

GCV GREEN NETWORK PARTNERSHIP PROJECT BRIEF:

NORTH GLASGOW GREEN NETWORK DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

1. INTRODUCTION

The Glasgow and Clyde Valley (GCV) Green Network Partnership is a catalyst for the creation of a transformational, high quality Green Network across the Glasgow metropolitan area. The role of the Partnership is to act strategically to stimulate and facilitate the planning, delivery and sustainable long term management of the Green Network.

The aim is to create a step change in the scale and quality of the Green Network to improve the region's competitiveness for investment, enhance quality of life, promote biodiversity and more sustainable use of natural resources, and encourage healthy lifestyles.

The GCV Green Network Partnership brings together the eight local authorities which comprise the Glasgow metropolitan region with five major government agencies that promote and deliver on the environmental, social, health and economic agendas throughout the GCV area, namely Scottish Government Housing and Regeneration Directorate, Scottish Enterprise, Glasgow Centre for Population Health, Forestry Commission Scotland and Scottish Natural Heritage.

2. BACKGROUND AND POLICY CONTEXT

The contribution that a high quality and well designed Green Network can make to the creation of sustainable communities, the promotion of healthier lifestyles, mitigation against the effects of climate change, the enhancement of biodiversity and the creation of opportunities for employment, training and volunteering are increasingly recognised and reflected in policy and guidance. The importance of these potential wider benefits is reflected at a national level by the reference to the GCV Green Network in the forthcoming National Planning Framework 2 as a contributory part to a Central Scotland Green Network, and at a regional scale by its inclusion in the Metropolitan Glasgow City Vision and the GCV Joint Structure Plan.

In the context of North Glasgow many of these wider public benefits are not currently being realised. Significant sections of the study area have been subject to large scale housing stock restructure over recent years which has resulted in extensive tracts of open space with very little in the way of visual appeal or functionality and which impact negatively on perceptions of those communities and community perceptions of their area. Much of this land is designated in the Glasgow City Plan 2 for residential development but lack of demand means this is unlikely in the short to medium term. (Note: a separate but related study, aimed specifically at the Milton area, will examine ways in which these areas of land can be transformed into valued community assets and will partly inform this study).

Scottish Planning Policy 11, Physical Activity and Open Space, requires local authorities to carry out a comprehensive audit of the open space within their administrative boundary which includes a quantitative and qualitative assessment. Glasgow City Council is in the final stages of quantitatively mapping open space across the city but as yet no analysis or qualitative assessment has been fully undertaken. This work, when completed, will inform the provision and management of open space across Glasgow. It is not the intention that this study will undertake the qualitative element of Glasgow's open space audit but rather will provide a sufficient level of provision and qualitative analysis to help inform decision making and work programming.

Over recent years a range of interested parties have been engaged in open space related work in North Glasgow without necessarily having reference to each other or with projects taken forward based on wider analysis. The formation of the North Glasgow Open Space and Environment Group, which reports to the North Glasgow Area Co-ordination Group, sought to address this and provide a forum to discuss, prioritise and co-ordinate project work in the area.

However, it is recognised by those involved in these fora that although the completed open space audit will further inform their work, there is a need for a more analytical, strategic approach which will provide a framework for the delivery of a high quality, multi-functional Green Network across the north of the city.

3. PROJECT AIM

The aim of the study is to provide a framework for the development and long-term management of a high quality, multi-functional Green Network across the North Glasgow Community Planning area which will also consider connections into neighbouring East Dunbartonshire.

The framework will be developed to optimise social, economic and environmental benefits and will also identify ways in which active use of the North Glasgow Green Network can be encouraged and more sustainable approaches to long-term management introduced.

This will be achieved by:

1. undertaking an audit of current organisations and programmes active in North Glasgow and, where relevant to the study area, East Dunbartonshire;
2. carrying out a gap analysis of geographic and thematic provision;
3. developing recommendations to address gaps identified and to co-ordinate effort and resources; and
4. undertaking an investigation of funding opportunities.

4. SUGGESTED METHODOLOGY

The following is a suggested methodology and contractors are invited to propose alternatives where they feel it would enhance the project outcomes.

1. The consultants should undertake a desk top study/audit, based on information gathered from key stakeholders, to develop a detailed understanding of organisations currently active in greenspace and access related work in North

Glasgow and the programmes of work they deliver both currently and have planned into the future;

2. An analysis of the information gathered above should identify where there are gaps in provision of resources and effort or, conversely, where there are areas of duplication. The analysis should consider geographical, functional and thematic provision of the Green Network as detailed below.
3. From this analysis a series of recommendations should be developed which will address the identified gaps and overlaps. Proposals should seek to bring added value to existing work. In the context of the North Glasgow Green Network added value can be defined as having one or more of the following effects on project work:
 - a. widening the **scope**,
 - b. increasing the **scale**,
 - c. bringing forward in **time**,
 - d. enhancing the **quality**,
 - e. **absolute** (i.e. those things that would not otherwise happen)

Proposals should identify the delivery mechanism, potential lead partner, outline cost, likely timescale and priority for implementation.

