

## **CSGN Programme Plan 2015/16**

### **1. Introduction**

#### **1.1 Background to the CSGN Initiative**

The CSGN concept was first conceived in 2007. In 2011 the Vision, principles, outcomes and ambitions of the Network were agreed. These goals are at the heart of this programme plan.

The CSGN contributes directly to the new Programme for Government, is a National Development in the National Planning Framework and contributes to many of the Scottish Government's National Outcomes (see diagram A) and wider government policy.

#### **1.2 CSGN and the Programme for Government**

The Programme for Government is structured around three themes which are at the heart of the Central Scotland Green Network and reflected in the strategic aims contained in this plan:

##### Creating More, Better Paid Jobs in a Strong, Sustainable Economy.

At the heart of the CSGN is the goal of transforming central Scotland into a place for growth by building on its physical assets to create high-quality environments that retain and attract businesses to Central Scotland. By bringing vacant and derelict land into beneficial use and increasing employment and training in land based, 'green' and low carbon industries Scotland the CSGN will directly contribute to this theme.

##### Building a Fairer Scotland and Tackling Inequality

The CSGN will prioritise improvements in the most disadvantaged communities. Through physical repairs to the natural environment the CSGN will raise quality of life and reduce social and health inequalities across Central Scotland with a focus on communities ranked in the bottom 15% of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation.

##### Passing Power to People and Communities

The CSGN will work with, and empower community groups to, improve the quality of the land in their area. The CSGN can assist community groups in both the development and implementation of projects by co-ordinating activity, providing technical advice and highlighting funding opportunities. The Community Empowerment agenda will provide further opportunities for the CSGN to facilitate grassroots action.

### 1.3 CSGN and the National Planning Framework

The CSGN was designated as a National Development in the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Planning Framework (NPF2) in 2009 and is also included as a national Development in the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Planning Framework (NPF3) published in 2014. This identifies the need for a step change in environmental quality to address disadvantage and attract investment, whilst sustaining and enhancing biodiversity, landscape quality and wider ecosystems.

NPF3 states that remediation of derelict land, prioritised action in disadvantaged communities and active travel (walking and cycling) should be the priorities for the CSGN Trust and others during the lifetime of the NPF3.

NPF2 and NPF3 also identify the potential contribution that environmental transformation will make to the achievement of a wide range of Scottish Government objectives and ambitions, including:

- **Sustainable economic growth** – by supporting well located and designed development, attracting businesses and people to the central belt and supporting employment in green network businesses;
- **Improving physical and mental wellbeing** – by, for example, improving access to high quality greenspace near to where people live;
- **Mitigating and adapting to climate change** – by, for example, locking up carbon in new woodlands and restored peatlands and helping our urban areas adapt to warmer and wetter summers; and
- **Conserving and enhancing the natural environment** – by restoring and creating new habitats to enable biodiversity to thrive.

### 1.4 CSGN and Wider Government Policy

In addition to the NPF, the CSGN is contributing to the delivery of a number of other Government policies and strategies. For example:

**The Land Use Strategy** – by delivering multiple benefits and connecting people with the land.

**The Scottish Biodiversity Strategy** – by contributing to green networks and targeted actions that benefit ecosystems, species and habitats.

**Government Economic Strategy** – by making central Scotland an attractive place to live and work

**The Regeneration Strategy** – by working to improve disadvantaged communities and treating vacant and derelict land

**The Scottish Forestry Strategy** – by creating and managing woodlands across the CSGN area

**River Basin Management Planning** – by addressing water quality through green infrastructure actions to address diffuse and spot point pollution

**Natural Flood Management** – by developing sustainable urban drainage and catchment woodlands

**Good Places, Better Health** – by improving the environment in disadvantaged areas and increasing access to active travel options.

**Active Travel Vision** – by enhancing the network of active travel routes to support achievement of the vision that by 2020 10% of everyday journeys will be made by bike and to encourage more people walk as part of their everyday journeys.

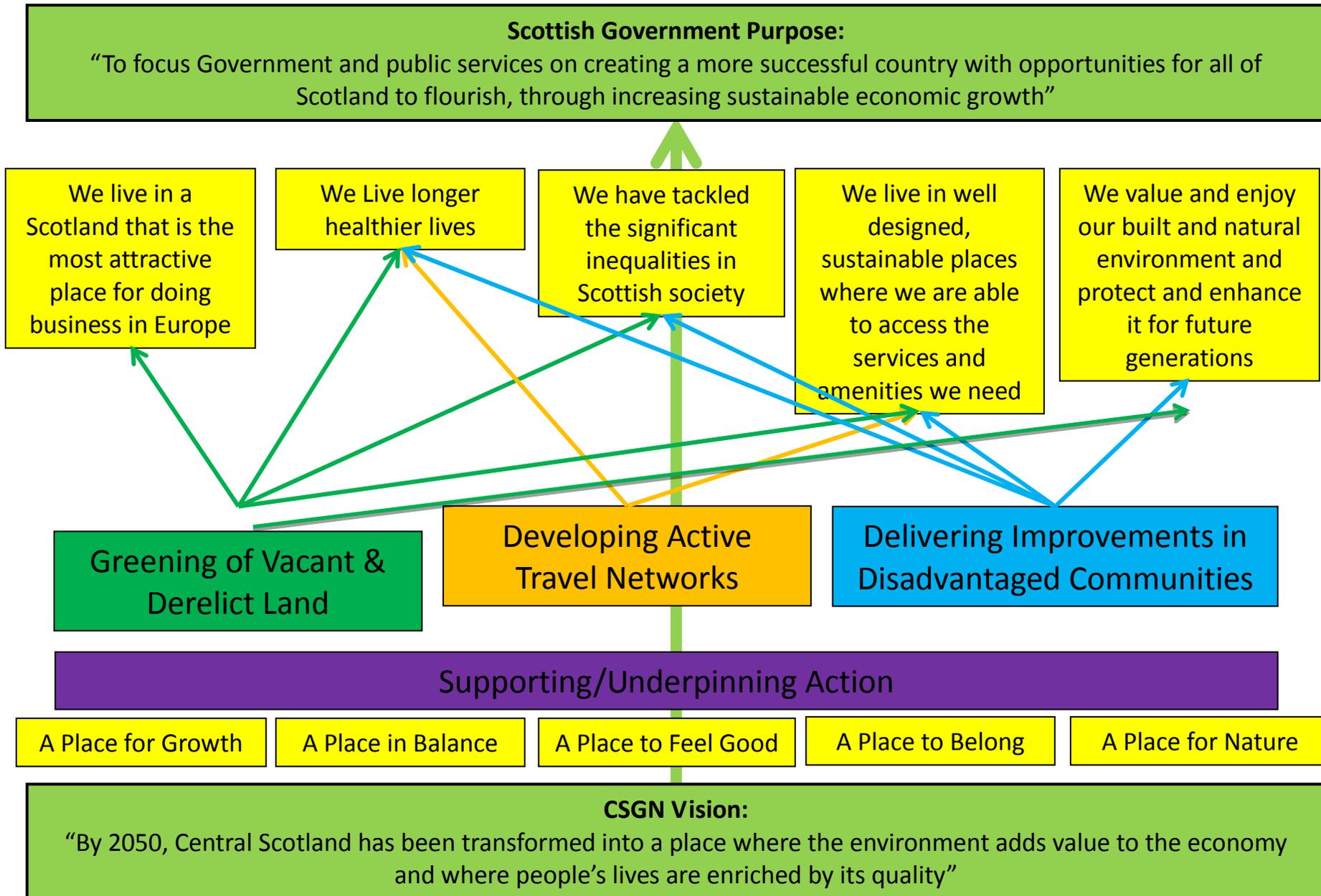
**Community Empowerment Bill** – by supporting community development of greenspaces, allotments and community growing areas

**Land Reform Act** – by supporting community development of green infrastructure/greenspace

Investment in high quality natural environments also has the potential to contribute positively to the delivery of the principles of the Christie Commission through a focus on preventative spend and reducing inequalities.

