



Glasgow City Council

**Environment, Sustainability and Carbon Reduction City
Policy Committee**

Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhoods and Sustainability

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Item 1

24th November 2020

**GLASGOW ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY – SHORT LIFE WORKING GROUP
REPORT**

Purpose of Report:

To outline to Committee the research, public consultation feedback and recommendations of the Ecological Emergency Working Group.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that Committee:

- (i) Notes the content and recommendations of the Glasgow Ecological Emergency Working Group.
- (ii) Notes the public consultation feedback.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

Local member(s) advised: Yes No

consulted: Yes No

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Members previously considered a report on the global climate emergency and its local implications at the meeting of the Environment, Sustainability and Carbon Reduction (ESCR) City Policy Committee held on [5 February 2019](#).
- 1.2 At that meeting, it was noted that the latest scientific evidence shows clearly that time is running out in which action can be taken to limit global temperature rises and prevent a planetary catastrophe. This will require deep cuts to carbon emissions and broader change in the policies and practices of local and national government to bring climate issues to their fore.
- 1.3 A report was subsequently submitted to the ESCR City Policy Committee on [8 October 2019](#) to establish an Ecological Working Group. Its key remit was to ensure ecological aspects of the Climate Emergency Working Group's recommendations form an integral part of our current strategies and action plans and that these are aligned with the emerging Climate Emergency Action Plan.
- 1.4 It was also noted that while actions and recommendations were being put forward for consideration by the Climate Emergency Working Group additional focus was required to address the ecological emergency.

2. Working Group Activities

- 2.1 The Ecological Emergency Working Group was convened shortly after the ESCR City Policy Committee meeting of 8 October. It includes representation from three political groups on the Council, as well as external organisations with expertise in ecology and members of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan Partnership.
- 2.2 The Group has met on a regular basis to review key ecological strategies including:
 - Recognise and integrate within the LBAP, mutually beneficial interactions with Climate Emergency Working Group proposals and actions.
 - Review the Council's Pollinator Plan to determine which actions need strengthened, expanded and brought forward.
 - Map interactions with other existing and in-development Council guidance and strategies, especially the Open Space Strategy.
 - Review the Council's tree planting strategy.
 - Review relevant legislation pertaining to the City Development Plan including the Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA).
- 2.3 A number of presentations from speakers on a range of issues were provided relating to:
 - The State of Nature Report 2019.
 - The Open Space Strategy.
 - The Local Biodiversity Action Plan.

- Vacant & Derelict Land.
- Land management – peatland, grassland, wetland, and trees.

2.4 The Group also commissioned a survey of public views on ecological issues in order to inform its thinking and foster a public debate. This was published on the Council's website and ran over February and March 2020. Although this coincided with the Covid-19 lockdown it received a total of 917 responses and a wealth of information and opinion (See Appendix C).

3. Proposals

3.1 The attached report states the recommendations of the Ecological Emergency Working Group. It makes it clear that the working group has taken the opportunity to look across a broad range of issues relating to biodiversity loss: land-use change, impact of climate change, pollution, invasive alien species and the exploitation of natural resources.

3.2 These recommendations seek to address the decline in habitat, highlight the need for the Council and partners to work together to enhance biodiversity across the city as well as the need to provide further opportunity to promote ecological issues to all our citizens.

4. Next steps

4.1 The working group's recommendations, some of which are undoubtedly challenging for the Council and its partners, will require changes to how it delivers on a number of key strategies and in the approaches taken towards policy-making, service delivery and performance management.

4.2 Glasgow can play a key, leading role as an exemplar City to prevent further erosion of habitat and biodiversity loss due to human activities and to enhance the good work already carried out as highlighted in the attached Biodiversity Duty Report (See Appendix E).

4.3 The Council will therefore need to engage its Community Planning colleagues and key partners to consider how the city can meet the challenges and respond to the working group's recommendations.

4.4 It is also felt that approved actions are incorporated into a joint Climate and Ecological Action Plan and progress of approved recommendation reviewed through the established committee oversight structures.

4.5 A webinar for all elected members will be organised to highlight the findings and recommendations of the group and to promote the issues raised within the report.

5. Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

Financial:

Resources for joint working are covered by existing departmental budgets. There could be a stream of specific projects which are developed as part of this joint-working and each one will be assessed against the overall funding envelope prior to progressing.

Legal:

No specific legal resource implications identified.

Personnel:

No immediate direct personnel implications from the report.

Procurement:

No specific procurement resource implications identified.

Council Strategic Plan:

The Strategic Plan sets out a vision for Glasgow becoming the most sustainable city in Europe, and a resilient city. The recommendations support the following priorities:

Priority 63 - Give all children better access to outdoor play by upgrading school playgrounds and play areas.

Priority 71 - Promote and enhance our city's natural resources including nature reserves and public parks.

Priority 72 - Support the development of Glasgow as a Sustainable Food City.

Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

Does the proposal support the Council's Equality

Barriers to participation in arts, learning, physical activity, learning and culture will be reduced for people with protected characteristics by increasing opportunities for participation in

Outcomes 2017-22

What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?

Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio economic disadvantage.

Sustainability Impacts:

Environmental:

Social, including opportunities under Article 20 of the European Public Procurement Directive:

Economic:

environmental initiatives and the outdoors.

An EQIA screening has been undertaken.

The range of biodiverse habitats and improved environments established across GCC parks, woodlands and greenspaces will be free to access for all, potentially improving health and wellbeing outcomes and allowing access to volunteering and skills development.

Activities to manage, maintain and extend habitats will bring about a net positive impact on the environment. Projects will contribute to the connectivity and accessibility of greenspace throughout the city for both people and wildlife.

Social benefits around identifying opportunities for communities to work collectively on developing and maintaining community growing spaces.

The impact of an improved ecosystem remains essential to our economic prosperity and other aspects of our welfare.

This includes: Purification and Detoxification: filtration, purification and detoxification of air, water and soils;

Regulation and Stabilisation: pest and disease control, climate regulation, mitigation of storms and floods, erosion control, regulation of rainfall and water supply;

Habitat Provision: refuge for animals and plants, storehouse for genetic material;

Information/Life-fulfilling: aesthetic, recreational, cultural and spiritual role, education and research.

**Privacy and
Data Protection
impacts:**

This report has no impacts upon privacy or data protection

6. Recommendations

It is recommended that Committee:

- (i) Notes the content and recommendations of the Glasgow Ecological Emergency Working Group.
- (ii) Notes the public consultation feedback.

Ecological Emergency Short Life Working Group

Report and Recommendations

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Globally, biodiversity is declining. One million species are at risk of extinction from human activities. Climate change is intensifying biodiversity loss. There is evidence to suggest that the world is currently experiencing its sixth mass extinction event.
- 1.2 The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) Global Assessment Report 2019 shows 5 main drivers for biodiversity loss: land-use change, impact of climate change, pollution, invasive alien species and the exploitation of natural resources. Changes in land-use is the major driver, with the impact of climate change likely to be one of the most important drivers in the future.
- 1.3 The State of Nature Scotland 2019 report highlighted a 24% reduction in average species abundance since 1994 and a 14% reduction in average species distribution since 1970. The State of the UK's Butterflies report 2015 showed that 75% of butterfly species had declined in range or abundance over the past 40 years.

2.0 Glasgow's Approach

- 2.1 Glasgow City Council declared a climate and ecological emergency on 16th May 2019. Prior to this, the Council set up a climate emergency working group to prepare a report and recommendations.
- 2.2 When the Council declared a climate and ecological emergency, it agreed that, following presentation of the climate emergency working group's report, a short life process should be put in place in order to establish whether additional recommendations are required to address the ecological aspects of the emergency specifically.
- 2.3 Glasgow currently has over 6000 species recorded and a variety of priority habitats within the urban setting. The Glasgow Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) sets out aims and objectives to protect and enhance local biodiversity in the city. The Glasgow Pollinator Plan links to the LBAP and supports the national Pollinator Strategy for Scotland.
- 2.4 The ecological emergency working group acknowledges the existing good work of the LBAP partnership at the local authority level which was set up following the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, in response to the UK becoming a signatory to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Glasgow City Council works in partnership with both national environmental agencies and local biodiversity organisations to deliver local biodiversity action plans. It employs dedicated biodiversity officers who support the partnership. The focus is on

three actions in relation to nature in the local area: conservation, communication and education for biodiversity through the implementation of the LBAP and Pollinator Plan. This was highlighted in the report from the climate emergency working group which stated that, ‘the group is highly supportive of the Council’s lead role on biodiversity issues.’”

