

CSGN Regional Advisory Forum Meeting – 10 September 2015

Present

James Ogilvie, FCS (*Chair*)
Alison Chisholm, LFGNP
John Esslemont, AGNP
Gordon Roger, CC
Arthur Keller, SNH
Daniel Hinze, SG RESAS
Mark Smillie, CSGNT

Gareth Heavisides, SG
Charlie Cumming, ELGT
Max Hislop, GCVGNP
Paul Sizeland, EcoCo LIFE+
Zoe Kemp, SNH
Jamie Hume, SG RESAS
Sue Evans, CSGNT (*Minutes*)

Meeting Note

1. Welcome & Apologies

Apologies were noted from Keith Geddes, CSGNT Board; Simon Rennie, CSGNT; and Bruce Davidson, EAW.

Zoe Kemp, SNH, Daniel Hinze and Jamie Hume, both RESAS, were welcomed to the meeting.

2. Minutes of Meeting of 14 May 2015

Following correction of a typographic error on page 2, the Minutes were approved and will be loaded onto the CSGN website.

3. Matters Arising (Paper 1)

Item 3 – The need for GI ‘standards’ for development planning/management is not resolved and requires further thought and dialogue with interested parties. This could become a work action for future RAF meetings.

Action: MH/SR

Item 5 – AC has passed to GH details of work by the Esk Valley Trust to identify a route along the North Esk from Rosslyn Chapel to Musselburgh.

Item 8 – JE confirmed that he had passed thanks from the RAF to Sarah Bowman before she left. The AGN steering group will meet in early October to look at resources and options for a replacement post. The focus of a new post is likely to be different.

4. Information Sharing

16/17 Development Funding

GH updated on the partners likely to be putting money into the new fund (FCS, SNH, SG Food & Drink and Transport Scotland). The total fund will be somewhere between £500 and £700k.

MS/GH are scoping the fund requirements. The focus for the partners contributing is AT (SNH/TS), woodland creation and management (FCS) and community growing (SG F&D). The fund should go live next month. GH is trying to find a date for a Ministerial launch.

JO thanked GH for the update noting it was a great result and that there had been a lot of work by GH to pull this together.

PS asked about the need for match funding.

MS confirmed that the grant could go to capital projects or feasibility each with various intervention rates and match funding levels.

ERDF GI Fund Update

ZK updated.

SNH is the lead body on behalf of ERDF.

The focus is on GI projects within the highest levels of deprivation in urban Scotland. The grant can support parks/access/green ways/climate change actions. £15m of funding needs to be claimed by 2023, and of this £8m by 2018.

The approval process which has been ongoing since March has been extended again by three further levels of sign off up to Cabinet Secretary level. It is hoped this will all be complete within another month. Despite the delayed start, some spend by 2016 must be achieved and the Mid-term review in 2018 won't move.

SNH hope the scheme will go live Christmas. ZK and SNH colleagues have spoken to partners of possible projects to advise of the delay.

The scheme will close to bids in April. Projects will be assessed in May/June with contracts awarded asap for (some) delivery by December 2016.

Despite the delays and difficulties SNH is committed to making as much progress as possible; the team is in place to hit the ground running. Staff are working on the process and guidance in anticipation of the launch.

To date SNH staff have been helping project development. However, this will stop now so the process of application is totally independent of SNH.

MH asked what level of spend was needed by December 2016. ZK replied that most projects will be multi-year/ in excess of £1min value and with a range of interventions, so the spend profile will reflect the projects rather than a fixed level.

CC confirmed that he had met Zoe last week. CC asked if private money could be used as match funding. ZK confirmed that funding from LA arm's length organisations, the urban regeneration Co.'s and Third Sector partners would be eligible. She indicated that more advice was awaited in respect of private sector monies.

JO suggested that the RAF could be used as a forum to flesh our problems. He noted that despite the delay this was still a big pot of money.

JE felt this would exclude work required as part of a planning approval but planning gain moneys could be ok.

ZK indicated that TIFF funds could be an eligible match as LAs will ultimately accrue tax receipts.

In terms of where, ZK confirmed that this was an All Scotland fund for communities of 10,000 or greater. SNH anticipate projects from Inverness, Fort William, Aberdeen and Dundee, as well as Central Scotland.

JO asked about methodology to be used to assess the bids and offered up FCS experience in this area.

JO thanked ZK for attending the RAF and for her update. ZK agreed to return once the programme had gone live.

EcoCo LIFE+ Programme

PS updated the group using a PowerPoint presentation (which has since been shared with the group)

He is now one year into a four year project that is exclusive to the CSGN area.

