



Making the Central Scotland Green Network a Reality

The vision for the Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN) is that by 2050 Central Scotland will be transformed into a place where the environment adds value to the economy and where people's lives are enriched by its quality.

CSGN will change the face of central Scotland by restoring and transforming the environment of an area stretching from Ayrshire and Inverclyde in the west to Fife and the Lothians in the east.

The CSGN is a national development within the Scottish Government's National Planning Framework and aims to make a significant contribution to Scotland's sustainable economic development. Its future is reliant on public agencies, the private sector and other stakeholders working together to align their policies, programmes and actions to achieve a common aim.

Three reports were commissioned in 2015/16 to look at the future of the CSGN, identifying the capital cost to 2050, the benefits that will be delivered and how delivery could be resourced.

If you would like to find out more or can play a part in securing the future of the CSGN please contact Simon Rennie on 01501 824770 or email simon.rennie@csqnt.org.uk.

We welcome any feedback on the reports and any additional data which can help to inform our planning for the future.

Full copies of the reports are available at www.centralscotlandgreennetwork.org/csgn.

The Cost of Delivering the CSGN by 2050

The costing study estimated the capital cost to deliver the CSGN vision by 2050 is in the order of £2.8 billion, or around £80.8 million per year.

The approach taken was to breakdown the task of delivering the CSGN into smaller capital components, estimate how much of each component was needed and then to calculate a cost estimate for each before aggregating the component costs into the final total capital cost estimate.

	CSGN Capital Cost Components		Extent of intervention	Average Unit cost	Capital Cost Est. (rounded £m)
	C1	Create greenspace in existing urban areas	2,806 ha	£ 171,770	£ 482,000,000

	C2	Enhance existing greenspace	5,554 ha	£ 21,100	£ 117,000,000
	C3	Create greenspace in new residential areas	2,268 ha	£ 27,908	£ 63,000,000
	C4	Deliver GI in new residential developments	248,884 houses	£ 2,110	£ 525,000,000
	C5	Deliver GI in new commercial /industrial developments	4,173 ha	£ 33,545	£ 140,000,000
	C6	Retrofit GI into priority urban areas	8,660 ha	£ 24,630	£ 213,000,000
	C7	Deliver greenspace on V&DL classified for soc/env end-use	817 ha	£ 13,700	£ 11,000,000
	C8	Deliver temporary greening on V&DL classified as stalled	937 ha	£ 28,330	£ 27,000,000
	C9	Encourage naturalisation of stalled V&DL	4,121 ha	£ 200	£ 1,000,000
	C10	Increase the area of allotments by 200%	9,670 plots	£ 2,500	£ 24,000,000
	C11	Increase the area of community orchards by 200%	54 ha	£ 35,000	£ 2,000,000
	C12	Increase the area of community gardens by 200%	75 ha	£ 200,000	£ 15,000,000
	C13	Increase the area of woodland by 50%	85,500 ha	£ 6,433	£ 550,000,000
	C14	Create priority grassland, wetland and heathland habitat links	37,302 ha	£ 1,464	£ 55,000,000
	C15	Enhance existing grassland, wetland and heathland habitat links	37,302 ha	£ 696	£ 26,000,000
	C16	Protect and enhance peatland habitats	62,032 ha	£ 1,481	£ 92,000,000
Green Active Travel	C17	Deliver a strategic network of active travel routes	2,500 km	£ 87,496	£ 469,000,000
Total					£ 2,812,000,000

The report also provides:

A tangible expression of what needs to be done to deliver the CSGN vision

The cost components provide a list of 17 areas of activity which, when completed, will deliver the CSGN. A strategic approach to realising these activities is being developed to consider how the ambition might be realised and what an action programme and timetable for delivery might look like.

An opportunity to consider the ambitions of the CSGN

Each of the cost components has an explicit ambition for the extent and nature of delivery. It may be that upon reflection of the estimates presented in this study the CSGN Programme Committee or the Central Scotland Green Network Trust (CSGNT) may wish to restate the ambitions for some of the components. The approach taken in this study would make it relatively easy to accommodate any restated ambitions.

A starting point to consider where the resources may be found

The study provides a new level of understanding of the costs of the component parts of the CSGN. From this understanding it is possible to start to consider which components will offer greatest

return on investment and where there may be some early wins. The cost estimates also provide a starting point to consider how much of the component costs are already covered through existing mainstream funding programmes and where a case can be made to re-align existing funding streams. Additionally, the cost estimates provide a starting point to consider where additional public sector funding is required and where private, third sector or other funding sources (e.g. European, Lottery) may be expected and required to contribute. Importantly, the study reveals the importance of the planning system in ensuring that proposals for new developments fully integrate the green network.

