North Ayrshire
Community Planning Partnership

CPP Senior Officers Group
Thursday 22 April 2021 at 10.45 a.m via Microsoft Teams

AGENDA

Time	No.	Page	Item	Presenter	Ask of CPP Partners
10.45 – 10.50	1.	-	**Welcome and Apologies**	Ian McMeekin, Area Commander, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service	
10.50 – 11.00	2.	Pg 3	**Minutes and Action Note from Last Meeting** Discuss Minute and Action Note from meeting on 8 March 2021 (copy enclosed)	Ian McMeekin, Area Commander, SFRS.	Is this an accurate record of the meeting? Have all actions been completed?
Thriving North Ayrshire					
11.00 – 11.20	3.	-	**Youth Participation and Citizenship Strategy** Receive presentation.	Donna Anderson, Youth Participation Officer. Aaron McDonald, MSYP Emily Nix, MSYP	Consider opportunities to support youth participation and citizenship
11.20 – 11.30	4.	-	**Cost of the School Day** Receive verbal update.	Audrey Sutton, Executive Director, Communities and Education.	Note the update and consider opportunities to promote and support.
11.30 – 11.50	5.	-	**The Promise** Receive presentation.	Alison Sutherland, Head of Children, Families and Justice Services. Andrew Keir, Manager, Children, Families and Justice Services.	Note the information and raise awareness in respective service areas of what The Promise is.
11.50– 11.55			**Comfort Break**		

**For further information please contact Morna Rae, Snr Manager,
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			Working North Ayrshire		
11.55 – 12.05	6.	Pg 10	**Tree Planting Strategy** Receive report.	David Hammond, Head of Commercial Services.	Identify land for tree planting, connect to other strategies, link to volunteer opportunities
12.05 – 12.15	7.	Pg 35	**Kickstart Programme** Receive report.	Greig Robson, Senior Manager, Employability.	Encourage employers to support the programme.
12.15 – 12.25	8.	Pg 38	**Inclusive Economy Dashboard** Receive report.	Julie McLachlan, Senior Manager, Economic Policy.	Provide feedback on the Dashboard and consider how partners can contribute to progress on the indicators
			Healthier North Ayrshire		
12.25 – 12.40	9.	-	**Health Inequalities Assessment** Receive update	Elaine Young, Assistant Director Public Health	Identify further opportunities to carry out assessments
12.40 – 12.45	10.	-	**AOCB** - Plans for June Meeting	Morna Rae, Senior Manager, Policy Performance & Community Planning	
			For Reference		
	11.	Pg 51 Pg 52	• LOIP on a page • Decision tracker • IJB Minutes • Arran LP Mins • Garnock Valley LP Mins • Irvine LP Mins • Kilwinning LP Mins • North Coast LP Mins • Three Towns LP Mins		
Dates of 2021 meetings: • 3 June 2021 • 19 August 2021 • 7 October 2021 • 25 November 2021					

North Ayrshire
Community Planning Partnership

Meeting:	**CPP Senior Officers Group**	
Date/Venue:	Monday 8 March 2021 at 2.15 pm via Microsoft Teams	
Present:	Ian McMeekin, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service **(Chair)** Rhona Arthur, North Ayrshire Council Laura Barrie, KA Leisure Michael Breen, Ayrshire College **(Vice Chair)** Derek Frew, Police Scotland Kenny Hankinson, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Craig Hatton, North Ayrshire Council Barbara Hastings, TACT Vikki Kewney, Scottish Enterprise Russell McCutcheon, North Ayrshire Council Morna Rae, North Ayrshire Council Alison Sutherland, NA HSCP Audrey Sutton, North Ayrshire Council Karen Yeomans, North Ayrshire Council Elaine Young, NHS Ayrshire, and Arran Vicki Yuill, Arran CVS **In attendance** Kaileigh Brown, TACT Yvonne Baulk, North Ayrshire Council Kirsty Calderwood, NA HSCP Jacqueline Greenlees, North Ayrshire Council Lauren McMath, North Ayrshire Council Agnes Piatek-Bednarek, North Ayrshire Council Sarah Watts, NA HSCP Jennifer McGee, North Ayrshire Council (Notes)	
Apologies:	Andrew McClelland, North Ayrshire Council Caroline Cameron, NA HSCP	

No.	Item	Responsible
1.	**Welcome** The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies for absence were noted. A Sutton highlighted that this would be the last meeting of the CPP Senior Officers Group that both B Hastings and K Hankinson would be attending before their retirements at the end of March. A Sutton conveyed her thanks to them both for their dedication and support over the years.	**Noted**

2.	**Minute of Previous Meeting and Action Note**	**Noted**
	Minutes from the meeting held on 21 January 2021 were agreed and the action note was reviewed.	
	R McCutcheon provided the Senior Officers Group with a brief update on the Kickstart scheme. He advised that North Ayrshire are one of two Scottish Councils to have their programme accepted. 307 jobs have been approved by DWP across 84 employers. 50 jobs across 18 employers have been sent to DWP to advertise. R McCutcheon highlighted that G Robson would be attending the April meeting to provide a more detailed update.	**Noted**
3.	**Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change Strategy**	
	A Piatek-Bednarek provided members with an update on the Council's Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change Strategy (ESCCS). The Council Plan 2019-2024 sets out the Council's mission to work together to improve the well-being, prosperity and equity in North Ayrshire.	**Noted**
	A Piatek-Bednarek highlighted that in June 2019 the Council declared a Climate Emergency and committed to further act on climate change and aspires to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2030. In September 2020 North Ayrshire COVID-19 Economic Recovery and Renewal Approach, set out a local Green New Deal for North Ayrshire to build back better, fairer, and greener. The twin priorities of a North Ayrshire Green New Deal are: 1. Ensure an inclusive economic recovery by delivering our Community Wealth Building mission. 2. Ensure a green economic recovery focused on achieving our net zero carbon ambitions through the creation of sustainable infrastructure and regeneration projects and creating fair jobs.	**Noted**
	A Piatek-Bednarek provided Senior Officers with some examples of achievements and successes delivered through the previous ESCCS and other strategies which have had a positive impact on climate change: • Installing solar PV panels on roofs of 290 Council houses, saving tenants on average £188 per year. • Installing a number of publicly accessible electric vehicle charge points to support and encourage the uptake of electric vehicles across North Ayrshire. • Securing approximately £10.5million of funding to provide external wall insulation to 2,231 homes through the Home Energy Efficiency Programme.	**Noted**
	North Ayrshire Electric Vehicle Strategy A Piatek-Bednarek also provided Senior Officers with an update on the Council's Electric Vehicle (EV) Strategy. The aim of the strategy is to increase the number of EVs being used throughout North Ayrshire by creating a robust network of charge points. By December 2025 the Council's aspiration is to have: • One public accessible charge point for every nine PiVs • 2% of total number of vehicles registered in North Ayrshire to PiVs • 80 workplace charge sockets (40 workplace charger and 40 dual outlets).	**Noted**

	A Piatek-Bednarek highlighted that the strategic objectives of the EV Strategy were: • To create a deliverable action plan to facilitate an increase the number of EVs being used through North Ayrshire • To take a proactive approach in creating a strong network of publicly accessible EV charge points which will meet the demand in the future • To address air quality issues that have, or will arise due to transport-related issues • To inform and complement the Council's wider policies on environmental sustainability and transport • To raise awareness of the benefits of EVs and the charging infrastructure that is available • To contribute to the Council's commitment to become net-zero carbon by 2030.	**Noted**
	R McCutcheon highlighted that the strategy development will be undertaken via a Strategic Steering Group, chaired by Cllr Jim Montgomerie. R McCutcheon advised that he would be keen for CPP Partners to be part of this group. The Chair asked Senior Officers to forward nominations from CP Organisations to J McGee for collating and passing to R McCutcheon.	**ALL**
	C Hatton highlighted that as a CPP there should be some thought given to what key actions/targets we can collect and deliver as a group. R McCutcheon advised that he will discuss this with C Hatton separately.	**R McCutcheon**
	I McMeekin has taken on the role of took on of SFRS Environmental Champion in Ayrshire. This has seen the installation of EV charging points and electric vehicle to the fleets.	**Noted**
	The Chair thanked A Piatek-Bednarek for her presentation.	
4.	**Young People's Suicide Taskforce** K Calderwood and S Watts delivered a presentation on the North Ayrshire Young People Suicide Prevention Taskforce. Over an 18-month period between 2017/2019 a number of young teenagers died in North Ayrshire. After the initial deaths, the Child Protection Committee Chair co-ordinated a response and a Young People's Strategic Suicide Prevention Group (YPSSPG) was formed.	**Noted**
	To support the Strategic Group an Operational Group was created to implement any actions. K Calderwood/S Watts highlighted that going forward, a new action plan will be created. This will continue to explore and collate and use data to better inform outcomes and highlight issues. A significant area of work will be how they support everyone who has been affected.	
	The group will also continue to review the crisis response document ensuring it keep it relevant and up-to-date and to bring to the group any death by suicide which may have an impact on young people e.g. a teacher or sports coach or a celebrity etc.	
	K Brown suggested that the presentation is also shared with the Third Sector Interface Senior Officer forum and staff forum. K Brown confirmed that she would arrange for colleagues to link in with K Calderwood and S Watts.	**K Brown**
	A Sutton highlighted that this information would be something welcomed by the Locality Partnerships, however, would need to be when we can meet face to face	**K Calderwood/**

	to ensure the right support is in place. She also suggested linking in with Angela Morrell to help identify the appropriate places for this to be discussed.	**S Watts**
	K Hankinson advised that SFRS are happy to assist in any way possible.	**Noted**
	D Frew commended the work of the group and advised K Calderwood and S Watts that should they encounter any blockages he would be happy to be involved in those discussion to help break down any barriers.	**Noted**
	The Chaired thanked both K Calderwood and S Watts for their presentation.	
5.	**Cost of the School Day**	
	A Sutton and L McMath provided Senior Officers with an update on the work on the cost of the school day (COSD). The COSD working group have been working on a final draft of the COSD policy which will be discussed at their final meeting on 17 March.	**Noted**
	A Sutton advised that the policy commitments from the COSD work have also been supported within the Council budget with a recurring investment of £500k per year. £250k of this funding will be committed to digital and home learning, £150k to support work schools do in terms of eating at school. £100k Participatory Budgeting fund will be available for schools and Parent Councils to support cost of school clothing, trips, and activities.	**Noted**
	It was agreed that A Sutton would provide a final update at a future meeting.	**A Sutton**
	The Chair thanked A Sutton and L McMath for their update.	
6.	**CPP Learning and Development Plan**	
	M Rae provided Senior Officer with an update on the CPP Learning and Development Plan following a recent meeting with the Chair, Vice Chair and A Sutton. At the meeting they discussed what the new opportunities, building on the current approach could be: • Joint training/development sessions on specific topics – What can partners offer and what do partners need? How can this be provided both to CP partners and the wider community? • Links to multi-agency locality hubs approach – What personal development would help those involved? • Community Leadership Collective links – How can we use this to better understand the aspirations of communities? • Focus on succession planning and career development– How do we facilitate shared leadership development? Could the Improvement Service support with his? • Focus on deepening the impact of CP in organisations – Could we have thematic leads and briefings tied with opportunities to link up?	**Noted**
	Partners were supportive of the development of this approach.	
	A Sutton highlighted that this would link in with the locality multi agency work. A Sutton advised that it would be useful to bring an update to a future meeting of the Senior Officers on this work.	**A Sutton**
	I McMeekin highlighted that it would be useful for the Vice Chair, A Sutton, M Rae and himself to meet to discuss some further ideas and bring back an update report for Senior Officers consideration.	**I McMeekin**

7.	**CPP Step Change**	
	M Rae and I McMeekin provided Senior Officers with an update on the work in relation to CPP Step Change.	
	M Rae advised that the purpose of the update is:	
	- To carry out a health check of the CPP at a strategic level, - Provide an update on CPP Step Change previously committed to, - Confirm what recovery and renewal means for the CPP, and - What's next for 2021.	**Noted**
	In terms of carrying out the health check, M Rae shared a timeline from July 2009 where the first Single Outcome Agreement was signed. The timeline also displayed the strategy and governance work that the CPP has undertaken to date.	
	M Rae also shared some North Ayrshire Peoples Panel statistics to show the impact over the last 10 years. From surveys taken in 2009 and 2019 there was an increase in:	
	- Residents feeling fairly safe or very safe when outdoors in their neighbourhood after dark; - Rate neighbourhood as a very or fairly good place to live; - Spend time as a volunteer or attend local organisations; - People from different backgrounds get on well in their local area ; - Mental health and wellbeing scores.	
	In terms of CPP Step Change the four tests of changes agreed in December 2019 were:	
	- Early adopter site for whole systems approach to diet and healthy weight, - Community book, - Unintentional harm, and - Health inequalities self-assessment and health in all policies.	
	It was highlighted that due to the pandemic, the responses to the tests of change have had to adapt but that significant progress had been made against each test.	**Noted**
	M Rae highlighted she was invited to feed into a report for the national Community Planning Improvement Board. Some of the suggested key themes in terms of learning and direction of travel are:	
	- Empowering communities, - Re-focusing priorities - inequalities, wellbeing, economic and social renewal, - Influencing evolving national policy, and - Delivery models and structures.	
	It was agreed that these are all relevant to our work within North Ayrshire for 2021 onwards.	
	I McMeekin highlighted that the pandemic has identified a number of lessons about how we work and the culture in which we work. He also highlighted the importance of having staff aligned to key themes of wellbeing, empowerment, tackling inequalities, localism and whole systems working.	