As indicated previously, the project is currently delivering habitat improvements on 9 sites ranging from the Garnock Valley in North Ayrshire to a quarry in East Lothian.

Some £180k is earmarked in the project for work in three new management zones (sites). The project partners will determine how this budget will be targeted and will be given the first opportunity to bid for this additional money. If suitable sites cannot be identified that fit with the ecological coherence criteria, PS may look for project sites from beyond the current partners.

Funding will be contingent on projects using the Eco Coherence Protocol and mapping tool, and can support green travel/habitat types/green roofs/ecological networks/ integrated habitat networks. Spend has to be achieved by end 2017.

MS spoke about the unallocated spend and the implications of agreeing land ownership, finding match funding and achieving project development and spend by December 2017.

MH asked where project information is available. PS confirmed that the project sits on the SNH website and is in need of being updated. PS will be adding more information about the project sites. Partners also have their own websites that reference the project sites and these tend to be more detailed, for example IFLI.

PS highlighted an SNH Report setting out Ecological Coherence Definitions. These are about connectivity and resilience, and threatened and endemic species. Put simply – ‘big, better and connected’ habitats. (see <http://www.snh.gov.uk/publications-data-and-research/publications/search-the-catalogue/publication-detail/?id=2060>)

PS spoke about the Peatland restoration work in Ayrshire and about the Wetland habitat improvement in the Galzert catchment; a tributary of the river Kelvin.

One project in East Lothian will see the restoration of a 110ha limestone quarry near Dunbar. This is a partnership project between RSPB and Tarmac.

In Falkirk, the focus is on the Kinneil Lagoons which provide fantastic tidal habitat.

MH thought it would be good to meet with PS to see how the programme could be reflected in the Resourcing work. PS confirmed he was happy to meet to discuss the EcoCO LIFE+ costing of work being carried out.

Action: MH/PS

PS used his presentation to highlight some of the GIS mapping that has been used to inform project development. Mapping has been at the project scale and also the CSGN level and has looked at ecosystem services in various map layers.

This has allowed intersections to be identified to allow for opportunity mapping. For example, where floodplain management could deliver a number of services such as water purification, accessible nature and carbon storage.

PS noted that he had lots of data but was finding the process valuable but resource heavy.

JO thanked PS for his update. Again PS agreed to provide future updates as work progresses.

Visualising the CSGN

SE updated. Following the discussion at the last RAF meeting a paper was prepared for CSGNT's board meeting in early July. After consideration the board wish a visual to be developed mainly for decision-makers and professionals, which uses a transect across the CSGN along with images and text to illustrate the 17 costing components identified in the Costing the CSGN study. A brief is being prepared to go to consultants.

JE suggested that SE look at a SEPA River Basin Management Planning on ‘Coast to Mountain’ which could be a relevant example of this type of approach.

Action: SE

5. Presentation and Discussion on Resourcing the CSGN

MH gave a presentation on the most recent Resourcing work. This has since been shared with the group. He confirmed that his task was to find the potential sources for capital funding to meet the £2.8B cost of delivering the CSGN. He was doing this by looking at public/private/other funding and looking out 5 – 10 years.

MH put up a spreadsheet showing the 17 Costing components and illustrated how it was possible to populate the table with estimates of public, private, other funding to create both a total annual capital and a CSGN total capital spend (based on 36 years of delivery).

This information will be used for:

Presentational purposes- makes the costs palatable

Strategic purposes – it will identify:

- Potential public sector funding realignment
- Need and opportunities for new funding mechanisms
- Scale of input from various sectors and the effort required to achieve that
- Needs & opportunities for match-funding between sectors
- Supporting funding bids – targeted bidding

The intended methodology was to research the component, understand what current resources are available, and the funding mixes and document this information.

In reality, the process has been to assess how much capital is needed, to research what is available (public, private, other) and to then calculate the shortfall.

MH highlighted the process using Woodland Creation:

1. How much funding is required?

- £550m over 35 years
- 2,442 ha per year
- =£15.7m per year

2.a) What public sector funding is available?

- SRDP (Forestry Grant Scheme):
 - £30m for Scotland (2015/16) (NB: 55% EU funding)
 - £7.7m for CSGN
 - pro rata for CSGN based on woodland creation targets*
- National Forest Estate woodland creation:
 - Est. 1/3 of private woodland expansion
 - Therefore worth £2.6m in CSGN

2.b) What private sector funding might be available?

