



## **Glasgow City Region – City Deal**

### **Cabinet**

**Report by Councillor Vaughan Moody, Leader of East  
Dunbartonshire Council and Portfolio Lead on Land  
Use and Sustainability**

## **Item 8**

**9th April 2019**

### **‘A Blueprint for the Green Network’ in the Glasgow City Region**

#### **Purpose of Report:**

The purpose of this paper is to propose that the GCR Cabinet support the launch of a ‘Blueprint for the Green Network’ prepared for the Glasgow City Region by the GCV Green Network Partnership.

#### **Recommendations:**

Glasgow City Region Cabinet is invited to:

- i. note and welcome the production of the Blueprint by the GCV Green Network Partnership; and
- ii. agree to the content of the Blueprint and support its formal launch in May 2019.

## 1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to propose that the GCR Cabinet support the launch of a 'Blueprint for the Green Network' prepared for the Glasgow City Region by the GCV Green Network Partnership.

## 2. Background

- 2.1 The GCV Green Network Partnership (GCVGNP) was formed in 2006 with the aim to make the Glasgow city region one of Europe's most attractive places to live, work and play through the creation of a large functional Green Network. The Partnership includes the region's eight local authorities as well as Forestry Commission Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage, Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Scottish Enterprise and the Glasgow Centre for Population Health.
- 2.2 In 2017 the GCVGNP published 'A Green Network Strategy for the Glasgow City Region'. The strategy identifies the benefits of the Green Network, how these will support the GCR Economic Strategy, and how it will be delivered. The strategy states that the ambition for the Green Network is that it is "easily accessible to everyone who lives and works in the City Region". The strategy also identifies the development of a strategic masterplan – the Blueprint – to guide its systematic delivery over the coming decades.
- 2.3 Since the publication of the strategy, the GCVGNP has been working with all GCR local authority partners and other partners to develop the Blueprint. The GCR Land Use and Sustainability Portfolio meetings have received regular updates on progress and in discussions the Blueprint has been recognised as being valuable in supporting the Portfolio's identified actions.
- 2.4 The Blueprint has recently been completed and preparations are underway for a launch event on 28th May.

## 3. The Blueprint

- 3.1 The Blueprint is comprised of two combined networks of greenspace:
  - An **Access Network** – which will provide off-road green routes for walking and cycling, making connections from where people live to workplaces, local high streets and the region's Green Network assets;
  - A **Habitat Network** – which will make targeted connections between the region's valuable habitats to provide greater resilience for biodiversity and to help secure the ecosystem services that benefits the region's economy.
- 3.2 The analyses which have been undertaken for the Blueprint have generated a lot of very detailed information. They identify what already currently contributes to the two networks that should be protected and if necessary improved, and where there are gaps in provision that need to be delivered.

- **Access Network** – 500 miles of walking and cycling routes, 60% currently are in place. Hundreds of opportunities are identified to address the 'grey' sections of the network.
- **Habitat Network** – 540 square miles (42%) of the region is habitat, but highly fragmented. Hundreds of opportunities are identified to connect habitats - 1% more habitat can deliver 40% larger networks.

3.3 The Blueprint will contribute to delivering sustainable inclusive economic growth and increasing wellbeing by contributing to making the Glasgow City Region:

- a successful, sustainable place where people want to work and where they live healthy lives;
- a natural, resilient place that improves and protects the environment;
- a connected place providing opportunities for exercise and mental wellbeing;
- a place that encourages active travel contributing to a low carbon economy.

3.4 The outputs of the analyses are very detailed, so simplified graphics which represent the Glasgow City Region's Strategic Access and Strategic Habitat Networks have been developed to help communicate the Blueprint to a wider audience (Figure 1).

## 4. Recommendation

4.1 Glasgow City Region Cabinet is invited to:

- i. note and welcome the production of the Blueprint by the GCV Green Network Partnership; and
- ii. agree to the content of the Blueprint and support its formal launch in May 2019.