This study has not attempted to consider other costs associated with the delivery of the CSGN, i.e. revenue costs to sustain the assets (existing or new), the cost of the delivery organisations required to plan and manage the delivery programme, or opportunity costs.

The Potential Benefits of the CSGN to 2050

A second study was undertaken into the potential benefits that CSGN would deliver to 2050 through environmental investment in Scotland's central belt.

The Scottish Government's Rural and Environment Science and Analytical Services Division (RESAS) undertook the study. The economists studied six areas of benefits:

1. The crime and antisocial activity reduction achievable through providing attractive natural features throughout urbanised areas;
2. The physical health benefits of providing high-quality greenspace within a five-minute walk of all homes;
3. The mental health benefits of providing high-quality greenspace within a five-minute walk of all homes;
4. The carbon sequestered by restoring all the 62,000 hectares of restorable peatland across the CSGN;
5. The carbon sequestered by planting 85,500 hectares of new broadleaf woodland;
6. The flooding damage averted by installing green infrastructure networks across the CSGN.

The value of the benefits assessed was over £6 billion to 2050. It is a considerable return on investment at £2.14 for every pound spent.

The composition of our £6 billion valuation

Benefit	Peak annual value of benefits	Estimated total net present value of benefits to 2050
Crime reduction	£25m	£513m
Improved physical health	£36m	£742m
Improved mental health	£62m	£1,290m
Peatland carbon sequestration	£15m in 2050	£246m
Forest carbon sequestration	£129m in 2040	£2,065m
Reduced flood damage	£43m	£1,206m
Total	£310m	£6,062m

This is a relatively conservative central estimate of these benefits, and includes a number of sensitivity analyses which show the impact of changing key assumptions in calculations.

This analysis does not take into account every benefit that a completed CSGN would deliver.

Among other potential benefits which are not valued, evidence shows that greenspace investments can lead to:

- Better air quality
- Abatement of noise pollution
- Shifts to more sustainable means of transport
- Better water quality
- Reduced building heating requirements
- Greater biodiversity
- More attractive environments for shoppers, tourists and employees
- Greater resource availability for sustainable industries
- A more engaged local community
- Educational advantages from interaction with nature.

These further benefits illustrate that the overall value of investing in the CSGN would be well above the £6 billion figure – having demonstrated the return on those elements considered, further work was not carried out due to resource constraints.

Resourcing the CSGN

The final report provides an estimate of the amount of funding that might be available currently for the delivery of the 17 major capital costs components of the CSGN and compares this to an estimated annual budget derived from the capital cost estimates.

The study has identified 21 individual available funding sources which in total have the potential to currently provide approximately £50.2m per year towards an annual target budget of £80.8m per year for the delivery of all CSGN capital cost components.

This work identifies a current annual shortfall of £30.7m per year, approximately 38% of the required annual target budget.

The study categorises the identified funding sources into the following funding sectors:

Public (SG): Largely mainstream funding from Scottish Government programmes, but also potentially local government funding

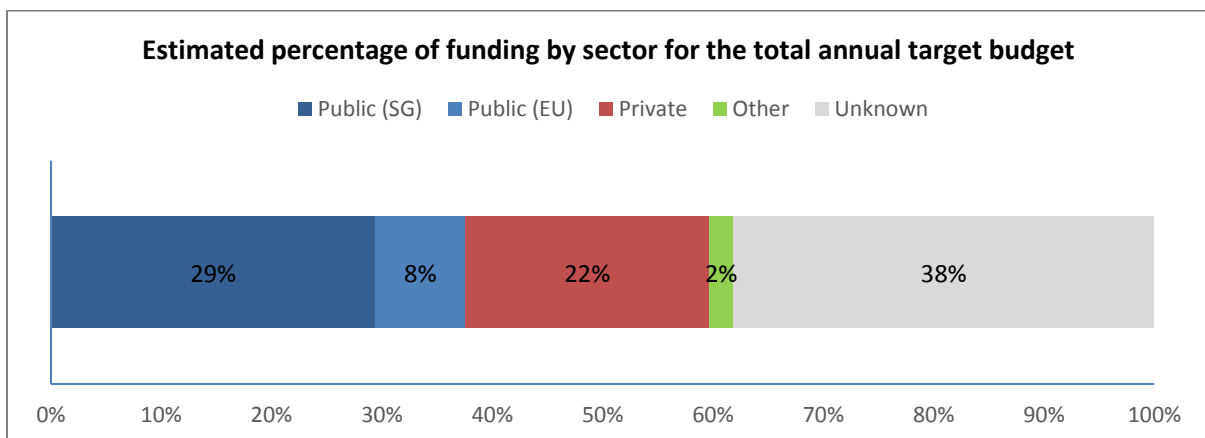
Public (EU): Funding currently from the European Union (EU) either through support of Scottish Government programmes, or directly from an EU programme

Private: Funding from private organisations

Other: Funding from other sources

The study estimates that private sector contributions through new development in the CSGN area will be £16m annually.

