



Glasgow City Region

Cabinet

Report by Councillor Andrew Polson, Portfolio Lead for Land Use and Sustainability Portfolio, Leader of East Dunbartonshire Council

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Item 9

1st June 2021

Glasgow City Region Climate Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan

Purpose of Report:

To seek approval for adoption of the Glasgow City Region Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan, and to extend the funding commitment for Climate Ready Clyde to 2025/26.

Recommendations

The Cabinet is asked to:

- approve the Climate Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan, subject to the approval by local authority governance processes as required;
- acknowledge that delivery of the Strategy and Action plan necessarily implies a greater allocation of resources to planning, financing and implementation in the years ahead, as well as additional policy and regulation;
- endorse the in-principle commitment to supporting Climate Ready Clyde for the next five years to support delivery of the Strategy and Action Plan;
- approve that the current Local Authority contributions to Climate Ready Clyde become part of the overall payment from Local Authorities into the City Region on an annual basis from 2022/23;
- approve Glasgow City Region PMO to manage the contributions to Climate Ready Clyde on their behalf; and,
- approve the City Region as the strategic partner for Climate Ready Clyde.

1. Purpose

To seek adoption of the Glasgow City Region Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan, and a five-year commitment to Climate Ready Clyde to support implementation.

2. Background

- 2.1 Building resilience to the impacts of climate change is a key priority as the City Region seeks a green recovery. Achieving net zero is urgent, but extreme weather events are already impacting Glasgow City Region. Some future climate impacts are now unavoidable, with impacts and costs will increase in the years ahead.
- 2.2 Recent impacts such as the Stonehaven disaster or the collapse of the Union Canal remind us of the consequences of being ill-prepared. Climate Ready Clyde's Climate Risk and Opportunity Assessment highlights the challenges for the region, and the third UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (released in June) will highlight that more action is needed across Scotland. All of this means **we must make a collective psychological shift**, pursuing adaptation and mitigation in parallel – both separately, and together through initiatives such as the circular economy.
- 2.3 Embracing this shift offers new opportunities to deliver wider economic social and environmental benefits, creating new green jobs and a more resilient economy, a fairer, more equitable region, and enhancing the environment on which we all rely.
- 2.4 To enable it, Climate Ready Clyde has worked with organisations across the region to develop the first regional Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan for the City Region and for Scotland. It was consulted on at the end of 2020, with views sought on the scale of ambition, scope, the extent to which it was fair, its environmental impacts, and how it could better include and involve communities and businesses. A Strategic Environmental Assessment, Habitat Regulations Assessment and Social Impact Assessment have considered the environmental and social dimensions of the Strategy to enhance its effectiveness and avoid negative impacts.
- 2.5 The Strategy and Action Plan draws on a substantial body of work developed by CRC over the past three years. This includes a Climate Risk and Opportunity Assessment, and a Theory of Change which set out a positive vision and conditions for the City Region to flourish in a future climate. These were brought together, along with political economy mapping, systems change insight, and consideration of a Green New Deal for Glasgow City Region to inform the Strategy and Action Plan. The full development process is in Appendix 1.
- 2.6 Since consultation, the CRC Secretariat (Sniffer) has revised the Strategy to take account of comments received and has also worked to develop an initial set of flagship actions and securing wider contributions to delivering adaptation across Glasgow City Region.

3. Glasgow City Region Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan

3.1 The Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan for Glasgow City Region is designed to kick-start the region's adaptation action; it adopts a systemic approach and sets out initial actions which support the City Region's ambitions to flourish in a future climate. The Strategy's objectives are to:

- Build the region's social, economic and environmental resilience to climate change.
- Outline the processes and early interventions needed to manage climate risks and realise opportunities in line with Climate Ready Clyde's vision and Theory of Change.
- Provide a strategic framework for adaptation in and by the Glasgow City Region that fits alongside and supports key plans, policies, and activities to enable delivery.
- Set out how Climate Ready Clyde as an initiative will deepen and expand collaboration and collective impact by working together and engaging, equipping, and enabling citizens and organisations to play their role in realising the vision.
- Set out how progress in increasing climate resilience will be monitored, evaluated, and learnt from to improve policies, strategies, programmes, and projects.

