

Clyde Climate Forest: First Year progress report and Concordat – Position noted etc.

6 With reference to the minutes of 9th February 2021 noting and welcoming the development of the Clyde Climate Forest (CCF) initiative and agreeing to the formal launch of the CCF project in June 2021, there was submitted a report by Councillor Gordan Low, Leader of East Dunbartonshire Council and Land Use and Sustainability Lead providing an update on the progress of the CCF initiative since its launch and proposing that a CCF Glasgow City Region (GCR) Concordat be endorsed by Cabinet, advising

- (1) that the aim of the CCF was to enable and co-ordinate an approach that would deliver a major increase in tree planting across the GCR by 2032 as a response to the Climate Emergency;
- (2) that the specific objectives for the CCF were based on 3 C's, namely, Canopy, Connectivity and Carbon, as detailed in the report;
- (3) that over the next decade the CCF would facilitate and co-ordinate:-
 - (a) tree planting in urban neighbourhoods where there were few trees, and which were susceptible to the impacts of a changing climate;
 - (b) new native woodlands in target locations which joined up existing woodland habitats; and
 - (c) a doubling of the current rate of forest and woodland planting in the Region;
- (4) that a Programme Board had been established to provide oversight for the project and a Steering Group to provide direction and co-ordination for the project's programme of work;
- (5) of the progress that had been made since June 2021, including a summary of the work that had been undertaken for each of the Canopy, Connectivity and Carbon objectives, all as detailed in the report;
- (6) that over the course of its first year those actively involved in the CCF had learned that there were great opportunities that could be pursued arising from the initiative, however, there were also some barriers to realising those opportunities and in order to allow GCR Councils to fully play their role in the initiative there was a need to clarify the role of the CCF Team, and its delivery partners, and the role of the Councils, particularly in relation to the urban canopy aims of the CCF; and
- (7) of a proposal that Cabinet endorse the CCF/GCR Concordat, detailed in an Appendix to the report.

After consideration and having heard a presentation by Max Hislop, Director of the Clyde Climate Forest, the Cabinet

- (i) noted and welcomed the first-year report on progress of the CCF initiative and the development of the CCF/GCR Concordat;
- (ii) further noted that CCF would seek approval of the Concordat from the individual local authorities in order to maintain local democratic oversight; and
- (iii) endorsed the CCF/GCR Concordat.