- Woodland Carbon Code:
 - many individuals and businesses wish to contribute to tree planting to help society soak up the carbon it emits;
- Biodiversity Offsetting
- Windfarm compensatory planting

2.c) Other funding sources

- Donations to woodland creation charities:
 - E.g. Woodland Trust, RSFS

3. What is the balance between required and available funding?

Required: £15.7m

SRDP: £7.7m

NFE: £2.6m

Unknown: £5.4m (or 27%)

MH noted that discussions were required to flesh out some of this content, but already it leads to the conclusion that one recommendation to SG must be to sustain the availability and use of woodland creation grants. Likewise it flags the importance of the work by Forest Enterprise. Even if both are sustained we still face a shortfall in capital spend.

CC suggested we needed to know whether SRDP was being fully used, and if not why not, as part of the story. MH agreed that we would need to know this type of information before we could justify asking for any extra.

AK flagged the need to remember that CSGN sites tended to be urban/smaller scale and not upland/rural with higher land values. MH confirmed that these considerations had been factored into the Costing work.

MS noted the need to try to ring fence SRDP for the CSGN area.

MH then repeated the exercise for Peatland Restoration. (Please refer to his presentation) 2.6m This showed a shortfall of:

Required: £2.6m
 SRDP/PAF: £1.2m
 EU LIFE: £0.7m
 Unknown: £0.7m

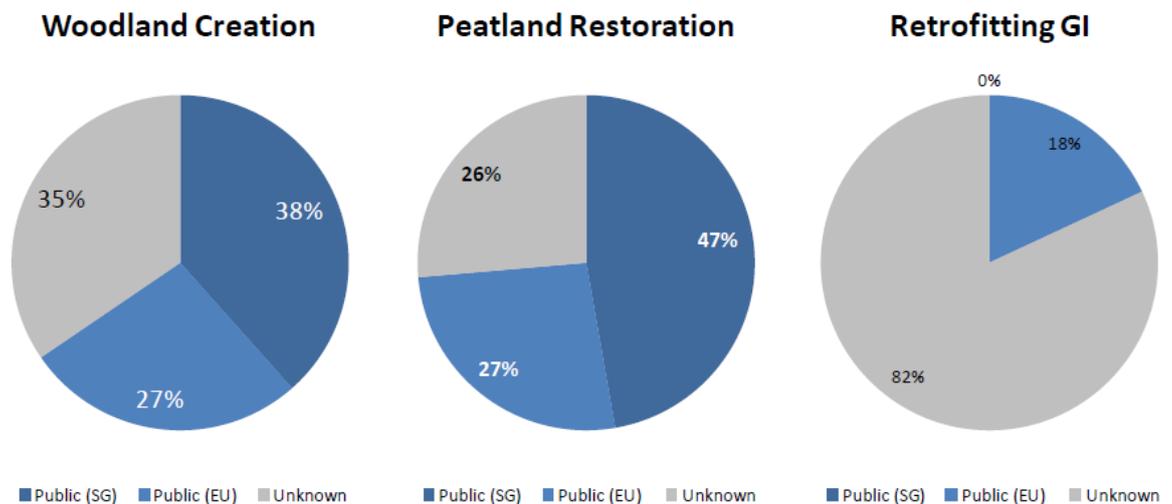
And a set of Recommendations around:

- Securing existing levels of public funding
 - Lobby SG to sustain current funding levels
 - Support uptake of SRDP/Peatland Restoration fund
- Securing EU LIFE funding for major CSGN project
 - Lead a CSGN bid for Peatland Restoration
- Securing match funding from other sources
 - Support Peatland Carbon code in CSGN
 - Liaise with Scottish Water to be a funding partner

MH repeated the exercise for Retrofitting GI in Urban Areas, noting this was proving much more difficult to work out.

Required: £6.1m
 Public (SG): £ 0m
 EU ERDF: £1.1m
 Unknown: £ ?

This process allows a number of comparative pie charts to be created:



MH then showed how he had used this work to populate the master spreadsheet.

He asked for ideas on funding sources and other mechanisms to help progress each of the costs.

Action: All

AK flagged Falkirk’s Open Space Strategy and how this was looking at not just deficits but areas in g/space surplus and how this could lead to realignment.

MH felt there would be lots of reports etc. which would help to refine the content. There would remain areas of risk and uncertainty. We may need some gap analysis. There are likely to be several iterations of this work before we arrive at something which we are happy to share outside the RAF.

ZK noted the importance of this work and how it would help in selling the Vision to SG, LAs etc.

She flagged Falkirk's TIFF at £60m which is premised on future tax receipts. This might be the type of area we need to look into.

ZK also flagged deer management as an issue and the degree to which other factors (costs of accidents etc.) can be built into the costing work.