The contribution of the CSGN and the priority actions proposed in this plan to the Scottish Government's strategic objectives and overarching Purpose is described further in **Diagram A** and the links between the CSGN and relevant policies/strategies are developed further in latter sections of this Plan.

**Diagram A: Contribution of the CSGN Programme Plan to Scottish Government National Performance Framework**



## **1.5 Governance of the CSGN Programme**

The cross-cutting nature of the CSGN and its contribution to a wide range of policy goals is reflected in the governance structures:

- A CSGN Programme Committee (CSGN PC) has been established to provide strategic oversight of the initiative on behalf of Ministers and to foster cross-cutting links with relevant Scottish Government policies and programmes. This includes senior representation from Environment and Forestry Directorate; Planning and Architecture Division, Directorate for Regeneration, Housing and Welfare and Transport Scotland.
- The Scottish Government Director for Environment and Forestry has been identified as the Senior Responsible Owner for the initiative, with strategic responsibility for ensuring successful progress in line with Ministers' ambitions. Day to day responsibility for overseeing the initiative within Scottish Government (including ownership of this Programme Plan) rests with the CSGN Programme Manager within Natural Resources Division.
- The Central Scotland Green Network Trust (CSGNT) has taken on the role of driving and co-ordinating the delivery of the CSGN on a day to day basis (following the transformation of the organisation previously known as the Central Scotland Forest Trust [CSFT]).

These changes are, collectively, intended to: increase accountability and ownership of the initiative; to ensure good linkage across government; and to ensure that greater resources are available to support local authorities, landowners, NGOs and other partners and communities in delivering change on the ground. They are also intended to provide a structure that is able to respond to local needs and priorities in a meaningful way for local authorities and communities.

## **1.6 Purpose and Scope of this CSGN Programme Plan**

This Programme Plan describes how the Scottish Government (through direct action and investment by its Directorates and Agencies, indirect influence through its policies and programmes on the action of others [e.g. local authorities], through grants to other organisations [e.g. the CSGNT]) and by working in a way that is responsive to local needs and priorities intends to take forward the delivery of the CSGN in the period 2015-2019 – i.e. the lifespan of NPF3.

It outlines the priority areas where the Scottish Government wants to see progress made in the next phase of the initiative including milestones for 2015. It does not seek to describe every contributory action by the Scottish Government or partner organisations. Rather, it seeks to identify the key activities that will contribute to the achievement of Ministers' ambitions for the initiative in the period 2015-19.

The Programme Plan is endorsed by the Programme Committee and will be updated and revised annually.

## **2. Strategic Intent for the Plan Period**

### Embedding and Supporting

The first 5 years of the initiative have laid solid foundations upon which progress can be made. The overarching intention in the next phase of the initiative is to further embed the CSGN vision and ambitions into relevant plans, programmes and strategies, and, critically, to deliver improvements for the economy, people and nature at an increased rate. Delivery on the ground will require additional dedicated resources and/or the better alignment of existing funding streams across Government.

Throughout the Programme Plan period a guiding principle for the work of the CSGN Programme Committee, Scottish Government Departments and agencies and the CSGNT will be to focus our effort on where we can add most value – where action is needed most to address gaps or deficits, where the opportunity to deliver change is greatest, and/or where progress is slower.

### Thematic and Geographic Priorities

Our thematic and geographic priorities for action in this phase of the initiative are informed by NPF3. These are:

- Bringing vacant and derelict land back into productive use through the use of advanced, temporary and permanent greening solutions;
- Improving the network of off-road walking and cycling routes to enable a further increase in active travel for day to day journeys; and
- Prioritising other environmental enhancements (for example, improving access to high quality greenspace, woodland creation, habitat network enhancement, increased community growing spaces and developing the role of urban green infrastructure) in disadvantaged communities to maximise community and health benefits.

These will be the focus for action through to 2019.

This does not mean that action will not be taken on other issues or in other locations. The CSGN remains a national development with a broad purpose and we expect local authorities and their partners locally to identify and then take action where improvements are needed across the full spectrum of greenspace/green infrastructure, land use and habitat types that fall within the CSGN Vision. We will also seek to support activity that will deliver on other elements of the CSGN Vision, where possible.

### Community Engagement

There is also an important role for grass roots action, identifying improvements to the green network that communities wish to see happen and then delivering these, often in concert with local authorities, public agencies and NGOs. In many cases, action of this sort can result in more sustainable improvements, due to the heightened sense

of ownership among the local community. Community led action can also have a range of associated benefits in terms of capacity building and the development of relevant skills. We will, therefore, also seek to foster such 'bottom-up' action through, for example, grants for community groups and the provision of support from public agencies, the CSGNT and others.

Over the next year this theme is likely to develop further with the progress through Parliament of the Community Empowerment Bill and the drafting of new Land Use Strategy. We will ensure that the CSGN is able to contribute to both these emerging agendas.

### Multiple Benefits

In line with the Vision Principles, in all that we do, we will seek to optimise the delivery of **multiple** benefits – identifying and focusing our efforts and those of delivery partners, on actions that can deliver against two or more of the ambitions set out in the CSGN Vision and, hence, the measures in the Scottish Government's National Performance Framework.

## **3. Programme Activity**

This Programme Plan does not seek to describe every action being undertaken by the Scottish Government, the CSGNT or the wider CSGN delivery partnership. Instead it focuses on those actions that the CSGN Programme Committee considers most important to deliver on Ministers' ambitions in this phase of the initiative. Beyond the activities described here there are a range of supporting actions being undertaken by a range of partners that play a contributory role which will, collectively, help to ensure that the CSGN Vision and ambitions are delivered.

The rest of this section therefore describes our ambition for the Plan period, the key actions that will be taken, and by whom, and the milestones and measures that will be used to judge progress. Critical to delivery is the underpinning and supporting action that will be taken to continue to embed the initiative into relevant plans, policies and strategies, and to secure the necessary understanding and commitment by partners to deliver the Vision. This action will build integration and have an overarching focus on placemaking to ensure that each of the key actions is fully supported and mutually reinforcing.