	E Young advised that there is a need to have a spotlight on staff wellbeing. There is commonality amongst us all in terms of these agendas. She highlighted that it would be useful to share best practice on what we are doing around this. The Senior Officers Group welcomed the update, and agreed it should be shared with the CPP Board.	**M Rae/ I McMeekin**
8.	**Locality Priorities Refresh** M Rae highlighted that she had been sharing updates with members regarding the work on the Locality Priorities Refresh. The March Locality Partnership meetings were originally targeted for these discussions, however this has been extended to June to get more reach in to communities.	**Noted**
9.	**Fair For All Review** M Rae advised Senior Officer that the Review of Fair For All would be postponed until the new locality priorities were set. Senior Officers agreed with this approach.	**Noted**
10	**LOIP Performance Report** J Greenlees highlighted that the delivery of the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) is supported by the Children's Services Plan, the Safer North Ayrshire Strategy, and the HSCP Strategic Plan amongst other key thematic plans. J Greenlees advised that during 2021 Senior Officers will receive regular quarterly report covering all data in the LOIP Action Plan. This is attached at appendix 1 in the report. An overview of the report was provided and J Greenlees asked any members of the Senior Officer Group to contact her directly should they require anything further. M Rae also asked members to contact her/ J Greenlees if they have feedback regarding the layout of the report at appendix 1. C Hatton highlighted he is looking forward to seeing Q4 figures which will help inform some of the actions to pull back the impacts of the pandemic. The Chair thanked J Greenlees for her update.	**ALL** **ALL** **Noted**
11.	**AOCB** No other business was discussed.	
12	**Date of the next meeting:** Thursday 22 April 2021 at 10.45 am	

Community Planning Senior Officers Group Action Tracker 2021

Date of Meeting	Action	Responsible	Notes
19.11.20	Fair for All review update to be provided to a future meeting	M Rae	To be discussed after LP Priorities set.
21.1.21	ADP representatives to be invited to a future meeting	M Rae	On agenda for June meeting
21.1.21	Discuss opportunities within hospitals for Community food provision – consider developments including opportunities within hospitals, link with community payback orders, volunteer support and information, advice and signposting	A Morrell	To be brought to a future meeting
8.3.21	CP Partners to forward nominations for Climate Change Strategic Steering Group.	All Partners	
8.3.21	Young Peoples Suicide Taskforce. TSI to link in with team.	K Brown	
8.3.21	Young Peoples Taskforce to LP meetings once they are back to face to face.	M Rae	Ongoing
8.3.21	Locality multi agency work update	A Sutton	To be brought to future meeting
8.3.21	CPP Learning and Development Plan – Chair, Vice Chair, A Sutton and M Rae to meet and bring back further report.	I McMeekin	To be brought to future meeting
8.3.21	Step Change update to be shared with CPP Board.	I McMeekin/ M Rae	Scheduled for June Board meeting

Date: 22 April 2021

Subject: **North Ayrshire's 2030 Woodland – Tree Planting Strategy**

Purpose: Partnership working opportunities

1.   Introduction

The Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019 places climate change duties on Scottish public bodies, including Councils, and set a target to reduce Scotland's emissions of all greenhouse gases to net zero by 2045 at the latest.

The Council has set its own ambitious target of achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030. In principle, this means that the Council aims to reduce as much carbon as possible in the next 10 years and offsetting any remaining emissions through carbon absorption.

2.   Current Position

In March 2020, the Council allocated £500,000 from its newly created Investment Fund towards achieving the required carbon absorption through tree planting in recognition of the importance of trees as part of our overall approach to becoming net zero.

This commitment will be delivered as part of a large-scale woodland tree planting programme. The afforestation initiative will aim to plant around 108,000 trees, covering over 40 hectares, in order to provide the anticipated level of carbon sequestration required to meet the net zero ambition.

The increase in trees will help combat climate change as trees absorb substantial amounts of carbon from the atmosphere. However, it is important to recognise the wider reaching and longer-term benefits of trees and woodlands which align with the Council Plan and which will be delivered as part of the afforestation programme:

- Employment and training opportunities for local people and potential co-operatively owned   commercial forestry opportunities as part of our Community Wealth Building Strategy
- Health, wellbeing and physical activity opportunities
- Improved habitat creation, enhanced biodiversity and creation of new green corridors
- Regeneration

- Community food growing (fruit trees)
- Sustainable flood risk management
- Improved air quality

North Ayrshire's 2030 Woodland: A Tree Planting Strategy was approved by Cabinet in January 2021 and sets out a framework to deliver the ambitious tree planting commitment. A copy is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

The recommended approach within the strategy entails two phases; initial pilot projects, followed by a larger scale, second phase programme in future planting seasons. It is anticipated that all planting will be completed by the 2025/26 growing season to ensure planting is established well in advance of the net zero target date of 2030.

Implementation of the first phase is anticipated to be delivered by a combination of projects; some community led, and some Council led and delivered by an identified Woodland Trust partner.

Community engagement will be a central strand to the programme, and future projects will be co-developed with local communities to ensure local aspirations for planting are realised as far as possible.

3   Proposals

At this stage, the Council is keen to collaborate with local partners and is therefore seeking to explore potential opportunities for partnership working with the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) organisations in the following aspects of the Tree Planting Strategy:

- to scope out any partnership opportunities for the potential to plant trees on CPP organisations land holdings/estate to contribute to North Ayrshire's 2030 Woodland

- to explore the potential of connecting the Tree Planting Strategy to the existing North Ayrshire Green Health Partnership, and other initiatives led by CPP organisations that have the potential to link into the objectives of the Tree Planting Strategy.

- to provide opportunities for volunteers to assist in the planting of trees to contribute to North Ayrshire's 2030 Woodland and to discuss with partners any pathways to volunteers that the Council does not already have access to.

4.   Conclusion

4.1   The Tree Planting Strategy sets out a series of actions to ensure that tree planting projects are ready for implementation for subsequent growing seasons in 2021/22 and beyond. This will include exploration of working in partnership with local delivery partners and suitable planting locations. This work will be further underpinned by robust community consultation to ensure

public involvement in the proposals. Discussion with CPP partners is sought in relation to opportunities arising from the specific 'asks' noted at Section 3 above.

Name: David Hammond

Designation: Head of Commercial Services

Date: 16 March 2021

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

26 January 2021

Cabinet

Title:	**North Ayrshire's 2030 Woodland: A Tree Planting Strategy**
Purpose:	To seek approval of the proposed 'North Ayrshire's 2030 Woodland: A Tree Planting Strategy' detailed at Appendix 1.
Recommendation:	That Cabinet approves the proposed 'North Ayrshire's 2030 Woodland: A Tree Planting Strategy' detailed at Appendix 1.

1.   Executive Summary

1.1   The Council has made excellent progress in tackling carbon emissions in North Ayrshire. In the last five years alone, emissions have reduced by over 28% within the Council's estate following implementation of a wide range of ambitious carbon reduction projects.

1.2   In 2019, the Council raised ambitions further by declaring a Climate Emergency and announcing a target date of 2030 to become carbon 'net-zero'. In March 2020, the Council allocated £500,000 from its newly created Investment Fund for tree planting to provide carbon absorption to meet the net-zero aspirations as well as providing a wealth of other benefits.

1.3   Despite the challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic, and in recognition of this important commitment, officers have developed a document entitled 'North Ayrshire's 2030 Woodland: A Tree Planting Strategy' (see Appendix 1) and undertaken early work to facilitate initial implementation of a potential pilot first phase of tree planting during the 2020/21 growing season which runs until March 2021.

1.4   This paper sets out the background to the proposals, provides an update to the Cabinet on progress so far, and seeks approval of the strategy document at Appendix 1 which includes the intended next steps to deliver the tree planting commitment.

2.   Background

2.1   The Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019 places climate change duties on Scottish public bodies, including Councils, and set a target to reduce Scotland's emissions of all greenhouse gases to net zero by 2045 at the latest.

2.2   The Council has set its own ambitious target of achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030. In principle, this means that the Council aims to reduce as much carbon as

possible in the next 10 years and offsetting any remaining emissions through carbon absorption.

2.3 In March 2020, the Council allocated £500,000 from its newly created Investment Fund towards achieving the required carbon absorption through tree planting in recognition of the importance of trees as part of our overall approach to becoming net zero.

2.4 This commitment will be delivered as part of a large-scale woodland tree planting programme. The afforestation initiative will aim to plant around 108,000 trees, covering over 40 hectares, in order to provide the anticipated level of carbon sequestration required to meet the net-zero ambition.

2.5 The increase in trees will help combat climate change as trees absorb substantial amounts of carbon from the atmosphere. However, it is important to recognise the wider reaching and longer-term benefits of trees and woodlands which align with the Council Plan and which will be delivered as part of the afforestation programme:

- Employment and training opportunities for local people and potential co-operatively owned commercial forestry opportunities as part of our Community Wealth Building Strategy
- Health, wellbeing and physical activity opportunities
- Improved habitat creation, enhanced biodiversity and creation of new green corridors
- Regeneration
- Community food growing (fruit trees)
- Sustainable flood risk management
- Improved air quality

2.6 Despite the resource challenges presented by Covid-19, officers have worked collaboratively to create the proposed 'North Ayrshire's 2030 Woodland: A Tree Planting Strategy' document, which sets out a route map to delivering the ambitious tree planting commitment. The proposed strategy is provided at Appendix 1 and addresses the following considerations:

- Policy context
- Objectives
- Funding
- Community Engagement
- Land identification and selection criteria for planting areas
- Strategic planting sites
- Potential delivery models
- Governance and next steps

2.7 Alongside development of the strategy, officers have examined opportunities to expedite an initial phase of tree planting for the 2020/21 winter growing season. The objectives of the initial phase are to establish early progress to secure the sustainability and wider benefits as quickly as possible and to learn lessons from initial delivery models for application in future phases.

2.8 The recommended approach within the strategy therefore entails two phases; initial pilot projects (during the 2020/2021 tree planting season which runs until end March 2021,

and subject to sapling availability) followed by a larger scale, second phase programme in subsequent planting seasons. It is anticipated that all planting will be completed by the 2025/26 growing season to ensure planting is established well in advance of the net-zero target date of 2030.

2.9 Implementation of the first phase is anticipated to be delivered by a combination of projects; some community led, and some delivered by an identified Woodland Trust partner. An update on these two project streams is provided below.

