Item 5

10th November 2026

Glasgow City Council

Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City Policy Committee

Report by George Gillespie, Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability

Contact: Scott Ferguson Ext:

LOCAL BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN AND POLLINATOR PLAN

Purpose of Report:

To present our Annual Monitoring Report in support of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan and Pollinator Plan.

Recommendations:
It is recommended that Committee:

1. Notes actions undertaken in support of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan and Pollinator Plan as set out in our Annual Monitoring Report.
2. Notes the Local Nature Reserves declared during 2026.
3. Notes the Glasgow Biodiversity Duty Report for April 2023 to March 2026

Ward No(s):	Citywide: ✓
Local member(s) advised: Yes □ No □	consulted: Yes □ No □

1. Introduction

1.1 Glasgow City Council published its revised Climate Plan in May 2026, setting out the Council's approach to achieving the joint city targets of net zero carbon by 2030 and to become a resilient city in the face of a changing climate. The revised Climate Plan is structured around 11 themed categories under which sit the key priorities for action to help us achieve our climate ambitions.

1.2 Within the revised Climate Plan, one of the eleven themes is Nature and Biodiversity, focussed on nature-based solutions for climate mitigation and adaptation delivering opportunities for habitat creation and biodiversity enhancement. The Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) is a key component of the revised Climate Plan and is captured with a number of objectives within the Nature and Biodiversity theme;

- Objective 1: Accelerate implementation of the LBAP, Pollinator Plans & Tree Plan to support and enhance Glasgow's natural environment,
- Objective 5: Deliver the Local Biodiversity Action Plan working with partner organisations to promote ecological connectivity and build resilient habitats in response to climate change, and
- Objective 6: Identify and utilise Vacant and Derelict Land for Nature Based Solutions.

1.3 The Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) 2018-2028 and Glasgow Pollinator Plan 2017-2017 were considered by Environment, Sustainability and Carbon Reduction Policy Development Committee on the 6th February 2018.

1.4 The Annual Monitoring Report, which covers both Glasgow's LBAP and the Pollinator Plan 2025/26, is included as Appendix 1 to this report.

1.5 The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act (2004) created a duty on public bodies to *"further the conservation of biodiversity as far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions".* All Councils must submit a Biodiversity Duty report to Scottish Government every 3 years, and the next report is due by December 2026. The Glasgow Biodiversity Duty Report for April 2023 to March 2026 is attached at Appendix 2.

2. Background

2.1 A previous report brought to Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City Policy Committee on 3rd March 2026 provided the Annual Monitoring Report for 2024-25.

2.2 The Annual Monitoring Report for 2025-26 has been compiled with the support of the Council's partners in the Glasgow Biodiversity Partnership. The Council established a Partnership consisting of representatives from 18 different environmental organisations to bring together a broad range of knowledge and

expertise to support the development and implementation of Glasgow's LBAP. Key partners include NatureScot (NS), Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (Scotland) (RSPB) along with other environmental interest groups. A full list of partnership members can be found in Appendix 1.

2.3 LBAP projects and actions continue to link to, support, and benefit from a range of other workstreams including:

- The revised Climate Plan
- Volunteering and employability opportunities
- Curriculum for Excellence
- Health and Wellbeing
- The Glasgow Open Space Strategy
- Parks and Greenspaces Vision
- Metropolitan Glasgow Strategic Drainage Partnership (MGSDP)

3. Supporting the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy

3.1 Delivering more connected green and blue habitat networks continues to be a key action for LBAP implementation. This is supported by the city-wide Green Connectors Project which has delivered an annual programme of tree, bulb and wildflower planting in 2023/24 and 2024/25. Delivery of the 2026/27 Green Connectors programme started on 5th October this year. A Scotland-wide Framework for Nature Networks is a core element of the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy, and the Glasgow LBAP implementation will continue to support this at a local level.

3.2 Scotland has also signed up to the 30x30 target set out in the Global Biodiversity Framework. This aims to *"Ensure and enable that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of terrestrial, inland water, and of coastal and marine areas are effectively conserved and managed for nature".* The ongoing designation of new or extended Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) approved by the City Administration Committee in June 2022, and ongoing work to identify additional candidate sites for designation as LNRs will underpin Glasgow's contribution to the 30x30 target while also delivering a network of accessible sites managed for people and nature.

