Central Scotland Green Network Delivery Plan 2020-2030

November 2020

INTRODUCTION

Background

The Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN) is a Scottish Government initiative and a National Development within the National Planning Framework. The CSGN is one of the largest green infrastructure projects in Europe.

This document presents the strategic framework of the CSGN delivery plan for 2020-2030 (DP30). This will be integrated into the work plans of CSGN partner organisations allowing delivery targets and more detailed 12-36month action plans to be agreed.

The Delivery Plan will be reviewed after 5 years.

The role of the Green Action Trust

The Green Action Trust is tasked with driving forward and coordinating the delivery of the CSGN. This is achieved through a combination of direct project development and delivery and coordinating action by a wide range of CSGN partners within the public, private and voluntary sectors.

The Trust is one of Scotland's leading environmental regeneration charities.

The role of the Environment and Economy Leaders Group (EELG)

The Environment and Economy Leaders Group acts on behalf of the Scottish Government in providing oversight of CSGN development and delivery. EELG members include public agencies which are key stakeholders and partners in CSGN delivery – Forestry and Land Scotland; NatureScot; SEPA; Scottish Forestry and the Scottish Land Commission

Shared principles

The CSGN is a Scottish Government commitment and priority. While the Green Action Trust plays an essential role in championing the CSGN; developing forward plans and delivering key projects, this can never be enough to deliver the scale of change that is required. Successful delivery of the CSGN depends on a wide range of stakeholders working in alignment with a common goal. This includes:

- Scottish Government
- Public bodies
- Local authorities
- NGOs
- Private sector businesses and investors
- Communities within the CSGN area

DP30 structure

The Delivery Plan is based around four workstreams:

Natural Climate Solutions | Placemaking | Health and Wellbeing | Green Recovery

It is important to note that, although these are presented as separate workstreams, they are interconnected and could all be presented as elements of high quality, multifunctional liveable places.

Natural Climate Solutions

This workstream covers the role of the CSGN in delivering climate change mitigation and adaptation and increasing the resilience of Central Scotland in the face of climate change. This includes:

- increasing carbon sequestration *(particularly through woodland creation and peatland restoration but also through wetland and coastal management)*
- supporting active/low carbon travel *(this relates closely to the CSGN Blueprint)*
- developing the role of greenspace in providing renewable energy and heat
- delivering sustainable surface water management using green infrastructure *(including rain gardens and green roofs)*
- developing sustainable River Basin/flood risk management across the wider landscape
- reducing urban heat and improving air quality using green infrastructure *(including neighbourhood greenspaces and street trees)*
- working collaboratively with communities to build their capacity and resilience

Placemaking

This workstream covers the development of the CSGN as a key component of quality, liveable places in Central Scotland

- promoting the role of quality green infrastructure in placemaking and urban design
- promoting and delivering greenspaces and multifunctional green infrastructure in new developments and existing places *(retrofitting)*

This workstream also includes biodiversity and its impact on people:

- protecting and enhancing priority sites and habitats
- creating new areas of habitat across the CSGN *(particularly increasing semi-natural habitats in and around urban areas)*
- increasing habitat connectivity and coherence across the CSGN – reducing the functional fragmentation of habitats *(this relates closely to the CSGN Blueprint)*
- increasing people's access to and experience of nature

Health and Wellbeing

This workstream focuses on the positive impacts that quality accessible greenspace and multifunctional green infrastructure have on health and wellbeing and overall quality of life. This includes work on:

- improving greenspace quality and accessibility

- promoting and supporting use of greenspaces and the wider environment

- promoting community growing as part of local food growing strategies and plans

- promoting and supporting outdoor physical activity and green active travel

- targeting action on those places, communities and individuals which are experiencing the greatest level of health disadvantage

- promoting the role of quality, accessible greenspace and health-promoting green infrastructure in creating healthy, sustainable places

Green Recovery

This workstream focuses on the CSGN's dual roles in reducing inequalities and promoting sustainable and inclusive economic activity. This includes:

- targeting CSGN delivery in disadvantaged areas

- integrating green infrastructure into business environments and town centres *(to attract and retain economic activity, provide attractive environments for staff and customers and to increase resilience to climate change etc.)*

- developing productive green uses for VDL and using green infrastructure to unlock VDL for other end uses

- incorporating low carbon energy generation into the design and management of greenspaces and other green infrastructure

- creating new employment in roles relating to the creation, management and use of green infrastructure

The detail of the DP30 framework is outlined below.