3.0 Ecological Short Life Working Group

- 3.1 The working group considered a number of presentations from a range of speakers and organisations covering: Neighbourhoods and Sustainability, Development and Regeneration Services, The Woodland Trust, Seven Lochs Wetland Park, NatureScot (previously Scottish Natural Heritage), Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (Scotland), and Butterfly Conservation (Scotland). We are grateful to all the presenters for taking the time to meet with us and discuss areas of interest to the group. They have helped to stimulate our thinking and to shape our recommendations.
- 3.2 Presentations were given on the following topics: the LBAP, city-wide grassland management, Glasgow’s open space strategy and Connecting Nature, the vacant and derelict land (VDL) strategy, tree planting strategy, restoration of peatlands, the State of Nature report, Giving Nature a Home and the state of butterflies and moths in Scotland.
- 3.3 We also commissioned a public survey to get a better sense of how Glaswegians feel about these issues. Although the end of the consultation period coincided with the start of the Covid-19 lockdown, it received 917 responses and a wealth of information and opinion. The consultation was carried out between February and March 2020, and was made available to the general public and all stakeholders through the Council’s website (www.glasgow.gov.uk/consultations) – See Appendix C Survey Responses. The consultation was extensively promoted through the Council’s social media channels, including Twitter and Facebook. Some areas of concern were particularly prominent in these responses and they are reflected in our recommendations.
- 3.4 Discussion on the LBAP, city-wide grassland management and the Glasgow Open Space Strategy and Connecting Nature project looked at the quality of greenspaces in the city, the multifunctional nature of city greenspaces and how space for nature can be incorporated and mapped for monitoring. It also highlighted the importance of the planning process and city development plan in protecting greenspaces and biodiversity and the principle of biodiversity net gain in developments. Importantly there was discussion about habitat linkages and how these can be created and maintained, for example through reduced grass cutting, wildflower strips and hedgerows and by the creation of green roofs and green walls which are biodiverse for bees and other pollinators. See Appendix E – Biodiversity Duty Report.
- 3.5 Survey respondents backed up the group’s discussions when they said that the Council should support planners and developers to step up protection and

enhancement of green space and biodiversity (55%); that the Council should work with other public sector land owners to maximise green corridors and pollinator ways through the city (53%); that we should increase connections across the city between green spaces, for both people and wildlife (51%) and for more open space to be allocated for nature in the city (50%).

There was also enthusiasm for grassland management with 53% of respondents wanting to 'restore and extend wildflower meadows' when asked 'which of the following do you consider important?' with options to restore and extend woodlands and hedgerows; increase the urban tree canopy cover; restore and extend wildflower meadows; protect soil by reducing disturbance and fertiliser use; reduce carbon in management of the natural environment i.e. less cuts of grass per year; restore and extend wetlands and restore peatlands.

- 3.6 Discussion on the vacant and derelict land strategy, a tree planting strategy and restoration of peatlands looked at land use in the city and the contributions that woodlands and peatlands make to biodiversity, carbon sequestration, shade provision and rain and flood management. The group felt that VDL sites should be assessed for their potential as greenspaces and this should include surveying for existing biodiversity interest before any 'greening' takes place. VDL sites could contribute space for tree planting across the city.
- 3.7 It was discussed that a tree planting strategy should identify spaces across the city where there is potential for tree planting which does not damage existing valuable habitat such as meadows. It was agreed by the group that planting the right trees in the right places has benefits not only for carbon capture and climate change mitigation, but also for people's health and community engagement opportunities. Maintenance of trees and woodlands is essential.
- 3.8 This was backed up by survey respondents who, when asked which actions the Council and the city should do to address the ecological crisis, said to increase planting of native trees and plant species on and around active travel routes (49%).

Additionally, in terms of how the city can achieve carbon neutrality by 2030, survey respondents feel that priorities should be to restore and extend woodlands and hedgerows (78%) and increase the urban tree canopy cover (56%).
- 3.9 The working group's discussion on peatlands looked at the need to redress previous poor management of raised bogs in the city and to protect them from development. It was highlighted that Scotland's peatlands are its single most important terrestrial carbon store- over 20 times that of its forests. Interestingly, only 25% of survey respondents thought that restoring peat bogs should be a priority for the Council and the city to address the ecological crisis. However, this may be an artefact of the way the question was worded,

with respondents only allowed to choose their top five priorities. It may also be that residents are unaware of the existence of peatlands, more often a rural feature, within the Glasgow boundary (see Appendix C, Q1). An issue for Glasgow is that though many peat-rich areas are protected for their nature conservation value they are not owned by the Council so appropriate management will require communication and engagement with land owners.

- 3.10 Discussion on the State of Nature Report, Giving Nature a Home and the State of Butterflies and Moths in Scotland focussed on the alarming decline in species abundance and distribution across Scotland and looked at reasons why our biodiversity is declining and being lost; and what the main causes of this are nationally and with respect to Glasgow. The IPBES main drivers are relevant to Glasgow as well as nationally and it was agreed that restoring habitats, habitat linkages and the health and function of ecosystems is vital to reversing these declines. It was agreed that it was important to keep biological records in Glasgow up-to-date for site monitoring and management.
- 3.11 The majority of survey respondents agreed that our biodiversity is declining and being lost (96%). When asked about the main causes, 98% agreed that human activity, changes in land use and pollution have an impact on biodiversity loss.
- 3.12 Interestingly, only 39% of respondents were worried about the effects of biodiversity loss on them personally compared to 84% being worried about the effects of biodiversity loss on future generations which suggests that people care more widely about societal and community effects than simply about themselves. Large numbers of respondents were also worried about the effects of biodiversity loss on human health (68%); the effects of biodiversity loss on the environment (85%) and the loss of wildlife due to habitat destruction (85%).
- 3.13 Our survey work demonstrates an appetite amongst Glaswegians for more involvement in conversations about biodiversity and the ecological emergency. Most respondents feel this could best be done through social media (69%) and holding community workshops/community drop-ins (59%) while a further 59% are keen for opportunities to volunteer. Partnership working with schools and colleges is felt to be of benefit by 55% of respondents and 49% want increased opportunities to join 'Friends of Parks & Greenspaces' groups and food growing groups.
- 3.14 Respondents also highlighted active travel (walking and cycling), parks and greenspaces, and food growing (allotments and community gardens) as important for 'greening' and reducing carbon footprint.
- 3.15 Respondents were asked for additional comments regarding their level of worry about a range of ecological issues. Here respondents mentioned a level of despair at the continued failings of governments, organisations and businesses to take the issue seriously and to implement actions to tackle the problem. There was also concern that sections of the population still failed to

understand the issue or grasp the seriousness of the situation. As a result of this, there was strong support for greater education about the importance of action and how the environment, nature and the role we play in it are linked.

4.0 Recommendations

- 4.1 Three of the recommendations within the climate emergency working group's report relate to the natural environment and are directly relevant to the ecological emergency. These recommendations are thus incorporated into the ecological working group's recommendations:

A formal audit and costed plan are brought forward by the Council and its city-region partners on the opportunities for much greater tree planting and other ways of harnessing the natural environment to absorb emissions.

A review is undertaken to address existing barriers to tree planting in order to significantly increase the number of trees within the city over the next 5 years.

A review takes place to identify vacant and derelict land suitable for greening and rewilding, with a view to its change of use as designated open space.

- 4.2 It is important that any tree planting is of native species with a diversity and mix of species being chosen to benefit invertebrates, birds and other wildlife. There may be differences in management approaches in designing woodland for biodiversity and woodland for carbon offsetting and it is vital that biodiversity is fully considered in any decision-making on tree and woodland management.
- 4.3 Any review of vacant and derelict land with a view to greening and re-wilding must include ecological surveys of what already exists at a site and consider the priority habitat 'Open Mosaic Habitat on Previously Developed Land' before any 'greening' measures are put in place.
- 4.4 Biodiversity, encompassing both habitats and species, does not stop at the city boundaries and therefore it is important to work with partner organisations out with Glasgow to ensure that habitats, habitat linkages and species and their local populations are protected and enhanced more widely.

