

CSGN Programme Plan 2016/17

1. Introduction

The CSGN was first conceived in 2007 and in 2011 the Vision and long term ambitions of the Network were agreed. It is Europe's largest greenspace project and contributes towards the delivery of numerous Scottish Government policies.

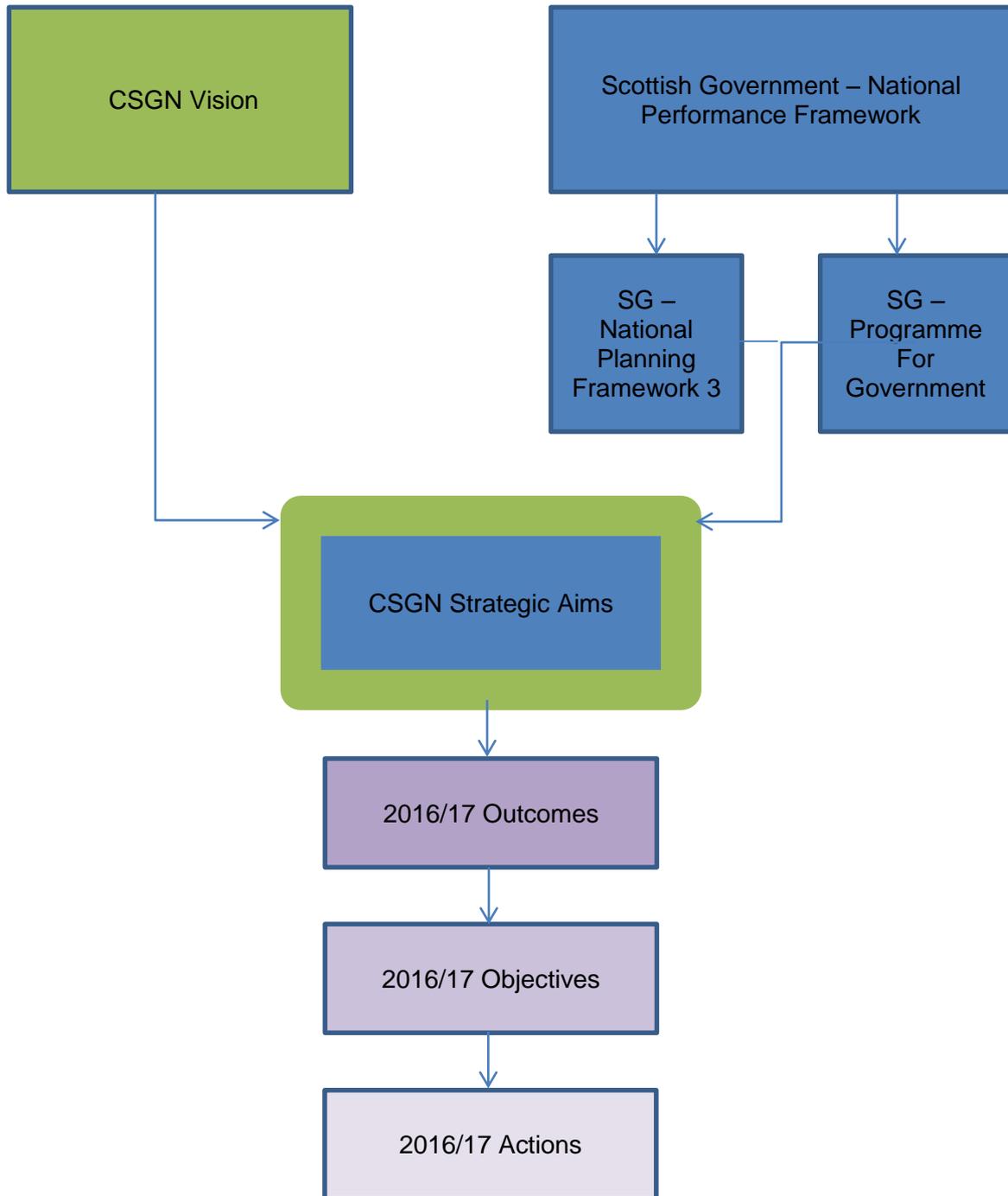
The previous Programme Plan for 2015/16 set out the CSGN within the context of the Programme for Government and National Planning Framework 3 priorities. The year has seen significant progress including developing the evidence base for the drafting of cost, benefits and resourcing the CSGN reports. In policy terms the revised Vacant and Derelict Land Fund has strengthened its requirements around green networks and, on the ground, projects such as the extension to the John Muir Way at Kilpatrick has also been opened which is an important part of developing a route that threads across central Scotland and is accessible to many of the CSGN's 3.5 million residents.

