Item 1

28th February 2023

Glasgow City Council

Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City Policy Committee

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

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LOCAL BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN AND POLLINATOR PLAN

Purpose of Report:

To provide an update on actions undertaken within 2021/22 in support of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan and Pollinator Plan.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Committee:

1. Notes actions undertaken in support of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan and Pollinator Plan.
2. Notes that officers intend to engage with Local Biodiversity Action Plan partners within 2023 to collaborate on the production of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan for 2024/2029.
3. Notes the production of the Seven Lochs and Northeast Glasgow Water Vole Conservation Action Plan and refers the Plan to Economy, Housing, Transport and Regeneration City Policy Committee.
4. Notes the proposed Local Nature Reserves being progressed for declaration during 2023.

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

1. Introduction

1.1 The Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) for 2018-2028 and a Glasgow Pollinator Plan (PP) for 2017- 2022 were considered by Environment Sustainability and Carbon Reduction Policy Development Committee on the 6th February 2018. Under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act (2004), all public bodies in Scotland are required to further the conservation of biodiversity when carrying out their responsibilities. The Council fulfils this primarily through the implementation of the Glasgow LBAP. The Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act (2011) requires public bodies in Scotland to provide a publicly available report, every three years, on the actions they have carried out to meet the biodiversity duty.

1.2 A copy of the most recent Biodiversity Duty Report submitted to the Scottish Government can be found here: https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=51071&p=0 The content of this annual biodiversity report will contribute towards the Biodiversity Duty Report, with the next one due for publication and submission to the Scottish Government in January 2024

2. Background

2.1 A previous report was brought to Environment Sustainability and Carbon Reduction Policy Development Committee 15th March 2022 which provided the annual update for 2020-21: https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/councillorsandcommittees/submissiondocuments.asp?submissionid=103999

2.2 The annual monitoring report has been compiled with the support of the Council's partners in the Glasgow Biodiversity Partnership. The purpose of the partnership is to bring a broad range of expertise to the development of Glasgow's Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP). The Council established a Glasgow Biodiversity Partnership consisting of representatives from 16 different environmental organisations. Key partners include NatureScot (NS), Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS), 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 the environmental organisations working in partnership with the Council can be found at Appendix 1.

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

- The 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)

2.4 Members of the public wishing to take action can do so by getting in touch with our partners in relation to local opportunities, and their contribution will be warmly welcomed. Organisations providing volunteering and training opportunities include, but are not limited to:

- https://www.rspb.org.uk/about-the-rspb/at-home-and-abroad/scotland/giving-nature-a-home-in-glasgow/
- https://www.tcv.org.uk/getinvolved/
- https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=32675&p=0 (Friends of Parks Groups)
- https://friendsofglasgowlnrs.wordpress.com
- https://butterfly-conservation.org/how-you-can-help/get-involved
- https://www.plantlife.org.uk/scotland/discover-wild-plants-and-nature-scotland/volunteer-scotland

3. Activity undertaken within 2021/22

3.1 Appendix 1 summarises key activities contained within the 17th Monitoring Report of Glasgow's LBAP and the Pollinator Plan, with full monitoring details in relation to both plans set out in Appendix 1; and other projects which have taken place this year with positive effects for biodiversity. Notable activity within 2021/22 includes:

3.1.1 As part of the Glasgow Natural History Society, and others' work, over ten papers were published in The Glasgow Naturalist Vol 27 for *On the Wildside Revisited* including individual papers on the Botanic Gardens fungi, birds, lichens, bryophytes, moths, non-avian vertebrates, arachnids, molluscs, crustaceans, and flowering plants.

3.1.2 Through the Urban Green Connectors project, 576 attendees including community groups and school children helped with 25 RSPB habitat creation and skills training events across the south-west of Glasgow.

3.1.3 35,000 native trees have been planted to create new woodlands of various sizes at Cathkin (Carmunnock), Kings Park, Glenora Drive, Heathcote Avenue and other sites.

3.1.4 The Bog Rosemary population at Commonhead Moss was found to have increased during annual monitoring. The plant, found only at only this site in Glasgow, has spread to the west of the raised bog, most likely as a result of the positive raised bog management which has taken place.

3.1.5 Pictorial meadow strips of 1m wide have been maintained with perennial wildflowers at the front of uncut grass totaling 7500m sq over 23 sites.

3.1.6 The Seven Lochs and North East Glasgow Water Vole Conservation Action Plan 2022-2026 has been produced. Funded by NatureScot, GCC and Seven Lochs Wetland Park (Attached as Appendix 2), setting out a range of actions which the Seven Lochs Partnership Board and Project Team will now seek funding in support of.

3.1.7 Butterfly Conservation Scotland held events at 3 urban meadows at Springburn, Elder and Ruchill Parks, to enhance plant diversity and improve them for butterflies.

3.1.8 Investment in 2 Venezia 140 tractor-towed units will allow the scaling-up via mechanisation of 'cut and lift' meadow management, associated with a sustained increase in floral and pollinator characteristics of the meadow.