### **3.1 Supporting/Underpinning Actions**

#### ***Context & Action to Date***

Much work has been done over the first 5 years of the initiative to foster understanding of the green network concept, to identify thematic and geographic needs and opportunities and to then embed and articulate these in relevant plans and strategies. All strategic and local development plans within the CSGN area have reviewed the existing green network in their area and articulated, in their own way, local needs, opportunities, priorities and policies that will help realise the multiple benefits that can be gained.

In addition, SNH and other CSGN partners have contributed to the development of Single Outcomes Agreements across the CSGN area, many of which recognise the links between enhancements to the green network and a range of social, economic and environmental outcomes and set out relevant priorities for action that will guide investment by CPP partners. The Glasgow & Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership has supported Renfrewshire Council to develop a green network indicator for use in the local Single Outcome Agreement which will help track progress over time. This approach should be explored with other local authorities together with the potential for a CSGN wide indicator.

The revised Scottish Planning Policy, published in June 2014, incorporates, for the first time, a dedicated section on green infrastructure which promotes the value of incorporating the green network from the outset into strategic and local development plans, masterplans and development briefs and to guide development management decisions.

Since 2010-11 the CSGN Development Fund has provided over £5 million to around 69 organisations (119 projects) throughout the CSGN area. Projects supported range from site investigations, feasibility studies and masterplans to physical delivery of a range of greenspace, habitat and path network improvements. In addition, between 2011 and 2014 the CSGN Community Projects Fund has provided over £180,000 to community groups to improve the green network locally. Finally, in 2011-12 and 2012-13, the CSGN Outdoor Learning Fund provided over £130,000 to nurseries, schools and youth groups to enable them to improve their school grounds or local greenspace and to use them as a resource for outdoor learning.

### ***Aims for the Plan Period***

We will build on these strong foundations to broaden and deepen understanding of the CSGN and the importance of green networks and green infrastructure in successful placemaking and the delivery of a range of Government objectives. We will also ensure that support for delivery of priority green network improvements is available and that all relevant Scottish Government policies and programmes include supportive references.

As planning authorities complete and then begin to review and revise their development plans there will be a continuing need to ensure that green network policies and aspirations within the first generation of plans are up to date and that action programmes and development management decisions are helping to deliver progress towards the vision. SNH will lead on support for local authorities on this process – with input from Scottish Government Planning and Architecture Division and other key agencies.

We will work with colleagues across Government to emphasise the importance of the natural environment in general, and green infrastructure/networks in particular, in delivering local outcomes.

We will also ensure that funding is available to support the development and delivery of the green network through both dedicated funding streams and ensuring that activity to deliver the CSGN is eligible/prioritised in other Government funding

streams. The Development Fund has an important role in stimulating and supporting early action to deliver the CSGN and has resulted in a number of significant improvements to the quantity, quality and accessibility of the green network across central Scotland.

The CSGNT will take a lead role in promoting and administering the Fund on behalf of Government.

SNH is continuing to finalise proposals for a £37 million Green Infrastructure Fund as part of the 2014-20 European Social and Investment Funds Programme. With contributions from a range of organisations involved in urban renewal this will support a programme of large-scale green network investment projects across Scotland's cities and towns - the majority of which are expected to be in the CSGN area.

We will also ask the CSGNT to explore existing and new innovative funding sources to assess their potential to support the delivery and ongoing management of a diverse and vibrant green network. Such sources might include, for example, the use of carbon offsetting funding, biodiversity offsetting and private sector investment in corporate social responsibility programmes. This will include scoping a large scale programme or project that will impact across a significant area of the CSGN.

Finally, we will continue to work with the CSGNT to undertake a comprehensive communications programme – promoting understanding of the CSGN initiative and the benefits to be derived from it, encouraging and galvanizing action by all relevant partners, and identifying and promoting good practice in planning, delivery and management of the green network throughout central Scotland.

Allied to this we will continue to work with CSGNT to host meetings of the CSGN Regional Advisory Forum, to ensure that experience and ideas from those supporting delivery of the green network at a local level are fed into the CSGN Programme Committee and inform future revisions of this Programme Plan.

The future direction and priorities for the CSGN also need to be kept under review. An initial report on 'Costing the CSGN', that was commissioned by CSGNT will be supplemented by additional work to estimate the 'Value of the CSGN' and 'Resourcing the CSGN'. Together, these pieces of work will allow an analysis of where interventions are most required, and where best value for those interventions can be achieved and how these actions might be funded/resourced.

## **Supporting and Underpinning: Policy Context**

### **Programme for Government:**

- Creating More, Better Paid Jobs in a Strong, Sustainable Community
- Building a Fairer Scotland and Tackling Inequality
- Passing Power to People and Communities

**National Outcomes:**

- We live in a Scotland that is the most attractive place for doing business in Europe
- We live longer and healthier lives
- We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society
- We live in well-designed places where we are able to access the services and amenities we need
- We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect and enhance it for future generations

**CSGN Outcomes:**

- Contributes to all CSGN Outcomes <http://www.centralscotlandgreennetwork.org/>

Supporting and Underpinning Actions			
What we're doing	How we're doing it	Who's Doing It	Measurements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Embedding CSGN principles across Scottish Government Policy</li> <li>• Demonstrating leadership and championing the CSGN.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reflecting CSGN principles in key SG strategies and policies, including the Community Empowerment agenda and Land Use Strategy 2.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SG</b></li> <li>• CSGNT</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of policy docs and funding streams that reflect CSGN</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring green networks are referenced in all development plans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Local Authorities</b></li> <li>• SG</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actively promoting CSGN in ongoing engagement with local partners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>CSGNT</b></li> <li>• SG</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Identification and prioritisation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritising potential interventions and projects across: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Vacant and derelict land</li> <li>○ Active Travel</li> <li>○ Disadvantaged Communities</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Engaging with communities and building capacity to ensure they are involved in prioritisation work.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSGNT</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maps or work programmes developed identifying priority areas</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring funding streams are in place and are being used</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring the Development Fund is maintained, supported by a range of policy areas and contributes to multiple policy aims</li> <li>• CSGN recognised in SRDP targeting criteria</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SG</b></li> <li>• FCS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of policy documents and funding streams that reflect CSGN</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SNH Green Infrastructure +EcoCo Fund actively supports projects in line with the CSGN</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SNH</li> </ul>	

Supporting and Underpinning Actions			
What we're doing	How we're doing it	Who's Doing It	Measurements
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highlighting potential for funding to stakeholders across all elements of the CSGN programme</li> <li>• Scoping proposal for large scale green network programme/ project utilising existing or new funding streams including potential EU funding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSGNT</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inform future priorities for the CSGN by developing a cost/benefit analysis.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'Valuing the CSGN' report produced.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SG</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'Resourcing the CSGN' report produced</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSGNT</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring progress towards the Vision</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conducting a five year review against the 2010 baseline</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSGNT</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publication and dissemination of the findings</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring communications are effective and directed at key audiences</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication strategy published</li> <li>• CSGN annual review published</li> <li>• CSGN annual forum held</li> <li>• CSGN RAF meetings held</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSGNT</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual value of CSGN media coverage</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sharing of good practice across CSGN area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learning Work undertaken with all 19 Local Authorities to promote best practice and to provide technical support and assistance including promoting potential SOA indicators</li> <li>• Reviewing and updating Concordats with local authorities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>CSGNT</b></li> <li>• Local Authorities</li> </ul>	

## **3.2 Greening of Vacant & Derelict Land**

### ***Context & Action to Date***

Vacant and Derelict land (VDL) in Scotland is concentrated in the CSGN area (8,637ha over 3,000 sites) and, in particular, Glasgow, Lanarkshire, and parts of Fife and Ayrshire. Within these areas we also know that the location and nature of sites varies considerably but that, on average, they are concentrated in and around our most disadvantaged communities – impacting on their quality of life and health and wellbeing.

