



**Glasgow City Council**

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

**Report by George Gillespie, Executive Director of Neighbourhoods,  
Regeneration and Sustainability**

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**Item 1**

**3rd March 2026**

**LOCAL BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN AND POLLINATOR PLAN**

**Purpose of Report:**

To present our 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 our Annual Monitoring Report.
2. The Local Nature Reserves declared during 2025.

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, 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 Local Biodiversity Action Plan and the Pollinator Plan 2024/25, 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 4<sup>th</sup> March 2025 which provided the [annual update for 2023-24](#)
- 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. The Council established a Glasgow Biodiversity Partnership consisting of representatives from 16 different environmental organisations. Key partners include NatureScot, Forestry and Land Scotland, Scottish Environment Protection Agency and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (Scotland) 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 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

### 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 Local Biodiversity Action Plan 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 2024/25 18,953 trees were planted city-wide in Council-owned sites; and 1435 metres of hedgerow.

3.2. Appendix 1 summarises key activities within the 20th Monitoring Report of Glasgow's Local Biodiversity Action Plan and the Pollinator Plan and other projects which have taken place this year with positive effects for biodiversity. Notable activity within 2024/25 includes:

3.3 A further five new Local Nature Reserves were declared in December 2024, these are as follows: Castlemilk Park; Cranhill Park; Croftfoot; Early Braes; and Garscadden Burn. A further extension to an existing Local Nature Reserve was declared at Cathkin Braes. This brought the total to 22 LNRs By March 2025.

Castlemilk Park was designated as the 100<sup>th</sup> Local Nature Reserve in Scotland. Cassiltoun Housing Association hosted a celebration marking the completion of a £134,000 project to upgrade a core path through Castlemilk Park, improving accessibility and enhancing active travel options for the community. These works complemented the work to confirm the park as Scotland's 100th Local Nature Reserve.

3.4 102,797 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 180 new species added to the Glasgow Species Audit including: three Scottish Biodiversity List species: Tan Pinkgill fungus (*Rhodocybe gemina*), Fabricius' Nomad Bee (*Nomada fabriciana*) and Heath Rustic moth (*Xestia agathina*) and three Notable / Scarce species:

Adonis' Ladybird (*Hippodamia variegata*), the weevil *Polydrusus mollis*, and the fungus gnat *Keroplatus testaceus*.

3.5 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 2024/25:

- 19 hectares of meadow sites across the city were managed by contractor and volunteers.
- 4 hectares of meadow was created.
- Over 500,000 bulbs were planted to support pollinators.
- Over 30,000 wildflower plugs were planted.

3.6 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 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. 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.

3.7 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.

3.8 Community engagement, environmental education and raising awareness of biodiversity was carried out by NRS Countryside Rangers while The Conservation Volunteers 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. The council's countryside rangers carried out the following activities during 2025:

- Supported 40 community groups and interacted with almost 5000 people on biodiversity.
- Led 21 events with almost 500 participants.
- Carried out 70 Curriculum for Excellence visits to 38 schools and nearly 2000 pupils using 16 city parks.
- Pollok Country Park Flower Power Nursery raised 800 wildflowers.

3.9 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 Local Biodiversity Action Plan helping to deliver across the city with Glasgow City Council, Friends of Glasgow parks and open spaces, Glasgow's citizens at a wider level and with organisations like the National Health Service.

## 4 Local Nature Reserves

4.1 In addition to the existing 22 Local Nature Reserves, four new Local Nature Reserve areas have recently been approved by NatureScot and are in the process of being declared; with two of these being new Local Nature Reserves for Glasgow and two being an extension to an existing Local Nature Reserve. This will now take Glasgow's total number of Local Nature Reserves to 24. Of the 22 new designations noted at committee in June 2022, 17 will have been designated, the rest to follow. 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. We will continue to undertake communications activity and volunteering events to support and share this programme of designations as they progress.

4.2 The new Local Nature Reserves and Council wards are as follows:

<b>New Local Nature Reserve</b>	<b>Ward</b>
Crookston Wood	4 Cardonald
Househill Park	3 Greater Pollok

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

<b>Local Nature Reserve</b>	<b>Ward</b>
Garscadden Burn	14 Drumchapel/Anniesland
Malls Mire	7 Langside

## 5 Activity Planned

5.1 The development and mapping of Glasgow's Nature Network will continue to be progressed over 2025-26 incorporating Local Nature Reserves, Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation 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.

5.2 A further tranche of 4 Local Nature Reserve areas (namely Bishop Loch LNR (extension), Blairtummock Park, Cadder Wood, Claypits LNR (extension)) from the 22 approved by City Administration Committee will be taken through the engagement and designation process for declaration in 2026/27. All 22 sites from the 22 originally proposed to City Administration Committee will have then been declared as Local Nature Reserves.

5.3 The [Glasgow Tree Plan](#) supports and contributes to the Local Biodiversity Action Plan 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. A further tranche of 2500 trees are proposed to be planted during Winter/Spring 2025/26 across a number of sites with planting at Cathkin Braes already in place.

- 5.4 NRS Greenspace & Biodiversity is supporting Butterfly Conservation (Scotland) with a National Lottery funded 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. The Glasgow Wild Spaces project will aim to create 14 new spaces for pollinators and nature over the two years of the project, commencing January 2026. A Project Officer, hosted by Butterfly Conservation (Scotland) has been appointed to create and enhance spaces with community groups and local schools.
- 5.5 In 2021, the City of Berlin initiated [The Berlin Urban Nature Pact](#). The Pact seeks to halt and reverse biodiversity loss to put nature on a path to recovery for the benefit of people and the planet in cities worldwide by 2030. [Glasgow City Council](#) became a signatory to the Pact on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2025. By signing the Pact, the Council commits to 7 overarching target areas, which are:
- Green Infrastructure, tree and forestry
  - Blue Infrastructure and water management
  - Food and agriculture
  - Education and nature experience
  - Soil health
  - Co-habitation
  - Species and habitats

These principles integrate existing commitments from key strategies and plans, including the Local Biodiversity Action Plan, to ensure a coherent approach to biodiversity and green infrastructure. GCC has now identified 17 targets (Appendix 4) for the Berlin Pact Action Plan and will monitor and report progress against these annually.

- 5.6 In 2024/25 the council received £117,000 of revenue funding from the Scottish Government Nature Restoration Fund (NRF). This has been used to employ a team of 4 seasonal Countryside Rangers for 6 months. The principal role of the team is to work with community groups and third-sector partners to deliver nature restoration and biodiversity enhancement in parks and open spaces. Projects being delivered to date include;
- Tree and bulb planting with Craigend Community Council
  - Pond Restoration with Victoria Park Trust
  - Wetland habitat management with friends of Glasgow's Local Nature Reserves
  - Peatland restoration with The Conservation Volunteers Scotland at Commonhead and Millerston Moss

The current team is in post until May 2026. If a further allocation of NRF revenue funding is confirmed by Scottish Government for 2026/27 we will continue to employ seasonal Countryside Rangers to support delivery of LBAP priorities.

## 6. 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 2025-29? 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 *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

## **7 Recommendations**

7.1 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 Local Nature Reserves declared during 2024/25.