



Glasgow City Council

Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City
Policy Committee

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Regeneration and Sustainability

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Item 3

4th March 2025

LOCAL BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN AND POLLINATOR PLAN

Purpose of Report:

To present the GCC Annual Monitoring 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 the Annual Monitoring Report.
2. The Local Nature Reserves declared during 2024.

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 there is a focus on nature-based solutions for climate mitigation and adaptation with obvious opportunities and benefits for creating and enhancing biodiversity. The Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) 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 The Annual Monitoring Report, which covers both Glasgow’s LBAP and the Pollinator Plan 2023/24, is included as Appendix 1 to this report.

2. Background

- 2.1 A previous report was brought to Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City Policy Committee on [28th February 2024](#) which provided the annual update for 22/23.
- 2.2 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.

2.3 Projects and actions continue to link to, support, and benefit from a range of complimentary 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)
- The Forestry and Woodland Strategy

3. Activity to Date

3.1 Delivering a [Nature Network](#) for the city across blue and green connector habitats continues to be a key action for LBAP implementation. Nature Networks is a main driver of the new Scottish Biodiversity Strategy which the Glasgow LBAP helps to deliver at a local level. Progressing the continued designation of 22 additional or extended 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 17.1%. Tree canopy cover is currently 16.1%. In 2023/24 almost 16,500 trees were planted city-wide in Council-owned sites.

3.2. Appendix 1 summarises key activities contained within the 19th 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 2023/24 includes:

- A further five new LNRs were declared in Dec 2023, these are as follows: Bingham's Pond; Cleddans Burn; Festival Park; Hurler Hill and Todd's Well. A further four extensions to existing LNRs were declared at the following LNRs: Bishop Loch LNR; Cardowan Moss LNR; Commonhead Moss LNR; Dawsholm Park LNR. This brought the total to 17 LNRs By March 2024.
- 111,400 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 167 new species added to the Glasgow Species Audit including: Dappled Hawkweed (*Hieracium scotostictum*), Striate Earthstar (*Geastrum striatum*), Alder Leaf Beetle (*Agelastica alni*), Water Ladybird (*Anisosticta novemdecimpunctata*), *Leptocerus tineiformis* and *Tinodes waeneri* (caddis-flies), Wall butterfly (*Lasiommata megera*), Common Yellow-face Bee (*Hylaeus communis*), Birch Catkin Bug (*Kleidocerys resedae*), Bright Four-spined Legionnaire

(*Chorisops nagatomii*), Hornet Hoverfly (*Volucella zonaria*), Noctule Bat (*Nyctalus noctula*).

- Grassland Management is carried out across parks and open spaces to create habitat for pollinators and other wildlife, to increase carbon capture and sequestration, to help reduce local flooding by slowing the flow of surface water, and increasing its absorption and infiltration, thereby contributing to wider flood risk management; and to allow for public and community access to nature and recreation. In 2023/24:
 - 15 meadow sites across the city were managed by contractor covering 21 hectares.
 - 6 Green Connector sites were created or enhanced over 5.52 hectares.
 - TCV ran scything workshops at 5 sites including Anderston Greenspaces and Alexandra Park Food Forest to engage with volunteers and increase awareness of different grassland management techniques.
 - 34,308 wildflower plugs were planted over 11,436m² (3 plugs per m²).
 - 793,987 bulbs were planted over 11,436m² (40 bulbs per m²).
 - Wildflower Mixed Seed: 56x1kg bags across 18666m² (3 g per m²).
- Grasslands have been defined into four broad categories for maintenance and to support biodiversity:
 - areas maintained as amenity grass to support specific sport, play and recreational activities, which are cut up to 7 times per year.
 - summer cuts for areas identified as informal activity and recreation spaces in parks and larger open spaces in residential areas. Reducing the frequency of cuts and raising the cutting height allows for shorter growing floral species to flourish providing summer-long nectar resource and caterpillar food. A perimeter cut to paths, up to seven times per year, prevents vegetation from encroaching.
 - seasonal cut and lift which occurs autumn into winter annually, biennially or on a 3-year rotation. Designed to support biodiversity both flora and fauna in different ways. Valuable overwintering habitat is created by changes in timing and allows for some plants to complete their life cycle otherwise prevented with continuous or total seasonal cuts. A perimeter cut to paths, up to seven times per year, prevents vegetation from encroaching.
 - uncut by allowing grass to follow a natural cycle. This approach is being utilised on slopes and beneath trees. This provides protection to trees and provides winter refuge for invertebrates and pollinators. It is also recognised that gradients and the number of trees restrict effective use of cut and lift machinery (tractor drawn Venezia). This machinery is being deployed to maximise its usage and output delivering on biodiversity and cost benefit. Slopes are identified as tree planting opportunities. A perimeter cut to paths, up to seven times per year, prevents vegetation from encroaching.