3.1.9 New pollinator signage at the Pollinator Parks raises awareness of pollinators, biodiversity, carbon storage and the climate & ecological emergencies.

3.1.10 A high-level operational review of our pesticide policy for Glasgow's Parks & Open Spaces was carried out to further reduce the use of chemicals, where possible, throughout the city.

4. Activity Planned

4.1 National Frameworks for Nature Networks and the 30x30 target are being developed by NatureScot and will be out for consultation in March 2023. The delivery of NN and 30x30 are key components in increasing ecological connectivity and restoration of nature and will help deliver the new Scottish Biodiversity Strategy: https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/protected-areas-and-species/30-30-and-nature-networks

4.2 The Glasgow LBAP supports the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy (SBS). A new LBAP Implementation Plan will be developed to cover 2023-2028 and will aim to achieve local biodiversity action to support the new Scottish Biodiversity Strategy and associated Implementation Plan due in 2023.

4.3 GCC reports on biodiversity implementation to Scottish Government every 3 years through the statutory Biodiversity Duty, with the next report due in January 2024.

4.4 In line with the emerging National Planning Framework 4 GCC is taking a place-based approach using Nature Based Solutions to create climate adaptive places. Once approved, Planning Authorities will start to apply the new policies, including the new policy on biodiversity when dealing with planning applications. The policy outcome states 'Biodiversity is enhanced

and better connected including through strengthened nature networks and nature-based solutions'.

4.5 The Tree Action Plan will also complement and contribute to the LBAP and was brought to this committee 8th November 2022: https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/councillorsandcommittees/submissiondocuments.asp?submissionid=106154

4.6 A standalone report will be brought to a future committee providing further detail on our Green Connectors and Wildflower Action Plan Programme.

4.7 In support of the above activities, it is intended to develop additional mechanisms to accelerate delivery by leveraging in further measures.

5. Local Nature Reserves

5.1 A previous report was brought to Environment Sustainability and Carbon Reduction Policy Development Committee 15th March 2022 which outlined 22 new or extended proposed Local Nature Reserves and was subsequently approved at City Administration Committee: https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/councillorsandcommittees/submissiondocuments.asp?submissionid=104744

5.2 Officers and stakeholders are now moving to the next stage of engagement to inform the detail of management statements and boundary maps in advance of declaration of the following 9 sites, with this likely to take place during 2023:

- Bingham's Pond
- Bishop Loch LNR extensions
- Cardowan Moss (Westward extension)
- Castlemilk Park
- Cleddans Burn
- Commonhead Moss LNR Extension
- Dawsholm Park Extension
- Hurlethill
- Todd's Well

5.3 As part of its 2021/22 budget, GCC committed £130,000 towards the 'nature emergency' this includes habitat creation and management in proposed Local Nature Reserves which are places for people and nature. TCV (formerly known as The Conservation Volunteers) are supporting this work via their training and volunteer support with 7 of the 22 management statements having been prepared to date. This funding is providing the works, materials and supplies required in order to improve habitats and access arrangements for each location in line with the aims of a Local Nature Reserve. Works are including improvements to items such as paths and ramps, entrances, noticeboards, hedgerows, meadows, and wetlands.

6. Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

Financial:	Resources for joint working are covered by existing departmental budgets. There could be a stream of specific projects which are developed as part of this joint-working and each one will be assessed against the overall funding envelope prior to progressing.
Legal:	The report raises no legal issues
Personnel:	No direct personnel implications from the report: the projects are supported through existing partner resources
Procurement:	No procurement implications identified.
Council Strategic Plan:	**Grand Challenge 1**: Reduce Poverty & Inequality in our Communities. Mission 3: Improve Health & wellbeing of our local communities **Grand Challenge 3:** Fight the Climate Emergency in a just transition to a net zero Glasgow. Mission 2: Become a Net Zero carbon city by 2030

Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

Does the proposal support the Council's Equality outcomes 2021-25? Please specify.	Investment in and volunteering activity in support of biodiverse greenspaces can support Outcome 6
What are the potential Equality impacts as a result Of this report?	*Potential positive impact – individual projects arising from this action plan may provide opportunities for community activities and volunteering*
Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-economic disadvantage	Delivery of a number of the projects within the LBAP will improve access to quality multi-functional greenspaces for physical activity for households living within SIMD data zones.

Climate Impacts:

Does the proposal support any Climate Plan Actions? Please specify.	Action 38 Support new and further extensions to Local Nature Reserves in the city, protecting and enhancing biodiversity and habitat connectivity. Action 48 The Council works with partner organisations, adjacent local authorities, the city's academic institutions 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	Creation and development of biodiverse greenspaces across the City will help provide essential woodland, wetland, grassland and peatland habitats, to sequestrate carbon
Will the proposal contribute To Glasgow's net zero carbon Target?	Yes

Privacy and Data Protection Impact

Are there any potential data protection impacts as a result of this report Y/N	No impacts have been identified as part of activity to date
If Yes, please confirm that a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) has been carried out	

7. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

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