4. Delivery to date

4.1. Appendix 1 summarises key activities within the 21st Monitoring Report of Glasgow's LBAP and Pollinator Plan as well as other projects which have taken place this year with positive effects for biodiversity. Appendix 3 provides an assessment of progress against all actions in the Glasgow LBAP Delivery Plan. Appendix 4 gives a breakdown of delivery against LBAP KPIs by ward.

4.2 A report to this committee on 22nd September 2026 highlighted progress made in delivering the Forest and Woodland Strategy and the Glasgow Tree Plan. Creation of 8 ha of new woodland and planting of 29,509 trees across Glasgow in 2025/26 supports woodland habitat connectivity as well as the ambition to increase city-wide canopy cover to 17.4%.

4.3 In 2025/26 there were 113,648 new records added to the biological audit database for Glasgow and the Clyde River Catchment area managed by Glasgow Museums Biological Records Centre. Whilst the discovery of new species in Glasgow is primarily due to increased recording effort by species experts, volunteers and citizen science, habitat creation and positive management also contribute by providing space for species to thrive.
160 new species were added to the Glasgow Species Audit including:

- Scottish Biodiversity List species: Liverwort Navel fungus (*Loreleia marchantiae*); Blue Mason Bee (*Osmia caerulescens*) and Anomalous moth (*Stilbia anomala*).
- Notable / Scarce species: beetle *Carpelimus similis*, beetle *Pseudomedon obscurellus,* and a seed-bug *Eremocoris abietis.*

4.4 Grassland habitat enhancement and maintenance is carried out across parks and open spaces to create and maintain habitat for pollinators and other wildlife, increase carbon capture and sequestration, and support local flood risk management by increasing absorption and infiltration of surface water. Enhancing grasslands through the mass planting of bulbs and species enrichment through cultivation, seeding and the planting of wildflower plants brings spring colour and supports pollinators.. Key outputs in 2025/26 include:

- 12.87 hectares of meadow sites managed for pollinators by cut and collect.
- 2.64 hectares of new meadow created.
- Over 518,000 bulbs planted to support pollinators.
- 54,200 wildflower plugs planted.

4.5 The Glasgow Wild Spaces project was launched at St. Martha's Primary School, Springburn on February 26th, 2026. Pupils took part in planting pollinator-friendly wildflowers and shrubs in the school grounds. We are supporting Butterfly Conservation (Scotland) with a National Lottery funded 2-year 'Wild Spaces' project. This will involve communities and schools in projects to raise awareness of the plight of butterflies and other pollinators and create new pollinator-friendly habitat in green spaces for local communities to manage and enjoy.

4.6 GCC Countryside Rangers have delivered a programme of community engagement, environmental education and awareness raising of biodiversity while The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) Scotland have continued to involve volunteers in habitat creation and management in support of the Green Connectors Project and at existing and new LNRs.

Our Countryside Rangers carry out an amazing variety of activities with groups across the city, including offering bat and bird box making and installation, guided walks for Friends of Parks groups, encouraging and supporting local

volunteer groups to form and be active and also getting involved in practical habitat management themselves e.g. wildflower and tree planting. A recent project called Glasgow Flower Power involves participants gathering local plant seeds and growing them on at a polytunnel in the Botanic Gardens. The plants will then be planted out at local greenspaces.

These activities also deliver benefits for participants' mental and physical health and wellbeing. Outputs in 2025/26 include:

- 21 community groups and almost 250 people involved in biodiversity activities.
- 123 leaning and engagement events with 888 participants.
- 18 training / CPD / eco-schools sessions with teachers and educators.
- 220 Curriculum for Excellence visits delivered to 52 schools and 1643 pupils at 25 city parks.

