



Inverclyde Alliance

**AGENDA ITEM NO: 15**

**Report To:** Inverclyde Alliance Board **Date:** 12 December 2024  
**Report By:** Director Environment & Regeneration, Inverclyde Council **Report No:**  
**Contact Officer:** Neale McIlvanney **Contact No:**  
Head of Service - Regeneration,  
Planning & Public Protection,  
Inverclyde Council  
**Subject:** Tree Management and Planting Strategy

## **1.0 PURPOSE**

1.1 This report updates Alliance Board members on the approval by Inverclyde Council's Environment & Regeneration Committee of a Tree Management and Planting Strategy.

## **2.0 SUMMARY**

2.1 In October 2024, Inverclyde Council's Environment and Regeneration Committee approved a Tree Management and Planting Strategy. This provides an overview of operational practice to support the management of trees within Inverclyde, particularly urban public spaces, and provides a strategy for tree planting. This update is provided to the Alliance Board reflecting that it has been a standing action to update the Alliance Board of progress in developing a tree planting strategy.

## **3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.1 It is recommended that the Alliance Board note the update provided in this paper.

**Stuart Jamieson**  
**Director Environment & Regeneration, Inverclyde Council**

## 4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 Inverclyde Council hold a large area of land which contain a mix of woodland, small forest areas and individual or copses. Many of these trees are long established or have naturalised and grown unaided, a large proportion of these trees are not native to Scotland and tend to be more prone to disease.

4.2 Inverclyde Council have signed a Concordat agreement with Clyde Climate Forest to participate in the planting of 18 million trees across the Glasgow City Region by 2031. Our work is also underpinned by The Scottish Forestry Strategy (2019-2029). It is acknowledged by Clyde Climate Forest that to meet this target on a regional basis would take a sustained level of resources over time.

4.3 Trees are acknowledged to provide many positive benefits such as visual enhancement of the environment, surface water management during heavy rainfall, trees also contribute to carbon storage and encourage wildlife habitat and enriched biodiversity.

4.4 The importance of woodlands, and in particular woodland which are in close proximity to communities has increased in recent years largely in recognition of associated health and educational benefits. Woodlands and naturalised areas contribute to wellbeing and biodiversity amenity.

4.5 The aim of this strategy is to ensure that Inverclyde's trees, woods forests and naturalised hedgerows and meadows contribute to improving both the natural and social environment and that they enhance the enjoyment of our outdoor areas for our residents and visitors alike.

4.6 To this end the Tree Planting Strategy provides policy and operational context covering:

- Woodland Expansion
- Heritage
- Control and management
- Community and Partner engagement
- Urban Trees
- Habitat development and Connectivity
- Climate Change
- Placemaking
- Access

4.7 The tree strategy is directly linked to the availability of financial resources, for example annually the Service aim to plant 1000 trees within existing budget resources. In 2023/24 the service managed to plant 1,727 trees. The addition of funding from the Nature Restoration Fund increased on this by a further 10,762 trees which included 10,627 trees within Coves Nature Reserve, which was the recipient of a CoSLA award for excellence.

4.8 In approving the Strategy, a £30k allocation was made to support tree planting through the Shared Prosperity fund, which is intended to be delivered by March 2025. Further funding and partnership opportunities will be explored to enable the service to build on this success and proposed larger scale projects reported to the relevant Council Committee.

4.9 The Tree Management and Planting Strategy can be viewed [here](#).

## 5.0 PROPOSALS

5.1 That the Inverclyde Alliance Board notes the update provided in this paper.

## 6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Legal: No legal implications arising directly from this report.  
Finance: No finance implications arising directly from this report.  
Human Resources: No human resources implications arising directly from this report.

Equality and Diversity: All output from the Board will be subject to equalities screening and assessment, where appropriate.

Alliance Partnership Plan: The actions contained within this report will contribute to the following Partnership Plan outcomes:

- Healthy People and Places
- A Supportive Place
- A Thriving Place

## **7.0 CONSULTATIONS**

7.1 The Strategy is an Inverclyde service delivery plan, however, will include engagement with partners as appropriate. The service welcomes opportunities to work in partnership with other agencies and communities to maximise the potential to deliver positive benefit through the strategy.

## **8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

8.1 None