Details of progress against individual milestones in the 2015/16 report is detailed in a separate report.

This Programme Plan 2016/17 builds on last year's approach with the development of 'Strategic Aims'. These Strategic Aims take into account long term (e.g. the CSGN Vision) as well as shorter term (e.g. Programme for Government) drivers to develop outcomes, objectives and actions for 2016/17 (see diagram A). These Strategic Aims give focus to the programme and provide the basis for structuring the associated actions.

Diagram A

CSGN Programme Structure 2016/17



2 Context and Policy Drivers

2.1 CSGN Vision and Themes

The CSGN aims to transform Scotland's central belt and so must be considered a long term programme. Because of this the CSGN Vision looks ahead to 2050 which gives a consistency of ambition over time. Five themes provide the direction to deliver this vision.

CSGN Vision:

By 2050, Central Scotland has been transformed into a place where the environment adds value to the economy and where people's lives are enriched by its quality.

CSGN Themes:

A place for growth – Creating an environment for sustainable economic growth.

A place in balance – Creating an environment more in balance, one that will support Central Scotland to thrive in a changing climate.

A place to feel good - Creating an environment which supports healthy lifestyles and good physical and mental well-being.

A place to belong - Creating an environment that people can enjoy and where they choose to live and bring up their families.

A place for nature - Creating an environment where nature can flourish.

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.

2.2 CSGN and the National Performance Framework

The Scottish Government's Purpose is:

'To focus Government and public services on creating a more successful country with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through increasing sustainable growth'

The CSGN has and will continue to contribute directly to this aim and also to delivering many of the National Outcomes, particularly:

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

2.3 CSGN and the Programme for Government

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

A Stronger and Fairer Scotland

The CSGN programme 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.

A Strong, Sustainable Economy.

At the heart of the CSGN programme 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.

Strengthening our Communities

The CSGN programme will help to empower community groups and improve the quality of the land in their area. The CSGN Trust will assist community groups in both the development and implementation of projects by co-ordinating activity, providing technical advice, highlighting funding opportunities and administering the CSGN Development Fund and CSGN Community Fund.

2.4 CSGN and the National Planning Framework

The CSGN is a national development under National Planning Framework 3 (NPF3) which identified three main priorities for the CSGN:

Delivering Improvements in Disadvantaged Communities

At the heart of the CSGN are the communities and the people who live there. The CSGN areas is home to around two-thirds of Scotland's population and nearly 86% of Scotland's severely deprived areas are found within the CSGN area. This equates to around 641,000 residents.

The inequalities seen in such areas are stark. Male residents living in deprived areas of the CSGN have a life expectancy 6 years lower than the Scottish average and for females it is 3 years lower.

People who live in the most deprived areas have less greenspace close to home, are less likely to visit it and more likely be dissatisfied with the greenspace they do have. However, better health is related to greenspace regardless of socio-economic status and so improving greenspace in deprived areas is a vital part of any preventative spend agenda.

It is therefore particularly important that the CSGN prioritises activity in disadvantaged communities and contributes towards building a fairer Scotland.

Greening of Vacant and Derelict Land

One in three CSGN residents live within 500m of a derelict site. Vacant and Derelict land (VDL) in Scotland is concentrated in the CSGN area (over 8,200 ha across 3,000 sites) and, in particular, Glasgow, Fife, North Ayrshire, North and South Lanarkshire. 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.