Partnership with FRIENDS

2.10 A partnership between the Council and the locally based FRIENDS community environmental group is already well established and has delivered planting of 2,000 trees at Ardeer Quarry during the 2019/20 planting season, just prior to publication of the Council's tree planting commitment. Officers have invited additional proposals from FRIENDS for further planting projects, alongside the provision of advice and support to contribute to delivery. The following potential projects are currently being explored in conjunction with FRIENDS:

Location	Indicative number of trees
Holm Plantation, Saltcoats/Ardrossan	1,000
Elm Park, Ardrossan	500
Stevenston Muir, Stevenston	100
Rec Hill, Stevenston	200
Beach Park, Stevenston	450
Ardeer Quarry Phase 2, Stevenston	1,000
Bourtreehill Estate, Irvine	3,000
Total	**6,250**

2.11 It should be noted that the above proposals are subject to further assessment, funding and, where not already undertaken, public and ward member consultation.

2.12 A key benefit of this delivery model is FRIENDS' track record in community consultation, involving local volunteers, fostering civic pride and promoting physical activity and health and wellbeing benefits. The group share the Council's aspirations regarding dignified food provision and the provision of community orchard planting is a key feature of the wider planting proposals.

Partnership with East Ayrshire Woodlands Trust

2.13 East Ayrshire Woodlands Trust (EAW) is a long-established woodland creation and management organisation aligned to East Ayrshire Council. The Council has worked with EAW for a number of years on various environmental projects and officers are exploring the potential to work together to deliver an early phase of planting during the 2020/21 growing season.

2.14 A key strand of this model is the innovative training and employment opportunities that form part of its delivery. The planting works would be undertaken by local individuals

seeking employment, who benefit from paid employment and training opportunities for the duration of the planting project. EAW has an excellent track record of supporting individuals participating in their programmes into long-term, permanent employment positions in the land management sector.

2.15 The following locations are currently under consideration with EAW, one or more of which may be suitable for planting in the coming growing season pending further assessment:

Location	Indicative number of trees
Lochshore, Glengarnock	Up to 25,000
Irvine Enterprise Area	TBC
Upper Garnock Valley Area	TBC

2.16 Community engagement will be a central strand to the programme, and future projects will be co-developed with local communities to ensure local aspirations for planting are realised as far as possible. A Communications Plan will be created to help capture the imagination, through use of the '2030 Woodland' strapline, as well as the potential for creation of an online, interactive map to show where planting has taken place.

2.17 The strategy will ensure that the type of trees selected will be appropriate to the planting site, and consideration will be given to native species and the opportunity to increase biodiversity and create wildlife corridors, to enhance the green network. Officers will also explore the potential for cultivation of saplings for planting in the programme.

2.18 The tree planting programme will give careful consideration to the species, layout and spacing of trees to ensure they have sufficient room to grow and develop to minimise the requirements of future maintenance.

2.19 The strategy sets out a series of actions to build on the early progress to date and ensure a pipeline of projects are ready for implementation for subsequent growing seasons in 2021/22 and beyond. This will include further development of the established partnerships noted above as well as exploration of additional models, partners, external funding opportunities (including the potential to partner with other major landowners) and planting locations as outlined in the strategy. This work will be further underpinned by robust community consultation to ensure public involvement in the proposals.

Governance & Next Steps

2.20 The strategy sets out the establishment of a programme board chaired by the Head of Commercial Services, supported by three specific task force groups for project delivery, community engagement, and financial management of the programme.

2.21 The programme board will consist of officers from Council services including Streetscene, Sustainability, Planning, Regeneration, and Active Travel and Transport, and the Communities Directorate, along with other stakeholders. It is anticipated that over time membership will be expanded to include other CPP partners and community groups.

2.22 Early outputs from the task force groups will be preparation of a programme delivery plan, community engagement plan, and budget plan for implementation of the project from growing season 2021/22 and beyond.

2.23 The projects noted above at paragraphs 2.10 to 2.15 will continue to be developed to identify any candidate site(s) suitable for the first pilot phase of delivery in the 2020/21 growing season.

3. Proposals

3.1 It is proposed that the Cabinet approves the attached Tree Planting Strategy to support the tree planting commitment within North Ayrshire.

4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty

Financial

4.1 The sum of £0.500m has been allocated from the Council's approved £8.8m Investment Fund to support delivery of the tree planting programme. This will be supplemented by the levering in of external grants where possible.

Human Resources

4.2 None.

Legal

4.3 The Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019 places climate change duties on Scottish public bodies, including Councils, and sets targets to reduce Scotland's emissions of all greenhouse gases to net zero by 2045 at the latest. The implementation of the tree planting programme will assist in achieving the statutory targets in abating carbon emissions at a national and local level.

Equality/Socio-economic

4.4 The Tree Planting Strategy assists in meeting our socio-economic duty as set out in the Fairer Scotland Duty. The proposed increase in provision of woodland areas will create employment and training opportunities and provide community access to new open spaces which provide local amenities and opportunities to exercise for health and wellbeing benefits.

4.4.1 This strategy also considers opportunities to plant fruit trees to create orchards, in suitable locations, for community benefit, as part of this commitment.

Environmental and Sustainability

4.5 The Tree Planting Strategy makes a direct contribution to the Council's environmental and sustainability aspirations by providing the framework for sequestration of carbon emissions. In addition, the Council has a duty through the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 to further the conservation of biodiversity, and the objectives of the

Tree Planting Strategy align with the North Ayrshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2019 - 2031.

4.5.1 As per the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, local authorities are required to undertake and consult on a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), when a qualifying plan, programme or strategy is likely to have significant environmental effects.

4.5.2 The Council will therefore submit a screening report summarising the tree planting strategy proposals to the national SEA Gateway to request the views of the statutory consultees on whether a full SEA is required.

Key Priorities

4.6 The Tree Planting Strategy aims to support the Council Plan's Fair For All Strategy and deliver against the key priority in Inspiring Place.

4.6.1 One of the key performance indicators of the Council Plan priority of 'a sustainable environment' is the level of carbon emissions. The proposed large-scale tree planting programme will significantly contribute to achieving this outcome.

4.6.2 The Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and aims to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2030 as set out in the Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change Strategy. A key mechanism for achieving this status is through absorbing emissions, and the tree planting programme will be vital in helping deliver this commitment.

4.6.3 The Tree Planting Strategy will support the aims of the North Ayrshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2019 - 2031 to help deliver the priorities of the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy.

Community Wealth Building

4.7 The Tree Planting Strategy aligns with the Council's Community Wealth Building (CWB) overall mission and fair employment pillar through the creation of employment and training opportunities for local people as part of the programme.

4.7.1 The Tree Planting Strategy will also clearly support delivery of the CWB Land and Assets pillar of 'supporting the wider regeneration of our communities by maximising all of our land and assets including through alternative uses for community and business benefit.'

4.7.2 The Economic Recovery and Renewal Approach and North Ayrshire Green New Deal prioritises building back better, fairer and greener. The Tree Planting Strategy will help to meet the priority of a green economic recovery focused on achieving our net zero carbon ambitions through the creation of environmental regeneration projects and creating fair jobs.

5. Consultation

5.1 Consultation has taken place internally between relevant Council Services including Streetscene, Sustainability, Planning, Employability, Economic Development and

Regeneration. Public consultation has already been undertaken on several of the specific projects noted at paragraph 2.10. Further engagement will take place as projects continue to be developed, particularly with local partners, schools and local communities.

RUSSELL McCUTCHEON
Executive Director (Place)

For further information please contact **David Hammond, Interim Head of Commercial Services,** on **01294 324570**.

Background Papers
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Appendix 1

North Ayrshire's 2030 Woodland: A Tree Planting Strategy

1.0   Executive Summary

North Ayrshire Council has made excellent progress in reducing carbon emissions, with reductions in emissions from the Council's estate of over 28% in the last five years alone. The Council raised its ambitions further through the declaration of a climate change emergency in 2019, along with the announcement of a 2030 target date to achieve 'net-zero' carbon emissions.

A key element of meeting that target is the strategy for absorption of any residual carbon emissions to achieve net-zero status. Tree planting is a tried and tested, effective carbon sequestration method that brings a multitude of wider social and economic benefits.

At a meeting on 5 March 2020, the Council approved a £500,000 fund to support tree planting across North Ayrshire with a view to creating a 2030 woodland resource that, together with carbon reduction actions within the wider Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change Strategy, achieves our net-zero ambitions.

This strategy sets out the key considerations and a route map for planting of the 108,000 trees that require to be planted to meet the net-zero goal. The strategy considers the national and local policy context, planting objectives, funding arrangements, community engagement approach, site selection criteria and potential delivery models to provide a comprehensive delivery framework. The strategy will be implemented through a programme board with individual project plans developed and delivered through three specific task forces.

Our ambition is to complete all the tree planting activities by the 2025/26 growing season to ensure that saplings are well on their way to maturity by the 2030 target.

2.0   Policy Context

2.1   *National Level*

In 2009, the Scottish Government set out its rationale to encourage the creation of an additional 10,000 hectares of new woodland in Scotland every year. This planting target has been increased to 15,000 hectares of new woodland to take effect from 2024/25. Forestry is a national priority and is part of Scotland's climate change commitments.

Scotland's forests cover 18.7% of the total land mass area and the ambition contained in the national forestry strategy is to increase this to 21 % by 2032.

Scottish targets - forest coverage
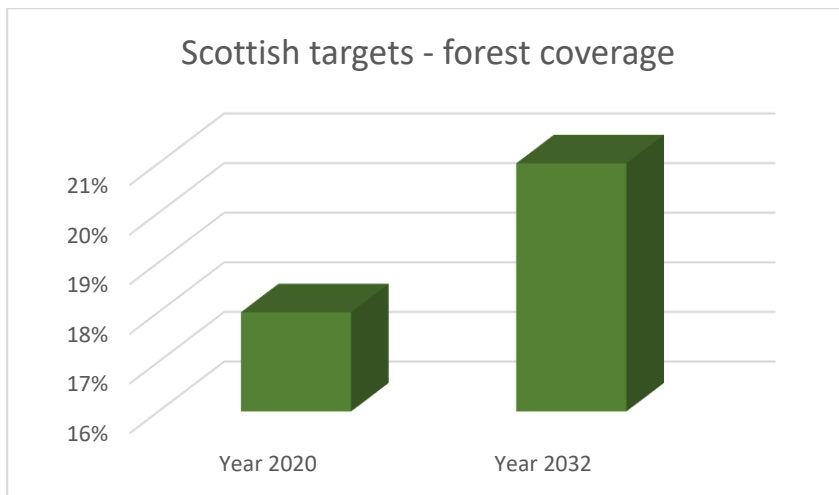
Across Ayrshire as a whole, it is estimated that around 23% of Ayrshire's land mass comprises of trees and woodland, therefore this region is already making a significant contribution to national aspirations.

2.1.1   The Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019

National legislation around climate change is a key driver to reduce carbon emissions at a national level.

The Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019 amends the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 and sets targets to reduce Scotland's emissions of all greenhouse gases to net-zero by 2045 at the latest, with interim targets for reductions of at least 56% by 2020, 75% by 2030, 90% by 2040, from a 1990 baseline. The Act places climate change duties on Scottish public bodies, including Councils.

2.1.2   Forest Strategy 2019 - 2029

In April 2019, the devolution of forestry to Scottish ministers was concluded. The existing Forestry Commission Scotland was replaced by the new Scottish Forestry body.

Scotland's Forest Strategy sets out the 50-year vision for Scotland's forests and woodlands and is supplemented by a framework for action and implementation plan over a 10 year timescale.

This long-term Strategy lays out Scottish Forestry's approach to protecting, enhancing and expanding the forests and woodlands across Scotland to help deliver greater social, economic and environmental benefits.

As Scotland recovers from the Covid-19 pandemic, priority will be given to the actions that support the forestry sector to restart and respond through a Covid-19 Forestry Sector Restart and Resilience Plan. This plan will cover a timeline of two years and will be periodically reviewed through the recovery process.

2.1.3   Scotland's Biodiversity Route Map

The 2020 challenge for Scotland's biodiversity sets out the targets and actions required to improve nature and increase biodiversity in Scotland.

Within the route map, there are commitments for new native woodland creation, with the aim of further increasing new woodland planting through priority projects.

