

---

<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Environment &amp; Regeneration Committee</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>12 January 2023</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Interim Director, Environment &amp; Regeneration</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>E+R/23/01/06/SJ</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Stuart Jamieson</b>	<b>Contact No:</b>	<b>01475 712402</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Participation in the Edinburgh Process and Declaration</b>		

---

## **1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

- 1.1  For Decision  For Information/Noting
- 1.2 To seek Committee approval to Participate in the Edinburgh Process and Declaration.
- 1.3 On behalf of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Scottish Government has led a global partnership in the Edinburgh Process to consult sub-national governments including regional, city and local authorities on their role in the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and targets.
- 1.4 The Edinburgh Process seeks to amplify the voices of the subnational constituency in the development of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and ensure inclusion of all levels of government in the planning, reporting and implementation phases.
- 1.5 A key output from the Edinburgh process was the Edinburgh Declaration. The Declaration calls on the Parties to the CBD to recognise the vital role of sub-national governments, cities and local authorities in delivering for biodiversity and implementing actions to meet the goals and targets. It demonstrates the commitment of sub-national authorities across the world to work with parties to the CBD to deliver for nature over the next decade while recognising that ‘In order to achieve truly transformational change for nature, all levels of government and society must work more effectively together over the next decade’.
- 1.6 To date the Council has maintained a watching brief on the activities of the initiative however it is felt appropriate to now participate in order to maximise the collective outputs and potential funding sources.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the Committee agrees to participate in the Edinburgh Process and Declaration, and that it be remitted to full Council for endorsement.

**Stuart Jamieson**  
**Interim Director, Environment & Regeneration**

### 3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 3.1 Supported by the Convention on Biodiversity the Scottish Government has developed the Edinburgh Process and Declaration out of concern about the significant implications that the loss of biodiversity and climate change has on our livelihood and communities.
- 3.2 The declaration seeks to promote the 2050 vision “living in harmony with nature” and ensures a clear pathway towards the 2050 Vision and corresponds with the ambition of subnational governments, cities and local authorities towards addressing the most pressing global challenges, including climate change, disaster risk reduction, health and poverty alleviation, as well as biodiversity. taking action across society to put biodiversity on a path to recovery for the benefit of the planet and people.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/edinburgh-declaration-on-post-2020-biodiversity-framework/pages/preamble>

- 3.3 Indeed, the COVID-19 global pandemic has reminded us how important it is to live in harmony with nature. Healthy biodiversity and the ecosystem services that it provides are key for human well-being and to build the resilience of our cities and regions, both during and after the pandemic, and it should be central to our recovery.
- 3.4 Inverclyde has a rich ecosystem stretching from the River Clyde to the peatlands in Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park and in recent times has benefitted from funds such as the Nature Restoration Fund which has sought to promote and restore biodiversity.
- 3.5 To date the Council has maintained a watching brief on the Edinburgh Process however by becoming a signatory it acknowledges the work of the other two hundred and seventy three signatories across forty countries on biodiversity as well as affording a wider opportunity to access funding sources for biodiversity implementation.

### 4.0 PROPOSAL

- 4.1 It is proposed that the Council become a signatory to the Edinburgh Process and Declaration.

### 5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed:

SUBJECT	YES	NO	N/A
Financial		X	
Legal/Risk		X	
Human Resources		X	
Strategic (LOIP/Corporate Plan)	X		
Equalities & Fairer Scotland Duty		X	
Children & Young People’s Rights & Wellbeing		X	
Environmental & Sustainability	X		
Data Protection		X	

### 5.2 Finance

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
-------------	----------------	--------------	----------------------------	---------------	----------------

N/A					
-----	--	--	--	--	--

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (if Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

**5.3 Legal/Risk**

None.

**5.4 Human Resources**

None.

**5.5 Strategic**

Biodiversity is a key outcome for the Council and the Alliance Board.

**5.6 Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty**

None.

(a) Equalities

This report has been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) process with the following outcome:

	YES – Assessed as relevant and an EqIA is required.
X	NO – This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, assessed as not relevant and no EqIA is required

(b) Fairer Scotland Duty

If this report affects or proposes any major strategic decision:-

Has there been active consideration of how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome?

	YES – A written statement showing how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed.
X	NO – Assessed as not relevant under the Fairer Scotland Duty.

**5.7 Children and Young People**

Has a Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – Assessed as relevant and a CRWIA is required.
X	NO – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve a new policy, function or strategy or recommends a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy which will have an impact on children’s rights.

## 5.8 Environmental/Sustainability

Has a Strategic Environmental Assessment been carried out?

	YES – assessed as relevant and a Strategic Environmental Assessment is required.
X	NO – This report does not propose or seek approval for a plan, policy, programme, strategy or document which is like to have significant environmental effects, if implemented.

## 5.9 Data Protection

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – This report involves data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.
X	NO – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.

## 6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 The Head of Legal and Democratic Services has been consulted in the preparation of this report.