These areas are also the focus of the Vacant and Derelict Land Fund which is worth £7.835M in 2016/17. One of four objectives of the fund is the requirement to 'Develop a diverse sustainable environment with a focus on temporary and permanent greening'. Applications to the fund are expected to provide evidence of support for the natural environment and for the aims of the Central Scotland Green Network. Support will be offered to local authorities to make the most of this opportunity.

While the NPF3 and Scottish Planning Policy recognises that development of vacant and derelict sites is the aim, a significant proportion of sites are in locations which are uneconomic for redevelopment. Where such sites have been undeveloped for a long time natural regeneration may already have given them green network and/or biodiversity value. These sites provide opportunities to turn eyesores into assets and so will be a focus for the CSGN in 2016/17.

Around 35% of VDL in the CSGN area is owned by the public sector and tackling these areas can allow significant progress. 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.

Developing 'Green' Active Travel Networks

Walking and cycling are the most sustainable forms of transport and have significant health benefits. As home to the majority of Scotland's population the CSGN area is a focus for the development of new active travel routes to facilitate walking and cycling for short journeys. From a green network perspective such routes offer the opportunity to create green corridors in urban areas which benefit biodiversity and health due to people's biophysical response to observing and being amongst nature and the proven benefits of physical activity. These multiple benefits mean greening active travel routes will remain a priority for the CSGN.

A CSGN-wide Active Travel Action Plan has been developed and will be implemented in 2016/17. The National Walking and Cycling Network (another NPF3 National Development) will also be developed further over the next year and it is essential that opportunities are taken within the CSGN to make sure these (and more local) routes are 'greened' as they are developed. Work will also continue to develop a CSGN Strategic Routes Network of high quality routes for active walking and cycling and recreation throughout Central Scotland.

The majority of the John Muir Way, which stretches from Dunbar to Helensburgh, is located within the CSGN area. Since its opening in April 2014 the Way, it is estimated that 240-300,000 visits are made to the John Muir Way each year. Although primarily a recreational and tourist route, the John Muir Way also provides opportunities for active travel. The route is now complete and there is a need to ensure it is developed and maintained to maximise its economic impact and ensure that it contributes fully to the wider green network. This will also be a focus for activity in the CSGN over the next year.

3. CSGN Strategic Aims

The previous sections highlight the range of drivers and policies that the CSGN helps to deliver. This reflects the strength of the CSGN to deliver multiple benefits but with such a range of drivers there is a risk that the programme becomes unfocussed and delivery is thinly spread.

To provide the focus needed four Strategic Aims have been identified. These represent common themes within the different policy drivers and will ensure that the long-term aims of the CSGN Vision and the goals of the Scottish Government are both delivered while allowing for local needs and circumstances to be supported.

These Strategic Aims provide both a means of structuring programme activity and also communicating succinctly what the CSGN is doing.

- **Tackling Inequalities** – The CSGN will improve quality of life and opportunities available to residents in the CSGNs disadvantaged communities.
- **Empowering Communities** – Communities in the CSGN are involved in developing ideas and are empowered to change their local areas.
- **Contributing to Sustainable Economic Growth** – The CSGN is an attractive place for business.
- **Embedding and Supporting** – The CSGN is recognised as a key mechanism for delivering multiple Scottish Government policies and partners actively seek to embed the CSGN in their activities and pool resources and efforts.

A strength of the CSGN is that it can help deliver many different policy agendas and so many of the outcomes and objectives identified in the Action Plan at Annex A may deliver more than one Strategic Aim.

4. CSGN Governance

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 is 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 the Natural Resources Division.
- The Central Scotland Green Network Trust (CSGNT) has the role of driving and co-ordinating the delivery of the CSGN on a day to day basis

This structure ensures that there are good linkages across government that 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.

This governance structure has been in place since a Gateway Review 0 in 2014. A further Gateway Review 0 will be carried out this year to ensure the structures are working well and are fit for purpose.

5. Monitoring and Evaluation

The CSGN Programme Committee will receive regular reports on progress with the delivery of the objectives in this Programme Plan and updates against key entries in the risk register.