2.2   *Local Level*

2.2.1   North Ayrshire Council Plan

North Ayrshire Council's Plan for 2019 – 2024 sets out the vision that North Ayrshire is a Council that is 'Fair for All'.

Creating woodlands across North Ayrshire links into the Council Plan's aims of Aspiring Communities and Inspiring Places through the following Council priorities:

  ➢ Active and strong communities
  ➢ Inclusive, growing and enterprising local economy
  ➢ People enjoy good life-long health and well-being
  ➢ Vibrant, welcoming and attractive places
  ➢ A sustainable environment

2.2.2   Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change Strategy

Key policies within the Council link directly to the objectives of tree planting including North Ayrshire Council's Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy. This Strategy supports action on the Council's Climate Emergency declaration and ambition to achieve net zero carbon status by 2030. It contains a specific action to investigate ways to absorb carbon emissions form the atmosphere through tree planting, which is fulfilled by this Tree Planting Strategy document.

The Council's Tree and Woodland Management Policy is currently being updated for 2020 onwards. The aim of this policy to set out how the Council will effectively manage trees and woodlands for which it is responsible ensuring that they positively contribute to the area and achievement of the corporate priorities of the Council whilst meeting legal obligations.

2.2.3   Community Wealth Building

Community Wealth Building is a key strategic priority for North Ayrshire Council and a commitment within the Council Plan. The Council launched Scotland's first Community Wealth Building Strategy in May 2020.

The tree planting programme aligns with the overall CWB mission and specific fair employment and land and asset pillars through the creation of forestry related employment and training opportunities for local people and bringing vacant and derelict land assets back into productive use and making a positive environmental, social and in some cases economic benefit to communities. There is scope under the strategy for the establishment of a community co-operative in relation to commercial forestry opportunities.

2.2.4   Ayrshire and Arran Forestry and Woodland Strategy 2014

This Strategy brought together a range of organisations across Ayrshire to develop a plan of action to enable the Ayrshire Councils, landowners, communities and forest bodies to unlock the potential for woodland creation, development, design and management across the Ayrshire region.

2.2.5 North Ayrshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) 2019 - 2031

The Council recently published a North Ayrshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) for 2019 – 2031.

One of the key actions identified in the LBAP is to implement priority actions from the Ayrshire and Arran Forestry and Woodland Strategy 2014 (see paragraph 2.2.3), ensuring that woodland expansion proposals are appropriate, with reference to the policy document, The Right Tree in the Right Place (Forestry Commission Scotland, 2010).

3.0   Tree Planting Strategy Objectives

In 2019, new climate change legislation was introduced which updated Scotland's Climate Change Plan to reflect the new targets set in the Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019.

The new target to be achieved across Scotland is to move to net zero emissions of all greenhouse gases by 2045.

North Ayrshire has set an ambitious target of becoming net zero carbon by 2030. In principle, this means that the Council aims to reduce as much carbon as possible by this date, and to implement a large-scale woodland tree planting programme under this strategy to sequester residual carbon emissions.

The afforestation programme aims to plant 108,000 trees which will cover over 40 hectares of North Ayrshire (or around 60 football pitches). This represents the indicative number of trees required to absorb any residual carbon emissions by 2030.

Planting trees helps to sequester carbon emissions. The increase in planting will therefore help fight climate change as the trees absorb substantial amounts of carbon. Through photosynthesis, trees absorb carbon dioxide, water and light to produce oxygen which is released into the atmosphere. By ensuring that the trees planted are mostly native species will help to protect and preserve the local environment and biodiversity.

Along with the Council's aspirations of planting trees to help support the net zero carbon aspirations, it is important to recognise the wider reaching and longer-term benefits of trees and woodlands.

What is best for the land will vary greatly from place to place, and it is vital that along with the reduction in carbon emissions, other benefits are factored in to the tree planting process such as the production of food or timber or biomass, and the role trees play in biodiversity, water quality, flood management, air quality, health and wellbeing, recreation and public health.

The following sections outline the wider objectives of the tree planting beyond carbon sequestration.

3.1 Community Wealth Building

The tree planting programme aligns with the overall CWB mission and specific fair employment and land and asset pillars through the creation of forestry related employment and training opportunities for local people and bringing vacant and derelict land assets back into productive use and making a positive environmental, social and in some cases economic benefit to communities. There is scope under the strategy for the establishment of a community co-operative in relation to commercial forestry opportunities.

The Council's Economic Recovery and Renewal Approach outlines our proposals to build back the local economy better, fairer and greener. As part of the economic recovery plan from the Covid-19 pandemic, there is an opportunity to create new green jobs to stimulate the economy and enable people to live sustainably whilst reducing carbon emissions.

Youth employment and the new Kickstart schemes available also provide a platform for the Council to create forestry job placements and training opportunities for young people as part of the implementation of the tree planting strategy.

3.2 Physical activity, health and wellbeing

Scottish Forestry research has shown that regular contact with trees and woodland spaces is linked to better health, reduced levels of chronic stress, reductions in obesity and improved concentration.

Being connected with nature and the environment through woodland areas can have a positive impact on the overall public health of our communities.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, people were utilising their local woodland and greenspace areas for a range of health and wellbeing reasons. It is hoped that communities will continue to embrace the positive impact that this connection with trees has on their health and wellbeing.

Woodlands provide the ideal setting to promote health and physical activity. These outdoor settings are conducive to people leading more healthy lifestyles. By being more physically active through activities such as walking, running and cycling, overall physical health can improve and reduces the risk of serious health conditions.

Woodlands enable people to connect with nature and can enhance mental health by creating a positive mood and having a restorative and calming effect from stress and mental fatigue. Some of the areas planted under the strategy will therefore include clearings for seating to allow people to rest and enjoy the surroundings.

Local woodlands provide social benefits by providing a focal point for people to meet leading to increased social interaction. A strong sense of place and improved perception of a local area can also reduce inequalities within communities.

3.3 Biodiversity

Biodiversity is a shortened form of the term 'biological diversity', as defined by the Convention on Biological Diversity. Biodiversity means the richness and variety of all forms of life on Earth and includes plant life such as trees, amongst many other forms of nature.

Trees are a vital landscape and habitat resource by providing carbon storage, air purification, protection against river erosion, ecological niches for a wide range of species, shelter as well as providing wood fuel and building materials. New woodland creation can also help create 'green corridors'.

A change of land use to woodland areas may have an impact on biodiversity. It is therefore important that the tree planting project actively seeks to achieve biodiversity net gain through forest plans along with optimal carbon sequestration.

3.4   Sustainable Flood Risk Management

Climate projections suggest that there will be greater frequency of extreme weather events, with more frequent and severe flooding. Trees and woodland can form a vital role in flood protection through natural processes.

In the Woodland Trust's 2014 'Stemming the flow' paper, natural approaches to flood risk are outlined and can offer significant benefits to those seeking to manage flood risk and the communities they are trying to protect. It is therefore important that the right type of trees are planted in the most beneficial riparian locations, to help with flooding before it happens.

Planting trees can be effective in increasing water infiltration, reducing local peak flows and slowing runoff further down in the catchment area. Woodland located on floodplains can mitigate large flood events by absorbing and delaying the water's progress as it travels downstream.

Trees can also play an important role in lowering the risk of surface water flooding caused by extreme rainfall amounts. Trees intercept the rain and help alleviate the capacity of water flowing into the drainage system.

3.5   Air quality

Trees can directly and indirectly improve local and regional air quality by altering the atmospheric environment. Some ways in which trees affect air quality are through removal of air pollutants, temperature reduction and other microclimatic effects. The Cleaner Air for Scotland Strategy 2015 encourages mitigation measures, such as planting blocks of trees to create microclimates that would allow vehicle fumes to dissipate.

3.6   Food Growing

The provision of community food opportunities, in a dignified way, is a central underlying tenet of the Council Plan. The Tree Planting Strategy offers opportunity for areas of orchard planting to provide seasonal fresh fruit for community picking in the right locations.

Already, an orchard plantation at Ardeer Quarry is well used by local community members who are able to take advantage of the annual fruit crop. The strategy will help build on such successful examples and widen the availability of produce to more people.

3.7 Regeneration

Tree planting schemes delivered under this strategy will be provided in a variety of formats from large to small scale plantations, which comprise different species for different purposes.

A further opportunity is the contribution planting schemes could have to the built environment, including through:

- Greening of vacant and derelict land
- Planting schemes forming part of new private and affordable housing projects, including via the Council's own Strategic Housing Investment Plan
- Structure planting for new Local Development Plan housing allocations

The Tree Planting Strategy will therefore be an essential consideration in the implementation of the Council's Land & Assets Renewal programme to ensure planting schemes are considered in any land and property decisions.

4.0 Funding

This programme has £500,000 earmarked from the Council's new Investment Fund to tree planting in recognition of the importance of this as part of the Council's overall approach to becoming net zero.

A task force will be established to oversee the budget and consider project funding opportunity business cases, including any long-term maintenance costs associated with the new areas of woodland created.

This task force will also be responsible for considering further options for accessing other external grant and funding streams. Depending on the capital and maintenance costs for the tree planting programme it may be necessary to leverage the allocated £500,000 and apply for match funding and/or grants to enhance this programme and further the aims.
There are various financial mechanisms available to the Council to plant trees, with national funds to support delivery of the strategic targets.

National organisations such as Scottish Forestry and the Woodland Trust not only have funding streams available but also a wealth of knowledge, expertise and advice to assist in the process.

Scottish Forestry is responsible for delivering the government's forestry policy, legislation, technical advice on forestry issues along with grants.

The Forestry Grant Scheme offers financial support for the creation of new woodland and the sustainable management of existing woodland. Full scheme guidance is available on the complex process and covers aspects such as how to apply, scoring requirements, criteria, inspections and contractual obligations.

Forestry agents provide services across Scotland and can assist in undertaking grant applications and/or implement the programme.

The 'Woodlands in and Around Towns' (WIAT) grant is also administered by Scottish Forestry can be incorporated along with woodland creation grants. This grant scheme is designed

specifically for urban woodlands to increase access and amenity value to high population areas.

The Woodland Trust provides a range of advisors to assist organisations achieve large scale planting goals, by providing trees, grants and funding schemes.

The vacant and derelict land fund is currently available for five local authorities (one of which is North Ayrshire) across Scotland to access. For 2020/21, North Ayrshire Council was allocated £1.3 million and future year allocations present opportunities to undertake regeneration projects using this fund which incorporate tree planting.

The Green Action Trust presents an opportunity to support projects that enhance the natural environment and improve access to high quality green space.

Lastly, there is also the potential for local transport funds to support large scale tree planting along key routes to promote active travel to employment.

5.0 <u>Community Engagement</u>

At the heart of the tree planting programme is a desire to collaborate with local communities so that they are co-partners in the identification, development and delivery of as many planting schemes as possible.

Community involvement helps to achieve the Council's mission 'to improve the lives of North Ayrshire people and develop stronger communities' and the approach to community wealth building links communities with the benefits of local economic development.

It is imperative that a wide range of engagement methods are utilised, including both traditional and more modern, digital engagement methods to ensure many people are reached.

We also recognise the contribution which volunteers make in complementing the work of Council employees within North Ayrshire Council. A significant opportunity is presented by the strategy to engage both existing and new community volunteers to help with planting efforts- either as part of a planned scheme or through their own individual planting efforts which can all count to meeting our 2030 net-zero ambitions.

A community engagement plan will be prepared as an early action of the Community Engagement Task Force established to deliver the Tree Planting Strategy (see Section 8). This will include the potential to create an interactive online map to record where planting has taken place which can be promoted via social media platforms in order to get as many people involved as possible.

There is a particular opportunity to involve young people, including via the eco-schools programme, to get involved in planting schemes and potentially plant trees in suitable parts of the school estate which would also deliver outdoor learning opportunities.

The programme will require a framework in place to support the current network of volunteers and grow and expand the network of volunteers in a sustainable way.

6.0 <u>Land Identification and selection criteria for planting</u>

As stated in Scottish Forestry's Strategy, it is imperative that the right tree is planted in the right place.

