



Glasgow City Council

City Administration Committee

Item 10

22nd June 2022

**Report by Councillor Angus Millar, Convener for Climate,
Glasgow Green Deal, Transport and City Centre Recovery**

Contact: George Gillespie, Executive Director Ext 79106

Cities4Forests

Purpose of Report:

To approve membership of the Cities4forests initiative.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (1) Support the offer from Cities4forests to take part in their Partner Forest Programme and receive \$70k support funding.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

Local member(s) advised: Yes ☐ No ☐ consulted: Yes ☐ No ☐

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report comes to the City Administration Committee following a report on Trees and Woodland presented to the Environment Sustainability and Carbon Reduction City Policy Committee on [15 March 2022](#).
- 1.2 This report described how trees and woodlands play vital roles in urban settings. While offering a home to wildlife and spaces for human recreation, they provide insurance against flooding, manage carbon emissions, control water flow and air quality, regulate temperature and energy usage, create jobs and provide multiple health benefits.
- 1.3 The report listed the key actions that were currently underway including:
 - Development work on Forest and Woodland Strategy
 - [TreesAI](#)
 - Every tree tells a story; and
 - Cities4forests
- 1.4 The report noted that an invite had been extended to Glasgow to become a member of the Cities4forests network and that this membership offer would provide access to \$70,000 USD to help launch a partner forest programme in Glasgow.
- 1.5 The committee are asked to support the offer from Cities4forests to take part in their Partner Forest Programme and receive \$70k support funding.

2 Cities4forests

- 2.1 Leading from discussions at COP26, the Council has been asked to become a member of the Cities4forests network. This links to the objectives of the Trees and Woodland Strategy and extends Glasgow's global reach and commitment.
- 2.2 Cities4forests is a network of more than 75 global cities committed to supporting the world's forests on behalf of climate, biodiversity and social impacts. The Cities4forests team works directly with member city council representatives to help identify and shape effective projects and policies that meet member city goals.
- 2.3 With funding from Laudes Foundation, Cities4forests is launching seven Partner Forests in 2021 / 2022. Seven European cities will have access to \$70,000 USD each to source tropical hardwood from exemplary community forest conservation enterprises, to be used in prominent city infrastructure. Projects will showcase the community enterprise protecting the forest and the conservation benefits of using sustainably-sourced wood. These high-visibility exchanges will promote consumer awareness, forest stewardship, and urban policies that exhibit leadership on climate and biodiversity. Glasgow can help sequester millions of tons of carbon through partnerships with forest communities who are successfully conserving tropical forests, an activity which is a major step towards restoring the earth's carbon balance. These local-to-

local partnerships can demonstrate the power of “thinking globally, and acting locally”.

2.4 The Partner Forests Program has the following outcomes:

- Exciting programs for city residents, private sector and government;
- Opportunities for forest communities to expand business and conservation work;
- Connecting youth on both sides of the partnership, to each other and to opportunities for learning and livelihoods;
- Awareness of tropical forests by city residents, and government;
- Innovate financial models and business partnerships;
- Global culture that protects and restores forests.

3 Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

Financial: There will be financial implications involved in delivering the Forestry and Woodland Strategy, this is a statutory responsibility.

Legal: The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 requires planning authorities to produce a Forestry and Woodland Strategy.

Personnel: NRS Planning with other Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability teams and Glasgow Life. The lead responsibility for production of the Forestry and Woodland Strategy is with NRS Planning.

This work relates closely to a number of actions within the Climate emergency declaration.

There will be resourcing implications including monitoring delivery and in keeping associated resources, such as the GIS evidence base, up-to-date.

Procurement: Certain actions may require to go through the procurement process.

Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021 - 25? Please specify

The Forestry and Woodland Strategy (FWS) will support the Open Space Strategy which will play a role in enhancing access to and quality of Open Space in the city which will have a direct impact upon improving health and tackling health inequality. It also establishes a structure through which communities will be able to have greater influence over how their open spaces operate and are used.

The FWS aims to ensure that there is an equity of benefit across environment, economy, Social and Health & Wellbeing.

In particular while generally supporting all of the outcomes it will specifically have a positive impact on:

Outcome 6 - The importance of tackling social isolation and loneliness is recognised and prioritised through our work with partners.

Outcome 10 - Glasgow City Council employees are supported to have improved mental and physical health and wellbeing.

What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?

As outlined above

Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio economic disadvantage.

Both the Open space Strategy and the proposed Forestry and Woodland Strategy aim to address socio economic disadvantage by making data driven decisions that specifically target actions to areas where there are gaps in access to high quality open space; where the health benefits of access to high quality open space could make the biggest impact and supporting communities to become more resilient through accessing high quality open space. This can lead to better educational attainment; less mental health issues and improvement in employability and increased opportunities for nature-based enterprise development.

Climate Impacts:

Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify:

As Trees and woodland actions sit with The Open Space strategy, they specifically support the following Climate Plan actions:

Theme 3 – Well Connected city
Theme 4 – Health and wellbeing
Theme 5 – Green recovery

And specifically, Actions 36,37 & 48

What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal?

The trees and Woodland work, including the Forestry and Woodland Strategy (FWS), supports work on the OSS which is embedded in protecting and enhancing environmental performance of the city and has been updated to reflect the Council's declaration of a climate emergency.

The OSS and FWS are supporting the embedding of Nature-Based Solutions within our Development Plan and wider Corporate Plans. Nature Based Solutions will help us to address the Climate Emergency in a positive way. This will support and enhancing the climate adaptiveness of the city and has been updated to reflect the Council's Climate Plan.

Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target?

Yes, by identifying locations where actions can be taken.

Privacy and Data Protection Impacts:

None

4 Recommendations

4.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- (1) Support the offer from Cities4forests to take part in their Partner Forest Programme and receive \$70k support funding.