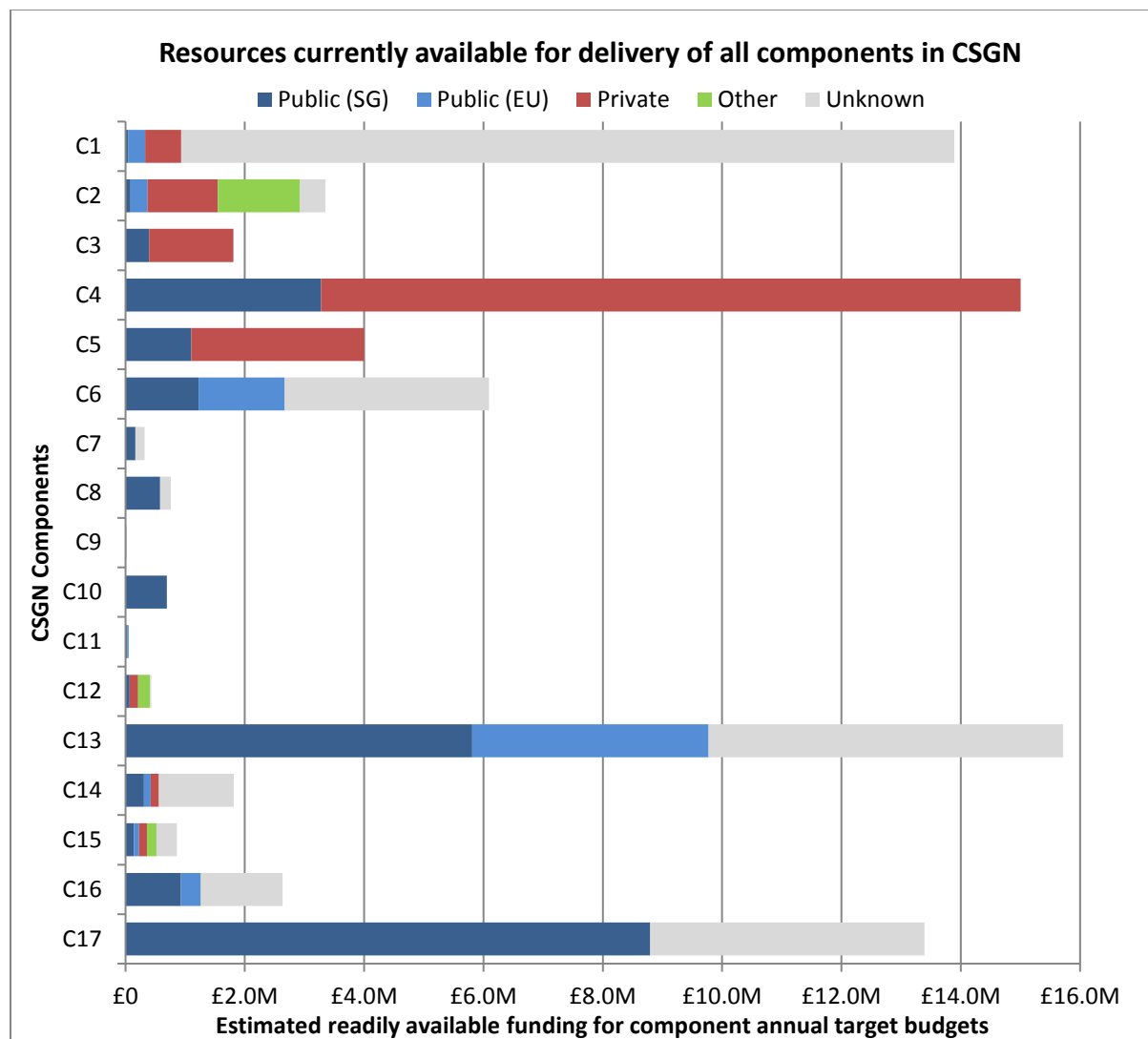
Estimate for the percentage of the total annual target budget which can be potentially provided by each funding sector.



The study has found that the availability of funding is not equally distributed across all CSGN capital cost components. Currently some components potentially have sufficient funding to meet their annual target budget (Community Growing and Vacant and Derelict Land components).

However, there is a significant shortfall in available funding to meet annual target budgets for four of the most capital intensive components, which have a combined shortfall of £26.9m per year.

Potential sources of funding for the capital costs of the CSGN



The study concludes that there is currently a significant shortfall in funding if the CSGN is to be delivered as planned, and that the funding that is theoretically readily available is not easily or cheaply won. There is a significant transaction cost to accessing the available funding and this cost needs to be reduced where possible or adequately resourced if delivery targets are to be met.

Support The Future of the CSGN

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