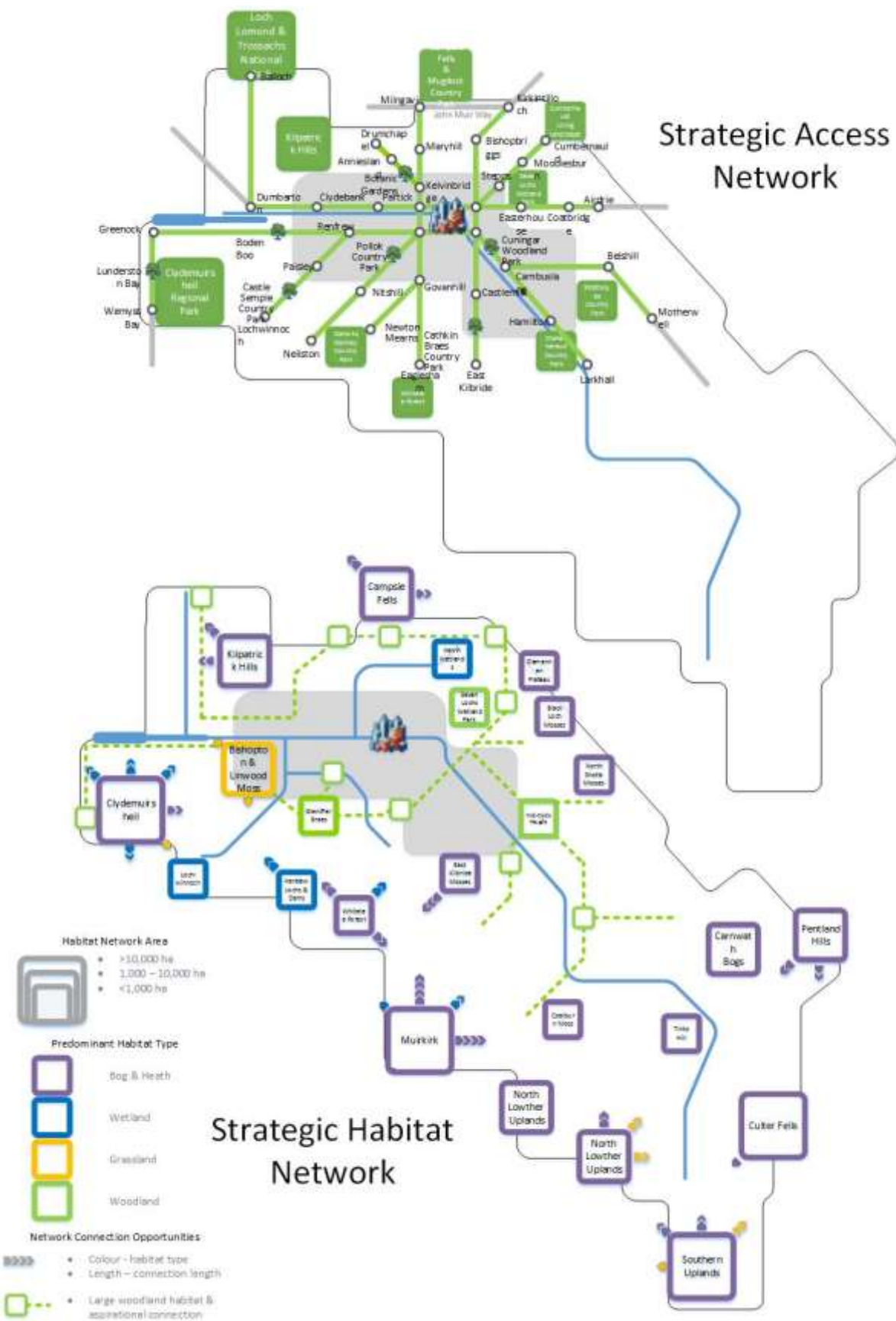


Figure 1. Blueprint for the Green Network: Strategic Access and Strategic Habitat Networks