Derelict (and poorly maintained vacant sites) can cause a blight on local communities and derelict sites can cause environmental problems through, for example, the discharge of pollution into nearby watercourses and the proliferation of invasive non-native species. Nevertheless, a number of derelict sites have developed significant biodiversity value in their current state, for example, through the development of open mosaic habitats that are havens for invertebrates. In addition, some sites that have lain derelict or vacant for some time are already used informally for recreation by local communities and may need minimal intervention to enhance their value in this respect.

The National Planning Framework and Scottish Planning Policy make clear the Scottish Government's ambition that vacant sites should be redeveloped as soon as possible and that the majority of derelict sites will be redeveloped in the longer term. Accordingly, planning authorities should identify in Development Plans the suitability of sites for redevelopment to housing or other 'hard' end uses. Nevertheless, a significant proportion of sites are in locations which are unsuitable and/or the costs of remediation make them uneconomic for redevelopment. In addition, many derelict sites (and some vacant) have remained so for many years and, given current housing market conditions, may not be redeveloped for some considerable time.

In these circumstances, planning authorities are encouraged to identify sites where a permanent or temporary green use may be suitable. In doing so, there is a considerable opportunity to contribute to the development of the CSGN – particularly by considering sites in their wider context and their potential to contribute, for example, to local habitat and/or open space networks.

Since the publication of NPF2 (and, indeed, before that) planning authorities, Scottish Government agencies and NGOs have been exploring the potential contribution that vacant and derelict sites could make to green networks. Since 2010, a number of studies identifying suitable sites and developing proposals for green remediation/reuse have been supported. In a number of cases this has led on to temporary or permanent greening solutions being delivered. For example, the Glasgow City Council led 'Stalled Spaces' project has led to the temporary greening of over 60 sites across the city, making a valuable contribution to local open/Greenspace networks, whilst the development proposals for sites are on hold. The success of the project has led to recognition through the Scottish Awards for Quality in Planning in 2013 and the 2013 City to City Barcelona Fostering Arts and Design Award.

To help support the implementation of solutions 'greening' was reintroduced to the objectives of the Scottish Vacant and Derelict Land Fund in 2011-12. This has resulted in a number of greening solutions being delivered in Glasgow and North and South Lanarkshire. In addition, vacant and derelict land has been identified as a priority in the criteria and targeting of the CSGN Development Fund since its inception in 2010-11 and this has resulted in around 27 projects addressing this priority being supported over the past 5 years. In 2015, subject to parliamentary approval, Fife Council will join Glasgow, North Lanarkshire and South Lanarkshire (in the CSGN area) in being able to bid into the fund.

Nevertheless, to date, greening is still the exception rather than the norm and the challenge now is to build upon the good examples of greening that have taken place during the early years of the initiative to encourage others to adopt these practices and to bring more land that will not be redeveloped back into positive use.

To raise awareness and support action, Lothians & Fife Green Network Partnership and CSGNT have been working on a joint study to assess all of the vacant and derelict land in the five council areas. Reports have been issued to each council highlighting which of their VDL sites have the potential for greening. Each council has been asked to verify the reports prior to a final version being made available. Thereafter, LFGNP will work with each council to take forward any agreed projects.

In the summer of 2014, a CSGNT Board Short Term Working Group on vacant and derelict land was established. The group hosted a workshop in November to look at the issues surrounding the greening of vacant and derelict land. Recommendations on follow up action arising from the discussions at the workshop will be put to CSGNT's full board in February for approval. These actions will be progressed by CSGNT in the first part of this Programme Plan period.

In December 2014, Architecture & Design Scotland launched a National Stalled Spaces programme supported by Glasgow City Council. Support was offered to 7 local authorities (5 in the CSGN area) to develop their own stalled spaces small grant programmes based on the Glasgow model.

### ***Aims for the Plan Period***

Ministers have identified the remediation and greening of derelict land as a priority for the CSGN in the NPF3. Doing so can also contribute to the themes identified within the Programme for Government. As such, it will be a focus for action by the Scottish Government and the CSGNT during the next phase of the initiative.

The overall intention for 2015-19 is to increase the number and proportion of sites that are identified as suitable for permanent or temporary green uses and then to deliver such solutions on a significant number of sites.

By the end of the plan period we aim to be in a position whereby each local authority in the CSGN area will have received an assessment of the greening potential of VDL in their area.

We will encourage local authorities to use this information to inform their Development Plan(s) and/or their SVDLs returns.

The work on Costing the CSGN, carried out in 2014, has flagged the likely costs of greening sites. The assumptions of areas (4000+ha of naturalisation, 800+ ha of permanent greening and 900+ha of temporary greening) now need to be tested against the sites assessments.

We will also ensure that all public sector organisations owning significant amounts of VDL will have reviewed their holdings and identified and prioritised sites where there may be potential for greening to be used as (part of) the temporary or long term solution. CSGNT, working with the Regional Green Network Partners, will play a leading role in co-ordinating and supporting such assessments and in helping to identify sites where the impact on surrounding communities is greatest and where action will be prioritised.

We will also ask CSGNT to work with local authorities and the Regional Green Network Partnership to explore how the SVDLs and Development Plans might be used more proactively to identify the potential for temporary or permanent greening.

In addition, CSGNT will prepare a suite of case studies of successful greening projects and will share and promote progress and good practice widely amongst relevant stakeholders.

To support the delivery of solutions on the ground we will continue to include greening solutions in the objectives of the VDL Fund and the CSGN Development Fund. Action on VDL has also been identified as one of the objectives of the proposed Green Infrastructure element of the next programme of EU Structural Funds in Scotland.

Finally, we will continue to consider the need for new or updated technical guidance on the recording or remediation of vacant and derelict land for green uses.

Our hope, and expectation, is that these supporting actions and, critically, the availability of funding will result in higher numbers of sites being identified as suitable for temporary or permanent greening and for more of these sites being successfully treated.