To assist in the land identification and selection criteria for the new areas of woodland, close reference should be made to the Ayrshire and Arran Forest and Woodland Strategy 2014. A task force will be established to oversee the decision-making process on identifying and selecting appropriate land and projects to contribute to this initiative. This group will have responsibility for seeking specialist external advice from relevant consultants, in fields such as soil science and land contamination, if required.

A range of considerations such as ownership agreements, ground conditions, existing and current land use must be thoroughly assessed to ensure that the locations identified for this tree planting programme results in sustainable and healthy woodland areas.

Land ownership and competing land use are often barriers to woodland creation, however a better understanding of forest and land economics should enable productive areas to be secured for this programme.

As well as the overall aim of absorbing carbon from the atmosphere, the planting of trees in each location must also incorporate future associated aims at each site, such as the potential for providing amenity value for local communities or timber production to yield future economic return.

Within North Ayrshire Council's land ownership portfolio, areas should be selected in conjunction with land and property renewal workstreams.

At this stage, from an initial review of Council land assets, it is anticipated that an indicative target of 80% of planting would take place on Council owned land, with around 20% on privately owned land or other public agency land subject to landowner and any other permissions required.

It is therefore likely that the majority of tree planting sites will be located on existing open space owned by the Council. North Ayrshire Council's Open Space Strategy and Asset Management Plan sets out the Council's approach for the management and maintenance of all open space assets, and aims to ensure that 'any open space which provides, or has the potential to provide, environmental, social and/or economic benefits to communities, whether direct or indirect, within and around urban areas.'

The tree planting programme will give careful consideration to the species, layout and spacing of trees to ensure they have sufficient room to grow and develop to minimise the requirements of future maintenance, and opportunities for local sapling cultivation will be explored.

In addition, the Vacant and Derelict Land Strategy will influence the areas in North Ayrshire that can be planted upon open space. As stated in Action 2 of the Strategy, any new investment proposals will first consider vacant and derelict land. The strategy has been developed alongside an online 'story map' that provides information on each site for potential regeneration.

Alongside North Ayrshire Council's land and open space assets, as noted above, there is also scope to partner with other public sector landowners, via the CPP, to encourage planting on their estate.

Private estate owners may also be interested in utilising part of their land to create a woodland area. There are benefits of tree planting for farm managers and private landowners as they can work alongside existing forms of production by increasing biodiversity, preventing soil erosion, flood protection and providing shelter.

Volunteering groups and community organisations interested in planting trees will also be a valuable resource in providing areas suitable for tree planting across North Ayrshire. Local communities have important local knowledge.

A task force will be established to take forward land assessment and selection work to deliver the planting programme.

6.1   Key Sites

There are several key sites across North Ayrshire that have already been earmarked for wider regeneration or other development projects which could incorporate a significant volume of tree planting. These sites are detailed below and if approved, could together account for around 45% of the target planting area under the programme. It must be recognised that a tree planting programme of this scale will require several larger planting sites to fulfil the requirement along with smaller planting locations. The benefit of these key sites is that they have detailed design proposals and could deliver a large part of this planting commitment in the early part of the implementation period.

The land use task force will review all sites currently in the development stage across Council services to ensure that all relevant sites are given due consideration.

6.1.1   Irvine Enterprise Area

North Ayrshire Council has ownership of land at the strategic investment campus at Irvine's i3 Enterprise Area. There is the potential for up to 10 hectares of land at this site to be developed through this tree planting project. A masterplan for the area is in development and will highlight the potential area of land available for tree planting proposals. Any identified opportunity will be fully appraised to determine its appropriateness in terms of land use and net zero contributions and in the context of other development opportunities for the site.

6.1.2   Lochshore, Kilbirnie

The current masterplan at the Lochshore development in Kilbirnie includes extensive tree planting proposals. Site investigations were conducted during 2019 to inform suitable planting locations.

There is the potential to create up to 10 hectares of broadleaf and conifer woodland areas as part of the Lochshore development.

6.1.3   Upper Garnock Natural Flood Management Study

To further reduce flood risk to the Upper Garnock catchments, the Council commissioned a Natural Flood Management Study for the catchments. This is ongoing and aims to reduce

the flood risk to Kilbirnie and Glengarnock by identifying mitigation measures which hold back surface water to the upper catchments. This can be potentially achieved with improving land and soil management practices, woodland creations, non-flood plain wetland creations and overland sediment traps.

7.0 <u>Delivery Models</u>

A tree planting programme of this scale needs to consider how the target of planting 108,000 trees can be successfully achieved and by the desired timescale and within budget using a variety of delivery models.

To give an indication of scale, as per North Ayrshire Council's Tree and Woodland Management Policy, the Council is responsible for and currently occupies approximately 275 hectares of woodlands, comprising of many thousands of trees.

Therefore, the target of 44 hectares is a further 16% increase on the current amount of Council woodland, if all the new trees as part of this woodland creation programme were planted on North Ayrshire Council owned land. This increase will have an impact on the current level of staff resource and time required for the ongoing maintenance and inspections of woodland areas and should be considered accordingly as part of this proposal.

7.1 Options Appraisal

With regards to the actual delivery and implementation of the tree planting programme, an initial four different types of delivery models have been presented that are available to the Council. It is likely that the most sustainable and efficient method will be a blend of the different models identified as each has different strengths.

For each individual delivery model, an options appraisal has been carried out and presented in a series of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analyses below.

The options have been considered in relation to the objectives and capacity of the programme.

Option 1: NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL (in-house)

Approach: Cross-service working across North Ayrshire Council to manage, co-ordinate and plant the trees using in-house resources.

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
- Single point of delivery - All trees planted on North Ayrshire Council land - Interconnect various North Ayrshire Council services - Best practice shared	- Impact on resources - Access expertise, knowledge and information from other organisations - Limits land selection for planting as only North Ayrshire Council owned sites utilised
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS

o Future income generation of end product e.g. timber / biomass o Link to North Ayrshire Council's Volunteering Policy o Creation of jobs/apprenticeships/work experience o Reduction in overall areas of vacant and derelict land sites	• Limited community involvement unless blended with Option 4

Option 2: CONTRACTORS (North Ayrshire Council Arboricultural Framework)

Approach: Utilise the services of professional Arboricultural contractors. The contractors identified are all on the current Council framework to ensure the procurement of these services offers best value, reliability and high standard of work.

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
➢ Contractors identified through the Corporate Procurement Unit ➢ High level of expertise ➢ Professional organisations covering insurance and risk assessments ➢ Established and experienced in specific arboricultural services ➢ Ability to plant large number of trees over a shorter period of time ➢ Results on the ground quicker	▪ Potentially higher cost than other models
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
o Maintenance and reporting included as part of the contract agreement	• Conflicting timescales • Availability of contractors • Impact on resources through contract management

Option 3: CO-OPERATIVES/TRUSTS (local enterprises)

Approach: Delivery through co-operatives and trusts such as the Woodland Trust and East Ayrshire Woodlands or establishment of a new/linked co-operative.

East Ayrshire Woodlands was set up over 20 years ago as a co-operative arrangement. This local initiative operates as a partnership programme to support landowners and communities to enhance and expand the woodland network across Ayrshire.

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
➢ Strongest alignment with CWB objectives ➢ High level of expertise ➢ Area based with local geographical knowledge ➢ Focussed on social outcomes as well as economic and environmental	▪ Resource ▪ Availability ▪ Cross management

➢ Professional organisations covering insurance and risk assessments ➢ Access to funding streams ➢ Established and experienced ➢ Provide advisers	
OPPORTUNITIES	**THREATS**
o Ability to plant in quicker time o Potential to unlock other areas to plant o Employment and training opportunities o Community involvement	• Conflicting timescales • Impact on resources through contract management

Option 4: VOLUNTEERING COMMUNITIES (Organisations and Individuals)

Approach: Community led approach to tree planting relying on existing groups to undertake planting as part of wider environmental improvement projects.

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
➢ Community involvement and empowerment – strong links to Council Plan and aims ➢ Volunteer workforce reduces staff cost and time ➢ Volunteer Engagement Strategy fulfilled	▪ Scale of project and numbers of volunteers required ▪ Organisation ▪ Training ▪ Monitoring of trees planted due to high number of different volunteers / individuals
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
o Community engagement and empowerment o Formation of Community Woodlands o The transfer of local authority woodlands will provide new opportunities for social enterprises, including co-operatives	• Availability of volunteers • Risk and insurance considerations • Future maintenance

7.2 Pilot Phase

Alongside consideration and development of the above delivery models, it is recognised that there is an opportunity to progress some early pilot project work in the forthcoming 2020/21 planting season which runs from November- March 2021.

This would provide welcome early progress in meeting the target, as well as provide learning for the task force groups to use to develop further schemes for planting season 21/22 and beyond.

Officers are currently working with both community groups and a trusted woodland delivery partner to identify several pilot sites for potential planting on Council owned land by end March 2021.

8.0 <u>Governance and Next Steps</u>

The successful implementation of this tree planting programme requires the options for delivery to be assessed and analysed, consulted upon, and planting schemes to be delivered with appropriate maintenance, monitoring and reporting methods in place.

The approach to delivery should capitalise on the strengths and opportunities created by each delivery model, therefore a co-ordinated approach and partnership working is essential for the success of this programme.

In terms of programme management and governance, a Programme Board will be established to oversee implementation and drive forward identification, development, funding and delivery of individual planting schemes.

This group will comprise officers from relevant Council services, including Streetscene, Sustainability, Communities, Planning, Regeneration, and Active Travel and Transport, along with other stakeholders. It is anticipated that over time membership may be expanded to include other CPP partners and community groups.

Three key task forces will also be established alongside the Programme Board to provide pace to the key delivery considerations as follows:

<u>Task force – Project Delivery</u>

A task force will be set up to oversee the decision-making process on identifying and selecting appropriate land and projects to contribute to this initiative.

This group will prioritise land use opportunities and select areas that are suitable for planting. This group would carry out desk-based exercises and follow up with site visits to analyse key sites to determine high quality planting and design works, scope out appropriate tree species and suppliers, preparatory land works, engineering and landscaping works required.

This group will also have responsibility for ensuring the objectives of each scheme developed are optimised in accordance with the objectives identified at Section 3.0 of this document.

An early output of this task force will be preparation of a detailed action plan for planting scheme delivery for the 21/22 and subsequent growing seasons.

<u>Task force – Funding</u>

This task force will monitor the financial elements of the programme, including analysis of scheme business cases, identification of, and application to, external grant funding sources, as well as budgetary control monitoring of the £500,000 fund itself.

This task force will include representatives with expertise in procurement, finance and experience of applying for grants and funding schemes available to support the core funding of £500,000 allocated by the Council.

An early output of this task force will be the preparation of a detailed action plan for expenditure and leveraging of match funded external grant.

<u>Task force – Community Engagement</u>

Co-development with local communities is an essential strand of the programme. A task force will be set up to establish a community engagement and communications strategy, oversee community consultations, empower communities, scope out volunteering opportunities and generally support local groups who wish to participate.

An early output of this task force will be preparation of a community engagement and wider communications plan for programme delivery.

The final element of governance will be annual reporting to the Council's Cabinet regarding progress on implementation of the strategy.

CPP Senior Officers Group

Date: 22nd April 2021

Subject: North Ayrshire's Kickstart programme

Purpose: The purpose of the report is to update on the progress of North Ayrshire Council's Kickstart programme and highlight future opportunities.

Background

The Kickstart Scheme provides funding to employers to create job placements for 16 to 24-year olds on Universal Credit. Funding covers 25 hours a week, for 6 months at the National Minimum Wage, plus £1500 for training or other additional costs. The scheme is administered by Department for Work and Pensions. Employers in the private sector, public sector and 3rd sector can create jobs under the scheme.

North Ayrshire Council applied to be an approved "Kickstart Gateway" provider in September 2020 and was approved at the end of December. Originally, employers creating more than 30 jobs could apply directly to DWP, with the others required to apply through a Gateway. However, in January, DWP announced that all employers could now apply directly to DWP and stopped accepting new bids to become Gateway providers at the end of January.