3.2 The Strategy runs to 2030 and contains 11 interventions, which provide comprehensive coverage of the entire range of sectors and risks. It takes a systems approach, blending sectors, places and climate hazards. Each intervention contains a package of proposed activities designed to meet its aim. The interventions span activities from building capacity and enabling adaptation to delivery of physical changes. The full list is included as Appendix 2.

3.3 The Strategy outlines five place-based priorities for adaptation. These have been identified based on an assessment of concentrations of hazards, economic assets, and those most vulnerable to climate change:

- **The Clyde River corridor** – a national economic asset, which is also home to a significant number of people who are disproportionately affected by flooding. It is also an area with significant concentration of river, surface water and coastal flood risk, and erosion, and so we must balance the development opportunity being brought forward by Clyde Mission with the need for resilience.
- **New priority development sites** – the wider sites set out in the indicative Regional Spatial Strategy, including the major regeneration of Ravenscraig in North Lanarkshire, Eurocentral/Mossend and the Forth and Clyde Canal.
- **Strategic Economic Investment Locations (SEILs)** - These locations offer potential for a rebalanced low carbon economy, boosting competitiveness and tackling inequality. They also promote the Scottish

Government's key economic sectors and Scottish Enterprise's locational priorities. The large scale, long-term investment planned to achieve these outcomes means they have a high potential to lock in future climate risks.

- **The coast** – erosion, accretion and sea level rise will alter their shape and form significantly in places like Dumbarton, Greenock and Gourock.
- **Urban and town centres** – The centre of Glasgow and town centres are vital to the regional economy, but they are also heat islands. In future, the concentration of urban development is likely to be more affected by rising temperatures and heatwaves. There is also a significant opportunity to weave adaptation and mitigation work together within pre-planned large scale infrastructure changes, such as in the Innovation Districts or Town Centre Regeneration programmes.

3.4 The Strategy has been developed to provide global leadership on adaptation given its prominence in the UN Climate Change Negotiations (COP26) taking place in Glasgow later this year. The Strategy majors on three of the five key themes of COP26 – adaptation and resilience, finance, and nature-based solutions.

3.5 The Action Plan covers 2021-2025 and contains an initial set of collaborative, high ambition actions, as well as wider contributions from others in the region.

4. Evolution of the Strategy

4.1 The Strategy has been developed collaboratively, with ongoing discussion with stakeholders throughout, and with a draft issued as an online consultation document in November 2020. The Secretariat received 17 consultation responses and the content revised accordingly. Since the draft version of, several changes have been incorporated including:

- **Focusing on 'Just Resilience'** – as a sister approach to Just Transition, recognising that social and economic factors affect how people experience climate impacts, strengthening the emphasis on protecting the weakest and most vulnerable, and **addressing inequalities arising from climate change**. This new approach explicitly recognises the need to support those whose jobs will be affected by climate impacts, and aligns with emerging policies around the Wellbeing Economy and Community Wealth Building.
- **Highlighting the strong economic case for adaptation**, including the impacts of climate change and adaptation on regional GDP in the coming decades. It also includes an emerging approach to funding and financing Strategy delivery, recognising that resources will be a significant barrier to delivery.

4.2 In addition to the changes above, a further number of improvements and changes were made in response to the public consultation. Responses include:

- Inclusion of the existing Flood Risk Management framework
- An explicit recognition of the value of different forms of knowledge (lived experience, and local knowledge, in addition to technical/academic)

- Strengthening the rural dimensions, such as rural climate impacts, and adaptation activities
 - A recognition of the added value from more inclusive decision-making approaches
 - Mapping the links between the Climate Risks and Opportunities and Strategy Interventions
- 4.3 A full, anonymised set of comments received and the responses from the Secretariat will be published alongside the final Strategy and Action Plan.

