

GCV GREEN NETWORK PARTNERSHIP

INVERCLYDE PHASE 2 PROJECT BRIEF AREA RENEWAL AND THE INVERCLYDE GREEN NETWORK Integrated Masterplanning of New Neighbourhoods

1. INTRODUCTION

This study is being taken forward by a partnership of Inverclyde Council, River Clyde Homes, Riverside Inverclyde and the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership. Each of these agencies has provided funding for the works, and will make up the membership of the Steering Group that the successful consultant will report to.

2. BACKGROUND

Inverclyde is an area currently undergoing very significant levels of regeneration. This regeneration is occurring within a physical framework which holds a very rich resource in terms of historical, cultural, human and natural heritage. Although access to green areas is not particularly difficult, it is considered important to provide **high-quality greenspaces** within the new neighbourhoods being established and planned, which are functional at settlement and at a strategic level.

Greenspace is an excellent indicator of sustainability, and there is a very strong evidence base supporting the view that greenspace plays an important part in the health of individuals and communities. Quality greenspace makes people feel safer, provides opportunities for lifelong learning, encourages inward investment and generally improve community cohesiveness.

An opportunity therefore exists to embed the benefits of quality greenspaces into the ongoing regeneration processes in Inverclyde. The outcomes emerging from this study will help to achieve this, in particular in those areas designated for neighbourhood renewal in Greenock and Port Glasgow.

3. THE PARTNERS

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 that 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 the Scottish Government, Scottish Enterprise, Glasgow Centre for Population Health, Forestry Commission Scotland and Scottish Natural Heritage.

Four themes provide the framework for project development: stronger communities; enterprise development; health improvement; and biodiversity and the environment.

Through its Planning and Housing functions (which encompasses a range of environmental issues), **Inverclyde Council** has an active interest in promoting the value of the natural and cultural heritage of Inverclyde. Issues such as management of open and green spaces, core path planning, promoting tourism and raising the profile of Inverclyde all fall within the remit of Inverclyde Council.

As the third largest Registered Social Landlord in Scotland, **River Clyde Homes** has the following Mission Statement:

“As a not-for-profit voluntary housing organisation, River Clyde Homes has established a clear value base, identity and purpose to ensure that the wider community is aware of what we stand for and how we will contribute to the revitalisation of Inverclyde.”

River Clyde Homes is the lead agency in the joint area renewal strategy transforming large parts of Greenock and Port Glasgow. RCH is at the core of regeneration in Inverclyde, and through their support for this Study have demonstrated their willingness to accept greenspaces as integral and fundamental parts of sustainable communities

Riverside Inverclyde is the Urban Regeneration Company charged with providing a new focus for revitalizing the extensive waterfront area of Inverclyde along the A8 Corridor from Port Glasgow to Greenock. A principal aim is to spread the benefits of regeneration of the Waterfront/A8 Corridor out to surrounding communities. The re-development of outstanding riverside locations is replacing an area that previously suffered as a result of a decline in industry, particularly shipbuilding.

Riverside Inverclyde is a joint partnership between Inverclyde Council, Clydeport plc (for Peel Holdings), and Scottish Enterprise. The partnership has the full support of the Scottish Government and has been designed to secure and enhance the long-term economic growth and prosperity of the area.

4. INTEGRATED MASTERPLANNING

The need for Green Network Masterplanning to be embedded in the Area Renewal Strategy has emerged as a foundation action from the creation of an **Inverclyde Green Network Study**. This study was supported financially by Inverclyde Council, the former Communities Scotland, Riverside Inverclyde and the GCV Green Network partnership, and lays out a strategic overview of the current and future importance of quality greenspace within Inverclyde, to the Council and the wide range of partners it engages with.

The following Vision for the Green Network has been established:

By 2025 the combination of its outstanding environment, high quality development and unrivalled location means that Inverclyde is widely recognised as an attractive place to live, work and spend leisure time. This is reflected in high levels of investment, a vibrant local economy and a growing population. Communities are actively involved in managing their environment; local people and visitors have a wide range of opportunities to experience and enjoy the area’s natural and cultural heritage.

The Green Network has been at the core of the area’s transformation, contributing to the regeneration of the Waterfront and the remodelling of residential areas, and

forming key links within and between communities and with Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park. Development of the Green Network has delivered and continues to deliver a broad range of economic, community, health and environmental outcomes.

This Vision is ambitious and will require effort amongst the wide range of partners with a stake in Inverclyde's regeneration to achieve its aims. However, it reflects the strong position Inverclyde has in relation to its existing high quality natural and cultural heritage resources. The landscape and history of the area provide an ideal starting point for delivering this ambitious Vision and will help to form a unique element of the overall Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network.