4.7 The Seven Lochs Wetland Park continues to be a focus for biodiversity action, partnership working and community engagement. The Seven Lochs Project area is also home to a unique population of terrestrial water voles, which is recognised as a nationally significant population of this protected species. Specific grassland enhancements are agreed with NatureScot in grasslands where fossorial water voles are found. Seven Lochs project activities in 2025/26 included;

- Projects to transform vacant and derelict land into new, nature-rich community greenspace at 4 sites.
- Ongoing partnership with TCV Scotland to deliver conservation volunteering and health and wellbeing programmes.
- Protected Species Licence agreed with NatureScot to allow a 3-yearly programme of grassland management and other maintenance and habitat enhancement at water vole grasslands.
- Ongoing partnership working with GCC Planning Services, University of Glasgow, and Wheatley Group, to take forward a more strategic approach to water voles and planned development. this work was funded by the Scottish Government Planning Hub.

4.8 Wider volunteering opportunities in the city are provided by organisations such as RSPB Scotland, Butterfly Conservation Scotland, and Bumblebee Conservation Trust. These organisations work collaboratively as active partners in the Glasgow LBAP helping to deliver activities across the city with Friends of Parks groups, community organisations, volunteers and at a wider level with organisations like the NHS.

4.9 Glasgow's Strategic Plan sets out a commitment to reduce our reliance on chemical pesticides. We have developed an Integrated Weed Management Policy to set out how we will approach weed management, with non-chemical methods applied in preference to the use of pesticides, which only be used as a last resort. The policy is supported by an Integrated Weed Management Plan to set out the methods we will use, and our approach to the safe and effective use of pesticides where there are no effective or reasonable alternatives.

4.10 Grasslands have been defined into four broad categories for maintenance and to support biodiversity:

- Areas maintained as amenity grass in each park to support specific sport, play and recreational activities, which are cut up to 7 times per year.
- Seasonal cuts for areas identified as informal activity and recreation spaces in parks and larger open spaces in residential areas. Reducing the frequency of cuts and raising the cutting height allows for shorter growing floral species to flourish providing summer-long nectar resource and caterpillar food. A perimeter cut to paths, up to seven times per year, prevents vegetation from encroaching.
- Seasonal cut and lift which occurs autumn into winter annually, biennially or on a 3-year rotation. Valuable overwintering habitat is created by changes in timing and allows for some plants to complete their life cycle otherwise prevented with continuous or total seasonal cuts. A perimeter cut to paths, up to seven times per year, prevents vegetation from encroaching.
- Uncut to allow grass to follow a natural cycle. This approach is being utilised on slopes, beneath trees, and where amenity use is low. This provides protection to trees and provides winter refuge for invertebrates and pollinators. It is also recognised that gradients and the number of trees restrict effective use of cut and lift machinery. Slopes are identified as tree planting opportunities. A perimeter cut to paths, up to seven times per year, prevents vegetation from encroaching.

4.11 Actions and activities which enhance more specific and unique urban habitats:

- Where ponding and constantly wet ground has been identified these areas are developed as damp meadows with some enhanced by creating scrapes to hold surface water temporarily. This action is used to assist local footpath ponding during heavy or constant rainfall. Water taken off paths protects them from frost and ice damage.
- In grasslands adjacent to existing woodlands natural regeneration is being allowed to occur. This natural process allows trees to seed the grassland over time allowing habitats to develop in their own way with limited input.
- LBAP partners and volunteers are engaged in working with the Council to reimagine grasslands to encourage butterflies, moths and other wildlife by identifying appropriate sites; and developing the enrichment of these into species rich habitats.
- Grasslands and other habitats are part of a network of habitats. These transitional areas are some of the most biodiverse rich zones. Without tall perennials and shrubs including nettles and brambles, there will not be the colourful butterflies that bring delight and inspire so many.

5. Nature Restoration Fund

5.1 The Scottish Government Nature Restoration Fund (NRF) aims to catalyse action at scale to protect and restore biodiversity. The council has received NRF from Scottish Government through the Edinburgh Process as follows:

Year	Capital	Revenue
2021/22	£487,000	
2022/23	£132,000	
2023/24	£247,000	
2025/26	£206,000	£117,000
2026/27	£156,000	£68,000

5.2 All NRF received by GCC has been committed to projects and activities that support nature restoration and biodiversity while also delivering wider policy goals on climate mitigation and adaptation. Appendix 5 provides a full breakdown of NRF spend. Major capital projects include:

- Penilee nature-based surface water management.
- Dalmarnock Riverfront Park (in partnership with Clyde Gateway).
- Transforming Avenue End Rd vacant and derelict land.
- New ponds at Botanic Gardens and Festival Park.
- Restoration of Millerston peatland, including registration and accreditation with the Peatland Carbon Code.