The loss of tree cover from many large trees planted in the 19th and early 20th Century must be viewed in the wider context of the reduction in the amenity, cultural and historic value within the Conservation Areas, but also as part of the Ecological and Climate Emergencies. This loss is exacerbated by the fact that even if replacement trees are planted, the trees chosen for planting are much smaller species that will never reach the stature of the original trees.

It is necessary that biodiversity enhancement is fully considered and integral to the audit, costed plan and review noted in the first two recommendations. It

is also essential that any new planting must have appropriate revenue contributions assigned to ensure adequate management is in place.

As an outcome of the working group's activities, our additional and related recommendations:

A formal audit and costed plan that fully considers and integrates biodiversity enhancement is brought forward by the Council and its city-region partners on the opportunities for much greater tree planting and other ways of harnessing the natural environment to absorb emissions.

A review takes place of vacant and derelict land relating to opportunities for these sites to contribute to the Open Space Strategy and the Local Biodiversity Action Plan. This must consider potential to retain, where present, the priority habitat 'Open Mosaic Habitat on Previously Developed Land' as outlined in: [Habitats On Previously Developed Land](#)

The Council commits to working with other public bodies, third sector, business community, Glasgow's citizens and communities and adjacent local authorities to halt and reverse the decline in biodiversity.

A review is undertaken to address existing barriers to tree protection and tree planting in order to significantly increase the number of trees within the city over the next 5 years.

The Council to support the process to introduce the primary legislation which will safeguard amenity while creating a more efficient and effective way to deal with the high number of Section 172 notifications received by planning authorities.

Also increase support for tree planting by setting a target to increase canopy cover with reference to the existing baseline of 15% for 2015, assisted by a tree forum to bring together plans for city trees and to increase awareness with target areas linked to schools. Support the work of the Open Space Strategy and Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership which contributes to understanding where tree planting will be particularly beneficial for nature by providing better habitat connections.

The Council will use the My Park Scotland crowdfunding platform to support partnership working with existing charitable trusts to increase resources for the protection, planting and maintenance of trees through public donations similar to the "Tree Time Edinburgh City", "Replant Bristol" and Street Trees in New York.

- 4.5 The Glasgow LBAP and Pollinator Plan contain actions to implement their main aims and objectives. The Plans run for a 10-year period. However, in light of the Ecological Emergency, and with time running out to make the changes needed globally, nationally and locally, the group recommends that funding and resources are made available to implement the Plans more quickly. In addition, monitoring and review of progress made is essential at a

local level in Glasgow to feed into national biodiversity strategies and provide accurate national monitoring and progress reports.

Our recommendation: The Council works with partner organisations, adjacent local authorities, the city's academic institutions and other stakeholders to fund and achieve accelerated implementation of the Glasgow LBAP and Pollinator Plan within a significantly reduced target time frame and incorporating additional outcomes regarding connectivity for biodiversity under the Urban Ecosystem Statement. Interim reports on progress to be provided to the Environment, Sustainability and Carbon Reduction City Policy Committee.

- 4.6 The working group discussed the importance of the city development plan in protecting greenspace and biodiversity and survey respondents (55%) said that the Council should support planners and developers to step up protection and enhancement of green space and biodiversity. It is vital that the planning process takes cognisance of the importance of biodiversity in making decisions about developments and land-use changes across the city supported by relevant models such as Building with Nature certification.

Our recommendation: The new City Development Plan, and associated guidance, strengthens and extends existing requirements on the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and includes a default requirement for overall biodiversity net gain, as well as for specific actions such as the provision of swift bricks and bird and bat boxes, to guide the development of proposals and planning decisions. This should be supported through additional professional development for all planning officers. The City's Open Space Strategy Delivery Plan will identify the open spaces that should be used to provide more opportunities for biodiversity and for habitat connectivity and the Council will act, with its partners, to deliver these opportunities.

- 4.7 Green roofs with biodiverse planting (including a wide range of wildflower species) have been shown to provide suitable habitat for bees and other invertebrates. There is great potential for green roofs to be installed on existing and new buildings in the city. Green roofs also play a role in water management and sustainable urban drainage systems contribute to climate mitigation and temperature regulation.

Our recommendation: The new City Development Plan identifies the benefits of green roofs and sets out a strong presumption that new buildings will include green roofs, wherever possible, to deliver benefits for biodiversity and surface water management. The Council actively promotes the installation of green roofs/green walls on appropriate city buildings.

- 4.8 Survey respondents (50%) asked for more open space to be allocated for nature in the city. This could be achieved by declaring more Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) throughout the city. Glasgow currently has 12 LNRs.

Designating LNRs in strategic locations would also help to increase green corridors, pollinator pathways and allow for woodlands, hedgerows and wildflower meadows to be maintained, established or enhanced.

Our recommendation: **The Council supports new, and further extensions to, Local Nature Reserves to improve green corridors and pollinator ways and protect and enhance habitats and species throughout the city – see Appendix D.**

- 4.9 Active travel was one of the most frequent issues raised by respondents to the climate emergency survey, alongside broader concerns about transport. It was also a concern of ecological emergency survey respondents with comments received about increasing cycling infrastructure; and the promotion of walking and cycling options. Active travel has benefits to public health and to help mitigate climate change and this has been addressed through the Climate Emergency Working Group's recommendations with regard to the city's new transport strategy. However, active travel routes are not currently all biodiverse. The Council has been working with the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership to identify opportunities for delivering better active travel opportunities through "green space" as part of the GCVGNP Green Network Blueprint. This analysis will be incorporated into the OSS Delivery Plan.

Our recommendation: **The Council and its partners ensure that current and proposed active travel routes are assessed for opportunities to enhance their biodiversity, for example through creation/retention of hedgerows and wildflower strips. Opportunities should be taken to maximise the potential of the green network, including river corridors, the canal corridor, through parks and on former rail formations, to provide routes that provide for engagement with nature. On more direct commuter routes, e.g. on road-space, opportunities should be taken to maximise nature as part of a wider placemaking approach.**

- 4.10 Food growing (allotments and community gardens) is seen by survey respondents as important for 'greening' and there is a wish for food growing sites to be expanded. The Council is currently producing its Food Growing Strategy for the city and there is a high level of interest in community groups for food growing locally. Each Scottish Local Authority also has a statutory duty under Part 9 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 to address allotment provision when certain triggers around waiting lists are activated. There is great potential for allotments, community gardens and other food growing initiatives to contribute to creating, protecting and enhancing biodiversity especially where food is grown organically without herbicide usage, and this should be supported. Site locations should have no adverse impact on priority habitats and/or species and site investigations should include an ecological survey prior to any decisions being made.

Our recommendation: **Food growing sites (allotments and community gardens) are located out with biodiversity diverse sites and are supported to deliver biodiversity net gain and habitat connectivity.**

- 4.11 Managing grasslands and wildflower meadows across the city for pollinators and other wildlife are key actions within the LBAP and Pollinator Plan and vital to protecting and hopefully increasing pollinator populations in Glasgow. It is essential that this work continues to be maintained and extended and beneficial for the Council to work with others to do so to ensure connectivity and a full network of pollinator ways and that local communities are fully engaged with the process and consulted.

Our recommendation: **The Council's wildflower meadow and grassland management across the city is increased for pollinators, and a five year action and engagement plan for wildflower creation is developed. In addition engage with other large landowners in Glasgow to encourage similar habitat creation and consult with communities and neighbours.**

- 4.12 Water management and flood alleviation schemes are essential to climate change mitigation in Glasgow. There is great potential for sustainable drainage systems (SUDS) to benefit biodiversity if they are designed with nature in mind. For example, SUDs can have shallow permanent ponds, wildflower banks and accessible perimeters for animals, however some SUDS such as dry swales seeded with grass or underground systems have little or no benefit.

Our recommendation: **Installation of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS) in new developments or re-developments should provide biodiversity net gain through provision of habitats identified within the LBAP.**

- 4.13 The working group had a presentation and discussion on peatlands. According to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) 'peatland conservation is a prime example of a nature-based solution to climate change'. During the presentation, the group heard that Scotland's peatland is its single most important terrestrial carbon store- over 20 times that of its forests. Yet, in Glasgow, our peatlands need protection from development and the damage by previous poor management needs to be addressed. Lowland raised bogs are located in North East Glasgow. Large areas of the peatland-rich land are privately owned and there are damaged peatlands due to abandonment and fires.