The Green Network Strategy has been fully adopted and approved by both Inverclyde Council and the GCV Green Network Partnership, and the production of this brief, and the work emerging from it, will be an early success for this Strategy.

5. CONTEXT

Each of the funding partners for this Study have overlapping aspirations and policies, which should be addressed within the Study:

- Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network - Inverclyde Green Network Study.
- Riverside Inverclyde –regeneration along the Waterfort/A8 Corridor, focussing on key development sites and the public realm.
- Inverclyde Council - Local Plan, Core Paths Plan, Local Housing Strategy, Greenspace Audit/Strategy and Single Outcome Agreement.
- River Clyde Homes - the largest RSL in Inverclyde, undertaking a major programme of Area Renewal and neighbourhood regeneration.

6. PROJECT BRIEF AIMS

The aims of this project are;

- To identify the key elements of the Inverclyde Green Network and to suggest how these can be linked to, built into, and enhance, the structural fabric of regeneration in areas planned for renewal in Inverclyde.
- To develop a methodology which will allow regeneration partners to plan and promote greenspace as key integral part of area renewal, and make provision for **functional** spaces within local communities. It will provide a justification for promoting greenspace as a fundamental building block of a sustainable community, based on function rather than area.
- To develop a resource which will allow area renewal masterplanners to provide and balance local greenspace provision against the wider district-level framework of greenspace. This should take cognisance of the existing strategic Inverclyde Green Network, local and neighbourhood level provision and links within and between communities. It should function as a resource to ensure masterplanners consider greenspace as an essential and vital consideration within their thinking on area renewal.

7. METHODOLOGY

The following is a suggested methodology for each phase of the project, but consultants are invited to propose alternatives where they feel it would enhance the project outcomes.

a. Assessing current Greenspace provision and potential within Inverclyde

- This will be achieved through a distillation of information already available within existing documents, for example Inverclyde Local Plan, Inverclyde Green Network Study, Inverclyde Greenspace Audit

b. Assessing and presenting various relevant partner policies

- Development of a matrix which illustrates how the range of partner policies can support the various typologies of Greenspace provision.

c. Production of guidance for area renewal masterplanners

- A toolkit which will ensure area renewal masterplanners incorporate and promote greenspace provision within the new neighbourhoods to serve the different communities which is functional, well managed and of value within the wider settlement level framework. For example, not all open space need necessarily contain a play function. If good access to nearby play facilities can be achieved, it may be of greater value to provide, say, a community garden or allotment facility.

8. PROJECT OUTPUTS

The project outputs will be:

- A report and executive summary, with appendices and maps as appropriate, which meets the objectives outlined above
- Six bound and one unbound copies of the final report, together with three copies of an electronic version of the document and any accompanying maps and appendices on CD.
- Presentation and dissemination of the findings to the steering group and partners.

9. PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Steering Group

A steering group will oversee delivery of the project and will comprise:

- GCV Green Network Partnership
- Inverclyde Council, Planning and Housing Service
- Lower Clyde Greenspace
- Riverside Inverclyde
- River Clyde Homes

Contract

The contract will be let and managed on behalf of the Steering Group by Inverclyde Council.

Lead Officer

The lead contact for the project will be:

Charlie Cairns
Lower Clyde Greenspace Manager
Inverclyde Council
Planning and Housing Service
6 Cathcart Square
Greenock PA15 1LS

e: charlie.cairns@inverclyde.gov.uk

t: 01475 712464

10. TIMESCALE

The project must be completed and the final report and all supplementary material supplied to Lower Clyde Greenspace by the end of October 2009.

Specific interim outputs and milestones will be agreed with the successful contractor.

11. BUDGET

The cost of delivering the project must not exceed a maximum budget of £32,000 (ex VAT). Bids should include provision for both fees and expenses which should be clearly indicated.

Consultants are invited to propose a timetable for staged payments based on satisfactory delivery of identified outputs.

12. RESPONDING TO BRIEF

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

- Detailed, justified proposals for meeting the aims of the study.
- Details of proposed personnel, their relevant skills and experience and details of any similar work the contactor has undertaken.
- A work programme identifying the timescale and completion date for each phase of the work.
- Detailed costings for carrying out the work detailed in this Brief which are clearly itemised and indicate day rates and numbers of days allocated for individual personnel, travel, subsistence, overheads, project management and any other anticipated costs. VAT should be shown separately (please indicate your VAT status).

- Contractors should also include costs for attendance at three project meetings to be held in Inverclyde.
- **IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT ALL BIDS ARE SUBMITTED BOTH AS HARD COPY AND AS EMAIL FRIENDLY PDF's ON ACCOMPANYING CD.**

Inverclyde Council 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.