



**Glasgow City Council**

**Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City  
Policy Committee**

**Item 6**

**27th February 2024**

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

### **Recommendations:**

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 Report, and Duty Report.
2. The production of the new Local Biodiversity Action Plan Delivery Plan for 2024/2029.
3. The Local Nature Reserves declared during 2023.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

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

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The Council declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency in May 2019. A short-life Ecological Working Group, consisting of elected members, council officers and experts from environmental groups, agreed 25 recommendations which were incorporated into the [Glasgow Climate Plan](#)
- 1.2 Within the Climate Plan, and the Adaptation Plan, there is a focus on nature-based solutions for climate mitigation and adaptation with obvious opportunities and benefits for creating and enhancing biodiversity. The new Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) Delivery Plan (Appendix 3) addresses 2 key actions from the Climate Plan:-
  - 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 Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP), Open Space Strategy Delivery Plan and Pollinator Plan”.
- 1.3 The [Local Biodiversity Action Plan 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.
- 1.4 Our Annual Monitoring Report, which covers both Glasgow’s LBAP and the Pollinator Plan 2022/23, is included as Appendix 1 to this report.
- 1.5 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. The Biodiversity Duty Report 2020-2023 (Appendix 2), is now due for submission to the Scottish Government. A copy of the previous Biodiversity Duty Report submitted to the Scottish Government can be found [here](#).

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 A previous report was brought to Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City Policy Committee on 28th February 2023 which provided the [annual update for 2021-22](#).
- 2.2 The Biodiversity Duty Report has been compiled by NRS’ Natural Environment Officers (Biodiversity/Ecology) and reports on the Council’s compliance with the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act (2004) and the requirement to further the

conservation of biodiversity through implementation of actions within the LBAP on Council land.

- 2.3 National Planning Framework 4 came into force on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023. Policy 3: *Biodiversity requires new development to deliver positive effects for biodiversity and the associated Developing with Nature Guidance highlights the opportunities provided by green roofs*. The next iteration of the City Development Plan will further consider the role of green roofs in enhancing biodiversity, particularly in the City Centre.
- 2.4 The annual monitoring report has been compiled with the support of the Council's partners in the Glasgow Biodiversity Partnership, as listed at the end of Appendix 1. 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.
- 2.5 Projects and actions continue to link to, support, and benefit from a range of other workstreams including:
- The Climate Plan and Adaptation 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. Activity to Date**

- 3.1 The LBAP Delivery Plan 2024-2029 has been developed in collaboration with the LBAP Partnership organisations (see Appendix 3). The Delivery Plan aims to support the new Scottish Biodiversity Strategy (SBS) aims and objectives and SBS Delivery Plan actions at a local level in Glasgow.
- 3.2 A key action will be delivering a Nature Network for the city across blue and green connector habitats. Progressing the continued designation of 22 Local Nature Reserves will contribute to the proposed Nature Network and provide valuable habitat for pollinators and other wildlife. Grassland management will continue to contribute to wildflower meadows and the grassland ecosystem, and the delivery of the Glasgow Tree Plan will contribute to woodland ecosystem health and achieving the target of increasing tree canopy cover to 17%. Tree canopy cover is currently 16%

3.3. Appendix 1 summarises key activities contained within the 18th Monitoring Report of Glasgow's LBAP and the Pollinator Plan, with full monitoring details in relation to both plans set out; and other projects which have taken place this year with positive effects for biodiversity. Notable activity within 2022/23 includes:

- The designation of a further 22 Local Nature Reserves (new sites and extensions to existing sites) was approved by the City Administration Committee in June 2022.
- 88,063 records were added to the biological audit database managed by Glasgow Museums Biological Records Centre, covering Glasgow and the Clyde River Catchment area. There were 59 new species added to the Glasgow Species Audit including: Yellow Bird's-nest (parasitic plant), Haw Goblet (fungus), *Oedemera lurida* (a false blister-beetle), *Hydropsyche contubernalis* (caddisfly), Horse-Chestnut Leaf-miner (moth), Orache moth, *Cryptachaea blattae* (spider).
- The Glasgow Naturalist volume 27 (4) included the final tranche of papers in the Glasgow Botanic Gardens *On the Wildside Revisited*; and short notes on individual insect species that had been found in Glasgow over recent years.
- As part of the Green Connectors and proposed Nature Network, 22,260 small bulbs and 16,500 wildflower plugs were planted across 5500m<sup>2</sup> and 250,000 daffodils were planted city-wide across 10,000m<sup>2</sup>. New pollinator signage at green connector parks and other sites raises awareness of pollinators, biodiversity, carbon storage and the climate and ecological emergencies.
- A review of the city's Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) was completed. SINCs are areas with valuable and rare habitats and species and form part of the functional habitat connections in the city. The review has allowed for a re-survey of habitats and recommendations for management of these along with a re-assessment of each site's value to inform protection from development where necessary.
- The Magnificent 11 circular walking route was launched on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023. Its waymarking and promotion will assist with public perception of connectivity of the sites which include Linn Park, King's Park, Castlemilk Park and Cathkin Braes.
- The Countryside Rangers delivered 48 visits to 19 schools and 1,483 pupils including visits to 9 parks and also held 4 Countryside Ranger-led events across the city with 695 participants taking part, an increase on the previous year, in line with the easing of COVID restrictions.
- An RSPB-led Bioblitz event was held as part of City Nature Challenge 2022 - a global citizen science competition to record wildlife in cities. 106 people

took part in the City Nature Challenge event in 2022 with 1,895 records of 535 species across Greater Glasgow.

### 3.4 Local Nature Reserves

3.4.1 In addition to the existing 12 LNRs, nine new Local Nature Reserve (LNR) areas have recently been completed and declared with five of these being new LNRs for Glasgow and four being extensions to existing LNRs. This now takes Glasgow's total number of LNRs to 17. Of the 22 new designations noted at committee, 9 have been achieved, the rest to follow. This will assist further in developing a robust Nature Network across the city, providing enhanced connectivity along Glasgow's urban watercourses such as the River Kelvin and the Forth and Clyde Canal.

3.4.2 The new LNRs and Council wards are as follows:

New LNR	Ward
Bingham's Pond	23 Partick East and Kelvindale
Cleddans Burn	14 Drumchapel and Anniesland
Festival Park	5 Govan
Hurlet Hill	3 Greater Pollok
Todd's Well	21 North East

3.4.3 The extensions to existing LNRs are in the following locations:

LNR	Ward
Bishops Loch LNR	21 North East
Cardowan Moss LNR	21 North East
Commonhead Moss LNR	21 North East
Dawsholm Park LNR	15 Maryhill

## 4 Activity Planned

- 4.1 The development and mapping of Glasgow's Nature Network will be progressed over 2024-25 incorporating Local Nature Reserves, SINC's and green connector sites to provide strategic habitat linkages across the city. Delivery of [Nature Networks](#) is a key component in increasing ecological connectivity and restoration of nature and will help deliver the new Scottish Biodiversity Strategy.
- 4.2 A second tranche of a further 10 Local Nature Reserves from the 22 approved by CAC will be identified and taken through the engagement and designation process for declaration in 2024.
- 4.3 GCC signed a new Collaboration Agreement for the Seven Lochs Project in November 2023 which will run for 20 years from January 2024. Priorities for 2024-25 are to;

- continue the transformation of vacant and derelict land into new multi-functional greenspace in partnership with local communities,
  - deliver the Seven Lochs and N.E. Glasgow Water Vole Conservation Action Plan: and
  - improve Seven Lochs as a destination for cycling
- 4.4 GCC is working in partnership with SEPA and East Renfrewshire Council to progress the outline design for the Capelrig/Auldhouse Burn River Restoration. The project will re-connect the river with its natural floodplain, helping reduce the impacts of flooding and increasing resilience to climate change impacts. The project also aims to deliver significant ecological improvements to the river, including wetland and river woods creation which will enhance biodiversity and natural habitat of the river and its surroundings.
- 4.5 This service intends to declare further additional new or extended LNRs during 2024 to continue the accelerated implementation committed to within the Climate Plan.

## 5. 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 Socio-Economic Impacts:**

*Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25? 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 socio-economic 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

## **6 Recommendations**

6.1 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 Report, and Duty Report
2. The production of the new Local Biodiversity Action Plan Delivery Plan for 2024/2029.
3. The Local Nature Reserves declared during 2023.