Our recommendation: **The Council seeks further resources to develop engagement with all stakeholders to ensure that Glasgow's peatlands are restored and protected. In addition, the Council develops proposals to ensure that the peatlands are enhanced, including quantifying carbon capture storage and their impact.**

The Council develops a peat free procurement policy and will investigate what other actions can be taken to ensure procurement processes consider the natural environment.

- 4.14 Glasgow is known as the 'dear green place' due to its large number of parks, cemeteries and other greenspaces and survey respondents see these as important to 'greening' the city as well as for carbon capture. Many parks and greenspaces already contain some biodiversity habitats and species but there is potential for most, if not all, of them to further contribute to halting and reversing the decline in biodiversity and providing opportunities for 're-wilding'.

Our recommendation: **Strategic mapping and operational planning, should be carried out to enable parks and greenspaces, cemeteries, former landfill sites, and green/grey/blue corridors in the city to highlight opportunities to enhance biodiversity, provide space for nature, encourage pollinator-friendly planting in formal areas and creating habitat mosaics in larger parks/greenspaces as part of multi-functional usage.**

- 4.15 The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) Global Assessment Report 2019 shows one of the main drivers for biodiversity loss is invasive non-native species (INNS).

The Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) (2009) has defined INNS as 'Any non-native animal or plant that has the ability to spread causing damage to the environment, the economy, our health or the way we live.' There are many well documented cases of notorious species which are, or are perceived as being, problematic. For plants, such cases mainly relate to tall and vigorous growing high profile species such as Giant Hogweed. However there are many more species which are not viewed as problems and many species which people think of as being part of the native flora, are in fact non-natives.

The Audit of Alien Species in Scotland report (2001) suggested that 988 non-native species were established in Scotland. Studies for the flora of Glasgow show that out of some 1560 species recorded as 'growing wild' in the city, more than half were non-native. The WANE Act (2011) brought in new provisions governing the introduction of non-native species in Scotland. In Glasgow we have a 'Policy on invasive non-native plant species in Glasgow' but currently no specific non-native animal policies. The Council runs a Japanese Knotweed annual treatment programme which uses herbicide spraying and stem injection to control the species. Giant Hogweed is also controlled where it is considered a threat. There has been large scale *Rhododendron ponticum* removal from key sites.

Our recommendation: **The Council continues to implement its policy on Invasive Non-Native Species INNS and carry out treatment programmes and develops mapping of INNS city-wide to allow for monitoring and future treatment programmes as appropriate; and works with partner**

organisations with the aim of controlling/managing INNS along the city's river corridors, LNRs and at other key sites.

- 4.16 The Climate Emergency Working Group report has already noted that 'the climate emergency demands commitment and comprehension from all levels of our organisations. The working group wishes to see leadership from senior officials of our public bodies, as well as elected members. Climate issues are everyone's business and they need to be genuinely and tangibly mainstreamed through organisational life' and the same holds true for the ecological emergency.

Our recommendations: **Work with Community Planning to incorporate the principle of biodiversity net gain into their decision making.**

Ecological issues should be mainstreamed throughout the Council and other public bodies.

- 4.17 Volunteers and active community groups are vital to carry out local action for the environment and biodiversity. There are already existing opportunities to do so through Friends of Parks and Greenspaces groups and third sector organisations such as The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) working in partnership with the Council. However, survey respondents highlighted interest in volunteering with 59% 'keen for opportunities to volunteer'. Additionally, almost 49% want increased opportunities to join 'Friends of Parks & Greenspaces' groups and food growing groups.

Our recommendation: **Support and promote, using various means, local environmental volunteering groups to enhance biodiversity in their localities including working with the SSPCA to raise awareness of wildlife crime and responsible pet ownership.**

- 4.18 Over 90% of survey respondents who were a parent, guardian or carer of school age children said that educational establishments (schools, early years.) could do more to increase children's knowledge of ecology and causes of biodiversity loss and to increase children's experience and understanding of nature around them. It was noted that schools already do a lot of good educational work on the environment but also that teachers should have the time, training and resources needed to ensure children and young people have the opportunities to learn about the environment and nature.

Our recommendations: **Work in partnership with Education Services, support Glasgow's teachers to access training and resources to formally and informally engage with pupils on the ecological emergency and the actions which can be taken to tackle it; with development of support for outdoor learning across all staff in educational establishments including Early Years.**

The Council develops opportunities, as part of the Curriculum for Excellence, for all education establishments to access outdoor learning and undertake outreach biodiversity work.

- 4.19 When asked to provide any further comments about their children and education, it was noted that every school should have access to good quality useable greenspace.

Our recommendation: **Investment in and improvement of the education estate should protect and enhance biodiversity through sustainable and wildlife friendly green landscaping, associated planting and greening infrastructure, including green walls, with support for the provision of natural play areas and school gardens.**

- 4.20 When survey respondents were asked what else do they thought the city's private and public sector organisations should be doing to help support Glasgow's biodiversity, respondents highlighted that 'the Council should lead by example both to the public and as an employer' and that 'the Council should practice the same actions and recommendations with its land and green space as it asks the public to do'. As a public body the Council has a legal duty to 'further the conservation of biodiversity'. It makes sense to raise awareness of the ecological emergency to all council staff.

Our recommendation: **the Council develops ecological and climate emergency awareness mandatory training for all staff through its online training platform (GOLD).**

Appendix A: The Short Life Working Group Recommendations

We recommend that:

1. The Council commits to working with other public bodies, third sector, business community, Glasgow's citizens and communities and adjacent local authorities to halt and reverse the decline in biodiversity.
2. The Council works with partner organisations, adjacent local authorities, the city's academic institutions and other stakeholders to fund and achieve accelerated implementation of the Glasgow LBAP and Pollinator Plan within a significantly reduced target time frame and incorporating additional outcomes regarding connectivity for biodiversity under the Urban Ecosystem Statement. Interim reports on progress to be provided to the Environment, Sustainability and Carbon Reduction City Policy Committee.
3. The Chief Executive reviews current staffing, resource distribution and training for addressing the ecological emergency within the Council and brings forward proposals to increase the Council's focus in this area.
4. The new City Development Plan, and associated guidance, strengthens and extends existing requirements on the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and includes a default requirement for overall biodiversity net gain, as well as for specific actions such as the provision of swift bricks and bird and bat boxes, to guide the development of proposals and planning decisions. This should be supported through additional professional development for all planning officers. The City's Open Space Strategy Delivery Plan will identify the open spaces that should be used to provide more opportunities for biodiversity and for habitat connectivity and the Council will act, with its partners, to deliver these opportunities.
5. A Forestry and Woodland Strategy for Glasgow will be undertaken, and a costed implementation plan prepared, which delivers increased canopy cover, considers biodiversity net gain, habitat connectivity and carbon management. Through its contribution to the Clydeplan Draft Forestry and Woodland Strategy and the Blueprint for a Green Network, it will support engagement with our city-region partners. This strategy will seek to address existing barriers to tree protection and tree planting, including any recommendations to national government related to regulatory matters, and will be accompanied by a costed implementation plan which sets a target for an increase in canopy cover relative to the baseline of 15% in 2015. A Tree Forum of stakeholders will be established to oversee both this recommendation and recommendation number 7.
6. The Council will use the My Park Scotland crowdfunding platform to support partnership working with existing charitable trusts to increase resources for the protection, planting and maintenance of trees through public donations similar to the "Tree Time Edinburgh City", "Replant Bristol" and Street Trees in New York.