## **Vacant and Derelict Land: Policy Context**

### **Programme for Government:**

- Creating More, Better Paid Jobs in a Strong, Sustainable Community
- Building a Fairer Scotland and Tackling Inequality
- Passing Power to People and Communities

### **National Outcomes:**

- We live in a Scotland that is the most attractive place for doing business in Europe
- We live longer and healthier lives
- We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society
- We live in well-designed places where we are able to access the services and amenities we need
- We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect and enhance it for future generations

### **CSGN Outcomes:**

- Businesses want to be based in Central Scotland
- Increased levels of economic activity, competitiveness and employment
- Natural resources are valued and managed
- A region in better carbon balance
- People feel good about their physical surroundings
- More people use and enjoy outdoor space
- Improved levels of physical and mental well-being
- People want to live and move here
- People feel safe and have pride in their surroundings

Vacant and Derelict Land			
What we're doing	How we're Doing it	Who's Doing It	Measurements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improving data quality and availability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data requirements updated and data collected and compiled nationally to aid GN analysis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>SG</b></li> <li>CSGNT</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number (and proportion) of sites on the SVDLs identified as suitable for temp or permanent greening</li> <li>Amount of urban vacant and derelict land out of use since at least 2000 (sites over 100ha removed)</li> <li>Number of derelict sites on the SVDLs in CSGN area</li> <li>Number of sites where temporary greening has been undertaken</li> <li>Number of sites removed from the SVDLs following permanent greening</li> <li>Amount of urban vacant and derelict land in 15% most Employment Deprived Datazones</li> <li>Proximity to disadvantaged communities</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting temporary greening</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encouraging local development plans to promote the temporary use of unused or under used land as green infrastructure (whilst making clear that this will not prevent any future development potential which has been identified from being realised)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>SG</b></li> <li>Local authorities</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting regeneration, including greening, of vacant and derelict land, through provision of funding sources and policies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting local authorities receiving V&amp;DL Funds to incorporate green networks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>CSGNT</b></li> <li>SG</li> <li>Regional Partners</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting Natural Greening</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scoping a potential Training Programme for managing natural regeneration in 2016/17 and identifying how this could be resourced.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CSGNT</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting Temporary Productive Woodlands</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigating the potential of publically owned sites to be used for temporary productive woodlands and exploring this with a wood fuel company.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>CSGNT</b></li> <li>FCS</li> <li>SE</li> <li>SFT</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting advance greening of VDL sites</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developing a methodology to identify and target key sites for treatment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>SG</b></li> <li>SE</li> <li>Pilot Council</li> </ul>	

### 3.3 Developing Active Travel Networks

#### **Context & Action to Date**

Walking and cycling are the most sustainable forms of transport and also have significant health benefits. In addition, there is evidence to suggest that walking and cycling through greenspaces or green corridors have even greater health benefits due to people's biophysical response to observing and being amongst nature.

The Cycling Action Plan for Scotland (CAPS) was updated in June 2013 and sets out 19 actions that, collectively, will help achieve the vision of 10% of everyday journeys being made by bike by 2020. In addition, Let's Get Scotland Walking - The National Walking Strategy was published in June 2014. This encourages significant behaviour change in the Scottish population by enabling walking for people of all ages and abilities: from the short walk to the local shop; to parks and greenspace; for day to day activity; and for recreation. Both the National Walking Strategy and CAPS form part of the new Scottish Government Physical Activity Implementation Plan – "A More Active Scotland"<sup>1</sup> and will help achieve the long term vision for Active Travel in Scotland in 2030 published last year<sup>2</sup>.

In addition, all local authorities are being encouraged to prepare Active Travel Strategies and are responsible for preparing Core Path Plans and open space audits. Following the designation of the CSGN as a National Development, planning authorities have been linking these to, and through, their local development plans to identify where the potential of development to enhance the green network can be harnessed and where investment should be targeted to maximise multiple benefits. SNH has been supporting authorities in this work and a number of examples of good practice now exist.

The Statement of Need for the CSGN in NPF2 and the CSGN Vision identified the development of a strategic network of active travel and recreational routes as one of the ambitions to be delivered. Early work commissioned by SNH and the CSGN Support Unit in 2010<sup>3</sup> gathered baseline information on the existing network, identified opportunities for new and improved provision and made a number of recommendations for future action. More recently, SNH and Paths for All commissioned Transform Scotland to develop a Strategic Statement on Active Travel for the CSGN<sup>4</sup>. Both reports have highlighted a number of thematic and geographically specific opportunities for work by CSGN partners that would add value to the work already being undertaken by local authorities and organisations like Sustrans to extend and enhance active travel networks throughout the Central Scotland area and to increase the number of journeys made by walking and cycling.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2014/02/8239/0>

<sup>2</sup>

[http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/sites/default/files/554346\\_334708\\_Active\\_Travel\\_210mm\\_p9\\_HR\\_20141126103050.pdf](http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/sites/default/files/554346_334708_Active_Travel_210mm_p9_HR_20141126103050.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> "Planning for Outdoor Recreation and Active Travel in the Central Scotland Green Network" – AECOM, September 2010

<sup>4</sup> INSERT WEBLINK ONCE FINAL

An early development on the ground, identified by the CSGN Chairman and taken forward by SNH on behalf of the Partnership Board, was the extension of the John Muir Way from East Lothian through Central Scotland. The extended route was opened on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2014 by the First Minister and runs from Muir's birthplace in Dunbar, to Scotland's first National Park at Loch Lomond and on to Helensburgh. The new John Muir Way is expected to attract large numbers of visitors from both Scotland and abroad and to provide significant economic benefits to communities along the route. Whilst primarily envisaged as a long distance recreational and tourist route, sections of the new route will link key destinations in Central Scotland and provide opportunities for local residents to choose walking and cycling for everyday journeys.

In addition, a range of policies, plans and strategies in recent years<sup>5</sup> have highlighted the importance of taking a proactive approach to ensuring that walking and cycling are realistic choices for everyday journeys. Recent Scottish Government policy and guidance<sup>6</sup> highlight the opportunities that exist to integrate green infrastructure into enhancements to the transport network and, conversely, to deliver improved walking and cycling networks as part of enhancements to greenspaces. Projects like the Smarter Choices, Smarter Places<sup>7</sup> pilots in Falkirk and Barrhead, and the proposed enhancements to the Lyneburn Corridor in Dunfermline<sup>8</sup> show the potential multiple benefits that can be delivered.

SNH also funded Paths for All to produce a series of case studies to demonstrate how active travel can be promoted by different kinds of organisations in different settings. The CSGN Support Unit (now CSGNT) worked with PFA on the promotion of the case studies. They can be viewed at: <http://www.pathsforall.org.uk/pfa/get-involved/active-travel-case-studies.html>

More recently, SNH has been progressing its thinking on the relationship between the existing draft LDR network and Active Travel to take account of:

- the advent of the National Walking and Cycling Network (NWCN) project, now adopted within the published NPF3 Framework as a national development no.8, and
- greater emphasis on active travel for CSGN within the NPF3 as adopted national development no.6, specifically for the 'construction of new walking and cycling routes exceeding 8 kilometres' (5 miles).