As a Gateway provider, North Ayrshire Council offers employers –

- Additional funding to support and encourage payment of the living wage
- Wrap around support for young people on placement and/or employers
- Support with recruitment or ongoing training needs
- Aftercare support for young people if their employment is not made permanent

Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce and CEIS Ayrshire are also approved Kickstart Providers.

Despite the Covid lockdowns the response from local employers has been very strong.

- 307 jobs have been approved by DWP, with a further 136 jobs submitted for approval (443 jobs in total)
- The 443 jobs are split across 102 employers
- 99 have now been advertised by DWP

A verbal update on the most recent numbers of filled posts can be provided at the meeting. We expect the numbers of jobs being advertised to grow as lockdown restrictions ease.

There have been delays and frustrations during the implementation period and we have worked with DWP locally and nationally to address these. However, the situation remains, that it can take at least 2 months from an employer notifying interest, to that being approved, advertised, and filled. Therefore, it is vitally important that employers are pro-active and approach the council timeously to their needs.

While there are no official figures to evidence it, we believe from discussions with other local authorities, that the North Ayrshire Council programme has posted the largest amount of

vacancies to date amongst local authority Gateway providers. We believe there is an opportunity during the rest of the year, to continue this progress and support up to 800 young people into temporary jobs. Given the delays in the programme and the lockdown restrictions in the early part of the year, we will be lobbying for a time extension to the programme into 2022. The current programme rules stipulate the last placements should begin by end of December 2021.

Key Points for CPP Senior Officers

- Despite some delays and frustrations around processes, the North Ayrshire Council Kickstart programme has made a very encouraging start. Feedback from the first employers and young people to benefit has been extremely positive.

- Demand from employers has to date come mainly from local business who are engaged with the council. North Ayrshire Council has not advertised the scheme as such, as it was important to iron out processes with DWP and manage expectations with employers.

- However, the council now intend to publicise the success of the programme and encourage more employers to come forward. While employers can apply directly to DWP for funding, the council programme adds value through additional support, and we would continue to ask partners to promote that message to employers.

- While the public and 3rd sector can apply for funding through Kickstart, the North Ayrshire Council Employability team have not pursued this pro-actively, as the response from the private sector has stretched capacity and fulfilled our ambitions. However, there remains scope for partners to sign up to create 6 months posts through the scheme.

- Kickstart is a UKG initiative to address youth unemployment. SG support comes through the Young Persons Guarantee and a programme of support has been developed as part of this. All North Ayrshire's employability support is developed through the Local Employability Partnership with key partners collaborating to ensure a joined up and strategic approach to tackling the highest level of unemployment in Scotland.

Action Required by CPP Senior Officers

- Support the council to promote the success of the programme during May, as part of the Council's launch of its Young Persons Guarantee.

- Encourage any employers interested to note an interest with the council as soon as is possible.

- Encourage public sector partner to provide opportunities for young people and support the wider agenda around Fair Work particularly for identified excluded groups (young people, those with health and disabilities, low paid workers, women).

- Further follow up discussion with individual partners is offered as part of a wider discussion on Fair Work and employability support.

For more information please contact: Greig Robson, Senior Manager Employability and Skills, 07774002256 and greigrobson@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

Completed by: Greig Robson

Date: 07.04.2021

CPP Senior Officers Group

Date: 22 April 2021

Subject: Inclusive Economy Dashboard

Purpose: To seek Senior Officer Group feedback on the proposed Inclusive Economy Dashboard for North Ayrshire.

1. Executive Summary

North Ayrshire is recognised as a sector leader in Scotland and the UK in defining and implementing inclusive growth. This work paved the way for the Community Wealth Building (CWB) approach and we see Community Wealth Building as a practical means to achieving an inclusive and wellbeing economy in North Ayrshire. This report provides an overview of why we need inclusive economy approaches in North Ayrshire; the findings of the innovative Inclusive Growth Diagnostic Pilot undertaken 2016-2018; what we are doing to deliver these findings including the Community Wealth Building strategy; the barriers to achieving an inclusive economy; and the creation of a new Inclusive Economy Dashboard announced as part of the Economic Recovery and Renewal Approach published in September 2020.

2. Background

The concept of inclusive growth recognises that not all people, groups and places benefit from growth. This trend is evident within North Ayrshire, with certain geographies and groups not fully participating or receiving the benefits of the economy. Therefore, inclusive growth was a key component of the refreshed Economic Development and Regeneration Strategy in 2016. We now use the language of inclusive economy – replacing the word growth – in recognition that a focus solely on enhancing Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as an output is not sufficient to recognise the wider levels of economic, social and environmental wellbeing across our communities. This is not to say that we do not want growth or promote degrowth – we do need growth in certain areas, for example in green technologies, and we want local businesses to grow (in a sustainable manner) and create fair work, but it is a recognition that there are often trade-offs between growth and inclusion or growth and the environment.

<u>Why do we need an inclusive economy?</u>
It is clear from socio-economic data that partners have needed to deliver a different approach to supporting the economy and the current health emergency only strengthens this need:

- North Ayrshire's claimant count (estimate of people claiming unemployment related benefits) for February 2021 is the highest in Scotland – 8.4% claimants

as a proportion of the working age population compared to national average of 6.1%; the North Ayrshire rate is 50% higher than the pre-COVID-19 benchmark of February 2020.

- Highest rate of unemployment in Scotland in the reference period October 2019 to September 2020 at 6.0%.
- Scottish Government analysis identified NA as the least resilient economy in Scotland.
- Fifth lowest job density in Scotland at 0.57 jobs (ratio of total jobs to working-age population).
- Second lowest female employment rate at 64.2% compared to 71.3% for Scotland (NA male employment rate = 74.5%).
- Third highest rate of economic inactivity in Scotland at 27.3%.
- EA core or work limiting disability employment rate below the national level at 47% for NA compared to 49% for Scotland.

Analysis by the Fraser of Allander Institute at the University of Strathclyde has highlighted the stark levels of regional inequality in Scotland. The new NUTS2 Southern Scotland region introduced in 2018 (comprised of the Ayrshires, South Lanarkshire, Dumfries and Galloway and Scottish Borders) has the lowest GVA per head across the whole of the UK.

Inclusive Growth Diagnostic
The Council worked in partnership with the Scottish Government's Office of Chief Economic Advisor, to pilot the 'Inclusive Growth Diagnostic'. The main purpose of the Diagnostic was to identify constraints and opportunities for driving inclusive growth in North Ayrshire, in order to prioritise actions to address them.

The Diagnostic followed a five stage process:
1) Interrogation of data to unpick what is driving local inclusive growth performance
2) What constraints do benchmarking, evidence and local knowledge identify
3) Community consultation to ensure constraints identified are accurate
4) Prioritisation of constraints using diagnostic methodology
5) Local results which are informing priorities and innovative projects

The Diagnostic identified a list of prioritised constraints as outlined in Graph 1 below.

Diagnostic Results
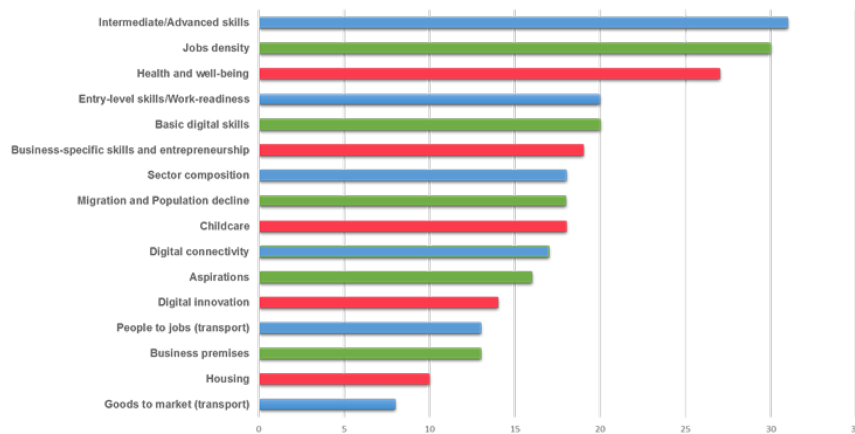
Graph 1: Findings of NA IG Diagnostic

Whilst many constraints were identified: health, the volume and type of jobs and skills were the key issues. This exercise also identified 'excluded' groups – that is, groups sharing similar characteristics that have been particularly excluded from the economy (and particularly labour market inclusion). The excluded groups identified are as follows:

- Young people;
- Those experiencing long-term health problems;
- Those experiencing in-work poverty; and
- Females.

A key finding of the Diagnostic was that whilst we used the findings to influence our local economic development priorities, as well as embed them into partnership working at a regional level, national government and its agencies must reflect and response to the Inclusive Growth priorities. For example, addressing a low jobs density will largely depend on the investment decisions made or directed by national bodies. Whilst it is recognised that the priorities in themselves are complex and interdependent, there needs to be recognition that national policy must change to recognise the challenges.

Since the agreement of the findings of the Diagnostic in 2018, work has taken place to embed the findings into service delivery and partnership working, including:

- In partnership with H&SCP we have targeted unemployed parents through the "We Work for Families" initiative. The project uses health visitors to engage and refer unemployed parents (predominantly female) into employability services.
- Targeted lone parents through our Skills for Life programme, which provides 6 months paid work placements.
- A major health and employability proposal has been developed for the Ayrshire Growth Deal (AGD) and is now moving to implementation.
- A major skills fund has been developed for the Ayrshire Growth Deal (AGD).
- A supported employment service implemented (EQUAL) to support disabled residents back to work.
- Promotion of the Real Living Wage, fair work and skills interventions.
- Development of the Community Wealth Building strategy, which has been mapped against the key findings of the Diagnostic. In addition to this, the

commitment of key regional Anchor Institutions to the Ayrshire Anchor Charter through the Community Wealth Building Commission.

- Development of the Economic Recovery and Renewal Approach ('Green New Deal') focused on young people, wellbeing, Green Jobs Fund, supporting progression opportunities and upskilling, using capital investment to create local jobs. A series of 'asks' of both Scottish and UK Government to support an inclusive and green economic recovery in North Ayrshire were also developed.
- Development of a clear policy position to promote the need for investment into North Ayrshire, evidence base aligned to this, and participation in a number of national groups, including the Inclusive Growth Network, to amplify our position.

Inclusive Economy Dashboard

The Economic Recovery and Renewal Approach, published in September 2020, outlined an action to: 'Develop an Inclusive Economy Dashboard to track our inclusive and green economic recovery and our new economic model, learning from the Doughnut Economics tool which proposes an economy with a social foundation we cannot fall below and environmental limits that should not be exceeded'.

Doughnut Economics proposes a social foundation that we cannot fall below and an ecological ceiling that should not be exceeded if we are going to create an ecologically safe and socially just space for healthy people and a healthy planet.
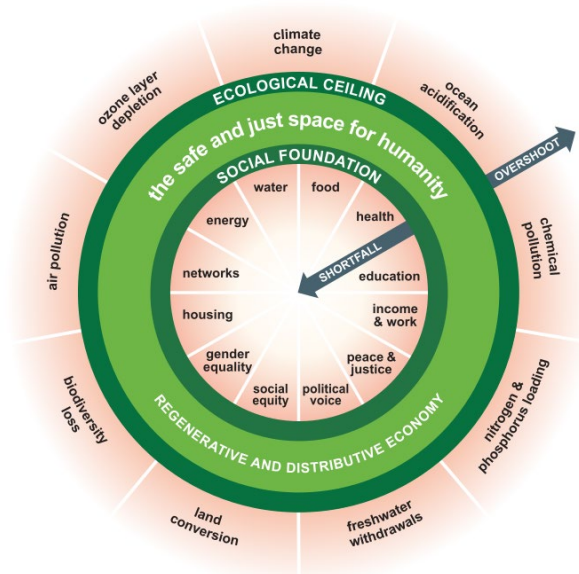
Figure 1 – Illustration of the original 'Doughnut'

(source: Kate Raworth, Doughnut Economics Action Lab)

The Dashboard has been developed through in-kind consultancy support as part of our membership of the Inclusive Growth Network, with the Economic Policy team working closely with Metro Dynamics consultancy to development the Dashboard.