MH suggested we should be high order - big round figures – we could get lost in too much detail.

SE agreed, this is broadly about how we identify c.£80m/year from existing or new sources.

PS liked the dashboard idea to show the direction of travel, but asked how do we measure output?

MH felt we should be able to work with LAu and other partners to measure this.

JO and SE, on behalf of SR, thanked MH for his work to date and encouraged RAF members to support the work where they could.

Action: All

6. Presentation and Discussion on Valuing the CSGN

JH made a short presentation to explain the valuing work undertaken by RESAS. The presentation has since been made available to the group.

JH explained that 4 benefits have been looked at so far. Three focus on a target population and should be scalable to changes in our affected population, either to national or local authority level.

The four benefits provide a Net Present Value of, conservatively, £7Bn to 2050. The calculation assumes all components of the Vision are delivered in 2015. The benefits will continue beyond 2050 and in the case of carbon sequestration will increase significantly after this date peaking at around 2115:

<u>Crime reduction</u>	Total net present value of £598m to 2050
<u>Physical health</u>	Total net present value of £1,327m to 2050
<u>Mental health</u>	Total net present value of £4,879m to 2050
<u>Peatland carbon sequestration</u>	Total net present value of £256m to 2050 and £1bn to 2115 (not at a population level)

Annual figures are:

<u>Crime reduction</u>	£28m per year
<u>Physical health</u>	£63m per year
<u>Mental health</u>	£232m per year
<u>Peatland carbon sequestration</u>	£16m per year

These are just 4 of the benefits and RESAS has identified others which are not yet costed. Better environments would also lead to:

- Reduced air, water and noise pollution
- Cost savings on flood and temperature management
- Modal shifts to sustainable transport
- Greater biodiversity and resources for industry
- Appeal for shoppers, tourists and employees
- Community engagement and interaction

RAF members then commented upon and asked questions about the work.

MH asked about how hard it would be to value flood management. JH felt this would be relatively straight forward and this was likely to prove cost effective. Other areas might be more difficult and rely on willingness to pay – there's some work about high streets. Modal shift could be big but might be hard to value.

SE asked about increasing house values around greenspace. DH explained that this would be a method for valuing not a benefit in its own right.

MH commented that the key message was the £7Bn is greatly more than the £2.8Bn and this is a conservative assessment.

It is important that the figures can be open to scrutiny and will be defensible.

He noted a bit of concern on the crime assessment being seemingly based upon a single study in Chicago - is this robust enough? Can we beef up the evidence? JH confirmed that other studies existed and could be noted.

ZK flagged the UK 'Secure by Design' guidance and relevant work in New York.

MH felt that attribution was important.

Physical Activity was covered next.

MS noted that success was not just about the space there needed to be use and associated behaviour change activities.

JH noted that the study from Bristol was about use of particular high quality public spaces but it didn't look at the activity programmes available in these parks.

CC noted an ELGT GS/mental health project which was evaluated for a grant from the City of Edinburgh Council. The review showed that the ELGT project was the most expensive, but once the capital costs had been removed the project showed more benefits than the others looked at.

MS noted the pressure on NHS health and mental health budgets. He felt that FCS Branching Out showed good Return on Investment and needed to be better promoted.

JH confirmed that there was lots of evidence coming out from FC to look at a later date.

AK moved on to attractiveness of locations to businesses. At the Vale of Leven, Kodak didn't think that its suppliers liked to visit. The site was made more attractive and this has increased confidence and even secured more jobs.

This type of action supports the SG's Economic Strategy which is about addressing inequalities. It's hard to evidence what are often anecdotal reports

JH explained that our Health focus should be targeted in areas of disadvantage. Here people are likely to get ill sooner and die earlier than in other populations. Thus there is a higher cost benefit ratio if we work in areas of SIMD.

JO asked about the economic premise and the reason for CSGN being in NPF3. We need to be able to demonstrate competitiveness. A recent Glasgow Green Study could be a start.

ZK felt that emerging projects from the ERDF fund would provide monitoring and she would be trying to evidence the value of GI from these reports.

DH raised the issue of intangible benefits – neighbourhood quality, social capital, liveability. These are things that really matter and yet are the hardest to measure.

MH felt that this work alongside the Costing and Resourcing work would allow us to target delivery to realise the most benefits.

SE agreed and felt it was important that the Visualisation also explained the costs and benefits.

PS asked if we had the right branding. MH felt this was much broader and bigger than the branding.

AK asked how targeted the work is - this is a baseline of expenditure but projects happen anyway. How many interventions are specific to the CSGN: should all projects be counted?