Habitat Regulations Assessment

- 4.4 During consultation NatureScot indicated they now felt a Habitat Regulations Appraisal Screening for the draft Adaptation Strategy was now also required. The Secretariat commissioned WSP to screen the Adaptation Strategy. This process concluded that the draft Strategy did not have any likely significant effects on the European and Ramsar sites in the City Region. The final Screening Report will be published alongside the main Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan. This complements existing Strategic Environmental Assessment and Social Impact Assessments completed.

5. Strategic Action Plan

- 5.1 Alongside the Strategy, the document includes a Strategic Action Plan. The Action Plan includes 16 Flagship Actions, (listed in Appendix 2), and a set of wider contributions from stakeholders through an open invitation by Climate Ready Clyde.
- 5.2 The Flagship Actions are large scale, strategic and high-ambition actions where there is strong consensus on the need for progress, and a recognition of the whole systems approach that is required to address core, underlying challenges. The Actions are aligned with the region's vision of a city region that flourishes in a future climate, and its associated Theory of Change.
- 5.3 A hallmark of the Flagship Actions is the way in which they will be shaped and organised by working together. They are all at different stages of maturity and momentum, and the Climate Ready Clyde secretariat will play an enabling role, fostering the initial process but encouraging actors to own and grow the Actions, deciding together on the best way to take them forward. **The actions have not yet been agreed with all of the key partners identified, but will need collective involvement as this will be crucial to success.**
- 5.4 The process of developing the Strategy and Action Plan has highlighted the need to broaden and involve new perspectives and actors. There are many ways of taking a more inclusive approach – including the creative and cultural sectors to help build a groundswell of broader and more diverse voices and different ways of thinking, as well as the private sector, to bring economic factors in support of the transition.
- 5.5 The first cohort of Flagship Actions reflect the interest, energy, and commitment from those already engaged in adaptation in the City Region. They are the beginning, not the end. Climate Ready Clyde's members are

committed to a greater sense of diversity and inclusion in the Flagship Actions in the years ahead and indeed new, and very different Flagship actions.

- 5.6 The additional contributions the CRC Secretariat received from stakeholders, outline details of additional adaptation activities, plans and programmes that will help to deliver the Strategy and specific Interventions. The range of contributors and activities demonstrates the collective commitment across the region towards building climate resilience. These activities fully support and complement the scale of ambition of the Flagship Actions and will be separately profiled to showcase the wider regional transition underway.

6. Making it happen: Stretch Targets and governance

- 6.1 To support Strategy delivery, the Strategy includes stretch targets, with the Climate Ready Clyde initiative structuring itself to enable delivery by others and working with others to unlock the investment required.
- 6.2 The short time taken to produce the final strategy, and the complexity of monitoring adaptation (since climate risks also change over time) mean it has not been possible to condense the ambition of flourishing in our future climate into a set of straightforward indicators. Instead, the CRC Secretariat has committed to evolving monitoring arrangements, and has identified stretching targets. These will ensure that the Action Plan stays true to the intention of supporting the most vulnerable, as well as overcoming the financial and inclusion barriers to achieving the Strategy's intervention. These targets are that by 2025, we will have:
- Increased the resilience of over 140,000 of the region's most vulnerable people to the impact of climate change.
 - Closed the region's adaptation finance gap of £184m a year.
 - Involved 125 new organisations, community groups and businesses supporting the City Region to adapt
- 6.3 Achieving these targets does not mean that the region will be flourishing in its future climate, but they will mark significant, fair and equitable progress. The targets have been calculated based on an assessment of those in the City Region most vulnerable, and the adaptation finance gap.
- 6.4 The target of supporting the most vulnerable is aligned to the U.N.'s 'Race to Resilience' campaign, of which Climate Ready Clyde is a member, and which will build the resilience of 4 Billion of the world's most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. In Glasgow City Region, 140,000 people are in the top 20% of the SIMD, and live in areas that may experience heat hazards or flooding.