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 by CSGNT.

6. Conclusions

This Programme Plan provides a strategic overview of 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 Manager to the CSGNT Business Plan which will contain detailed milestones against which progress can be measured.

Annex A

CSGN Action Plan 2016/17

2016/17	Tackling Inequalities - the CSGN will improve quality of life and opportunities available to residents in disadvantaged communities			
Outcomes	Objectives	Actions	Who's Doing It	NPF3 Priority
CSGN improves the quality of life of those in areas of greatest inequality	Activity in priority disadvantaged areas facilitated and delivered	Sites for intervention identified	CSGNT FCS SNH Regional Partners LAs	Disadvantaged communities
		CSGNT project delivery targeted at these where possible		
		CSGNT support made available to stakeholders to develop projects in these areas		
	One of Scotland's most deprived communities targeted for focused, intensive, multi-partner intervention	Agree, with an LA partner, a community to target (e.g. Craigneuk in NLC)		
		Develop proposals for an integrated approach to intervention (with other bodies)		
		Work up proposals for implementation in 17/18		
CSGN benefits the health of its residents	Greenspace quality improved in disadvantaged communities with biggest health inequalities	Implementation of ERDF GI projects in areas of low physical activity	SNH FCS NHS Scotland Area Health Boards Local Authorities CSGNT SG Regional Partners Transport Scotland Sustrans	Disadvantaged Communities Active Travel
	More people in CSGN disadvantaged communities are using greenspace for physical activity (including active travel)	5 projects to raise levels of physical activity close to areas of greenspace which have been improved as part of the ERDF GI programme		
		Development of local green health partnerships to co-ordinate local development and promotion of green exercise opportunities		
	Health Boards are using greenspace on and around the NHS estate to encourage physical activity (including active travel)	New investment in greenspace provision by Area Health Boards		
		Development of community partnerships to manage and promote use of the outdoor estate		

2016/17	Empowering Communities - Communities in the CSGN are involved in developing ideas and are empowered to change their local areas			
Outcomes	Objectives	Actions	Who's Doing It	NPF3 Priority
Communities in the CSGN are actively involved in the design and use of greenspace	CSGN Development Fund implemented and monitored	Track and monitor progress of 2016/17 awards	CSGNT SG (17/18 fund) FCS SNH Regional Partners	Disadvantaged communities
		With funders develop a prioritised programme for funding distribution in 2017/18		
		Promote fund, support applicants		
		Receive and vet applications, present to decision makers		
	CSGN community fund delivered	Make 2015/16 awards (Oct 15 – Sept 16)	CSGNT FCS	
		Monitor 2015/16 awards		
		Establish funding for Oct 2016-Sept 17 Community Fund (min 50% private sector sponsorship)		
Launch fund prior to March 2017				
Strategic project developed to enable action at large scale	Implementation of Seven Lochs Landscape Conservation Action Plan	Seven Lochs Partnership (lead partner is Glasgow City Council)		
More people in the CSGN have access to community growing	Community Group Co-ordinator post established and supported	CSGNT SG Regional Partners	Disadvantaged Communities	
	Post to promote and support community growing in communities of disadvantage			
Active travel routes in the CSGN are 'greened' and widely used	More people in the CSGN have access to and use green active travel routes	Active Travel Action Plan maintained and implemented	CSGNT Stakeholders in action plan	Active travel
	Develop programme of activity to deliver strategic routes	Development of 3 routes supported by the Development Fund (2 feasibility studies, capital works in N Ayrshire)	SNH CSGNT Sustrans Scottish Canals Transport Scotland Local authorities Regional Partners	
		Development of a further 3 priority routes with local authorities.		
		Greening and landscape programme for strategic routes developed.		