7. The Council to support the process to introduce the primary legislation which will safeguard amenity while creating a more efficient and effective way to deal with the high number of Section 172 notifications received by planning authorities.
8. The Council supports new, and further extensions to, Local Nature Reserves to improve green corridors and pollinator ways and protect and enhance habitats and species throughout the city.
9. A review takes place of vacant and derelict land relating to opportunities for these sites to contribute to the Open Space Strategy and the Local Biodiversity Action Plan. This must consider potential to retain, where present, the priority habitat 'Open Mosaic Habitat on Previously Developed Land' as outlined in: [Habitats On Previously Developed Land](#)
10. The Council and its partners ensure that current and proposed active travel routes are assessed for opportunities to enhance their biodiversity, for example through creation/retention of hedgerows and wildflower strips. Opportunities should be taken to maximise the potential of the green network, including river corridors, the canal corridor, through parks and on former rail formations, to provide routes that provide for engagement with nature. On more direct commuter routes, e.g. on road-space, opportunities should be taken to maximise nature as part of a wider placemaking approach.
11. The new City Development Plan identifies the benefits of green roofs and sets out a strong presumption that new buildings will include green roofs, wherever possible, to deliver benefits for biodiversity and surface water management. The Council actively promotes the installation of green roofs/green walls on appropriate city buildings.
12. Food growing sites (allotments and community gardens) are located out with biodiversity diverse sites and are supported to deliver biodiversity net gain and habitat connectivity.
13. The Council's wildflower meadow and grassland management across the city is increased for pollinators, and a five year action and engagement plan for wildflower creation is developed. In addition engage with other large landowners in Glasgow to encourage similar habitat creation and consult with communities and neighbours.
14. Installation of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS) in new developments or re-developments should provide biodiversity net gain through provision of habitats identified within the LBAP.
15. The Council seeks further resources to develop engagement with all stakeholders to ensure that Glasgow's peatlands are restored and protected. In addition, the Council develops proposals to ensure that the peatlands are enhanced, including quantifying carbon capture storage and their impact.

16. The Council develops a peat free procurement policy and will investigate what other actions can be taken to ensure procurement processes consider the natural environment.
17. Strategic mapping and operational planning, should be carried out to enable parks and greenspaces, cemeteries, former landfill sites, and green/grey/blue corridors in the city to highlight opportunities to enhance biodiversity, provide space for nature, encourage pollinator-friendly planting in formal areas and creating habitat mosaics in larger parks/greenspaces as part of multi-functional usage.
18. The Council continues to implement its policy on Invasive Non-Native Species INNS and carry out treatment programmes and develops mapping of INNS city-wide to allow for monitoring and future treatment programmes as appropriate; and works with partner organisations with the aim of controlling/managing INNS along the city's river corridors, LNRs and at other key sites.
19. Work with Community Planning to incorporate the principle of biodiversity net gain into their decision making
20. Ecological issues should be mainstreamed throughout the Council and other public bodies.
21. Support and promote, using various means, local environmental volunteering groups to enhance biodiversity in their localities including working with the SSPCA to raise awareness of wildlife crime and responsible pet ownership
22. Work in partnership with Education Services, support Glasgow's teachers to access training and resources to formally and informally engage with pupils on the ecological emergency and the actions which can be taken to tackle it; with development of support for outdoor learning across all staff in educational establishments including Early Years.
23. The Council develops opportunities, as part of the Curriculum for Excellence, for all education establishments to access outdoor learning and undertake outreach biodiversity work.
24. Investment in and improvement of the education estate should protect and enhance biodiversity through sustainable and wildlife friendly green landscaping, associated planting and greening infrastructure, including green walls, with support for the provision of natural play areas and school gardens.
25. The Council develops ecological and climate emergency awareness mandatory training for staff through its online training platform (GOLD).

Appendix B: Membership of the Ecological Working Group

Cllr Martha Wardrop (Chair)	Glasgow City Council
Cllr Kyle Thornton	Glasgow City Council
Cllr Laura Doherty	Glasgow City Council
Seamus Connolly	NS Glasgow City Council
Rachel Smith	NS Glasgow City Council
Carol MacLean	NS Glasgow City Council
Rachel Morrison	NS Glasgow City Council
Gavin Jackson	NS Glasgow City Council
Alan Duff	DRS Glasgow City Council
Sean Kelly	DRS Glasgow City Council
Dave Lang	NatureScot
Paul Walton	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Scott Shanks	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Fiona Weir	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Paul Kirkland	Butterfly Conservation Scotland
Anthony McCluskey	Butterfly Conservation Scotland
Arina Russell	The Woodland Trust
Rebecca Strofton	The Conservation Volunteers

Appendix C Public Ecological Emergency Survey Summary (March 2020)

Introduction

This report provides a summary of the online public consultation into the Ecological Emergency.

Background

The consultation was carried out between February and March 2020, and was made available to the general public and all stakeholders through the council's website (www.glasgow.gov.uk/consultations). The consultation was extensively promoted through the Council's social media channels, including Twitter and Facebook. In total, there were **917** responses received.

This report contains a number of charts and tables, where percentages do not sum to 100%, this may be due to computer rounding, the exclusion of 'don't know' categories or multiple answers.

Question 1: Which of the following actions do you think the Council and the city should do to address the ecological crisis? (Please select your top five priorities)

Action	Rank	Percentage (%)
Support planners and developers to step up protection and enhancement of green space and biodiversity	1	55%
Work with other public sector land owners to maximise green corridors and pollinator ways through the city	2	53%
Increase connections across the city between green spaces, for both people and wildlife	3	51%
Allocate more open space for nature in the city	4	50%
Increase planting of native trees and plant species on and around active travel routes	5	49%
Plant trees and hedgerows	6	48%
Plan for tree succession to ensure there are enough trees of different ages and sizes	7	45%
Create more wildflower meadows	8	44%
Increase numbers of street trees	9	38%
Install green roofs on new buildings	10	37%
Make sure maintenance is provided for to sustain public support for biodiversity measures	11	37%
Increase public awareness of the benefits to physical and mental health of being in contact with nature	12	37%
Maximise support for wild bird populations through provision of established solutions such as nesting bricks for swifts, and house sparrow meadow plots	13	35%
Talk to other local authorities in the UK and abroad about measures to address the ecological emergency in urban settings	14	34%
Designate more Local Nature Reserves	15	33%
Install green walls on city buildings	16	30%
Create more ponds/wetlands	17	28%

Install rain gardens in city streets	18	25%
Restore peat bogs	19	25%
Eradicate invasive non-native species	20	21%

Base: 904

Respondents suggested a range of further actions that the Council and the city should take to address the ecological crisis.

There was support for action which promoted food growing opportunities, particularly existing and new allotments and community growing spaces across the city. Respondents highlighted other areas which could be used including parks, vacant and derelict buildings and land, as well as shared back court areas. It was also suggested that action be taken to address the issue of herbicides and pesticides, which damage the environment and wildlife, being used both in food production and in landscaping to control weeds, etc.

As well as encouraging more growing spaces, some respondents wanted to see action which would create more general green spaces across the city, including re-wilding and the introduction of green walls/roofs and rain gardens.

Respondents particularly wanted to see action to address the issue of green belt land being used for housing and industrial development when there was already a substantial amount of unused brownfield land within the city.

'Perhaps using brownfield sites for development of housing instead of allowing the destruction of green belt as a priority! There's loads of unused land in the city that should be prioritised for housing first before destroying more green land at the edges of the city.'

Another area where respondents highlighted action around was public transport. To encourage greater use of public transport, it was suggested action should be taken to improve the infrastructure and integration, as well as reduce cost. There was also comment made that public transport could be made greener, through the introduction of more electric vehicles.

The improvement in public transport was seen in parallel with action to reduce the amount of private vehicles on the city's roads. Respondents thought action should be taken to discourage the use of cars by:

- banning most polluting cars
- reducing parking spaces available
- pedestrianising city centre streets

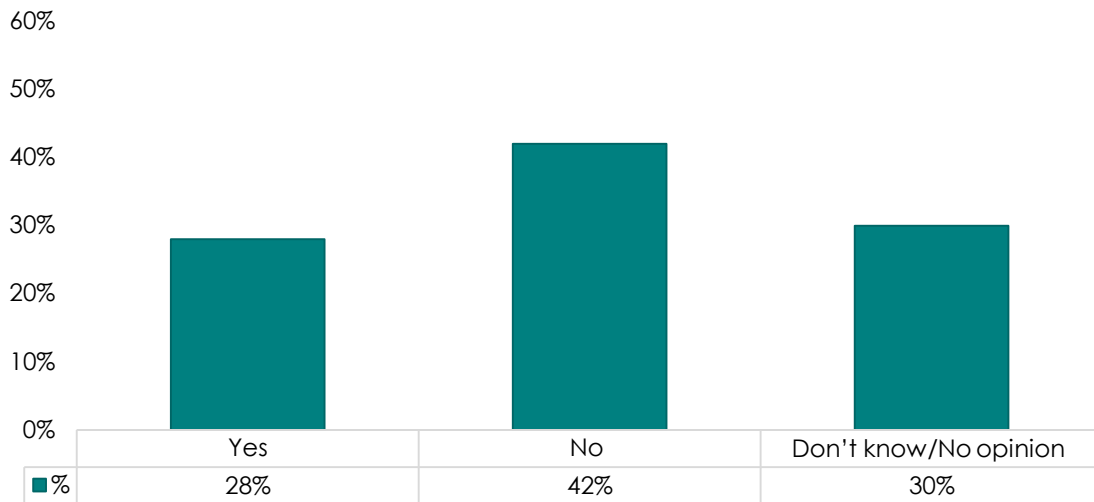
The reduction of car usage was also seen as an opportunity to encourage active travel options, including cycling and walking. Action was identified to increase the cycling infrastructure within the city including segregated cycle lanes, more cycle stations and improved cycle hire scheme.

