



Report To:	Inverclyde Alliance Board	Date:	19 June 2023
Report By:	Director, Environment & Regeneration, Inverclyde Council	Report No:	IA/23/06/01/SJ
Contact Officer:	Stuart Jamieson	Contact No:	01475 712402
Subject:	Tree Planting in Inverclyde		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Inverclyde Alliance Board with an update on the tree planting activities undertaken by the Council over the course of the last year as well as providing commentary in respect of potential future opportunities.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Trees provide a significant contribution to the biodiversity of Inverclyde and for a number of years the Council has participated in the Metropolitan City Region Initiative - the Green Network Partnership. In addition they can significantly contribute to the carbon reduction agenda.
- 2.2 Earlier this year the Council agreed to be a signatory in a concordat agreement with the Clyde Climate Forest committing to help plant 18 million trees by 2031 within the Metropolitan City Region.
- 2.3 Officers have been investigating ways in which trees can be introduced to appropriate locations in a sustainable manner, the most ecologically efficient manner identified has been for seed collection from within Inverclyde and grown in Inverclyde.
- 2.4 A total of eight hundred and twenty three trees or hedge plants have been planted within Inverclyde in the last year. These have been predominantly native species and have varied in age from barefoot whips to 45litre standard specimens. Planting has been carried through the activities of rangers and grounds staff in a total of sixteen locations.
- 2.5 Engagement has been undertaken with consultant support to identify, via a desktop exercise, woodland planting; individual tree planting; tree groups and parkland planting; street trees; and woodland management opportunities. These opportunities will be further developed, including funding sources, to help mitigate the Councils carbon footprint and presented to a future meeting of the Council's Environment and Regeneration Committee.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Alliance Board:
- a. Note the activity associated with tree planting in the last year and recognise that this agenda will be further developed through the Councils Committee process.

Stuart W. Jamieson
Director – Environment and Regeneration

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 As well as being aesthetically pleasing trees provide many diverse benefits to our society. From something as simple as shade, to biodiversity and carbon sequestration they provide much amenity.

4.2 The Clyde Climate Forest (CCF) is an ambitious initiative that aims to increase woodland cover in Glasgow City Region over the next decade. Earlier this year the Council signed up to a concordat with a target of planting 18 million trees in both urban and rural areas, the CCF aims to build on current enthusiasm for tree planting and encourage new planting projects that will deliver a broad range of climate and ecological benefits.

The Clyde Climate Forest is seeking to increase tree planting in three areas: -

- Canopy - street trees in urban trees
- Connectivity - native woodlands for habitat connectivity and to reverse fragmentation
- Carbon - planting for sequestration and to reduce downstream flooding

4.3 The Clyde Climate Forest also aims to connect up the region's existing woodlands. Over many decades the region's broadleaved woodlands have been reduced in scale and increasingly fragmented. More than 200 target locations have been identified where new woodland creation will link up these important habitats, making the wildlife that rely upon them better able to cope as the climate changes.

4.4 Work with the Green Action Trust has identified over 900 site opportunities under the following broad headings:-

- Woodland planting
- Native woodland planting
- Tree groups and Parkland planting
- Individual trees
- Street trees

In addition the study has identified and noted the following features

- Woodland management opportunities (existing woodland on Council land)
- Limited potential (sites with limited opportunities for additional tree planting)
- Built environment/ hard standing (sites where tree planting is impractical)

Woodland planting and native woodland planting opportunities will involve the use of smaller nursery planting stock which will require protection from herbivores such as rabbits, hares, voles, and deer. Dependant on the, location and extent the proposed planting areas, protection is likely to take the form of individual tree shelters, tree guards, and/or protective fencing.

4.5 Discussion with colleagues in the CCF has been ongoing to maximise funding opportunities for external funding for roll out on a number of sites.

4.6 A total of eight hundred and twenty three trees or hedge plants have been planted within Inverclyde in the last year. These have been predominantly native species and have varied in age from barefoot whips to 45litre standard specimens. Planting has been carried through the activities of rangers and grounds staff in a total of sixteen locations centred around schools, parks and play areas.

5.0 PROPOSALS

5.1 It is proposed that tree planting activity will continue with a “grow your own” approach including involving local schools providing potential tree nursery locations and further detail will be provided to the Council’s Environment and Regeneration Committee in due course.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Legal: None
Finance: None at this stage
Human Resources: None
Equality and Diversity: None
Repopulation: None
Inequalities: None

7.0 CONSULTATIONS

7.1 None

8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 None