



Sustainable Glasgow

**GREENING THE CITY UPDATE TO SUSTAINBLE GLASGOW BOARD
19TH JANUARY 2021**

Purpose of Report:

To update Sustainable Glasgow Board on progress and actions associated with the Greening the City Hub.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Sustainable Glasgow Board

- note the content of the report.

1. Introduction

- 1.1** The Hub met on 19 January 2021 for the first time to discuss the group membership, terms of reference, remits and deliverables.
- 1.2** The Chair outlined the terms of reference and the need to focus on project delivery as a collective and beyond the city council's activity. As well as activity on the ground it is also felt the need to promote behavioural change is an important aspect of the Hubs activities.
- 1.3** The group agreed to meet monthly and work collectively towards identifying and delivering projects to support the wider Sustainable Glasgow targets and ambitions to build a low carbon, inclusive and resilient city.

2. What we propose to do

- 2.1** The Hub currently includes representatives from Glasgow University, Strathclyde University, Clyde Gateway and Scottish Government. Members discussed membership and the need for partnership board members to attend and contribute to the Hub. Representation across the city's organisations was also discussed and it was decided that it would be important to invite additional organisations to become members or to present and highlight projects/good practice. This includes the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network, NatureScot and Lateral North.
- 2.2** The group's remit will align with the Climate Emergency Implementation Plan, specifically themes 4- Health & Wellbeing and 5 – Green Recovery, including the recommendations from the Ecological Emergency Working group.
- 2.3** **The relevant actions included in themes 4 and 5 of the Climate Emergency Implementation Plan are:**
 - 22.** Identify Vacant and Derelict Land for greening and rewilding in combination with renewable energy generation measures.
 - 36.** To understand and baseline meat consumption in the city, significantly reducing meat consumption in the city through communications campaigns highlighting benefits of lower-carbon plant based options generally.
 - 4.** The city and partners to support the adoption of circular practices across the city through capacity building programmes, in line with the new Circular economy route map for the city.
 - 8.** Develop a first of its kind Net Zero Plan for the city to become Net Zero by 2045.
 - 18.** Implement the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network's Blueprint to create green & biodiversity corridors in the city by improving open space provision and increasing tree cover.

19. Expand Local Nature Reserves in the city and protect wider areas of open space in the city for greening and public use.

20. Increase investment in peatland restoration in the city region to increase capacity for carbon sequestration.

21. Increase tree planting on council owned or managed land, which will deliver 21% canopy cover citywide, supporting Scotland's national target of 21% tree cover by 2032.

22. Identify Vacant and Derelict Land for greening and rewilding in combination with renewable energy generation measures.

41. Develop a Climate Risk assessment for the City, highlighting risks and opportunities of climate impacts on the city and its people.

42. Develop and adopt an early warning system to prepare for extreme weather events such as heatwaves and flooding.

2.4 The recommendations from the Ecological Emergency Working Group relevant for this group are listed below:

5. A Forestry and Woodland Strategy for Glasgow will be undertaken, and a costed implementation plan prepared, which delivers increased canopy cover, considers biodiversity net gain, habitat connectivity and carbon management. Through its contribution to the Clydeplan Draft Forestry and Woodland Strategy and the Blueprint for a Green Network, it will support engagement with our city-region partners. This strategy will seek to address existing barriers to tree protection and tree planting, including any recommendations to national government related to regulatory matters, and will be accompanied by a costed implementation plan which sets a target for an increase in canopy cover relative to the baseline of 15% in 2015. A Tree Forum of stakeholders will be established to oversee both this recommendation and recommendation number 7.

7. The Council to support the process to introduce the primary legislation which will safeguard amenity while creating a more efficient and effective way to deal with the high number of Section 172 notifications received by planning authorities.

11. The new City Development Plan identifies the benefits of green roofs and sets out a strong presumption that new buildings will include green roofs, wherever possible, to deliver benefits for biodiversity and surface water management. The Council actively promotes the installation of green roofs/green walls on appropriate city buildings.

12. Food growing sites (allotments and community gardens) are located out with biodiversity diverse sites and are supported to deliver biodiversity net gain and habitat connectivity.

13. The Council's wildflower meadow and grassland management across the city is increased for pollinators, and a five year action and engagement plan for wildflower creation is developed. In addition engage with other large landowners in Glasgow to encourage similar habitat creation and consult with communities and neighbours.

14. Installation of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS) in new developments or re-developments should provide biodiversity net gain through provision of habitats identified within the LBAP.

15. The Council seeks further resources to develop engagement with all stakeholders to ensure that Glasgow's peatlands are restored and protected. In addition, the Council develops proposals to ensure that the peatlands are enhanced, including quantifying carbon capture storage and their impact.

16. The Council develops a peat-free procurement policy.

17. Strategic mapping and operational planning, should be carried out to enable parks and greenspaces, cemeteries, former landfill sites, and green/grey/blue corridors in the city to highlight opportunities to enhance biodiversity, provide space for nature, encourage pollinator-friendly planting in formal areas and creating habitat mosaics in larger parks/greenspaces as part of multi-functional usage.

18. The Council continues to implement its policy on Invasive Non-Native Species INNS and carry out treatment programmes and develops mapping of INNS city-wide to allow for monitoring and future treatment programmes as appropriate; and works with partner organisations with the aim of controlling/managing INNS along the city's river corridors, LNRs and at other key sites.

24. Investment in and improvement of the education estate should protect and enhance biodiversity through sustainable and wildlife friendly green landscaping, associated planting and greening infrastructure, including green walls, with support for the provision of natural play areas and school gardens.

3. Next Steps

3.1 The Hub will invite new members as described above.

3.2 The hub will undertake a short visioning exercise to help focus minds and build an understanding of overall vision for the city and how the Hub can support this.

3.3 The hub will map out existing and relevant action that can help deliver the vision and members will identify and propose collective actions and deliverables to help achieve the overall vision of building a climate smart city by 2030.