'provide schemes to incentivise cycling in the city (improved cycle lanes, better provision for bicycle parking at stations and on street, day hire bicycles/ebikes, bike to work purchase scheme),

introduce measures to reduce the use of internal combustion engines within city limits.'

Finally, respondents wanted to address the issue of recycling, both in terms of reducing the amount of waste produced and to improve the availability of recycling. Respondents highlighted other cities which had banned the use of all single use plastics as an example which Glasgow should follow.

Question 2: Are you aware of actions that other cities have taken on ecological issues which Glasgow can learn from?



Base: 882

Question 4: How can we involve you in discussions about ecological issues?

Methods of involvement	Percentage (%)
Through social media	69%
Hold community workshops/community drop -ins	59%
Promote opportunities for ecological volunteering	59%
Partnerships with schools and colleges	55%
Increase opportunities to join Friends of Parks & Greenspaces groups, food growing groups	49%
I don't want to be involved	2%

Base: 856

Respondents highlighted several other ways how they could be kept involved in the discussion about ecological issues. As well as methods such as events, workshops and community assembly's, respondents emphasised the role of existing community groups, including community councils and 3rd sector organisations as a way of getting more people involved. The role of employers and businesses was also mentioned to encourage involvement among their staff and customers.

It was also stated that better information about opportunities to get involved should be used including through churches, schools and other community facilities such as libraries and community centres.

Question 5: The Council has currently set a target year of 2030 for the city to achieve carbon neutrality (key actions could include carbon capture and carbon storage by the natural environment)

Which of the following do you consider important? Please tick your top three priorities:

Action	Rank	Percentage (%)
Restore and extend woodlands and hedgerows	1	78%
Increase the urban tree canopy cover	2	56%
Restore and extend wildflower meadows	3	53%
Protect soil by reducing disturbance and fertiliser use	4	43%
Reduce carbon in management of the natural environment i.e. less cuts of grass per year	5	40%
Restore and extend wetlands	6	33%
Restore peatlands	7	31%

Base: 836

As well as those listed above, respondents highlighted three main areas which they thought were missing from the list, including;

- Transport
- Parks and green spaces
- Food growing and production

Respondents highlighted promoting active travel options such as walking and cycling, reducing or banning private cars, particularly high polluting vehicles, while improving the reliability and affordability of public transport.

Again, the issue of parks and green spaces was highlighted, in terms of both the protection of what currently exists in the city as well as expanding it along roads and path verges and on roof tops. There was strong support for the re-purposing of existing brownfield sites and under used spaces across the city. There was also a clear indication that there should be no more building on greenfield areas around the city. There was again support for banning the use of chemicals (herbicides and pesticides) in food growing and in controlling weeds.

Finally, respondents wanted food growing given greater importance through the expansion of allotments and community gardens, which would help with the greening of the city and reduce the carbon footprint of the food we buy and eat.

Question 6: To what extent do you agree/disagree with the following statements:

Statements	Agree	Neither nor	Disagree	Don't know/No opinion	Base
Our biodiversity is declining and being lost	96%	2%	1%	1%	837
Many animal and plant species are facing extinction	95%	3%	2%	1%	830
Our biodiversity is declining due to human activity	98%	1%	1%	-	836
Changes in land use have an impact on our biodiversity	98%	1%	1%	-	833
Pollution has an impact on our biodiversity	98%	1%	-	-	832
Invasive non-native species have an impact on our biodiversity	80%	14%	3%	3%	831
Exploitation of animals and plants are having an impact on our biodiversity	84%	11%	2%	3%	831
I have a good knowledge about the causes of ecological change	78%	16%	5%	1%	832

Question 7: To what extent, or otherwise, are you worried about the following.....

Statements	A great deal	A fair amount	Not very much	None/ Not at all	Don't know/No opinion	Base
The effects of biodiversity loss on me personally	39%	46%	14%	-	1%	831
The effects of biodiversity loss on future generations	84%	14%	1%	1%	-	833
The effects of biodiversity loss on human health	68%	27%	5%	-	1%	831
The effects of biodiversity loss on the environment	85%	13%	1%	-	-	831
The loss of wildlife due to habitat destruction	85%	14%	1%	-	-	824
The loss of wildlife due to climate change	80%	17%	2%	1%	-	825
The effects of pollinator loss on agriculture and horticulture	77%	20%	2%	1%	-	827
The effects of biodiversity loss on the economy	35%	37%	21%	4%	2%	828
Other people not understanding the importance of biodiversity loss	70%	24%	4%	1%	1%	828

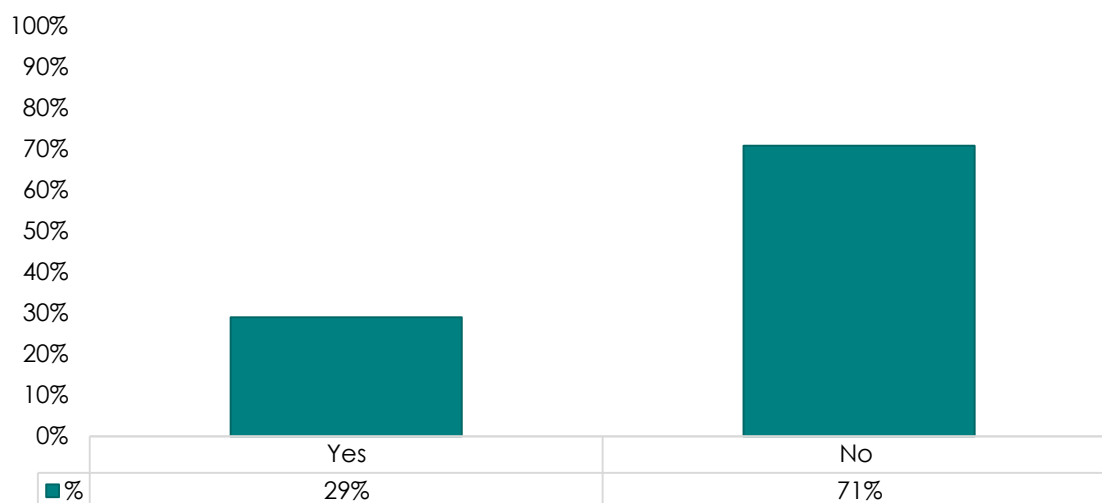
Respondents were asked for additional comments regarding their level of worry about a range of ecological issues. Here respondents mentioned a level of despair at the continued failings of governments, organisations and businesses to take the issue seriously and to implement actions to tackle the problem. There was also concern that sections of the population still failed to understand the issue or grasp the seriousness of the situation. As a result of this, there was strong support for greater education about the importance of action and how the environment, nature and the role we play in it are linked.

There were comments received that we should no longer be debating these issues where there is scientific evidence and that it was now important to commit to taking action.

Respondents also highlighted the need for not just individuals to take action but for businesses and governments to act to address the ecological emergency. It was stated that currently too much emphasis is being placed on protecting the economy and profits, as a reason for not addressing the current emergency.

'All too often biodiversity loss is put on a low priority in the pursuit of profits by big business/developers or is treated in a tokenistic way.'

Question 8: Are you a parent, guardian or carer of school aged children?



Base: 845

Question 9: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Statements	Agree	Neither nor	Disagree	Don't know/No opinion	Base
My children have a good knowledge about the causes and effects of biodiversity loss	75%	15%	19%	1%	237
My children's concerns about biodiversity loss have made me more concerned about an ecological emergency	48%	32%	19%	1%	235
My children want me / our household to take action to fight biodiversity loss	67%	21%	10%	2%	235
Educational establishments (schools, colleges etc.) could do more to increase children's knowledge of ecology and causes of biodiversity loss	92%	6%	2%	1%	236
Educational establishments (schools, colleges etc.) could do more to increase children's experience and understanding of nature around them.	95%	2%	2%	1%	237

When asked to provide any further comments about their children and education, it was noted that every school should have access to good quality useable greenspace, and that teachers should have the time, training and resources needed to ensure children and young people have the opportunities to learn about the environment and nature.

