



## Item 5

3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021

### Glasgow City Council

### Greater Pollok Area Partnership

Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021

Report by Stephen Egan, Neighbourhoods Regeneration and Sustainability

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### Options for use of the Local Parks & Open Space Improvement Fund within Greater Pollok

#### Purpose of Report:

To provide the Partnership with:

1. Options for investment of the Local Parks & Open Space Improvement Fund within Greater Pollok as set out within section 3 of this report
2. Advise as to next steps

#### Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Partnership

- (1) notes this report;
- (2) notes the allocations to each Area Partnership, as detailed in Appendix 1; and
- (3) approves funding for its preferred options for the Local Parks & Open Space Improvement Fund to allow for early action and delivery of projects.

Ward No(s): 2

Citywide:

Local member(s) advised: Yes  No  consulted: Yes  No

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Glasgow City Council 2021/22 budget allocated £1.5 million to Area Partnerships across the city for investment in Parks and Open Spaces. £77,492 of this has been allocated to Greater Pollok. The following projects are options for the committee to consider taking forward.
- 1.2. It should be noted that factoring in procurement and tendering procedures that timescales for development of projects, allocation of spend, and delivery on the ground is challenging with March 2022 the completion timeframe.

## 2. Local Engagement

- 2.1. Officers from across the Council Family have been working with local communities over the last 18 months to build participation and engagement around the use of open spaces, with this work taking an increased importance and a digital form over the last 12 months. This engagement has taken a number of different strands, and has arrived at some early greenspace actions, as well as exploring longer term ideas. This report seeks to provide a summary of engagement to date, details options for these early actions and sets out a timeline for delivery of these options once a decision is made.
- 2.2. Officers have facilitated a Greater Pollok Greenspace and Woodlands Development Group, to contribute to themes of Health and Wellbeing and Activities for Children & Young people themes arising from the work of Pollok 8020 and G53 Together. Discussion has taken place around a number of opportunities to encourage more activity and connection throughout the woodlands and greenspaces of Greater Pollok.
- 2.3. In finding new, creative and innovative ways to solve challenges Parks Development officers have worked collaboratively with communities, Connecting Nature, and Stalled Spaces colleagues, Lateral North, Centre for Civic Innovation, Glasgow Life and Artists in Residence.
- 2.4. Greater Pollok Greenspace and Woodlands Development Group recognised that community engagement has been very different over the last 12 months, with the majority of this taking place digitally in line with public health guidance. It is recognised that this will not allow the types of engagement we would usually wish to undertake, and it is recognised that further progress is needed around digital inclusion. It is also acknowledged that our greenspaces and woodlands have never played a more vital role in supporting the health and wellbeing of our communities, with many citizens and groups taking previously-indoor activity outside, and that the need for investment has never been greater.
- 2.5. Attendees identified the priority areas for Greater Pollok as:
  - Accessibility
  - How the community can care for woodlands
  - Meadow Management
  - Food Growing
  - Outdoor learning and socialising
  - Connecting Greenspaces and Woodlands

- Keeping the Greater Pollok Greenspace and Woodlands Group meetings going
- Health and well being
- Family time
- Escapism
- Greenspace and Heritage
- Connection

2.6. Ongoing engagement with Friends of Househill Park over recent years has highlighted the importance of equipped facilities and amenity grassland to support health and wellbeing towards the northeast of Househill Park and have recognised opportunities for further habitat creation to support wildlife towards the southwest.

2.7. The Centre for Civic Innovation (CCI) is a pioneering citizen-centred design team within Glasgow City Council, responsible for establishing a design-led approach to the understanding of societal shifts and civic experiences within the city. Our aim is to develop a design led approach to neighbourhood development, embedding creative problem solving in our communities and creating networks of citizens and services aligned and focussed on the needs and requirements of the common good. As part of Greater Pollok: Design School- After the Pandemic, design briefs, which will include greenspace near Nitshill Community Garden and Househill Park, are being developed with citizens from across Greater Pollok, that will let citizens contribute ideas and suggestions in a fun and creative way.

2.8. As part of Glasgow's Food Growing Strategy, we have been inviting communities across Glasgow to share with us their ideas for land they consider to be potentially suitable for food growing.

2.9. In May 2020, 917 responses were received from Citizens in relation to survey in relation to the Ecological Emergency, with the top 5 ranked priorities for action being:

- Support planners and developers to step up protection and enhancement of green space and biodiversity
- Work with other public sector land owners to maximise green corridors and pollinator ways through the city
- Increase connections across the city between green spaces, for both people and wildlife Allocate more open space for nature in the city
- Increase planting of native trees and plant species on and around active travel routes

Options for investment, for consideration by the Area Partnership, have been informed by the engagement work set out above set out above, and where selected for action, will form the subject of further engagement.