- Actions and activities which enhance more specific and unique urban habitats:
 - to enhance grasslands bulbs have been mass planted to bring spring colour across the city and to support invertebrates and pollinators that will activity on warmer days of spring.
 - species enrichment of grasslands through perimeter cultivation and seeding and the specific planting of wildflower plants.
 - where ponding and constantly wet ground has been identified these areas are developed as damp meadows with some enhanced by creating scrapes to hold surface water temporarily. This action is used to assist local footpath ponding during heavy or constant rainfall. Water taken off paths protects them from frost and ice damage.
 - the presence of protected species such as the nationally significant population of fossorial water voles to be found in the east of the city will direct actions which can be implemented in grasslands. Specific enhancements have been undertaken under licence from NatureScot.
 - in grasslands adjacent to existing woodlands natural regeneration is being allowed to occur. This natural process allows trees to seed the grassland over time allowing habitats to develop in their own way with limited input.
 - LBAP partners and volunteers are engaged in working with the Council to reimagine grasslands to encourage butterflies, moths and other wildlife by identifying appropriate sites; and developing the enrichment of these into species rich habitats.
 - grasslands and other habitats are part of a network of habitats. These transitional areas are some of the most biodiverse rich zones. Without tall perennials and shrubs including nettles and brambles, there will not be the colourful butterflies that bring delight and inspire so many.

- During 2023 GCC-NRS planted 1 million flower bulbs, 35,000 wildflower plants and sowed millions of wildflower seed on the 3.5 Hectare stretch of grass covered central reserve from Duntreath Avenue to Anniesland Cross on Great Western Road. This reimagining of the central boulevard will help support local ecosystems, improve pollination and enhance biodiversity. Reduced cutting of the central 10m strip (savings of the equivalent of mowing 96 football pitches annually) will reduce carbon emissions. Autumn annual cutting with removal of cuttings improves soil quality and sustains the growth of wildflowers, ensuring the area's long-term viability as a natural habitat. Benefits which have been achieved are reduced fuel use, increased carbon sequestration, interception of exhaust particulates and dust blown up from adjacent roads as well as intercepting and holding rainfall, slowing down runoff onto roads and into gullies.

- Community engagement, environmental education and raising awareness of biodiversity was carried out by GCC Countryside Rangers while The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) continued to bring in volunteers to Local

Nature Reserves to carry out habitat management and associated activities helping to improve participants' mental and physical health and wellbeing:

- Countryside Rangers made 71 visits to 31 schools involving over 21400 pupils and engaging with pupils at 14 different parks
 - Countryside Rangers led 16 events with 275 participants
 - Countryside Rangers attended 9 community events
 - Countryside Rangers held 4 teacher CPD sessions were held at 2 schools with 17 teachers
 - Countryside Rangers held 2 eco school events engaging with 363 pupils
 - TCV carried out 31 citizen science sessions, 27 training sessions and 24 community support sessions
- Wider volunteering opportunities in the city are provided by organisations such as [RSPB Scotland](#), [Butterfly Conservation Scotland](#), and [Bumblebee Conservation Trust](#). These organisations also work collaboratively and as active partners in the Glasgow LBAP helping to deliver across the city with GCC, Friends of Glasgow parks and open spaces, Glasgow's citizens at a wider level and with organisations like the NHS.