Governance – emerging approach

- 6.5 Unlike other regions in Europe, Glasgow City Region has no clear mandated responsibility for adaptation. Therefore, a different approach is needed to implement the Strategy and Action Plan, and this is emerging and evolving. Having completed the Strategy and Action Plan, Climate Ready Clyde's Board, as well as Sniffer (in its role as Secretariat) are clear dedicated effort is needed

to help the region deliver the Strategy, and supporting and enable communities, businesses and institutions to play their roles.

- 6.6 The high-level approach the CRC Secretariat is using is that of creating an ‘ambition loop’ to accelerate the region’s pace and scale of adaptation, like that used in the Paris Agreement itself¹. In this model, strong public sector action and commitments (e.g., regulation, subsidies or investments) provide market signals or incentives, in turn driving action by the private sector. Together, these actions provide visible benefits of adaptation to communities and provides space for them to play a stronger role. In turn, this increases the mandate for local, regional and national government to increase pace and ambition.
- 6.7 The CRC Secretariat has identified four initial areas of activity which should support the development of an ambition loop for the City Region, and which will guide the initiative’s work over the next five years to implement the Strategy and Action Plan:
- **Fostering an ambitious, adaptive culture, celebrating and monitoring progress.** Success hinges on an inclusive approach with real buy-in supported by self-organising, distributed governance and accountability. Climate Ready Clyde will continue to foster and grow this culture, creating opportunities to showcase and celebrate collective success and to share learning. At the same time, the Secretariat will monitor progress through a 2-yearly independent assessment, and a five yearly review of our Theory of Change and the Risk and Opportunity Assessment.
 - **Coordinating and activating institutions, communities and business.** The secretariat will continue to join-up activity across the region and beyond, and involve new ‘keystone’ actors – those significant in the region’s systems, and whose involvement and action can create significant change.
 - **Delivering innovation.** Working with others, Climate Ready Clyde will continue to innovate to support adaptation planning, financing and implementation, particularly where there is not an impetus for one organisation to pursue this individually. Over time these innovations will be adopted by those in the City Region to accelerate progress.
 - **Enabling and equipping action.** Climate Ready Clyde will continue to undertake functions such as training, capacity building, evidence development and technical support to build the region’s adaptation capabilities, enabling others take action to adapt to climate change.
- 6.8 This approach will continue to evolve and develop on an ongoing basis with the City Region’s Land Use and Sustainability Portfolio, building on existing work to date. In the months to come, the Secretariat will explore expectations of the Board Members, Glasgow City Region and wider stakeholders to develop and refine the initiative priorities, and to explore and develop new governance structures and activities needed to help drive delivery. However, an early gap

¹ UN Global Compact, We Mean Business, and WRI (2018) The Ambition Loop: How Business and Government can fast-track zero carbon economic growth

which will need addressing is around strategic oversight and ownership of progress by public, private sector and communities.

