



Glasgow City Region Cabinet

Report by: Mike McNally, GCR Head of UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Contact: Mike McNally michael.mcnally@glasgow.gov.uk

Clyde Climate Forest – UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Purpose of Report:

The report updates the Glasgow City Region Cabinet on the proposal for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to support the continued delivery of the Clyde Climate Forest project.

Recommendations:

The GCR Cabinet is asked to note the content of the report and agree:

- The allocation of GCR UKSPF to deliver the Clyde Climate Forest project
- The GCR PMO take on the responsibility as the 'ninth' partner to manage and report on the Clyde Climate Forest project

OFFICIAL

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The report updates the Glasgow City Region (GCR) Cabinet on the proposal for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) to support the continued delivery of the Clyde Climate Forest project.

2 Background

- 2.1 Following the agreement of the GCR Cabinet in February 2022, a joint Investment Plan for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund was submitted to the UK Government (UKG) on behalf of the city region. The Investment Plan was a summary of the UKSPF activity and expenditure within each of the eight Member Authorities in the city region.
- 2.2 After the decision of the GCR Chief Executives' Group (CEG) in April 2022, it was agreed GCR would follow the approach adopted for the City Deal programme and undertake a PMO function, establish a monitoring and evaluation framework, update UKG on programme spend and outcomes and manage the approach to underspends.
- 2.3 The GCR Head of UKSPF has managed this PMO process to date.

3 Clyde Climate Forest

- 3.1 As Cabinet will be aware the Clyde Climate Forest (CCF) project was launched in June 2021. The CCF is a ten-year initiative and a delivery project of the regional Green Network Partnership, with a commitment to seeing 18 million trees planted (an additional 9,000 hectares) in GCR in a decade, including 1.5 million trees in urban areas. The CCF is part of the programme to tackle the three grand challenges in the Regional Economic Strategy of inclusive growth, productivity and the climate emergency.
- 3.2 The launch of the CCF was made possible because of £400k funding from the Woodland Trust's (WT) Emergency Tree Fund and a funding commitment by Scottish Forestry (SF). This funding has provided for a dedicated staff team (5 staff, 3.2 FTE). This funding is due to come to an end by October.
- 3.3 At their meeting on 7 December 2022, the CEG asked the GCR Head of Shared Prosperity Fund to work with the UKSPF Project Lead Officers in each Member Authority to consider the applicability of UKSPF to fund CCF until 31 March 2025.

4 Ongoing Funding of CCF

- 4.1 To maintain the ongoing activity of CCF an annual budget of £100,000 is required. Support from the GCR UKSPF budget is permitted, with activity being captured under Intervention S3 (Improvements to the natural environment and green and open space) and S11 (Funding to support relevant feasibility studies). Outputs will be measured as: Number of trees planted; Number of feasibility studies supported. Outcomes will be reported as: Improved perception of facilities/amenities; Increased number of projects arising from funded feasibility studies.
- 4.2 It is proposed the budget be drawn from existing Member Authority UKSPF allocations, based on the established City Deal methodology. Table 1 provides the proposed MA split:

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Member Authority	Percentage split	£200k funding (2 years)
East Dunbartonshire Council	5.90%	£11,800
East Renfrewshire Council	5.20%	£10,400
Glasgow City Council	34.10%	£68,200
Inverclyde Council	4.30%	£8,600
North Lanarkshire Council	18.50%	£37,000
Renfrewshire Council	9.70%	£19,400
South Lanarkshire Council	17.40%	£34,800
West Dunbartonshire Council	4.90%	£9,800

Table 1. CCF funding, by Member Authority split

5 Governance of the CCF Project

- 5.1 With the approval of Cabinet to the proposed funding approach, the GCR Programme Management Office (PMO) will take on the role to manage, monitor and report on CCF activity, effectively becoming the 'ninth' Member Authority in the GCR UKSPF Programme.
- 5.2 The budget allocation will be used to directly fund a number of staff posts to deliver the CCF project:
- CCF Director (0.5 FTE)
 - CCF Development Manager (1 FTE)
 - CCF Operations Co-ordinator (0.5 FTE)
- 5.3 A grant agreement is being developed with The Green Action Trust (GAT), as the agent for the ongoing delivery of the CCF. The main elements of the grant agreement will include:
- Specification – describing what the roles entail;
 - Payment details – how much is paid when and to whom;
 - Conditions Precedent – element GAT need to provide before the agreement becomes effective and any obligation to pay; and
 - Targets – what will spending this funding achieve.
- 5.4 While the proposed funding and delivery model for CCF would not breach the UKSPF Material Change threshold as stipulated by UK Government (UKG), they would be notified through the scheduled 6-monthly report. Given the agreed parameters of the GCR UKSPF Change Control process, the movement of budget between MAs and GCR is considered a 'moderate' change and requires the approval of the Chief Executives' Group.

6 Next Steps

- 6.1 With the approval of the GCR Cabinet, arrangements will be made for the retention of the grant from the 2023/24 UKSPF allocation to each MA.
- 6.2 The 6-monthly report to UKG will include details of the inclusion of the CCF project and the GCR PMO as the 'ninth' Member Authority.
- 6.3 GCR PMO will lead on the development of a grant agreement with the GAT.

OFFICIAL

7 Recommendation

- 7.1 The GCR Cabinet is asked to note the content of the report and agree:
- The allocation of GCR UKSPF to deliver the Clyde Climate Forest project
 - The GCR PMO take on the responsibility as the 'ninth' partner to manage and report on the Clyde Climate Forest project