at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010</b>	<b>-5.14%</b>
<b>Notional calculation of estimated Actual Non- Domestic and Water Rates payable reductions <i>per annum</i> (using 2020-2021 app. £0.51288p / £ RV).</b>	<b>£553,905</b>

## 5. Future Action and Continuing Running Roll Appeals

The process of aligning records with the Assessor's information during appeals discussions has also been beneficial. It should be noted that the continuous improvement in the quality and accuracy of information which the Assessor has obtained over this and previous historic revaluations should ensure that any future revaluations in 2023 and beyond are more accurate. As a result therefore, any future appeal exercises are likely to be less fruitful in securing value reductions.

We continue to review any new assessments upon receipt of Valuation Notices from the Assessor and generally appeal these to allow further discussion and review of the facts with the Assessor to ensure that the Council's position is preserved. Currently, some ongoing assessments are cited or awaiting citation for future Valuation Appeal Courts and we are in discussion with the Assessor in this regard to finalise / agree appropriate valuations.

## 6. Conclusion

The current revaluation cycle has been extended beyond the normal 5 years cycle until the next revaluation date on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023; therefore, the savings achieved are applicable over a 6 year period from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017. Using the current rates poundage figures for Non Domestic Rates and those for Water Rates for the current year (assuming non-metered accounts throughout the portfolio) results in an estimated overall saving to Renfrewshire Council of approximately **£3.23 Million** over the six year cycle.

### Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** - Significant reductions to the Council's ongoing revenue payments for Non-domestic Rates.
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – None.
3. **Community Planning**
  - Wealthier and Fairer  
Savings made allow further investment in other priority areas.

- Smarter  
Council is seeking to obtain best value for stakeholders.
- Developing our Organisation  
Renfrewshire Council is adopting a more sophisticated role in dealing with Non-Domestic Rating liabilities.

4. **Legal**  
None.

5. **Property/Assets**  
As per Report.

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 because no groups or individuals have any involvement currently at the property. 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** – Not applicable.

12. **Cosla Policy Position** – Not applicable.

13. **Climate Risk** – None.

Ref: JM/Document1  
Date: 13 January 2021

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## List of Background Paper

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