7. Cost Implications

- 7.1 In and of itself, the adoption of the Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan will not result in any direct cost implications to Glasgow City Region. However, delivering the Strategy and Action Plan will require increased public funding in the years ahead. It is important to note that these costs, whilst significant, will be significantly less than the costs of climate impacts – currently estimated as an annual impact of between 1.5% to 3.5% of GDP by the 2070s.
- 7.2 To inform a financing approach a detailed Resource Mobilisation Plan has assessed and prioritised approaches for the Strategy Interventions, considering the role of public finance, how that can be used to leverage or blend with private finance, and where private finance may help facilitate direct delivery.
- 7.3 However, no detailed costs have been produced for each of the Interventions, Sub Interventions or flagship actions, since their precise scale, scope, and the parties working on them have yet to be agreed. Instead, organisations, businesses and communities will need to individually and collectively develop business cases and allocate their resources in service of them.
- 7.4 Some of this work is starting to happen already – for example, Sniffer have worked with EIT Climate-KIC to bid for £1m of additional funding for the City Region as part of the European Green Deal, and CRC has also supported Clyde Mission to bid for £100k of money for action. CRC has also provided technical insight to ensure adaptation is included in Glasgow City Region’s sustainable procurement strategy, and the ongoing Housing Retrofit programme, and Renfrewshire’s new Town Centre programme.
- 7.5 A priority for the CRC Secretariat in the next five years ahead is to bring those partners together to develop existing Flagship Actions and turn them into concrete, costed proposals and support their delivery, as well as to create new actions.
- 7.6 Discussions between CRC, the Land Use Portfolio and the Director of Regional Economic Growth have identified that a five-year commitment to the partnership (to 2025/26) from Glasgow City Region would allow CRC to shift their work onto a more strategic footing. This would:
 - Align with the period of the action plan,
 - Allow fiscal flexibility to respond to near term priorities (e.g. COP26),
 - Provide confidence to other CRC partners to pledge similar certainty,
 - Inspire wider confidence amongst business and community groups, and
 - Provide match funding to lever in additional resource
- 7.7 Therefore the Cabinet are asked to
 - Endorse the in-principle commitment to supporting Climate Ready Clyde at similar levels for the next five years to support delivery of the Strategy and Action Plan

- Approve that the current Local Authority contributions to Climate Ready Clyde become part of the overall payment from Local Authorities into the City Region on an annual basis from 2022/23;
 - Approve Glasgow City Region PMO to manage the contributions to Climate Ready Clyde on their behalf
 - Approve the City Region to be the strategic partner for Climate Ready Clyde.
- 7.8 The contributions would be paid annually from the Glasgow City Region PMO, subject to an annual review of performance, a future proposed work programme and approval each year by Chief Executives' Group and Cabinet.

