
Report To:	Environment & Regeneration Committee	Date:	29 August 2024
Report By:	Director Environment and Regeneration	Report No:	ENVO/049/24/SJ/KL
Contact Officer:	Kenny Lang	Contact No:	01475 715906
Subject:	Nature Restoration Fund Proposed Projects		

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

1.1 For Decision For Information/Noting Tick any that apply

1.2 The purpose of this report is to make Committee aware of the proposals relating to funding for 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 A report was submitted to this committee in August 2023 advising that the Green Action Trust (GAT) had been appointed as the Council's delivery partner for project development and management of the Nature Restoration Fund project. The Contract is from July 2023 until July 2025 with an option to extend for a further 12 months.
- 3.2 GAT supported by Council Staff undertook a number of projects covering improved biodiversity , naturalised planting, assessment and development of a community greenspace and the , development of naturalised planting and pollinator corridors as follows
- 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
- 3.3 The Scottish Government have now provided additional Funding for 2024/25 with Inverclyde Council being awarded £148k to develop projects. The fund has five strategic themes to be delivered
- Habitat and species restoration: Management for enhancement and connectivity.
 - Freshwater restoration, including restoration of natural flows in rural catchments
 - Coastal and marine initiatives which promote restoration, recovery, enhancement or resilience
 - Control of invasive non-native species (INNS) impacting on nature
 - Urban: Enhancing and connecting nature across, and between, towns and cities.
- 3.4 In addition to the funding allocated, the NRF includes a competitive grants scheme run by NatureScot. Local Authorities working in partnership with other bodies will be eligible to apply to the competitive schemes, however local authorities cannot bid as sole applicants. Officers will look to work with relevant organisations to identify suitable schemes.
- 3.5 While the funding is welcome the scale is significantly lower than previous years of £391k. The scale of projects are therefore tailored to maximise the available allocated funding.

4.0 PROPOSALS

- 4.1 The Nature restoration fund proposals and estimated budget costs are summarised below

Location	Works	Est Value 000s
Cornalees – Clyde Muirshiel Park	Nature Trail improvements and refurbishment.	£85
Wemyss Bay - Woods	Woodland Survey and path upgrades	£25
Coves Reservoir	Invasive species control	£10
Auchmountain Glen	Nature trail improvements	£10
Kelburn Park	Arboretum study and tree works	£18
		£148

- 4.2 The works identified are in line with the Councils Net Zero Plan and will be reported in detail through the regular net zero updates. The two studies identified will enable the Council to develop future projects and bids.
- 4.3 In line with the extant Council contract, the tenders and works awards will be supported by the Green Action Trust.

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	2024/25	£148		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. Provide any other relevant reasons why an EqIA is not necessary/screening statement.

(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?

	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.

5.8 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 in the preparation of this report.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None