5.3 In 2025/26 the revenue element of NRF was used to create 4 Seasonal (6-month) Countryside Ranger posts. The team worked with community groups and third-sector partners to deliver nature restoration and biodiversity enhancement in parks and open spaces. Projects supported by the seasonal team include:

- creating dead hedges and bulb / wildflower planting Knightswood Park and Hogganfield Park LNR
- pond enhancement and planting at Victoria Park
- woodland management and invasive species removal at Pollok Park
- tree, bulb and wildflower planting in the Craigend area of Nort East ward.
- creation of a biodiversity demonstration plot at Mansewood allotments,
- bulb and wildflower planting in partnership with Friends' of Parks groups.

Two Seasonal Countryside Ranger posts for 9 months have been approved in 2026/27 and recruitment is now underway.

6. Local Nature Reserves

6.1 Two new LNRs, Crookston Wood and Household Park, were declared in April 2026. Extensions to existing LNRs were also declared at Garscadden Burn and Malls Mire. This brings the total number of Local Nature Reserves across the city to 24.

6.2 Four further areas are expected to be approved by NatureScot and declared by GCC in 2026/27 (see below). Two are new LNRs and two are extensions to an existing designated site. Frankfield Loch is a joint declaration with North Lanarkshire Council, and is a good example of using a Planning Agreement

and developer contributions to support the habitat management and infrastructure needed to enable designation of an adjacent site as an LNR

Site	Ward
Cadder Wood	Canal
Frankfield Loch	North East
Bishop Loch (extension)	North East
Hamiltonhill Claypits (extension)	Canal

6.3 Once the above designations are completed 20 of the 22 proposed LNRs agreed at committee in June 2022 will have been designated. This is a significant step towards developing a robust Nature Network across the city, providing enhanced connectivity for wildlife and easy access to nature across more of the city. The 2 remaining LNR's agreed at Committee sit within wider areas of regeneration activity, with timelines for habitat enhancement and surrounding investment, with 1 of these to be designated in 2027/28.

6.4 We are working with colleagues across NRS to identify further sites for designation as LNRs. Site selection will continue to focus on delivery of Nature Networks as a key component in increasing ecological connectivity and restoration of nature, but will also seek opportunities for the creation of new LNRs through the remediation of vacant and derelict land, and opportunities for LNRs in areas of the city with less access to nature.

7 Activity Planned

7.1 The development of Glasgow's Nature Network will continue to be progressed over 2026-27 incorporating Local Nature Reserves, SINCs and green connector sites to provide strategic habitat linkages across the city. The final 2 proposed LNR's from the 22 approved by City Administration Committee, Red Road and Blairtummock will be taken through the engagement and designation process for their initial phases 2027/28. With both locations forming part of wider regeneration proposals locally, it is intended that we will designate an initial portion of the LNR and bring forward extensions to the designated area in future years as wider regeneration is undertaken.

7.2 Delivery of the city-wide Green Connectors project will continue to be a key component of LBAP delivery, including;

- 12,000 standard trees in parks and open spaces.
- Over 500,000 bulbs to be planted in autumn 2026.
- Ongoing partnership working with the Conservation Volunteers Scotland to deliver volunteering and community engagement.
- Glasgow Wild Spaces project to progress creation of 14 new spaces for pollinators and nature with community groups and local schools.
- Creation of further woodmeadows at Priesthill and Ruchill Golf Course.

7.3 Nature Restoration Fund delivery in 2026/27 will focus on delivery of the Park Ponds and Wetlands project. Initial studies to investigate the scope for nature-based surface water management and pond naturalisation have been completed for 4 parks.