This has led SNH to identify the need to develop a CSGN Strategic Routes Network of high quality routes for active walking and cycling and recreation throughout Central Scotland. SNH is currently working on the concept and plans to consult with CSGN partners to develop this further and seek consensus on the project purpose

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<sup>5</sup> See, for example, RPP2, Good Places Better Health, the revised Scottish Planning Policy, CAPS etc

<sup>6</sup> See, for example, the revised Scottish Planning Policy, Designing Streets and "Green Infrastructure: Design and Placemaking" <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/362219/0122541.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/roads/sustainable-transport/funding-for-projects/smarter-choices-smarter-places>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.lfgnp.org.uk/news/25/39/Lyne-Burn-Green-Network/d,Projects>

and priority routes. The aim would be to have a project plan and updated network map in place by around April 2015.

Finally, a number of active travel related projects have been supported through the CSGN Development Fund over the past 5 years. These include support for the Wise Group, the Cassiltoun Trust and Fife Council to employ and train young people as part of a programme of improvements to local path networks in Lesmahagow, Castlemilk and Fife respectively. In West Dunbartonshire and Irvine Bay enhancements to paths linking residential areas with employment sites have been supported, whilst in Edinburgh and Renfrewshire funded projects have focused on improving biodiversity along the National Cycle Network. In total, some 40 projects with an active travel focus have been supported through the Development Fund since 2010.

During 2014 a CSGNT Board Short Term Working Group on Active Travel was established to define the link between active travel and the CSGN, to oversee the development of a CSGN Active Travel Programme agreed with relevant stakeholders. The programme, which will focus on Active Travel + Greening, will be ready by the end of March 2015 and go operational in 2015/16. The actions within this will be progressed throughout this Programme Plan period by CSGNT and active travel partners.

In 2014-15, Transport Scotland allocated £5.6 million to CSGN local authorities for cycling, walking and safer streets projects, whilst Sustrans received over £20 million to develop the National Cycle Network and to support their Community Links programme across Scotland. Further funding of £5 million was made available in 2015-16 to local authorities under the Smarter Choices, Smarter Places initiative and will be targeted at improved signage, local branding, mapping, and personal travel planning to encourage modal shift – particularly to active travel modes. A significant proportion of this investment is taking place in the CSGN area (and within that is focused in and around towns and cities) due to the concentration of the Scottish population here. In addition, local authorities and others are matching investment from Transport Scotland and Sustrans with their own funds to enhance and expand the network of walking and cycling routes across the area.

Local authorities and Regional Transport Partnerships are also receiving support from a dedicated officer at Sustrans (funded by Transport Scotland) to prepare or update a cycling and walking strategy for their area. It is expected that these will identify the key gaps in the local active travel network, key opportunities to develop the network and the actions required to meet the CAPS ambition in their area.

Paths for All currently provide a wide range of services that are used by local authorities, Agencies, NGOs and Community Groups across the CSGN area to support and encourage active travel. These include: an online information and knowledge exchange hub; support for the Walking for Health Scheme Co-ordinators Network; support for path development, improvement and promotion, plus community capacity building through their Local People, Local Paths initiative; and technical advice and guidance through Scottish Access Technical Information Network (SATIN). Active travel is also promoted across the CSGN area through Paths for All's workplace walk leader programme and through the wider health walk

network. Paths for All will also be funding and working with Living Streets Scotland to deliver walking to school initiatives and Ramblers Scotland to extend and develop their Medal Routes network.

Funding for active travel projects in the CSGN area will also be available through the Scottish European Structural and Investment Funds 2014-20. For example, the Green Infrastructure Fund, coordinated by SNH will support projects which improve access to greenspaces.

### ***Aims for the Plan Period***

Our aim for the 2014-19 period is to optimise improvements to the network of off-road walking and cycling routes throughout the CSGN area such that the connections through, to and between greenspaces, green corridors and people's homes and key destinations (e.g. work, school, education and shopping) are maximised and well promoted. We will, therefore, ask SNH and CSGNT to work with key active travel partners to identify where gaps in the networks and existing activity may exist, and/or where further support to deliver new links may be needed as part of a wider green network strategy.

We will also aim to identify links between 'local' walking and cycling networks, 'strategic' active travel routes and longer distance recreational routes to ensure that investment by all partners is optimised to deliver multiple benefits and value for money. There is also an opportunity to examine where improvements and extensions to the active travel network may be delivered in ways which provide associated benefits – for example, in terms of biodiversity through habitat management or creation, or in terms of climate change adaptation through the incorporation of green infrastructure solutions. We will ask CSGNT to bring this insight and mind-set to their discussions with active travel partners.

Through the CSGN Active Travel + Greening Programme, CSGNT will work with SNH, local authorities, Regional Green Network Partnerships and active travel organisations to target gaps in the network where activity is not already planned and/or where opportunities exist to catalyse action to extend or enhance path networks. At the same time, we will work with the health sector, local authorities and NGOs to ensure support and encouragement is provided to people to take up new opportunities to walk and cycle created as a result of CSGN action. Only this co-ordinated approach will harness to the full the opportunities provided for sustainability and health improvements.

## **Active Travel: Policy Context**

### **Programme for Government:**

- Creating More, Better Paid Jobs in a Strong, Sustainable Community
- Building a Fairer Scotland and Tackling Inequality
- Passing Power to People and Communities

### **National Outcomes:**

- We live longer and healthier lives
- We live in well-designed places where we are able to access the services and amenities we need
- We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect and enhance it for future generations

### **CSGN Outcomes:**

- Increased levels of tourism
- A region in greater carbon balance
- A reduction in air pollution
- A reduction in noise pollution
- Lower travel costs for working families
- A reduction in Road Traffic Accidents
- More people use and enjoy outdoor spaces
- Improved levels of physical and mental well-being
- A reduction in health inequalities
- A reduction in cases of preventable health problems
- Habitats and species will become more resilient as a result of an integrated habitat network
- Characterful, high quality landscapes add value to the region

Active Travel			
What we're doing	How we're doing it	Who's Doing It	Measurements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mapping active travel and greening priorities in the CSGN area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identifying gaps in the active travel network and greening opportunities in the CSGN area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Sustrans</b></li> <li>CSGNT</li> <li>Local Authorities</li> <li>RTP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Date of last update of active travel map(s) and priority projects assessment.</li> <li>Up to date stakeholder list.</li> <li>Kilometres of greened foot/cycle path a) created and b) upgraded in the CSGN area.</li> <li>Publication of CSGN Active Travel Plan (a number of actions will be reflected in the accompanying CSGNT Business Plan when the active travel plan is finalised).</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developing a network of relevant stakeholders and practitioners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CSGNT</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting proposals for active travel projects</li> <li>Implementing CSGN Active travel + Greening Work Programme with stakeholders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preparing at least 5 priority Active Travel and Greening projects with partners.</li> <li>Submitting at least 3 Active Travel and Greening project applications.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Sustrans</b></li> <li><b>CSGNT</b></li> <li>SNH</li> <li>PfA</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalising a dedicated Active Travel and Greening Work Programme</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CSGNT</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintaining and developing CSGN strategic routes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identifying and developing potential strategic routes</li> <li>Exploring and developing mechanisms for the maintenance and development of the John Muir Way, including engagement with businesses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>CSGNT</b></li> <li>SNH</li> <li>Local partners</li> </ul>	