	Ensure that The National Walking and Cycling Network (NWCN) in CSGN includes greening.	Programme of greening for NWCN in Central Scotland (additional to Strategic routes)	SNH CSGNT Sustrans Scottish Canals Transport Scotland Local authorities Regional Partners	
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2016/17	Contributing to Sustainable Economic Growth - the CSGN is an attractive place for business			
Outcomes	Objectives	Actions	Who's Doing It	NPF3 Priority
Vacant and Derelict Land contributes to the development of the CSGN	Direct assistance provided to LAs in CSGN area that are preparing VDLF bid.	Glasgow bid assisted	CSGNT LAs SG Regional Partners	VDL
		North Lanarkshire bid assisted		
		South Lanarkshire bid assisted		
		North Ayrshire bid assisted		
		Fife bid assisted		
	Naturalised long-term VDL is removed from the VDLR and is converted to permanent greenspace	Identify sites on the VDLR suitable for this approach	CSGNT SG Regional Partners	VDL
		Recommend their removal from the register to the appropriate authority		
Where appropriate, suggest future management prescriptions for sites removed from the VDLR.				
John Muir Way well maintained for the benefit of communities and businesses	Model for long-term maintenance and development of JMW in place	Interim JMW development officer in post	CSGNT SNH FCS Wider stakeholders (lead tbc)	Disadvantaged Communities Active Travel
		Proposal for maintenance and development developed		
		Funding applications submitted		
Green Infrastructure is delivered through new development as an integral part of delivering better places in Scotland.	Real or perceived barriers to the delivery of Green Infrastructure in new developments are reduced or removed	Work with planners and developers to identify the barriers to green Infrastructure delivery associated with new developments	CSGNT GCVNP SG SNH FCS Planning Authorities Developers	VDL Active Travel Disadvantaged Communities
		Workshop with key stakeholders to agree potential actions to reduce or remove the barriers		
		Report to Programme Committee on suggested future actions		

2016/17				
Embedding and Supporting - CSGN is recognised as a key mechanism for delivering multiple Scottish Government policies and partners actively seek to embed the CSGN in their activities and pool resources and efforts				
Outcomes	Objectives	Actions	Who's Doing It	NPF3 Priority
The role of the CSGN is increasingly recognised in public policy	key policy documents make reference to CSGN	Identify key policy documents that are expected to be published in next year	SG	VDL Active Travel Disadvantaged Communities
	CSGN taken into account in RAFE body corporate planning processes	Feed into process as appropriate	SG	
	CSGN connected at EU level	Work with EU office to promote CSGN concept and actions	SG	
	The CSGN is advanced through planning process	New development plans in CSGN area assessed for opportunities to advance CSGN	LAs SG SNH	
learning from CSGN is taken account of in the Planning review		SG		
The CSGN is widely understood and valued	CSGN promoted through targeted communications	Communications Strategy published	CSGNT SG	VDL Active Travel Disadvantaged Communities
		Launch cost/benefit/resource work		
		Visualisation work used to promote the CSGN concept		
	CSGN gains positive media coverage	Press coverage monitored and corrective measures taken as appropriate	LAs SG SNH CSGNT	
	Successful CSGN Annual Forum	CSGN Forum held	CSGNT	
		Feedback gathered and assessed		
	Good Practice shared between stakeholders	Programme of knowledge exchange events held	CSGNT All stakeholders	
		Newsletter used to promote best practice		
	Long term impacts of CSGN tracked and understood	CSGN Annual Review published	CSGNT	
		5 year baseline review published		
CSGN governance structures are working effectively and contributing to delivery	Gateway Review 0 undertaken	Commission review	SG	n/a
	Local delivery structures contribute to the delivery of CSGN	Formalise structures	Regional Partners CSGNT	n/a

Funding streams are in place to support the CSGN	Core support for CSGNT maintained	Ensure CSGNT core funding prioritised in spending review process	SG FCS SNH Transport Scotland	VDL Active Travel Disadvantaged Communities
Clear pathway to delivering 2050 Vision	Develop 3-5 year forward programme	Agree logic modelling approach with Research Colleagues	SG CSGNT	n/a
		Develop draft medium and long terms outcomes with CSGN RAF		
		Workshop and agree medium and long term outcomes with CSGN PC		