4. The study should also include a comprehensive review of existing and new funding opportunities which could advance delivery of the North Glasgow Green Network and its long-term management. In particular, the applicability of the Scottish Rural Development Programme's Rural Development Contracts and re-aligned SNH funding should be investigated. This should include details of application requirements.

5. SCOPE OF STUDY

The geographical remit of the study will primarily be the two Local Community Planning Partnerships of Maryhill/Kelvin and Canal and Glasgow North East but will also consider cross boundary links into East Dunbartonshire where relevant.

The study will also seek to address a range of thematic outcomes. These are:

- **Sustainable communities** – improved living environment; better access; more recreation opportunities; community involvement in decision making; education and learning; volunteering; more sustainable lifestyles; improved visual amenity
- **Health improvement** – more active lifestyles; mental wellbeing; clean air; healthy food; green travel
- **Biodiversity and environment** – improved biodiversity; flood management; habitat networks; climate change; landscape quality; water and air quality; land remediation
- **Enterprise development** – social enterprise; green jobs; green travel; training and skills development; volunteering

The study should examine a range of Green Network opportunities, for example those relating to:

- management of existing, and creation of new parks, including links to adjacent spaces;
- Forth and Clyde Canal corridor;
- landscape scale enhancement as a setting for existing and future housing;
- temporary greening of vacant and derelict sites where development may take place in the long term;
- greenspace linked to new community infrastructure including schools, health and recreation facilities;
- local neighbourhood greenspace including local parks, travel routes, allotments and play space;
- creation and management of woodlands;
- creation and improvement of habitat networks and nature reserves;
- opportunities for flood mitigation; and
- the allocation of existing resources and the way in which they are targeted.

The consultants may identify additional opportunities to those listed above.

6. PROJECT OUTPUTS

The project outputs will include:

- A report and executive summary, with appendices and maps as appropriate, and including:
 - a. A description of the methodology adopted.
 - b. Overview and analysis of the research.
 - c. An Action Plan detailing the proposals and identifying a potential lead partner, outline cost, likely timescale and priority for implementation.
- Following acceptance of the final report, one presentation of the findings to the partners.

The structure and format of all reports must be agreed with the Steering Group prior to production.

The consultants are required to provide 5 bound copies of the final report. In addition, an electronic version of the document (including a web-ready PDF), together with any accompanying maps, appendices and diagrams should be provided on 5 CDs.

Note: Diagrams should be available in a vector based format to allow conversion to Freehand or Illustrator for use in Mac-based graphics packages. This will allow diagrams to be easily incorporated into project promotional material.

7. PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Lead officer

Ally Corbett

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Steering Group

A Steering Group will oversee delivery of the project and will comprise:

- Glasgow City Council, Land and Environment Services
- Glasgow City Council, Development and Regeneration Services
- Glasgow City Council, Kelvin Clyde Greenspace
- North Glasgow Community Planning
- Scottish Government, Housing and Regeneration Directorate
- GCV Green Network Partnership

8. TIMESCALE

Tenders Returned

28th January 2009

Assessment / interview (if required)

w/c 2nd February 2009

Consultants appointed

w/c 2nd February 2009

Inception meeting

w/c 9th February 2009

Study Reports/Steering Group meetings

tbc

Draft Final Report

tbc

Final Report

tbc

9. BUDGET

A budget has been set for the study of £30,000 exclusive of VAT. The budget includes provision for both fees and expenses.

Consultants must also include the following within their budget:

- attendance at 3 Steering Group meetings;
- a presentation at an event yet to be determined to launch the guidance.

Consultants are invited to propose an appropriate set of staged payments linked to the production of identified outputs.

10. RESPONDING TO BRIEF

Completed tenders should be returned to Ally Corbett at the address above by:

5pm on Wednesday 28th January 2009

Consultants seeking to carry out the work should supply the following:

- detailed, justified proposals for meeting the aims for the study;
- details of proposed personnel, their relevant skills and experience, details of any similar work the contractor has undertaken and evidence of innovative solutions;
- a work programme identifying the timescale and completion date for each phase of the work;
- detailed costings for carrying out the work detailed in the Brief which are clearly itemised and indicate day rates and number of days allocated for individual personnel, travel, subsistence, overheads, project management, presentation costs and any other anticipated costs. VAT should be shown separately (please indicate your VAT status); and
- consultants should also include costs for attendance at three project meetings to be held in Glasgow.

GCV Green Network reserves the right to accept a tender other than the lowest or not to accept any tender at all and will not be held liable for any costs incurred in the preparation of the tenders.