### 3.4 Delivering Improvements in Disadvantaged Areas

#### **Context & Action to Date**

We know that access to high quality Greenspace within a 5 minute walk can have a significant impact on both physical and mental health, and is an important factor in neighbourhood satisfaction. As Greenspace Scotland has noted: “What you see when you open your curtains in the morning determines everything ... how you feel about the place where you stay, how you feel about yourself, whether you have the self-confidence and motivation to go to work, whether you let your kids out to play, indeed, whether you even get up in the morning”.<sup>9</sup>

A number of relevant Government policies and strategies recognise this – for example, “Achieving a Sustainable Future: The Regeneration Strategy”<sup>10</sup> and “Good Places, Better Health”, the Scottish Government’s strategy on health and the environment<sup>11</sup>. In addition, the Vacant and Derelict Land Fund recognises the impact that living in close proximity to derelict land can have on people’s health and, accordingly, prioritises investment in tackling sites in the most deprived neighbourhoods.

The CSGN Vision contains an ambition that every household should have access to attractive, safe and well maintained Greenspace (or accessible countryside) within an easy walk of their home and also that local pride and ownership of the CSGN will be fostered.

However, results from the National 2011 Greenspace Use and Attitudes Survey<sup>12</sup> showed that use of, and satisfaction with, local greenspaces had declined, following sustained increases over a number of years. Results from the Scottish Recreation Survey 2012<sup>13</sup> showed that local parks and greenspaces were by far the most important destination for people visiting the outdoors but also recorded a decrease in the number of visits recorded (although the long term trend is fairly stable). Furthermore, we know that, on average, people in our most deprived communities have the poorest access to Greenspace and are likely to be least satisfied with the quality of their local greenspace or feel that it helps to make their community a great place to live.

Scotland’s Greenspace map was completed and launched online in 2011 with the help of a number of CSGN partners. The map now provides consistent information about the provision of Greenspace in urban Scotland and enables detailed analysis of access to greenspace of different types to be undertaken by local authorities and their partners. However, the greenspace map only records where greenspace exists and what type it is. It does not contain any information about the quality of that greenspace.

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<http://www.greenspacescotland.org.uk/SharedFiles/Download.aspx?pageid=133&mid=129&fileid=99>

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/364595/0123891.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/254447/0075343.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.greenspacescotland.org.uk/1greenspace-survey-2011.aspx>

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.greenspacescotland.org.uk/scottish-recreation-survey-2012.aspx>

We know that the function(s) and quality of greenspaces are also important to people's perceptions and use of them. Poorly designed and maintained greenspaces; or spaces without a clear purpose(s) and function(s) can actually act to the detriment of the image of an area. For example, in some areas so called 'green deserts' (large areas of 'monoculture' greenspace) impose high maintenance costs on local authorities and registered social landlords but provide low levels of usage and satisfaction for local residents. In such areas there are opportunities to review the function and maintenance of greenspaces and reimagine the contribution that they might make to a range of objectives by, for example, incorporating more diverse and natural features.

Across the CSGN area, through their open/green space audits and strategies local authorities have been reviewing the provision of, and access to, high quality natural and semi-natural environments in their urban areas to prioritise communities where improvements to the quantity, quality or accessibility of greenspaces are needed. By linking these audits to local development plans authorities are beginning to identify where opportunities may exist to harness development proposals to enhance access to high quality natural environments and/or where investment is needed.

The CSGN Development Fund has prioritised projects that aim to address deficits identified in open/green space audits and strategies and, hence, where it can be demonstrated that investment will be most valuable. Examples of projects funded over the past 5 years include improvements to the grounds of the David Livingstone Centre in Blantyre, the creation of the "Secret Garden" at Restalrig in Edinburgh, and improvements to the path network in Castlemilk woodlands. Furthermore, the CSGN Community Projects Fund has provided support for small scale, community led improvements to local greenspaces, many of which have been in disadvantaged neighbourhoods across the CSGN.

Forestry Commission Scotland, and its delivery arm Forest Enterprise Scotland, have also been focusing its efforts on disadvantaged areas through the Woods In and Around Towns (WIAT) programme. Over the past 9 years WIAT has focused attention and resources on bringing neglected urban and peri-urban woodlands back into active management and on planting new 'community' woodlands close to where people live. Since 2005, over £60 million has been invested in urban woodlands, helping to bring over 11,500 hectares of neglected woodlands back into active management, creating 1,600 hectares of new woodland and delivering an extensive programme of outreach work to encourage people living in urban Scotland to use and enjoy their local woods. Recent research has shown that the grants to private and local authority woodland owners has resulted in the number of visits to woodlands in the programme has increased by 20-25%, with the largest increases taking place in the most disadvantaged areas.

In addition, Forest Enterprise Scotland has been undertaking a programme of disposals and acquisitions that have seen it take over ownership or management of a number of sites in urban, central Scotland. Significant examples include working in partnership with NHS Forth Valley to rejuvenate the woodlands adjacent to the new Forth Valley Royal Hospital at Larbert to enable them to be used for recovery and recreation by patients, staff and local residents. In the Clyde Gateway area a string of Commonwealth Community Woodlands is being created in and around some of

our most deprived communities at Cunningar Loop, Greenoakhill and Old Mine Nature Park at Bothwell. Together with other sites across central Scotland, these will provide a fitting legacy for the Commonwealth Games and will provide safe and attractive greenspace on people's doorsteps.

SNH has also grant aided a number of projects which help communities to improve their local greenspaces. Grants have supported volunteering and community activities in a number of disadvantaged areas including, for example, Possilpark in Glasgow and Cultenhove in Stirling. SNH also provide grant funding for the CSV Action Earth programme, which distributes small grants to local groups to make a positive difference to their local environment and local nature reserves through volunteering.

In 2012 the CSGN Partnership Board convened a Short Term Housing Working Group to look at issues around the quantity and quality of greenspace around housing. The group engaged greenspace Scotland to undertake a scoping study of the evidence base around the impact of poor access to high quality spaces and current activity in the CSGN area to address such deficits. The study identified a substantial evidence base about the impacts and made a number of recommendations for further work by the CSGN partnership, including drawing together a co-ordinated action plan, identifying and promoting existing examples of good practice and exploring the potential for a Scottish version of the Neighbourhoods Green Partnership/Initiative that has operated in England for a number of years. The study and the recommendations are relevant in the context of addressing environmental issues in disadvantaged communities.