'Glasgow schools have a good record of delivering the curriculum for excellence through outdoor learning but teachers need more confidence and time and knowledge to be able to take children out of doors for lessons in Greenspaces.'

It was also highlighted that by allowing children to play and learn outside in nature, there are clear benefits to both mental and physical health, as well as giving them a better understanding and appreciation of their environment.

'Children need to be outside far more, science and art subjects can easily take place outdoors and do so in other countries such as Denmark, Finland and Norway. Being outdoors decreases obesity, reduces depression, increases general happiness and creates greater respect and understanding of nature.'

Respondents also stated that children and young people, through schools currently do a lot, and in fact it is adults who are not taking action and setting a bad example for younger generations.

Question 10: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Statements	Agree	Neither nor	Disagree	Don't know/No opinion	Base
Tackling the ecological emergency should be a priority for Glasgow	95%	3%	1%	-	816
Tackling the decline of animal and plant species should be a priority for Glasgow	92%	7%	1%	-	809
Creating, restoring and enhancing wildflower meadows for pollinators should be a priority for Glasgow	91%	7%	2%	-	813
Public sector organisations have a responsibility to make it easier for individuals to make environmentally-friendly choices	96%	3%	1%	-	813
Businesses have a responsibility to protect biodiversity on their land	98%	1%	1%	-	812

Question 11: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding tackling the Ecological Emergency?

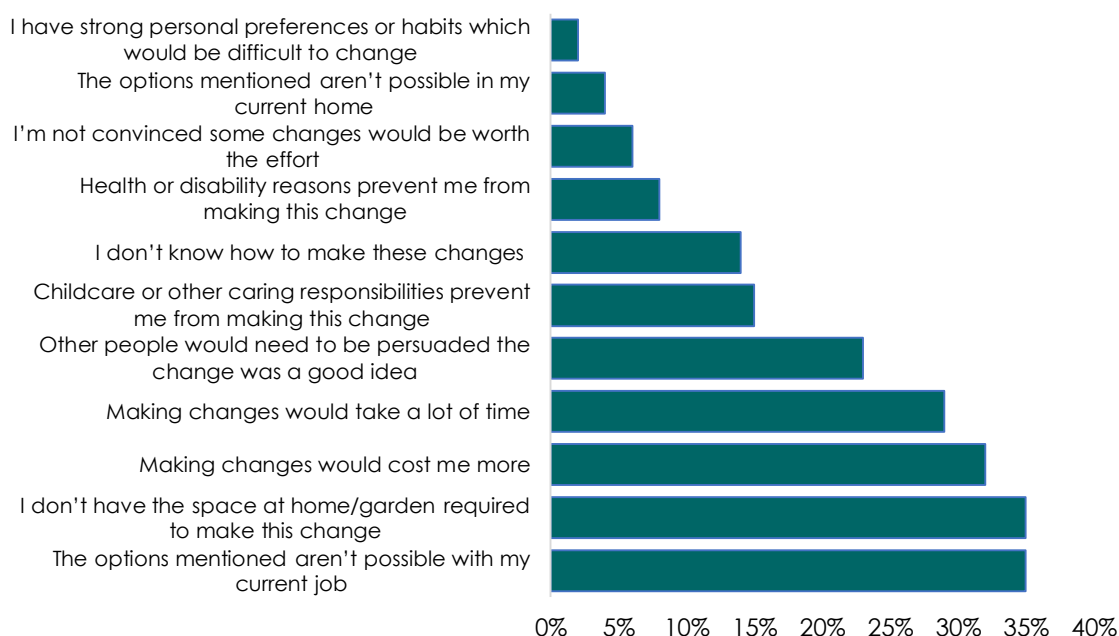
Statements	Agree	Neither nor	Disagree	Don't know/No opinion	Base
My actions can help protect the diversity of animals and plants on our planet	92%	5%	2%	-	814
Reducing my own impact on biodiversity is not a personal priority	13%	5%	80%	1%	813
Businesses can help	97%	2%	1%	-	810
Public sector organisations can help	99%	1%	-	-	811
Actions of politicians at a local level can help	96%	3%	1%	-	810
Actions of politicians at a national level can help	98%	1%	1%	-	808
Actions of third sector organisations can help	95%	3%	1%	1%	807
Actions of educational establishments (schools, colleges) can help	97%	2%	1%	-	810

Question 12: In the next 12 months, how likely/unlikely are you to do the following:

Statements	Likely	Neither nor	Unlikely	Don't know/No opinion	Base
Leave an area of grass long/weeds/dead wood in my garden	66%	6%	6%	22%	794
Plant wildflowers for pollinators in my garden/balcony/window box	77%	6%	6%	11%	792
Put up bird boxes and/or bird feeders in my garden	67%	7%	9%	16%	723
Create a garden pond	18%	11%	45%	25%	784
Grow my own herbs or food on my balcony, windowsill or garden	73%	8%	12%	7%	790
Use fewer chemicals in the home and garden	82%	6%	4%	8%	792
Use peat-free compost	64%	10%	4%	22%	788
Plant native berry bearing shrubs and/or trees to help feed birds	48%	12%	17%	23%	785
Avoid disturbing breeding/nesting areas for wildlife in the garden	78%	4%	1%	17%	789
Help out at one of the city's local nature reserves or parks and greenspaces	46%	23%	25%	5%	789

Drop litter or dump rubbish as it can kill small animals	6%	-	83%	11%	787
Join a wildlife charity or other organisation that supports biodiversity	47%	25%	23%	5%	786
Buy souvenirs that exploit the natural world here or abroad	2%	4%	82%	12%	787
Contact a political representative to request action on biodiversity loss	50%	21%	26%	3%	784
Submit a response to a planning application due to greenspace or biodiversity issues	53%	20%	21%	5%	787

Question 13: Thinking about any areas where you personally would be willing to change if there were not barriers – what are those barriers?



Base: 699

Question 14: What else do you think the city's private and public sector organisations should be doing to help support Glasgow's biodiversity?

Respondents highlighted that the Council should lead by example both to the public and as an employer. The Council should practice the same actions and recommendations with its land and green space as it asks the public to do. The Council, as a larger employer within the city, should also put into practice schemes which it promotes to other employers around travel, energy efficiency and waste.

'They should be setting an example for everyone in allowing more areas to be less-intensively managed - so many public greenspaces are kept constantly mown, but there's no need for this as it's very bad for wildlife, and wastes a lot of money and fuel in mowing them.'

There was strong support for action to be taken through the planning process to prevent the further reduction of the natural environment by protecting green space, trees or wildlife. Where this was not possible it was suggested that planning be used to enforce any loss or reduction is replaced.

'Insist that ALL planning applications must replace all lost and enhance biodiversity in line with statutory undertakers biodiversity duties. Insist that ALL planning applications must have a positive environmental impact equal to or better than the capital carbon impact from construction of any development.'

Respondents highlighted the need for additional funding to be made available to support the initiatives needed. Funding needed to be increased and be provided long term to ensure that projects and schemes would be sustainable and effective. Respondents also mentioned the idea of financial rewards and incentives for residents and businesses who implemented green projects/schemes.

Similarly, with previous answers provided, respondents wanted to see the Council increase the amount of green space across the city, through rewilding and re-purposing derelict and underused spaces.

Again, there was clear support for private and public sector organisations tackling the issues of transport within the city by reducing car usage, improving public transport and promoting active travel.

The use of education was again raised, both within schools and among the general public. There was support for raising awareness of the importance of action, especially the positive impact it would have on the environment and nature.

Food growing and waste reduction were also mentioned by respondents as actions which could be taken or implemented further by both private and public sector organisations.

Question 16: What barriers might the city's private and public sector organisations be facing that prevent them doing more to protect and enhance biodiversity?

The main barrier highlighted by respondents was resources, both in terms of funding and people.

'Lack of financial resources, lack of skilled personnel'

Respondents believed that resources being available and used correctly was critical in addressing the ecological emergency and would pose the greatest risk to its success. Respondents identified the previous and ongoing cuts to Council budgets and the impacts it has had and will continue to have on the environmental services, such as park maintenance, rangers and education provision.

