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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Environment &amp; Regeneration Committee</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>31 August 2023</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Director, Environment &amp; Regeneration</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>ENV047/23/SJ/KL</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Kenny Lang</b>	<b>Contact No:</b>	<b>01475 715906</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Nature Restoration Fund Proposed Projects</b>		

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## **1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

1.1  For Decision  For Information/Noting

1.2 The purpose of this report is to make Committee aware of the proposals regarding the Clyde Climate Forest (CCF) and Nature Restoration Fund (NRF) projects and to seek approval to progress the projects identified.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 It is recommended that Committee

- notes and approves the proposals identified and specific projects in respect of the Nature Restoration Fund;
- agree that officers progress the projects identified; and
- note that further reports on proposed projects will be presented to this committee.

**Stuart Jamieson**  
**Director Environment & Regeneration**

### 3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 3.1 The Green Action Trust (GAT) has been appointed as the Council's delivery partner for project development and management of the NRF project. The appointment is from July 2023 until July 2025 with an option to extend for a further 12 months.
- 3.2 The GAT have undertaken a wide ranging study and identified a number of projects covering improved biodiversity, naturalised planting, creation of a greenspace park, development of naturalised planting corridors.
- 3.3 In addition to this tree planting and woodland creation allied to the Clyde Climate Forest project has also been identified
- 3.4 The Clyde Climate Forest spans the Glasgow City Region from Greenock to Lanark and covers eight regional local authorities. The project aims to plant 18 million trees in both urban and rural parts of Glasgow City Region over the next decade.
- 3.5 A high-level desktop study has been carried out to identify opportunities for tree planting within Inverclyde on local authority owned or controlled land. As a result of this study and a site visit with CCF, a number of potential tree planting locations within the Greenock central target neighbourhood (vulnerable postcode) were identified. These planting schemes are included in the GAT proposals.

### 4.0 PROPOSALS

- 4.1 The Nature restoration fund proposals and estimated budget costs are detailed in **(Appendix 1)** attached and cover the following areas for 2023/24.
  - Coves Nature Reserve Habitat improvement, woodland and scrub management and woodland /grassland creation
  - St Ninian's primary school demolition site – creation of green space/park – landscaping design and community consultation phase 1
  - Species Rich Grassland Development – creation of species rich grasslands and pollinator corridors.
  - Clyde Climate Forest – urban tree planting and large-scale woodland creation on IC landholdings. This to include native species if possible and provide maximum opportunity for canopy cover. There are two work streams identified, one is the Greenock Central Target neighbourhood plan **(Appendix 2)** and a separate larger and longer term study into the creation of larger woodland and forestation within the Councils existing estate
- 4.2 The surveys and associated works identified will further enable to Council to bid into the Nature Restoration fund. This bidding exercise will be supported by the Green Action Trust.
- 4.3 The works identified are in line with the Councils Net Zero Plan and will be reported in detail through the regular net zero updates.

## 5.0 IMPLICATIONS

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

SUBJECT	YES	NO
Financial		X
Legal/Risk		X
Human Resources		X
Strategic (Partnership Plan/Council Plan)		X
Equalities, Fairer Scotland Duty & 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 (£000)	Virement From	Other Comments
	NRF Capital	2023/24	£391		Total costs identified are budget figures and will be contained within the overall NRF allocation.

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact (£000)	Virement From (if Applicable)	Other Comments

## 5.3 Legal/Risk

There are no legal issues arising from this report.

## 5.4 Human Resources

There are no human resources issues arising from this report.

## 5.5 Strategic

There are no direct strategic implications as a result of this report.

## 5.6 Equalities, Fairer Scotland Duty & Children/Young People

### (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

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.

(c) 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.

5.7 **Environmental/Sustainability**

Has a Strategic Environmental Assessment been carried out?

X	YES – assessed as relevant and a Strategic Environmental Assessment is required.
	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.

5.8 **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 Consultation has been undertaken with the relevant services and CMT in the preparation of this report.

## **7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

7.1 None.

**Nature Restoration Fund spend proposals**

**APPENDIX 1**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Budget</b>
Coves Nature Reserve	Delivery of a suite of habitat improvements for biodiversity including woodland and scrub management, small scale woodland creation, species rich grassland creation and invasive species treatment.	£180k
St Ninian’s primary school demolition site – creation of green space/park	Site investigation studies and commissioning a landscape architect to produce concept designs and outline costs for community consultation.	£50k
Clyde Climate Forest – urban tree planting and large-scale woodland creation on IC landholdings.	<p>Apply the methodology used to identify Greenock Central Target Neighbourhood to identify urban tree planting in 6 town centres. Aim to plant 30 trees in each 6 town centres. Includes site investigations and cost of tree planting.</p> <p>Investigate opportunities for woodland creation on the following sites (desk-based analysis and site surveys) to inform funding application for woodland creation. Reports would include costed woodland planting proposals which are sensitive to the existing users needs and fit with works identified under the Peatland Restoration project..</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hardridge Farm (22ha)</li> <li>• Hill Farm lands (27ha)</li> <li>• Dowries Farm (7ha)</li> <li>• Kilmacolm – riparian planting (7.5ha)</li> </ul>	<p>£70k</p> <p>£10k</p>
Species Rich Grassland Development	<p>Development of a network of species rich grasslands and pollinator corridor in accordance with recommendations from Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnerships feasibility studies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commissioning an ecology consult to survey a network of priority sites to establish if the sites are suitable for species rich grasslands. Including the waterfront in Port Glasgow and at Coves Nature reserve.</li> <li>• Report would include recommendations and management prescriptions/specifications for work to be delivered in 2024.</li> <li>• Purchase of a Grillo cut and lift machine(s) to facilitate naturalised planting including training</li> </ul>	<p>£35k</p> <p>£55k</p>