NPF3 identifies environmental enhancements in disadvantaged areas as a priority for the initiative. The challenge is to use existing information to identify where deficits in greenspaces of different types exist and then to target action where it is most needed and where the benefits (in terms of health and quality of life) will be greatest. CSGNT was tasked with identifying criteria to target interventions to areas of greatest. A workshop of interested stakeholders was held in August 2014 to look at possible criteria and datasets which could be used to do the mapping. CSGNT's Board reflected on the workshop and then agreed the criteria to be used. Relevant datasets have been obtained and work is ongoing to prepare these data for analysis and to develop weightings and options to generate a map of the CSGN Disadvantaged Areas.

### ***Aims for the Plan Period***

In the next phase of the initiative we will ask CSGNT to test this map with CSGN stakeholders and to then begin the process of working with local authorities, Regional Green Network Partnerships, Registered Social Landlords and Housebuilders/Developers to identify priority greenspace projects to meet local identified environmental deficits. This will then enable bespoke solutions to be developed and implemented for priority locations and communities.

We will ensure that the importance of improving access to high quality greenspace is recognised in relevant policy documents and guidance (for example, forthcoming guidance on preparing local housing strategies and the Scottish Place Standard). A

programme of communications and good practice sharing will be undertaken promoting the benefits of enhancing greenspaces and natural environments and incorporating green infrastructure solutions into both new build and regeneration developments, and retrofitting into existing communities. In this way we aim to encourage and enable Developers, registered Social Landlords, Communities and others to make improvements to the way that greenspaces are planned, delivered and maintained.

We will also ensure that funding is available to support improvements on the ground where greenspace deficits are identified. Potential funding sources include, for example, the Regeneration Capital Grants Fund (e.g. for facilitating green projects with an emphasis on apprenticeships and training), the Landfill Communities Fund, and the Scottish Rural Development Programme (e.g. for woodland creation and management in and around towns) and the Green Infrastructure element of the European Social and Investment Funds. In addition, we will continue to prioritise improvements in disadvantaged areas in the CSGN Development Fund.

Furthermore, we will continue to focus the efforts and investment of Scottish Government Departments and Agencies on improving the environment in disadvantaged communities. For example, Forestry Commission Scotland will continue to develop and implement its WIAT programme, encouraging and supporting local authorities and others to bring urban woodlands back into active management and to plant new community woodlands. Associated programmes like Forest School & Forest Kindergarten, and Branching Out, will continue to promote and support the use of local woodlands by education and health professionals for learning and health improvement. Forest Enterprise Scotland will continue to focus its repositioning programme on planting new, and taking over the management of existing, woodlands close to where people live and where the associated socio-economic benefits will be greatest.

Grants from SNH (either directly, or through voluntary sector partners such as CSV and TCV) will also be available to help communities in disadvantaged areas improve, and benefit from, their local greenspace.

## **Environmental Improvements in Disadvantaged Areas: Policy Context**

### **Programme for Government:**

- Creating More, Better Paid Jobs in a Strong, Sustainable Community
- Building a Fairer Scotland and Tackling Inequality
- Passing Power to People and Communities

### **National Outcomes:**

- We live longer and healthier lives
- We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish Society
- We live in well-designed places where we are able to access the services and amenities we need
- We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect and enhance it for future generations

### **CSGN Outcomes:**

- Increased levels of economic activity, competitiveness and employment
- Communities which function well and can cope with change
- Natural resources are valued and managed
- A region in greater carbon balance
- People feel good about their physical surroundings
- More people use and enjoy outdoor space
- Improved levels of physical and mental well-being
- A reduction in health inequalities
- People want to live and move here
- People feel safe and have pride in their surroundings
- People feel that they live in communities, not in isolation
- People are involved in volunteering and community action
- Characterful, high quality landscapes add value to the region

Delivering Environmental Improvements in Disadvantaged Communities			
What we're doing	How we're doing it	Who	Measurements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mapping and prioritising action in disadvantaged areas in the CSGN</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disseminating 2015 DA map to councils and seeking consensus on priority areas</li> <li>• Improving data/data collection with providers to support future mapping</li> <li>• Mapping exercise rerun in 2016 using additional data with any variations flagged to project partners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>CSGNT</b></li> <li>• SG</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Percentage of population who feel strongly that “my greenspace is an attractive place”</li> <li>• Number of community led greenspace projects in CSGN area</li> <li>• High quality urban greenspace per head of population in disadvantaged areas</li> <li>• Proportion of adults in disadvantaged areas making one or more visits to the outdoors per week</li> <li>• Number of high quality greenspace a) creation and b) upgrade projects supported in the CSGN area</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifying and prioritising projects in Disadvantaged Areas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertaking relevant research and surveys ensuring prioritisation process and research addresses local needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSGNT</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting community-led environmental improvement projects in disadvantaged areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scoping a potential new CSGN Community Project Fund that reflects the ambitions in the Community Empowerment Bill</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>CSGNT</b></li> <li>• SG</li> <li>• SNH</li> <li>• Funders</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Targeted communications campaign</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing a ‘Homes Pack’ to assist tenants and RSLs improve new or existing greenspace/gardens.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSGNT</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engaging with Health Boards</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with NHS Health Scotland in the development of the ‘Place Standard’.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSGNT</li> </ul>	

#### **4. Monitoring and Evaluation**

The CSGN Programme Committee will receive regular reports on progress with the delivery of the milestones in this Programme Plan and annual reports on the output and outcome measures within it. This will inform ongoing and regular review of the content of the Plan.

The Plan is intended to be a 'live' document and will be kept under review and updated when relevant by the CSGN Programme Manager.

In addition, annual updates on progress with the milestones and indicators will be published in the Scottish Government and CSGN websites in July each year.

Where regular review indicates that progress is behind schedule the CSGN Programme Committee will consider what remedial action might be taken to rectify the situation and/or whether milestones need to be revised. Furthermore, the CSGN Programme Committee will also keep under review the relevance of the geographic and thematic focus identified in NPF3 and consider whether additional or alternative priorities need to be highlighted.

It is important to note that monitoring and evaluation of this Programme Plan is distinct from (but related to) long term monitoring of progress towards the CSGN Vision through the set of 10 indicators identified in the 2010 CSGN Baseline Report<sup>14</sup> by CSGNT.

#### **5. Conclusions**

This Programme Plan provides a strategic steer for the Scottish Government's Vision for the Central Scotland Green Network.

The CSGN can play a crucial part in delivering the Government's Programme for Government and its importance in transforming the central belt has been recognised by its status as a National Development in the national Planning Framework 3.

Meeting the CSGN Vision will require the commitment and input of a range of stakeholders. CSGN can help different policy areas across Scottish Government to achieve their aims but to do so will require these policy areas to actively contribute to the development of the CSGN strategy and to make resources available to deliver multiple benefits.

CSGNT has a significant role in delivering the Vision and will be supported through an offer of grant made by the Scottish Government. This offer will be dependent on the agreement of the Programme Committee to the CSGNT Business Plan which will contain detailed milestones against which progress can be measured.

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<sup>14</sup> <http://www.centralscotlandgreennetwork.org/resources/publications/category/47-monitoring-and-evaluation?download=33>