
Report To:	Environment & Regeneration Committee	Date:	17 April 2023
Report By:	Director, Environment and Regeneration	Report No:	E+R/23/04/02/SJ
Contact Officer:	Stuart Jamieson	Contact No:	01475 712402
Subject:	Clyde Climate Forest - Concordat		

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

1.1 For Decision For Information/Noting

1.2 The Clyde Climate Forest was launched by Glasgow City Region (GCR) Cabinet in June 2021 with a headline target of “18 million trees over the next decade”. The aim of the Clyde Climate Forest 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.

1.3 In August 2022 in a report to the Glasgow City Region it was recommended that the eight Member Authorities consider a concordat which acknowledged:- the role trees, woodlands, and forests make in helping climate challenges; the wider social, economic, and environmental benefits their delivery will provide; a commitment from CCF team and Delivery Partners to seek additional resources toward the delivery of targets; a commitment from GCR Councils to actively participate in the realisation of CCF targets and support the work of the CCF team; ensure the CCF is embedded in plans and policies; manage, protect, and enhance Council trees; identify opportunities for tree planting on Council owned land; work with the CCF team to increase urban tree canopy cover in target neighbourhoods; promote and celebrate trees so that they are cherished and protected.

1.4 Officers consider that it is appropriate for the Council to support this concordat which is contained in Appendix 1.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that Committee support the Concordat as identified in appendix 1, with Inverclyde Council becoming a signatory.

Stuart Jamieson
Director, Environment and Regeneration

3.0 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 Clyde Climate Forest is to enable and coordinate an approach that will deliver a major increase in tree planting across GCR by 2032 as a response to the Climate Emergency.
- 3.2 Trees, woodlands, and forests provide a range of nature-based solutions to the twin and linked challenges of a changing climate and ecological collapse.
- 3.3 Specific objectives for the Clyde Climate Forest are based on three ‘C’s’:
- **Canopy**: to increase average urban tree canopy cover to 20%;
 - **Connectivity**: to increase the average woodland habitat network area by 20%;
 - **Carbon**: to increase forest and woodland land cover in the Region to 20%.
- 3.4 The Woodland Trust granted £400k and Scottish Forestry granted £150k to Clyde Climate Forest over the first two years which provides a ‘kick-start’ for the project. A Programme Board provides oversight for the project which is co-chaired by the Chief Executives of East Dunbartonshire and East Renfrewshire Councils, representing the GCR Partnership’s interests in the project. The Programme Board other members comprise senior representatives from Scottish Forestry, Woodland Trust, TCV, Scottish Water and Strathclyde University.
- 3.5 The draft Concordat (Appendix) is framed on four sections:
- An acknowledgement of** the significant challenge that the climate and ecological emergencies present to GCR; the need for additional and sustained effort across the region as a response to the challenge; and the role of trees, woodlands, and forests in this endeavour.
 - A recognition of** the concept and targets of the CCF; the wider social, economic, and environmental benefits their delivery will provide; and Scottish Government support for the CCF.
 - A commitment from CCF team and Delivery Partners to** seek additional resources toward the delivery of targets; promote Council activities and interests toward trees; and an alignment of CCF and GCR communications.
 - A commitment from GCR Councils to** actively participate in the realisation of CCF targets and support the work of the CCF team; ensure the CCF is embedded in plans and policies; manage, protect, and enhance Council trees; identify opportunities for tree planting on Council owned land; work with the CCF team to increase urban tree canopy cover in target neighbourhoods; promote and celebrate trees so that they are cherished and protected.

4.0 PROPOSALS

- 4.1 It is recommended that the Committee support the proposal for the Council become a signatory of the CCF Concordat.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendations 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

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments

5.3 Legal/Risk

None

5.4 Human Resources

None.

5.5 Strategic

None.

5.6 Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty

(a) Equalities

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

	YES
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, 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

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

Summarise any environmental / climate change impacts which relate to this report. The concordat supports the aims identified in reducing the Councils net zero agenda.

