

Clyde Climate Forest - UK Shared Prosperity Fund – Position agreed etc.

14 There was submitted a report by the Glasgow City Region (GCR) Head of UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) providing an update regarding a proposal for the UKSPF to support the continued delivery of the Clyde Climate Forest (CCF) project, advising

- (1) of the background to the CCF, a 10-year initiative and a delivery project of the regional Green Network, with a commitment to seeing 18m trees planted in the GCR within a decade, including 1.5m trees in urban areas, as part of a programme to tackle the 3 grand challenges in the Regional Economic Strategy, namely, inclusive growth, productivity and the climate emergency;
- (2) that the launch of the CCF had been made possible because of £400,000 of funding from the Woodland Trust's Emergency Tree Fund and a funding commitment by Scottish Forestry, which was due to come to an end by October 2023;
- (3) that the GCR Chief Executives' Group, at its meeting on 7th December 2022, had asked the GCR Head of Shared Prosperity Fund to work with the UKSPF Project Lead Officers within each Member Authority (MA) to consider the applicability of the UKSPF to fund CCF;
- (4) that in order to fund the ongoing activity of CCF an annual budget of £100,000 was required and of the proposed MA split to continue to fund CCF, based on the established City Deal methodology, which MAs would draw from activity identified within their initial UKSPF Investment Plan Expenditure Profile, as detailed in the report;
- (5) of a proposal that the GCR Programme Management Office (PMO) take on the role to manage, monitor and report on CCF activity, effectively becoming the 'ninth' MA in the GCR UKSPF programme;
- (6) of the grant agreement that was being developed with the Green Action Trust (GAT), as the agent for the ongoing delivery of the CCF, as detailed in the report; and
- (7) that arrangements would be made for the retention of the grant from the 2023/24 UKSPF allocation to each MA, whilst the 6-monthly report would include details of the inclusion of the CCF project and the GCR PMO as the 'ninth' MA.

After consideration, the Cabinet

- (a) noted the report; and
- (b) agreed
 - (i) the allocation of GCR UKSPF to deliver the CCF project; and

- (i) that the GCR PMO take on the responsibility as the 'ninth' partner to manage and report on the CCF project.