We are now working in partnership with the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games organising body and Bupa to install floating islands to improve biodiversity and water quality at 5 park ponds (Elder Park, Victoria Park, Queen's Park, Richmond Park and Hogganfield Loch) and act as a legacy of the games in Glasgow. £162,000 will be provided by Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games and £20,000 will be provided by Bupa, with interpretation signage funded through Nature Restoration Funding. Installation is scheduled for week commencing the 16th November, with GCC coordinating installation with the supplier, interpretation signage and engaging with volunteers from TCV and Friends of groups involved in the planting.

7.4 The Seven Lochs Project will continue to work with local partners to transform vacant and derelict land for people and nature. We expect to complete the transformation of 3 sites, with 2 of these linked to community asset transfer through the People Make Glasgow Communities programme. Delivery of water vole grassland management and enhancement will also continue under licence from NatureScot.

7.4 The Glasgow Tree Plan supports and contributes to the LBAP and biodiversity in the city as each tree provides habitat for invertebrates and birds and native woodland is a key ecosystem providing shelter and food for a wide variety of species. We will continue to implement the plan as follows.

- 10,000 trees to create approx. 4ha of new woodland in partnership with Green Action Trust.
- 5000 trees planted in partnership with TCV Scotland.
- 3500 trees planted in priority neighbourhoods with Clyde Climate Forest.
- Creation of the Glasgow Tree Nursery on former vacant and derelict land in Broomfield Park.

7.5 To ensure comprehensive reporting, monitoring and future maintenance of LBAP delivery we have developed an approach to GIS mapping of all habitat creation and enhancement. We are integrating this with partners monitoring and reporting to help ensure that all activity is accurately recorded and used to inform future site management. We expect to have this mapping system fully in place by April 2027.

8. Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

Financial:	Projects are being brought forward from existing budgets
Legal:	None
Personnel:	None
Procurement:	None

Council Strategic Plan: Grand Challenge Three: Fight the climate emergency in a just transition towards a net zero Glasgow.
Mission 2: Become a net zero carbon city by 2030
Commitments
Support the Glasgow National Park City campaign and support local environmental groups and conservation projects to provide nature-based volunteering opportunities. Deliver increased tree planting across the city as part of a comprehensive Tree Plan for Glasgow, including measures to support replacement when trees are lost to damage or removal, and responding to Ash Dieback disease, and

develop a Forestry and Woodland Strategy for the city.
Deliver sustainable urban drainage and promote nature-based solutions to manage flooding and pollution.
Increase the number of designated Local Nature Reserves in the city in collaboration with communities and support the development of a green network of areas managed for biodiversity across the city.
Deliver the Local Biodiversity Action Plan, increasing planting of wildflowers and supporting nature restoration and regeneration.
Increase biodiversity within parks and council maintained green and open spaces, supporting wilding where appropriate and identifying opportunities for promoting nature-based activities, and train more staff in biodiversity protection.

Equality and SocioEconomic Impacts:

Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2025-29? Please specify.	Outcome 6- well managed greenspaces can provide opportunities to tackle social isolation and loneliness
What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?	Potential positive impact
Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socioeconomic disadvantage.	Claypits Local Nature Reserve is an example of how the LBAP and the declaration of Local Nature Reserves can support wider effort to address socio-economic disadvantage by support wider regeneration and providing access to multi-functional greenspace and active travel facilities.

Climate Impacts:

Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify:	Yes- Action 36 (Accelerate Implementation of the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Blueprint for a Green Network), Action 37 (Identify and utilise Vacant and Derelict Land for greening and rewilding), Action 38 (Support new and further extensions to Local Nature Reserves) and 48 (work with partners to fund accelerated implementation of the Glasgow LBAP, Open Space Strategy Delivery Plan and Pollinator Plan)
What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal?	Biodiverse SUDS will contribute to Climate Resilience
Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target?	Supports and aligns to Glasgow Tree Plan, which will contribute to Net Zero carbon targets

Privacy and Data Protection Impacts:

Are there any potential data protection impacts as a result of this report	No

If Yes, please confirm that a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) has been carried out

9 Recommendations

9.1 It is recommended that Committee notes:

1. Actions undertaken in support of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan and Pollinator Plan as set out in our Annual Monitoring Repor, and Duty Report
2. The Local Nature Reserves declared during 2025/26
3. The Glasgow Biodiversity Duty Report for April 2023 to March 2026