The following key steps have been undertaken to support the development of the Dashboard:

1. *Assessment of metrics aligned to local objectives and the Doughnut Economics tool. Metrics cut across social, economic and environmental measures.*

2. *Metrics developed into a draft model informed by Doughnut Economics principles. This captured trends in data, comparisons to Scottish average, and linked metrics to local priorities (Inclusive Growth Diagnostic, Community Wealth Building strategy, Council Plan Performance Framework, Child Poverty Action Plan, Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy, Fair for All, as well as the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)). As part of this step, the project team reviewed similar models and best practice from other places.*

3. *Revision of this model based on feedback from Council officers and external partners. This included an internal officer workshop and engagement with officers from the following services: Business Development, Children's Services, Community Planning, Corporate Policy and Performance, Corporate Sustainability, Education, Employability and Skills, HSCP, Planning, Protective Services and Regeneration. Feedback was also sought from the following 'critical friends': Centre for Progressive Policy (Inclusive Growth Network), Joseph Rowntree Foundation (Inclusive Growth Network), Fraser of Allander Institute, Professor Alan McGregor (University of Glasgow). The Dashboard is part of the agenda for the 2 March 2021 meeting of the Community Wealth Building Expert Advisory Panel.*

The full Dashboard (model and tables) is presented in Appendix 1. Learning from the Doughnut Economics tool, the Dashboard is presented with two overarching themes: 'sustainable environment' and 'socio-economic foundation'. Within these a series of domains are presented reflecting local, national and international priorities. Within each domain is at least one indicator which reflects performance within that particular domain, along with a comparison to the Scottish average, trend performance and a description. The Dashboard includes a visualisation of the domains in the 'doughnut' shape including a RAG status colour coding on trend performance, with tables below including the data, comparisons, performance and descriptions. Behind the public facing Dashboard are Excel spreadsheets which include links to the original datasets, sources as well as the update frequency of the data. In addition to this, a technical note has been prepared (attached within Appendix 2).

The approach for the socio-economic foundation has followed a 'life cycle approach' developed by Metro Dynamics as well as domains on equality, place and business. The life cycle approach is an internal Metro Dynamics tool used as the first stage of place-based inclusive growth diagnostics to understand the anatomy of the local inclusive growth challenge. It looks at a series of indicators across a person's life cycle, from early years to older residents.

The Dashboard has taken forward key findings of the Inclusive Growth Diagnostic, in particularly the identification of 'excluded groups' (groups that have been particularly excluded from the economy and in particular labour market inclusion) with indicators included to track these groups: those with health barriers (EA Core or Work-Limiting

Disability Employment Rate); those in in-work poverty (Percentage earning below the Real Living Wage); females Female Employment Rate); and young people (Youth Claimant Count, Participation Rate, School Leaver Positive Destination). The Dashboard also reflects the key 'constraints' identified by the Diagnostic (health, the volume and type of jobs, and skills).

When deciding on indicators, we ensured that they:

- Align with North Ayrshire Council and CPP strategies;
- Allow for comparisons with Scotland averages and over time;
- Are regularly updated and easy to access;
- Provide insight on the North Ayrshire people, place and economy;
- Are considered to be accurate and robust measures;
- Indicate socio-economic and environmental outcomes.

In terms of indicators included, there were several areas officers would like to see reflected in the Dashboard, nevertheless for various reasons such as availability and reliability of data these were not included at this stage. Table 1 below outlines the areas not included and the rationale.

Indicators where there should be lobbying of Scottish Government to develop a local measure: • Social capital   • 'Green' jobs and 'green' business adoption
Indicators that were not included due to data reliability issues: • Ethnic Minority employment rate (no data available due to small sample size)   • Access to and use of public transport (Scottish Household Survey)   • Access to green and blue space (Scottish Household Survey)   • Volunteering   • Social enterprises
Areas we would look to include in a future version when measure obtained: • Land covered in forest   • Biodiversity

Table 1: Gaps in data and data reliability issues faced

It is worth noting that even though there is no weighting attached to the domains, that there are inter-relationships between them. For example, an increase in GVA might not necessarily be positive for emission reduction.

<u>Next Steps</u>

It is proposed that this Dashboard will replace the socio-economic reports that were previously reported to the North Ayrshire Council's Executive Leadership Team and shared with wider partners (produced by the Economic Policy team, with the previous two versions undertaken by the Fraser of Allander Institute). Monthly Covid-19 Economic Impact briefings continue to be report to the Emergency Management Team, Elected Members, Chief Officers and Community Planning partners. The Dashboard will be hosted on the Council website providing easy to understand social, economic and environmental wellbeing data to communities, partners and Council officers, supporting an evidence-based approach. Future reviews would take place on the indicators included and the presentation of the Dashboard.

There are opportunities to think about how the Council uses the model beyond monitoring progress. Some Local Authorities in the UK including Cornwall, as well as Amsterdam on an international level, have used the Doughnut Economics tool as a model for supporting decision making across social, economic and environmental domains. Further engagement will take place with external partners including the Inclusive Growth Network on lessons that can be learned from the use of such tools to inform any future updates to the Dashboard. In addition to this, a mapping exercise has been undertaken against the Council Plan's priority outcomes and performance management framework and wider Council strategies. Subject to any further changes, the Dashboard will be presented to Cabinet in May 2021.

3. Proposals

It is recommended that the Senior Officer Group:

- Provide feedback on the Inclusive Economy Dashboard and consider how partners can contribute to progress on the indicators within the Dashboard.
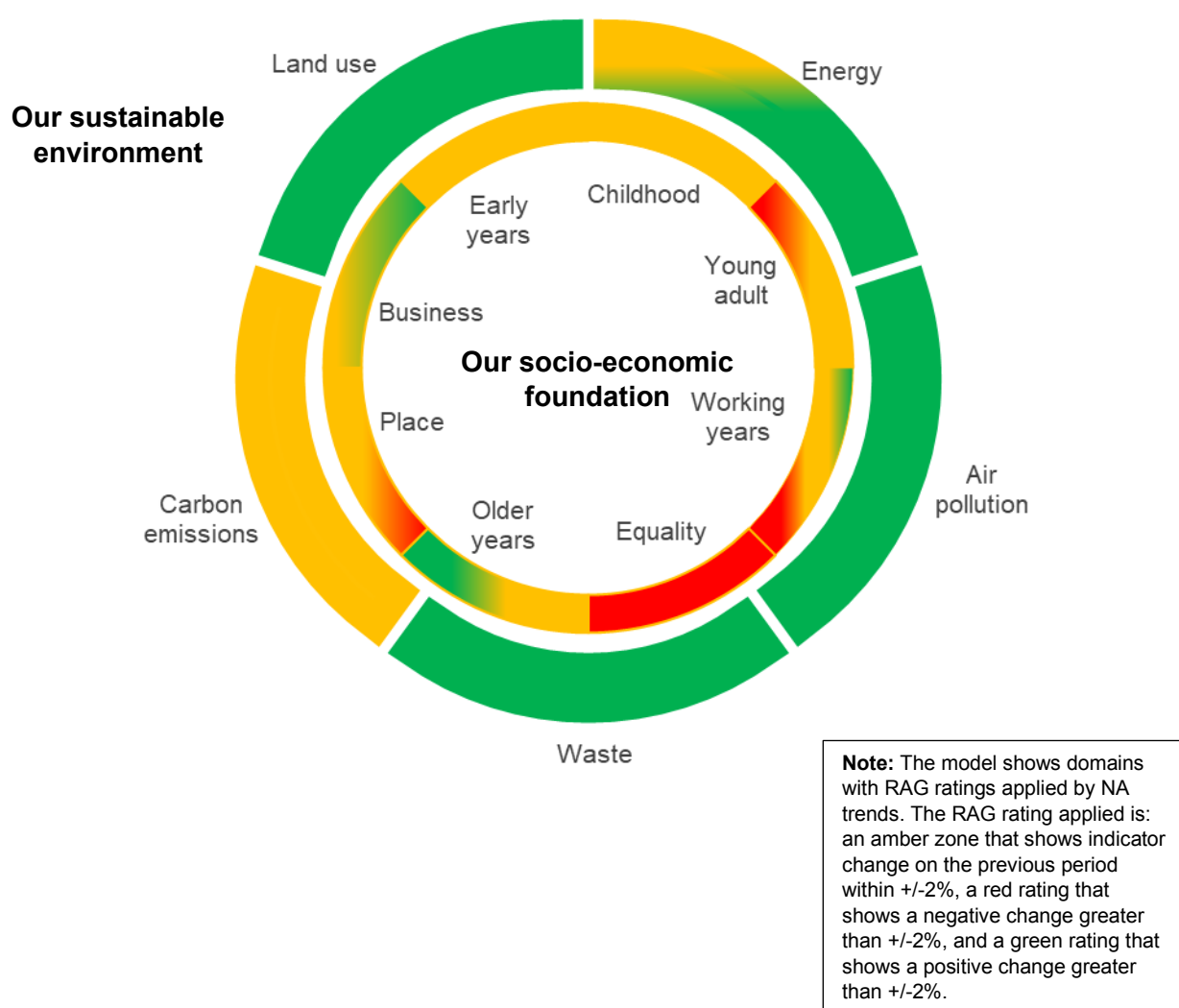
Attachments:
Appendix 1 – Draft Inclusive Economy Dashboard
Appendix 2 – Inclusive Economy Dashboard Technical Note

North Ayrshire Inclusive Economy Dashboard

This Inclusive Economy Dashboard has been developed to measure social, economic and environmental wellbeing in North Ayrshire. It uses publicly available statistics to track progress on the things that we care about as a place in relation to an inclusive and green economic recovery and renewal.

The Dashboard uses the learning from the Doughnut Economics tool which proposes an economy with a social foundation we cannot fall below and environmental limits that should not be exceeded.

Note: The model shows domains with RAG ratings applied by NA trends. The RAG rating applied is: an amber zone that shows indicator change on the previous period within +/-2%, a red rating that shows a negative change greater than +/-2%, and a green rating that shows a positive change greater than +/-2%.

Our sustainable environment

Domain	Indicator	North Ayrshire (rated against Scotland average)	Scotland average	North Ayrshire change from previous period	Notes
Carbon emissions	CO2 per capita in North Ayrshire (Total)	6.2 tonnes/capita (2018)	5.3 tonnes/capita (2018)	0%	North Ayrshire CO2 levels are 17% higher than the Scotland average, and are not improving noticeably
	Total Domestic CO2 per capita in North Ayrshire	1.58 tonnes/capita (2018)	1.6 tonnes/capita (2018)	-0.6%	North Ayrshire domestic CO2 levels are 1.3% lower than the Scotland, and are reducing slightly, reflecting local heavy industry
Land use	Land use: vacant and derelict land in North Ayrshire	0.0088 ha/capita (2019)	0.002 ha/capita (2019)	-7.4%	North Ayrshire vacant and derelict land is 340% higher than the Scotland average, but is improving
Energy	Renewable electricity: Installed Capacity at Local Authority Level	0.0012 MW/capita (2019)	0.0022 MW/capita (2019)	0%	North Ayrshire renewable energy capacity is 45.5% lower than the Scotland average, and has not seen recent change
	Total final energy consumption in North Ayrshire	35.5 MWh/capita (2017)	27.6 MWh/capita (2017)	-6.8%	Energy consumption in North Ayrshire is 28.6% higher than Scotland average, but is reducing
	Total final energy consumption in North Ayrshire (excluding bioenergy and wastes)	24.7 MWh/capita (2017)	26.6 MWh/capita (2017)	-8.5%	Excluding bioenergy and wastes, total final energy consumption per capita is 7.1% below Scotland and falling
Air pollution	North Ayrshire Air Quality (declared Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA))	0 breaches	N/A	0 breaches	North Ayrshire has avoided declaring any Air Quality Management Zones
Waste	Household waste data for North Ayrshire: % Recycled	56.3% (2019)	44.9% (2019)	+3.1%	Waste recycled in North Ayrshire is 25.4% higher than Scotland average, but is not rising noticeably