DP30 framework (November 2020)

DP30 Objectives	Delivery Plan Workstream[1]				NPF4 priority	SG outcomes and UN SDGs *(strongest links)*
	Natural Climate Solutions	Placemaking	Health and Wellbeing	Green Recovery[2]		
Biodiversity and ecological coherence						
HA1 Increase tree planting levels and woodland cover within the CSGN	●	●	O	O	Net Zero Communities	Environment Economy Climate Action Life on Land
HA2 Increase the area of restored peatland within the CSGN	●	●	O	O	Resilient Communities	
HA3 Increase the area of grassland habitats within the CSGN	●	●	O	O	Wellbeing Economy	
HA4 Increase the area of wetland and coastal habitats within the CSGN	●	●	O	O	Better Greener Places	Environment Economy Climate Action Life on Land Life Below Water
HA5 Increase the quality/condition of habitats	●	●	O	O		
HA6 Increase habitat connectivity	●	●	O	O		

[1] ● = primary connection between objective and workstream; **O** = secondary/lesser connection
[2] This includes tackling inequalities and supporting inclusive growth

DP30 Objectives	Delivery Plan Workstream				NPF4 priority	SG outcomes and UN SDGs
	Natural Climate Solutions	Placemaking	Health and Wellbeing	Green Recovery		
Environmentally disadvantaged areas						
EQ1 Increase the area of Vacant and Derelict Land converted to use as green infrastructure [3]	●	●	●	●	Resilient Communities Wellbeing Economy Better Greener Places	Environment Economy Communities Health Sustainable Cities and Communities Climate Action Good Health and Well-being Reduced Inequality
EQ2 Reduce environmental inequalities and their impact on those living in disadvantaged areas	●	●	●	●		
Green active travel						
AT1 Increase the proportion of the strategic active travel network which runs through greenspaces or green corridors	●	●	●	●	Net Zero Emissions Resilient Communities Wellbeing Economy Better Greener Places	Economy Communities Health Sustainable Cities and Communities Climate Action Good Health and Well-being
AT2 Increase the connectivity of the green active travel network	●	●	●	●		

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[3] This includes long term green end uses; temporary/meanwhile green uses and green infrastructure which supports/facilitates other end uses

DP30 Objectives	Delivery Plan Workstream				NPF4 priority	SG outcomes and UN SDGs
	Natural Climate Solutions	Placemaking	Health and Wellbeing	Green Recovery		
Green Infrastructure						
GI1 Increase access to greenspace for people living and working in Central Scotland	O	●	●	●	Resilient Communities Better Greener Places	Communities Health Sustainable Cities and Communities Good Health and Well-being Reduced Inequality
GI2 Increase the quality and functionality of greenspaces within the CSGN	●	●	●	●		Environment Communities Health Sustainable Cities and Communities Climate Action Good Health and Well-being
GI3 Increase use of the CSGN by people living and working in Central Scotland	O	●	●	●	Resilient Communities Better Greener Places Wellbeing Economy	Communities Health Sustainable Cities and Communities Good Health and Well-being
GI4 Increase the number of communities owning and/or managing greenspaces and other green infrastructure	O	●	●	●		Communities Health Poverty Sustainable Cities and Communities Good Health and Well-being Reduced Inequality
GI5 Increase the proportion of new developments which feature high quality green infrastructure	●	●	●	●		Environment Economy Communities	Health Sustainable Cities and Communities Climate Action Good Health and Well-being
GI6 Increase the level of green infrastructure retrofitting	●	●	●	●		

| DP30 Objectives | Delivery Plan Workstream | | | | NPF4 priority | SG outcomes and UN SDGs |
	Natural Climate Solutions	Placemaking	Health and Wellbeing	Green Recovery		
GI7 Increase the generation of low carbon energy from new and existing greenspaces and green infrastructure	●	O	O	●	Net Zero Emissions	Economy Sustainable Cities and Communities Climate Action
GI8 Increase in the level of employment in roles relating to the creation, management and use of green infrastructure	O	O	O	●	Wellbeing Economy	Economy Sustainable Cities and Communities

In addition, there are a three overarching objectives which cover the work of the Green Action Trust driving forward coordinated development and delivery of the CSGN. It also covers the work of all CSGN partners in maintaining a supportive environment for CSGN delivery.

PAN1 Raise awareness and understanding of the role of the CSGN in delivering benefits
PAN2 Maintain a supportive environment for CSGN delivery
PAN3 Coordinate CSGN partner activities to maximise the effectiveness and multifunctionality of delivery

This includes:

- developing policy, strategy and spatial plans at national, regional and local scales
- resourcing CSGN delivery
- communicating the importance of the CSGN and sharing successes and learning
- raising awareness, and promoting action, on climate change; nature loss; placemaking; health and wellbeing and green recovery
- working in partnerships and other collaborations