

Report

Report to:	Climate Change and Sustainability Committee
Date of Meeting:	9 November 2022
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	Clyde Climate Forest Concordat
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to: -

- ◆ note the Glasgow City Region (GCR) cabinet report on the first-year progress of the Clyde Climate Forest (CCF) initiative
- ◆ note the development of the CCF/GCR concordat
- ◆ seek approval to endorse the concordat

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) note and welcome the first-year report on progress of the Clyde Climate Forest initiative and the development of the CCF/GCR Concordat;
- (2) approve the Concordat and agree to its signing by the GCR cabinet
- (3) note the establishment of a corporate Working Group to progress the Council's commitments in relation to the Clyde Climate Forest

3. Background

3.1. The Clyde Climate Forest was launched by GCR Cabinet in June 2021 with a headline target of "18 million trees over the next decade". The aim of the CCF is to enable and co-ordinate an approach that will deliver a major increase in tree planting across GCR by 2032 as a response to the Climate Emergency.

3.2. The Glasgow GCR cabinet report dated 30 August 2022 (**Appendix 1**) provides the first-year progress of the CCF initiative. At this meeting, the cabinet also endorsed the Clyde Climate Forest Concordat and requested that this is approved by individual local authorities.

4. CCF/GCR Concordat

4.1. South Lanarkshire is an important stakeholder in the Clyde Climate Forest, with the Council convening the Canopy Working Group and representing that group on the CCF Steering Group. The Council is also a significant landowner and a vital partner in supporting the initiative to deliver its objectives.

4.2. Over the course of its first year, those actively involved in the Clyde Climate Forest have learned that there are great opportunities that could be pursued arising from the initiative. However, there are some barriers to realising the opportunities. To allow

GCR Councils to fully play their role in the initiative there is a need to clarify the role of the Clyde Climate Forest team (and its Delivery Partners) and the role of the councils – particularly in relation to the urban canopy aims of the initiative. The CCF/GCR Concordat (**Appendix 2**) seeks to provide that clarity with clear commitments, roles and responsibilities in pursuit of the CCF objectives.

- 4.3. South Lanarkshire Council has begun setting out real, lasting commitments to the management, protection and enhancement of trees at a canopy cover level along social-ecological principle. This approach maximises the services and quality of life benefits it can collectively bring to its community. The commitment to the CCF objectives and partnership working aligns with the councils' own objectives and aspirations.

5. Council Commitment

- 5.1. The Council is a key stakeholder in tree canopy cover as it has responsibility for planning and development, environmental legislation, Roads, Education, Housing, as well as being major landowners. The Council manages, protects and enhances those trees growing on the Council's estate, or those it can influence through the planning framework, Roads or collective working, a small but significant part of our canopy cover.
- 5.2. If approved, it is hoped that the Concordat will be signed by the GCR Cabinet on or around National Tree Week (27 November – 5 December 2022).
- 5.3. To progress the Council's commitment in relation to the Clyde Climate Forest, a working group will be established with key service areas involved in making or influencing decisions that affect trees or in shaping the spaces and places in which we live, work and relax.

6. Employee Implications

- 6.1. The Council has committed staff time to convene the Canopy Working Group and represent that group on the CCF Steering Group. An internal working group will also be established to progress the Council's commitments in relation to the CCF.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. There are no financial implications at this point, however, as this work progresses, additional funding may be required to deliver on commitments. This will be subject to future reports and officers will explore all opportunities for external funding to support this work.

8. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 8.1. The Concordat and the Council's commitment to the Clyde Climate Forest will support the delivery of the Council's Climate Change ambitions and broader strategy, particularly in the areas of biodiversity, carbon capture and adaptation.

9. Other Implications

- 9.1. There are no implications for risk in terms of the information contained within this report

10. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 10.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and, therefore, no impact assessment is required.

David Booth
Executive Director

19 October 2022

Link(s) to Council Values/Priorities/Outcomes

- ◆ Improve the quality of life of everyone in South Lanarkshire
- ◆ Make communities safer, stronger and sustainable
- ◆ Improve health, care and wellbeing
- ◆ Work with communities and partners to promote high quality thriving and sustainable communities

Previous References

- ◆ None

List of Background Papers

- ◆ None

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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