Our socioeconomic foundation

Domain	Indicator	North Ayrshire	Scotland	North Ayrshire change from previous period	Notes
Early years	Preschool children meeting developmental milestones	74.3% (2017/18)	73.6% (2017/18)	+1.2%	North Ayrshire is 0.95% lower than Scotland, with slight recent improvement
Childhood	Literacy and numeracy attainment gap between most and least deprived at P1, P4, P7	19.56% (2018/19)	18.74% (2018/19)	N/A	North Ayrshire is 4.38% higher than Scotland
	Child poverty (After Housing Costs)	28.3% (2018/19)	24% (2018/19)	+0.7%	North Ayrshire is 17.9% higher than Scotland, with slight recent improvement
Young adult	Youth claimant count	10.3%	6.90%	+66%	North Ayrshire is 49.3% higher than Scotland, with a recent rise
	16-19 participation rate	90.6% (2020)	92.1% (2020)	+0.1%	North Ayrshire is 1.63% lower than Scotland, with slight recent improvement
	Percentage of pupils entering positive leaver destination after school	94% (2018-19)	95% (2018-19)	-1.7%	North Ayrshire is 1.05% lower than Scotland, with slight improvement
Working years	Fuel poverty	28% (2016-18)	25% (2016-18)	+7.7%	North Ayrshire is 12% higher than Scotland, with recent rise
	No or low qualifications (up to NVQ2)	45.3% (2019)	39.2% (2019)	+1.3%	North Ayrshire is 11% higher than Scotland, with slight recent rise
	Employment	69% (Oct 2019-Sep 2020)	73.8% (Oct 2019-Sep 2020)	-1.7%	North Ayrshire is 6.5% lower than Scotland, with slight recent drop
	Unemployment	6% (Oct 2019-Sep 2020)	3.5% (Oct 2019-Sep 2020)	0%	North Ayrshire is 71.4% higher than Scotland, with no recent change
	Economically inactive	27.3% (Oct 2019-Sep 2020)	23.5% (Oct 2019-Sep 2020)	+10%	North Ayrshire is 16.2% higher than Scotland, with recent rise
	Claimant count (All/pop 16-64)	8.2% (Dec 2020)	5.9% (Dec 2020)	+55%	North Ayrshire is 39% higher than Scotland, with recent rise
	% earning below Real Living Wage	16% (2019)	16.9% (2020)	-34%	North Ayrshire is 5.3% lower than Scotland, with strong improvement
	Average earnings	£596.3 pw (2020)	£592.7 pw (2020)	+8.5%	North Ayrshire is 0.6% higher than the Scotland average, with recent rise
Equality	Female Employment Rate	64.2% (Oct 2019-Sep 2020)	71.3% (Oct 2019-Sep 2020)	-2%	North Ayrshire is 10% lower than Scotland, with slight recent drop
	EA Core or Work-Limiting Disabled	47% (2019)	49% (2020)	-4%	North Ayrshire is 4.08% lower than Scotland, with recent drop
Older years	Healthy life expectancy: Female (at birth)	56.0 (2016-18)	62.2 (2016-18)	-1.9%	North Ayrshire is 10% lower than Scotland, with slight recent drop
	Healthy life expectancy: Male (at birth)	57.3 (2016-18)	61.9 (2016-18)	+2.3%	North Ayrshire is 7.43% lower than Scotland, with slight recent improvement

Domain	Indicator	North Ayrshire	Scotland	North Ayrshire change from previous period	Notes
Place	Population change from the previous year	-0.4% (2019)	+0.5% (2019)	0%	North Ayrshire is 180% lower than Scotland, with no recent change
	Working age population (aged 16-64)	60.7% (2019)	64.0% (2019)	-0.3%	North Ayrshire is 5.16% lower than Scotland, with slight recent drop
	Town Vacancy Rate	12.5% (2019/20)	11.7% (2019/20)	+25%	North Ayrshire is 6.84% higher than Scotland, with recent rise
	Percentage of premises able to access Superfast Broadband	94.1% (2019)	93.3% (2019)	-0.2%	North Ayrshire is 0.86% higher than Scotland, with slight recent drop
	ONS Personal well-being: Average Happiness Score (out of 10)	7.22 (2019/20)	7.43 (2019/20)	-1.9%	North Ayrshire scores 2.8% below the Scottish level, with a recent drop.
Business	GVA per head	£14,840 (current prices, 2018)	£26,013 (current prices, 2018)	+2.6%	North Ayrshire is 43% lower than Scotland, with recent improvement
	Business 5-year survival rate	42.4% (2014-18)	42.3% (2014-18)	+3.4%	North Ayrshire is 0.24% higher than Scotland, with slight recent improvement
	Jobs density	0.57 (2019)	0.82 (2019)	0%	North Ayrshire is 30.5% lower than Scotland, with no recent change

Dashboard Technical Note

Indicators selected for the Dashboard

- When selecting metrics to include in the Dashboard, we ensured that they:
    - Align with North Ayrshire strategies, building in metrics from CWB and others
    - Are regularly and publicly updated and easy to access
    - Are considered to be accurate and robust measures
    - Allow for comparisons with Scotland averages and over time
    - Provide insight on the North Ayrshire people and economy
    - Indicate socioeconomic and environmental outcomes
- The confidence intervals and reliability of indicators were examined before determining whether an indicator was suitable for inclusion. For example, we mapped key indicators in line graphs to 'sense-check' their recent performance as the Dashboard is only providing a snapshot of this and last period's data and not the whole picture. Following this methodology meant that some desirable metrics had to be omitted from the Dashboard as they were not deemed reliable enough to include.
- As the Dashboard is used in future, there will be opportunities to review the indicators included and consider revisions in response to data availability and changing priorities. However, we should maintain a basket of key indicators that are included regardless (i.e. employment, unemployment, etc).

RAG rating method

- The finalised version of the Dashboard uses the following banding for the RAG ratings:
    - Underperforming by 2% or more against the Scotland level/last period's North Ayrshire data = Red
    - Within a range of +/-2% compared to the Scotland level/last period's North Ayrshire data = Amber
    - Outperforming by 2% or more against the Scotland level/last period's North Ayrshire data = Green
- Selecting the cut-off points for RAG ratings is a subjective process which can be influenced unintentionally by pre-existing biases. Considering this, we feel that the selected level of +/-2% for the RAG ratings seems reasonable, we arrived at this through sensitivity testing the data against other levels (i.e. +/-5% and +/-10%). The chosen range produced the best spectrum of results with respect to highlighting key trends in the North Ayrshire data.
- The North Ayrshire change from the previous period column compares the current figure for North Ayrshire (for a specified indicator) against its figure for the same indicator for the same time in the previous year – basically capturing the indicator's 12 month change in performance. Where the data was not available for the previous year the data for two years prior was used in its place, this could potentially misrepresent the actual trend; however, as no data exists for the previous year, it is better to use what data there is to best capture indicator trend performance.
- The choice to use the trend data RAG ratings on the doughnut model was the preferred approach over using the Scottish RAG indicators, as we understand the structural deficiencies against the Scottish average for some indicators; however, we want to promote/highlight areas where North Ayrshire is showing improvement and where the performance is worsening (i.e. economic inactivity). The Scottish benchmarking in the Dashboard panels are included to monitor North Ayrshire's performance against the national average.

- It should be noted that care must be taken regarding current and potential future indicators' confidence intervals with respect to RAG ratings, this is especially true for indicators where they are close to the cut off points (i.e. 1.9%) on the RAG ratings.

Impact of Covid-19 on data

- It should be caveated that Covid-19 is having a significant effect upon the labour market indicators now and likely in future periods – especially as the Government Jobs Retention Scheme is still in place at the time of data collation (February-April 2021). The Dashboard could experience a 'green-shift' where indicators look more favourable in a year after Covid-19 recedes – in the labour market data especially. Changes in the following year could appear red/amber in comparison.
- Therefore, it is recommended that in future additional 3-year average performance figures are considered for inclusion to account for statistical anomalies and outliers. Additionally, this may allow us to expand the possible pool of indicators from which to draw from as the employment of 3-year averages allows us to mitigate period to period volatility and smooth indicator performance.

North Ayrshire Local Outcomes Improvement Plan 2017 - 2022

CPP Structure

CPP Board

CPP Senior Officers Group

- Community Engagement Network
- Economic Development and Regeneration Board
- Safer North Ayrshire Partnership
- Health and Social Care Partnership
- Children's Services Strategic Partnership

- Arran Locality Partnership
- Garnock Valley Locality Partnership
- Irvine Locality Partnership
- Kilwinning Locality Partnership
- North Coast Locality Partnership
- Three Towns Locality Partnership

Overarching themes:

Strengthening local communities

Prevention

Tackling inequalities

Fair For All

North Ayrshire CPP pledges to tackle the root causes of Child Poverty and mitigate its impact to create a better life for local people.

Priority:

Our ambition:

A Working North Ayrshire

To have created the most improved economy in Scotland by 2026

A Safer North Ayrshire

North Ayrshire is a safer place to live, residents feel safer and communities are empowered.

A Healthier North Ayrshire

All people who live in North Ayrshire are able to have a safe, healthy and active life.

A Thriving North Ayrshire

We want you to have the best start in life and for North Ayrshire to be the best place in Scotland to grow up.

Strategic Priority	Jan-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	Jun-21	Aug-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	To be scheduled
Working NA		3rd Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change (ESCC) Strategy, Electric Vehicles	Tree Planting Strategy, Kickstart, Inclusive Economy Dashboard					Ayrshire Growth Deal, Community Wealth Building
Healthier NA	Arran Alcohol and Drugs Study, Community Food System, Integrated Joint Board minutes	Young Peoples' Suicide Taskforce	Integration Joint Board minutes, Wellbeing Conversation and Strategic Plan, Health Inequalities Assessment	Integrated Joint Board minutes, Alcohol and Drugs Partnership update	Integrated Joint Board minutes	Integrated Joint Board minutes	Integrated Joint Board minutes	Caring for Ayrshire, HSCP Strategic Plan
Thriving NA	Childrens Services Strategic Partnership update	Cost of the School Day	Youth Participation and Citizenship Strategy, Cost of the School Day, The Promise		Childrens Services Strategic Partnership update		Childrens Service Strategic Partnership Update	Child Poverty Action Plan
Safer NA	Draft Local Police Plan, Community Justice Ayrshire				Performance reports as per Police and Fire and Rescue Committee, Community Justice Ayrshire	Safer North Ayrshire Partnership update		
Locality Partnerships Fair for All	Locality Partnership minutes	Locality Partnership priorities Review update	Locality Partnership minutes		Locality Partnership minutes		Locality Partnership minutes	Locality priorities and profiles refresh
LOIP	LOIP on a page	LOIP on a page, Q3 LOIP Performance Report	LOIP on a page	LOIP on a page, Q4 LOIP Performance Report	LOIP on a page, Draft LOIP Annual Report, Q1 LOIP Performance Report, LOIP 2022	FFA Advisory Panel minutes LOIP on a page	LOIP on a page, Q2 LOIP Performance Report	
Communities	Events support for community organisations			CPP social media				Peoples Panel, Community Engagement Centre of Excellence
Learning and Development	Inviting additional attendees to CPP SOG Minutes of Dec CPP Board	CPP Learning and Development Plan Risk Register (by email)						
Governance				Annual review of terms of reference, membership and appraisal, Minutes of CPP Board	Minutes of June CPP Board	CPP Planning, Minutes of Sept CPP Board		
Key Strategic Developments		CPP Step Change		Partner updates		Partner updates		
Information circulated outwith meeting	Inspiring Scotland Link-Up report, Vice Chair of CPP SOG, Call for agenda items, Community Justice Ayrshire options paper	SDS update, weekly update on national policy and research, NAC digital strategy, trauma informed practice, local Police Plan, local priorities refresh, monthly economic briefing, Police Scotland webinar, Money advice leaflet	Economy Update, Digital Strategy Survey, Local Governance Review Update, Local Place Plan Workshop, 20 minute neighbourhoods,					