3.3 Transforming Baldragon Road is an example of our vision for future greenspaces in the city. The project will regenerate 3.5ha of vacant and derelict land to create an extension to the existing Bishop Loch Local Nature Reserve (LNR). The project, which is being delivered in partnership with Green Action Trust and Scottish Water, will create better access to the LNR, an outdoor learning area, and improved habitat for Glasgow's unique population of grassland water vole.

3.4 Hamiltonhill Claypits Local Nature Reserve is an inner-city local nature reserve where the local community engages with nature to create a welcoming place for people and wildlife and represents a model we will champion across our estate.

Recent highlights include:

- Awarded Glasgow Times Environmental Champion of the Year
- Award of funding from the National Lottery Community Led fund to allow 3 years of impactful outdoor activities for the whole community. Activities will focus on increasing physical activity, promoting healthy lifestyles, improving wellbeing, education and awareness raising and to bringing the community together
- Nature Neighbourhoods 2-year project in partnership with RSPB, National Trust, WWF, and the Co-Op co-creating plans for climate and nature action.
- Claypits featured in October's episode of Landward to raise the awareness of the LNR and community involvement

3.5 Local Nature Reserves

3.5.1 The designation of a further 22 Local Nature Reserves (new sites and extensions to existing sites) was approved by the City Administration Committee (CAC) in June 2022 to expand on the existing 12 LNRs in the city. By the end of March 2024, Glasgow had increased the total to 17 LNRs.

Six new Local Nature Reserve (LNR) areas have recently been declared (with five of these being new LNRs for Glasgow and one being an extension to an existing LNR). This now takes Glasgow's total number of LNRs to 22. Of the 22 new designations noted at CAC in June 2022, 15 have been declared. This will assist further in developing a robust Nature Network across the city, providing enhanced connectivity for wildlife and easy access to nature across more of the city.

3.5.2 The new LNRs and Council wards are as follows:

New LNR	Ward
Castlemilk Park	1 Linn
Cranhill Park	18 East Centre
Croftfoot	1 Linn
Early Braes	20 Baillieston
Garscadden Burn	14 Drumchapel/Anniesland

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

LNR	Ward
Cathkin Braes LNR	1 Linn

4 Activity Planned

4.1 The development and mapping of Glasgow's Nature Network will continue to 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 further tranche of 3 Local Nature Reserve areas from the 22 approved by CAC will be identified and taken through the engagement and designation

process for declaration in 2025/26. This leaves 4 further sites from the 22 originally proposed to CAC still to declare as LNRs. It is envisaged that these will proceed in 2026/27.

- 4.3 The [Glasgow Tree Plan](#) supports and contributes to the LBAP and biodiversity in the city as each tree provides useful habitat for invertebrates and birds and native woodland is a key ecosystem providing shelter and food for a wide variety of species. The Tree Plan is having a further tranche of sites being planted during Winter/Spring 2024/25.
- 4.4 Promote and implement RSPB North Glasgow Greener Futures project. This project focusses on the Springburn area and surrounds in the north of Glasgow with the aim of restoring the quality and connectivity of urban species-rich grassland and hedgerow habitats. The project will benefit House Sparrows and pollinators such as the Common Blue butterfly. Improving the quality and connectivity between areas where these species are currently present will also benefit other pollinators. Additionally, it will benefit other birds, and bats by providing additional food sources, roosting sites, nesting sites and sheltered corridors to facilitate movement. It will also make these sites more enjoyable for people to be in and use as safer, greener active travel routes, connecting wildlife and people to other areas of Glasgow.
- 4.5 GCC-NRS Greenspace & Biodiversity is supporting Butterfly Conservation (Scotland) in a bid to the National Lottery for a 2 year 'Wild Spaces' project. Wild Spaces have been successful in Perth and Stirling in engaging with communities and schools to raise awareness of the plight of butterflies and other pollinators and to create habitat in green spaces for local communities to manage and enjoy.

5. Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

<i>Financial:</i>	Projects are being brought forward from existing budgets
<i>Legal:</i>	None
<i>Personnel:</i>	Existing resourcing
<i>Procurement:</i>	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 SocioEconomic 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 socioeconomic 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.
2. The Local Nature Reserves declared during 2024.