### **3. Suggested Projects for Area Partnership to Consider**

3.1 Whilst it is recognised that engagement with communities does not follow any external timescale, it is understood, where possible, that the Local Parks & Open Space Improvement Fund is spent and projects delivered with the financial year 2021-2022, and that many greenspace investment works are tied to certain seasons

of the year. Where capital funding has been allocated, it is noted that projects will involve time being set aside for the preparation of contract documents, procurement activity and lead in times for the delivery of materials.

- 3.2 Dialogue with the Greater Pollok Greenspace and Woodlands Development Group has identified the value of activity and connection throughout local greenspaces and woodlands including entrances, paths and woodland management, with this having the potential to support citywide approaches to Active Travel and Outdoor Education & Early Years. Options have been costed as follows:

The following are a suite of projects for Area Partnership to consider. It should be noted that projects should be delivered by March 2022.  
Chosen projects should total: **£77,492**

| Option Number | Location       | Proposal  | Quantity | Potential Budget |
|---------------|----------------|---|----------|------------------|
| 1             | Househill Park | Engage with SWAMP, Re-designing G53 Together, Friends of Househill Park and others to build capacity and test approaches to Urban Agriculture through the delivery of the first phase of works on the ground. Scope to be developed in conjunction with stakeholders, but is envisaged as including training, community visits to other Urban Agriculture sites, tools and materials, raised beds, storage and welfare facilities, rainwater harvesting, Orchard, cargo bike to transport food to recipients, establishing site perimeter and footpaths. It is envisaged that this will bring together a shadow committee | item     | £77,492          |

|   |   |   |  |                        |
|---|---|---|--|------------------------|
|   |   | of growers to co-produce management arrangements for the site.  |  |                        |
| 2 | Househill Park                          | Benches carved from parkland timber, generated by recent infrastructure work, in conjunction with Galgael and Artists in Residence  | 7                                      | £3500                  |
| 3 | Househill Park                          | Househill Park, Langton and Hapland Crescent Greenspaces and woodland near Nitshill Community Garden- Active Travel Routes, Entrances and Woodland Management at to support activity and connection and outdoor learning                    | item                                   | £77,500                |
| 4 | Woodland near Nitshill Community Garden | Implement a first phase of measures recommended by Greater Pollok: Design School, which could include Woodland Management and/or creation, meadow management and/or creation, new or improved active travel routes, outdoor learning spaces | n/a                                    | £37,000                |
| 5 | New tree planting in parks              | Locations as identified in discussion between Area Partnership representatives and NRS  | Rate per 'heavy standard tree' planted | £300                   |
| 6 | New wildflower meadow/bulb planting     | Locations as identified in discussion between   | Rate per hectare                       | £1.20 per square metre |

|   |  |  |                            |                      |
|---|--|--|----------------------------|----------------------|
|   |  | Area Partnership representatives and NRS   |                            |                      |
| 7 | Widen and enhance surface/signage/visibility of active travel routes and entrances/decision points | Locations as identified in discussion between Area Partnership representatives and NRS | Rate per 100 linear metres | £50 per square metre |
| 8 | New woodland creation  | Locations as identified in discussion between Area Partnership representatives and NRS | Rate per hectare           | £10,000 per hectare  |
| 9 | New Street Tree (retrofit)   | Locations as identified in discussion between Area Partnership representatives and NRS | Per tree                   | £8000                |

#### 4. Developer Contributions

4.1 It is understood that there are Developer Contributions currently sitting with Glasgow City Council arising from developments in Greater Pollok which are available for investment in Amenity, Children's Play and Allotments. Officers would intend to review the extent to which these could be applied for to build on the project budgets outlined in this paper.

#### 5. External Funding

5.1 A bid for **£103,145** was submitted to the Biodiversity Challenge Fund administered by NatureScot in support of habitat creation across Greater Pollok and Cardonald Wards.

5.2 Woodland Creation and Tiny Forests- Early discussions have been held with stakeholders in relation to the potential for funding via the Forestry Grant Scheme, Earthwatch and NatureScot.

#### 6 Additional Projects and Spend

6.1 **Children's Play** – Site visits held with the Friends of Househill Park prior to 2020 have identified the importance of maintaining the equipped facilities within the North-East of the Park, with equipment inspections identifying the potential to invest in play equipment and the surfacing of the MPGC in line with Glasgow's Play Strategy. It is recommended that this location be identified as a local priority for investment from the citywide sums identified for Children's Outdoor Play.