MS asked why would you ignore what's already happening. We should include existing and new projects if they are contributing.

GR spoke about town planning. A good process can deliver better quality development. It might not cost more money but better could deliver a better return. We need to ensure that money used is used in the best way.

JO then asked about the next steps. Having done 4 reports is the idea to continue the process with the remaining benefits.

JH and DH replied that this wasn't bottomed out. Some benefits will be much harder to calculate. It won't be possible to provide a cost benefit for each of the 17 Costing components because benefits cut across the components. Work could continue and would see the global sum increase – want do CSGN want?

GH responded that the CSGN PC meets on 1 October and after this he will be able to say where this will go next

JH asked if his report could be circulated for comment. Comments should be fed back promptly so GH/JH can get papers ready for the PC meeting

Action: SE/All

JH and DH confirmed that they would be happy to talk to the RAF again if more work is carried out.

7. Agenda for the Next Meeting

Update Items to cover In November will be:

- Development Fund 16/17
- ERDF GI Fund
- EcoCo LIFE+
- Visualising the CSGN
- Resourcing the CSGN
- Valuing the CSGN

Main Discussion items:

- Presentation by RSPB on their work in Ayrshire
- Disadvantaged Areas – progress, opportunities & case studies
- Land Reform Bill & Community Empowerment Act – implications & opportunities

RSPB to be invited to present at the November meeting.

Action: JE/SE

8. Programme for future meetings

The meeting agreed the following revised timetable:

January 16		March 16		May 16	
Land Reform Act & Community Empowerment Bill – implications & opportunities	SG & SR	Land Use Strategy – plus Urban v Rural focus and arising issues?	GH		
CSGN Architecture	SR	CSGN Benefits	GH & SG		

9. Any Other Competent Business

WIAT/SRDP Applications – SE updated on CSGNT's work so far on WIAT applications:

- C 50 sites being explored for 13 Councils

- Intending to have 17 concept plans submitted to FCS by the end of September
- 2 have been lodged but there are technical issues still with the system meaning these can't yet be processed
- Main issues are around low awareness of councils of the need to obtain Agent Mandates and land registration
- Community consultation events are getting under way
- CSGNT are updating Sasha Laing regularly. (SL is providing cross CSGN co-ordination on WIAT to minimise any abortive work and maximise cover across all Councils.

AK asked about the staff resource being applied and MS confirmed that it was a team effort but the bulk of the work was being carried out by a dedicated member of staff.

MS also confirmed that he and his staff were liaising with regional partners to avoid duplication. For example, AC was leading on the Fife work.

AK asked if the process could be rolled out to include other SRDP elements.

MS said this was possible if guidance could be given by SNH on what should be prioritised and where.

MH suggested one area could be peatland restoration in line with the Resourcing work.

MS/AK to explore this further outside the meeting.

Action: MS/AK

SESplan MIR – AC updated on the Green Network component of the Main Issues Report and how this had been developed last year with the local planning authorities and captured the principle components particular where these are cross boundary. However, this analysis was carried out in advance of the mapping of the three housing options (preferred, concentrated and distributed) set out in the report and AC was concerned about the apparent lack of read across. The report is available for comment until 30 September.

RAF members highlighted the following:

- The fit or otherwise with Integrated Habitat Network mapping – was it being used as a planning tool?
- The emerging Place Standard work
- The need to look beyond the redline site boundary when considering GNs
- Whether the Environmental Assessment of the MIR takes account of the cumulative impact of development on the green belt, GN's etc.
- The crucial role of the SDP in setting the tone for subsequent LDPs and masterplans.

Any further comments can be passed to AC in time for her to make a response.

Action: All

Clackmannanshire Local Development Plan – GR confirmed that the LDP has been approved and adopted. It includes Supplementary Planning Guidance on Green Infrastructure. The SPG development was supported by SNH.

Annual Review – SE confirmed that the 14/15 CSGN Annual Review had been printed and was being distributed. Copies will be available for RAF members to take away.

AGN Project Officer – JE confirmed that Sarah Bowman has moved on to a permanent post working for FCS. JE confirmed that he would be exploring options with AGN steering group. SR noted the importance of the regional partnerships to CSGN's organisational architecture. CSGNT would be very keen to see the post sustained and formalised. The group asked JE to forward their thanks to SB for her active input into the RAF and to wish her every success in her new post.

Action: JE

10. Next Meetings

12 November at 10.00am at AGNP
14 January 16 at 10.00am at GCVGNP
17 March 16 at 10.00am at CSGNT

SE, 23 September 2015