Respondents saw this lack of funding and resources as a clear indication of a lack of political will to address environmental and ecological issues facing the city. It was

highlighted that there was greater need for political leadership both nationally and locally.

There was also a feeling that there was a level of apathy among people and organisations, both public and private, towards the challenges facing the city and beyond. This apathy causes a lack of drive, enthusiasm and motivation and combined with an unawareness and lack of knowledge was preventing action being taken.

'apathy, conflicting priorities, worrying about the challenges happening today, hard to find time to prevent a crisis tomorrow.'

'Lack of awareness, lack of knowledge of how to make these Changes.'

'lack of knowledge on where to get resources or information about how and why they should protect and enhance biodiversity in the first place.'

Respondents believed that the current economic system acted as a barrier to private companies tackling the ecological issues we face. With the focus on short term profits, especially where shareholders were involved, limiting their willingness to protect the environment.

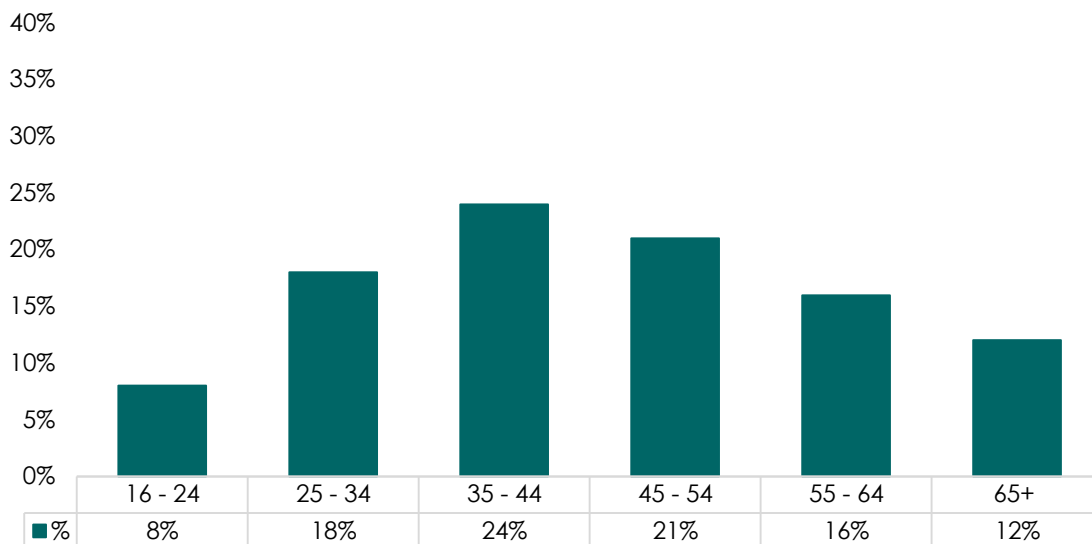
'Fear of economic implications - focus on profit not environment for private businesses.'

About You

Respondents were asked to provide demographic information. This information was optional and can be used for both additional analysis and equalities monitoring.

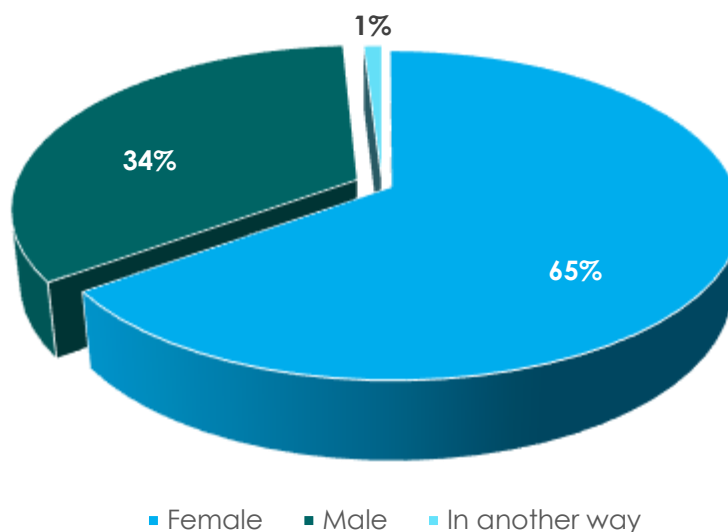
Respondents of the consultation were self-selecting, and the following information provides further breakdown of those respondents.

Question 17: Age



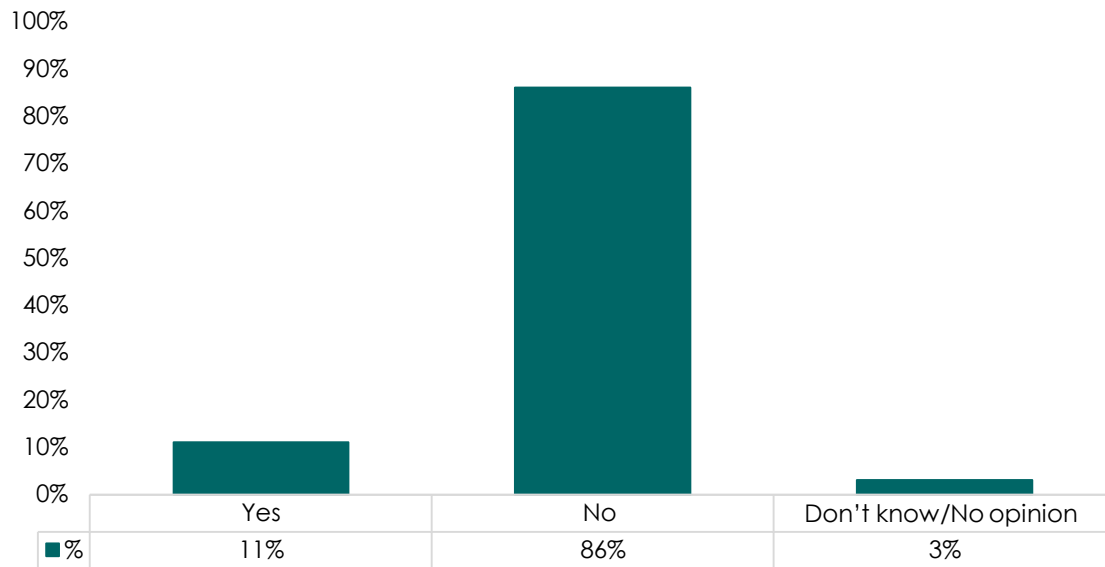
Base: 731

Question 18: Which of the following describes how you think of yourself?



Base: 744

Question 19: Do you have any long-term illness, health problem or disability which limits your daily activity or the work you can do?



Base: 739

Question 20: Which of the following best describes your ethnicity?

Ethnicity	Percentage (%)
Scottish	62%
British	27%
Irish	4%
Other white background	10%
Mixed background	-
Indian	1%
Pakistani	*
Bangladeshi	-
Other Asian background	-
Caribbean	-
African	*
Other black background	-
Chinese	*
Any other background	-

Base: 733 (* less than 1%)

Appendix D – Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) Potential Sites

The Short Life Working Group, having heard about:

- The recently designated Claypits Local Nature Reserve, and how the LNR designation process could be progressed as part of wider proposals to address Vacant & Derelict Land, provide for active travel and Sustainable Urban Drainage for a particular site, and deliver the Open Space Strategy locally, and
- The current or potential ‘natural interest and/or educational value’ of the following locations have asked officers to engage with stakeholders with regard to the potential for land near the following locations to be potentially brought forward in future as proposed Local Nature Reserves, or as extensions to existing ones:

Binghams Pond
Bishop Loch LNR
Blairtummock Park
Castlemilk Park
Cathkin Braes LNR
Cadder Wood
Cardowan Moss LNR
Cleddans Burn
Commonhead Moss
Cranhill Park
Croftfoot Park
Crookston Wood
Early Braes
Festival Park
Garscadden Burn Park
Hamiltonhill Claypits LNR
Househill Park
Hurlethill
Malls Mire
Red Road
Todd’s Well
Dawsholm Park

Appendix E – Biodiversity Duty Report.

Glasgow City Council will be submitting its Biodiversity Duty Report to the Scottish Government in January 2021.

As required by the legislation, this report covers the three years April 2017- March 2018, April 2018- March 2019 and April 2019-March 2020.



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