6.2 **Meadow Management**- Dialogue with the Greater Pollok Greenspace and Woodlands Development Group has identified the value of creating more activity and connection

throughout greenspaces. It is considered the enhancement of habitats adjacent to footpaths, through meadow creation, has the potential to provide greater interest and learning opportunities through the potential to observe birds, butterflies and other wildlife. It is considered this is in support of our Pollinator Plan and Wildflower Action Plan, and a bid has been submitted for £103,145 to the Biodiversity Challenge Fund in support of meadow creation towards the southwest of Househill Park, near Crookston Castle, in part of the Hapland Road and Langton Crescent Greenspaces and at various sites along the Levern Water. Should this bid be successful it is proposed to discuss the detail of these proposals further with Greater Pollok Greenspace and Woodlands Development Group, and the Storytelling Centre.

**6.3 Woodland Creation-** Dialogue with the Greater Pollok Greenspace and Woodlands Development Group has identified the value of local woodlands, with these forming a network of local greenspaces for walking, wheeling, cycling and outdoor learning. In line with the recommendations of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Groups, officers have reviewed opportunities for increasing tree canopy cover, with funding for woodland creation potentially available via the Woodland Grant Scheme, and for Tiny Forests via Earthwatch and Nature Scot. It is proposed to bring forward bids in support of woodland creation along the southern side of Househill Park, within part of the greenspace at Hapland Road and Langton Crescent, and for a Tiny Forest within greenspace adjacent to Crookston Castle, and to discuss the detail of these bids with Greater Pollok Greenspace and Woodlands Development Group, and the Storytelling Centre.

**6.4 Food Growing-** Following initial Engagement with SWAMP, Greater Pollok Services and other local stakeholders, it is proposed to develop options for community gardening on greenspace next to Glentyan Drive/Glenlora Drive. Officers will bring forward recommendations for investment of ENV2 sums of £42,820 to supplement Support for Food Growing funding of £11,909 allocated as part of Glasgow City Councils Budget for 2021/22, which could fund an Orchard, raised beds, footpath, boundary treatments as well as bulb and wildflower planting. Should this funding be secured, it is proposed to discuss the detail of these proposals further with Sanctuary Housing, Greater Pollok Greenspace and Woodlands Development Group, Greater Pollok Services and SWAMP, and to bring local growers together to form a committee to manage the site.

## **7 Next steps and timescales**

7.1 August 2021- agree early options to progress 2021/22 from this shortlist.

7.2 September 2021- seasonal window for delivery of meadow creation

7.3 September 2021 onwards- preparation of contract documents, procurement activity and lead in times for the delivery of materials

7.4 November 2021- update provided to stakeholders

7.5 November 2021-March 2022- seasonal window for delivery of woodland creation and/or woodland management works on the ground

7.6 November 2021-March 2022- window for delivery of any works where funding is tied to the financial year.

7.7 April 2022- feedback invited from stakeholders

## 8 Policy and Resource Implications

### Resource Implications:

*Financial:* This paper outlines options for how capital investment identified as part of the 2021/22 budget process by Glasgow City Council can be allocated within Greater Pollok

*Legal:* None

*Personnel:* None

*Procurement:* Early Actions will be procured via existing GCC frameworks

**Council Strategic Plan:** The Strategic Plan sets out a vision for Glasgow becoming the most sustainable city in Europe, and a resilient city. The implementation of a Food Growing Strategy will contribute to this and to the following specific objectives:

Objective 63 - Give all children better access to outdoor play by upgrading school playgrounds and play areas.

Objective 71 - Promote and enhance our city's natural resources including nature reserves and public parks.

Objective 72 - Support the development of Glasgow as a Sustainable Food City.

### Equality Impacts:

*EQIA carried out:*

*Outcome:* -

### Sustainability Impacts:

*Environmental:* It is considered that the early actions set out in paragraph 3 would contribute to the recommendations of the Climate and Ecological Emergency working groups, and to the Local Biodiversity Action Plan

*Social:* It is considered that the participatory and placemaking processes detailed in paragraph 1 support the aims of People Make Glasgow Communities

*Economic:*

## 9. Recommendations

9.1 It is recommended that the Partnership

- (1) notes this report;
- (2) notes the allocations to each Area Partnership, as detailed in Appendix 1; and
- (3) approves funding for its preferred options for the Local Parks & Open Space Improvement Fund to allow for early action and delivery of projects.