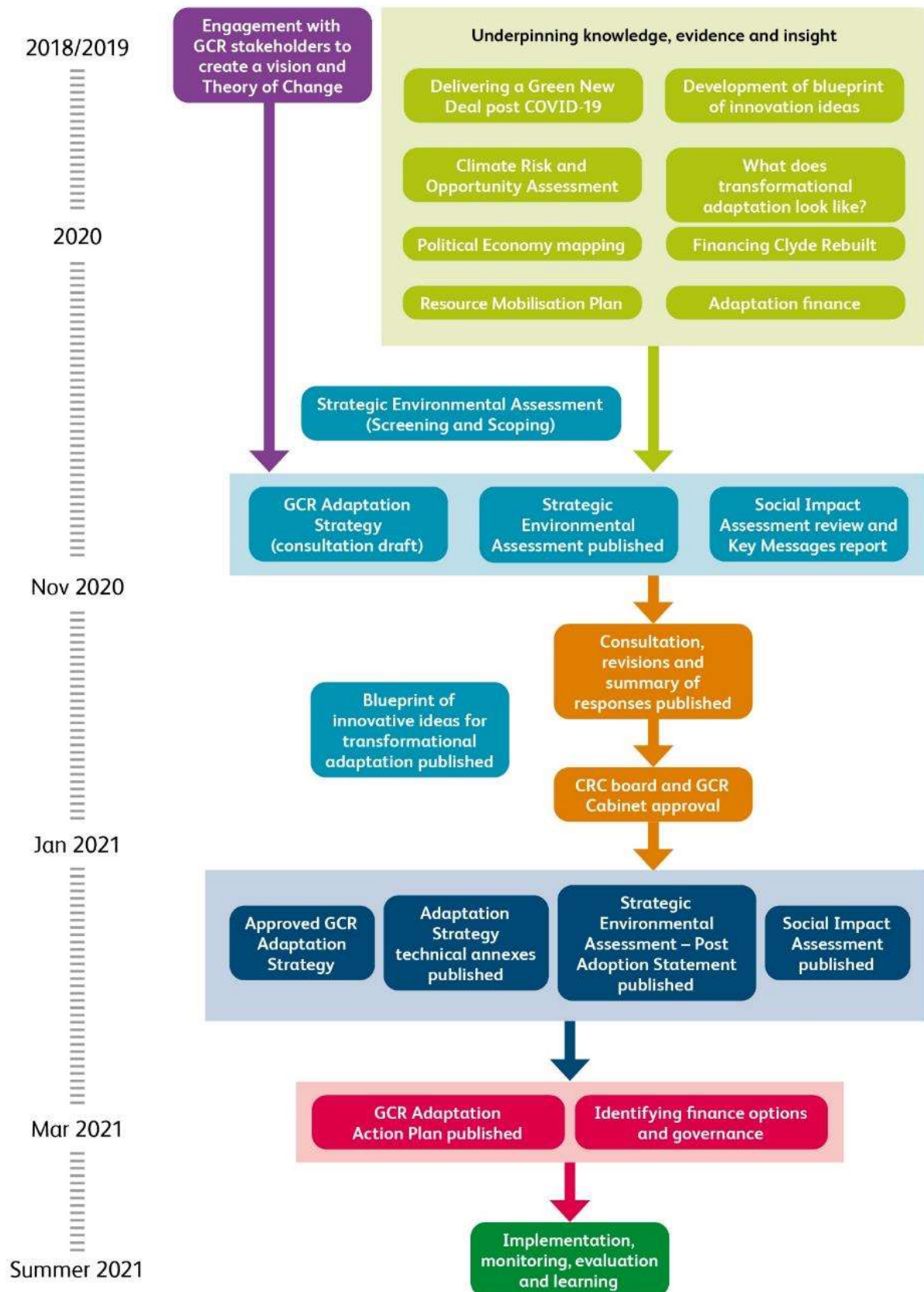
8. Next Steps

- 8.1 Subject to approval of the Strategy and Action Plan by Glasgow City Region Cabinet, the Climate Ready Clyde Secretariat will prepare the Strategy and Action Plan for publication, completing a final proofed and designed version and move forwards to developing a launch event at the end of June 2021. This will be part of a wider communications and engagement plan, which will seek to build wider engagement from new actors and generate significant momentum regionally and globally in the run up to COP26, as well as providing ways to showcase and celebrate the wider contributions in the region on adaptation.
- 8.2 At the same time, the city Region PMO, individual local authorities will work with Sniffer and the other CRC Parties to develop a new Memorandum of Understanding to govern the new arrangements.

9. Recommendations

- 9.1 The Cabinet is invited to:
- approve the Climate Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan, subject to the approval by local authority governance processes as required;
 - acknowledge that delivery of the Strategy and Action plan necessarily implies a greater allocation of resources to planning, financing and implementation in the years ahead, as well as additional policy and regulation;
 - endorse the in-principle commitment to supporting Climate Ready Clyde for the next five years to support delivery of the Strategy and Action Plan;
 - approve that the current Local Authority contributions to Climate Ready Clyde become part of the overall payment from Local Authorities into the City Region on an annual basis from 2022/23;
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 - approve the City Region as the strategic partner for Climate Ready Clyde.

Appendix 1: Strategy and Action Plan Development Process



Appendix 2: GCR Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan Interventions and Flagship Actions

Interventions:

1. Reform and reshape governance mechanisms so they respond to adaptation needs, nurture new leadership and create expectations in society
2. Develop the ability of organisations, businesses, and communities to adapt
3. Increase adaptation finance through leverage and innovation
4. Enable and equip communities to participate in adaptation, focusing on the most vulnerable
5. Embed reflection, monitoring, evaluation, and learning into adaptation action
6. Adapt the Clyde Corridor for the twenty-second Century
7. Enhance early warning and preparedness for floods and heatwaves
8. Ensure everyone's homes, offices, buildings, and infrastructure are resilient to future climate impacts
9. Deliver nature-based solutions for resilient, blue-green ecosystems, landscapes, and neighbourhoods
10. Enhance regional decision making and establish Glasgow City Region as a global research and knowledge hub for adaptation
11. Begin the transition to an economy resilient to future climate impacts

Flagship Actions