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
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

5.1 None.

6.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

6.1 None.



Clyde Climate Forest
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Appendix 1

The Clyde Climate Forest

Glasgow City Region Concordat



The Clyde Climate Forest will see 18 million trees planted across the region over the next decade as a response to the Climate and Ecological Emergencies. Glasgow City Region's (GCR) local authorities are important stakeholders in its delivery.

Objectives –

- **Urban trees** – 1.5 million trees to increase tree canopy cover in urban areas vulnerable to climate impacts
- **Woodland habitats** – new woods in over 200 locations to connect our habitats and create migration routes for wildlife
- **New forests** – doubling the current rate of woodland creation to lock up carbon and create new jobs and a renewable resource for the region.

GCR acknowledge that:

Trees, woodlands, and forests have a vital role to play in making Glasgow City Region resilient to the impacts of a changing climate, helping to achieve 'Net Zero', and repairing our damaged ecosystems;

Additional effort must be made to manage, protect and enhance our existing trees and increase the number of trees in urban and rural areas if we are to gain the climate and ecological benefits that they can afford;

We must plan to deliver the benefits and values that trees, woodlands, and forests can provide to all the region's people equally;

Delivering the change at scale required for our regional tree, woodland and forest resource can only take place over a long period with sustained resourcing;

GCR welcome:

The government's support for the Clyde Climate Forest (CCF) through its inclusion in Scotland's National Planning Framework;

The CCF concept and targets as described in the CCF brochure

The opportunity the creation of the CCF provides to deliver our economic, social and environmental aims;

The opportunity to develop and enhance our partnerships with other Local Authorities, National Agencies, NGOs and communities in delivering CCF ambitions.

The Clyde Climate Forest* commit from this date to:

Work to achieve CCF targets within each Council area and to seek additional resources and funding to facilitate their delivery;

Promote the interests and activities of each Council toward trees and their management, protection and enhancement wherever possible within the architecture of the CCF;

Ensure that CCF communications work is compatible with, and supportive of GCR communications.

*The Clyde Climate Forest here refers to the CCF staff team and the CCF Delivery Partners (namely: Scottish Forestry; Woodland Trust Scotland; TCV Scotland; Green Action Trust; Trees for Cities and Glasgow City Region).

GCR Councils commit from this date to:

Actively participate in, and promote, the realisation of CCF targets within each council area;

Support the work of the CCF team and the CCF Delivery Partners as part of the Council's commitment to partnership working;

Ensure the CCF is integrated and trees are embedded, as appropriate, into development plans, development frameworks, masterplans, design briefs along with corporate policy and investment documents;

Manage, protect and enhance the council's tree resource through robust tree canopy cover strategies and appropriate policies and practices;


Identify council owned land holdings appropriate for woodland creation as part of the council's plans to achieve 'Net Zero';

Work with the CCF team to identify 'target neighbourhoods' to increase urban canopy cover, and to identify potential tree planting sites, target available resources and facilitate delivery;


Actively participate in the CCF 'Canopy Working Group' and other CCF working groups as they arise;

Actively promote a cultural change in relation to tree provision and management and overcome perceived barriers to the planting and the retaining of appropriate trees;

Actively work toward achieving the globally recognised status as a 'Tree City of the World' for each council.



Councillor Owen O'Donnell, Leader, East Renfrewshire Council



Councillor Jim Logue, Leader, North Lanarkshire Council



Councillor Gordan Low, Leader, East Dunbartonshire Council




Councillor Iain Nicolson, Leader, Renfrewshire Council




Councillor Susan Aitken, Leader, Glasgow City Council



Councillor Joe Fagan, Leader, South Lanarkshire Council



Councillor Stephen McCabe, Leader, Inverclyde Council



Councillor Martin Rooney, Leader, West Dunbartonshire Council



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The Clyde Climate Forest is
being delivered with the help of:



Scottish
Forestry
Coilltearachd
na h-Alba



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Contact Us

Clyde Climate Forest
c/o TCV, Unit M1, Rosemount Workspace
141 Charles Street Glasgow G21 2QA

 @ClydeClimateFor

www.clydeclimateforest.co.uk



gcv green network

The Clyde Climate Forest is
a Green Network Blueprint
delivery project.