



Glasgow City Council

Environment, Sustainability and Carbon Reduction City Policy Committee

Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability

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NATIONAL PARK CITY FOUNDATION UPDATE

Purpose of Report:

To

- 1) update Committee in relation to the campaign for Glasgow to be declared a National Park City, and;
- 2) recommend that Glasgow City Council becomes a supporter of the National Park City Campaign

Recommendations:

- 1) It is recommended that Committee notes the recommendation that Glasgow City Council becomes a supporter of the National Park City Campaign and refers this matter to City Administration Committee

Ward No(s):

Citywide:

Local member(s) advised: Yes No consulted: Yes No

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1. Introduction

- 1.1. The concept of a National Park City is to inspire a shared vision for greener, healthier, and wilder cities - where people, places and nature are better connected. A Glasgow National Park City campaign group has been formed and has made initial contact with Glasgow City Council. A list of group members can be found at Appendix 1.
- 1.2. The purpose of this report is to provide committee with an update on the information gathered so far.
- 1.3. The National Park City movement presents an opportunity for Glasgow to join an emerging international network of cities committed to this concept.
- 1.4. In July 2019 London became the world's first National Park City. It is understood that this was preceded by a 5-year period of campaigning, during which time over 2000 elected representatives in over 32 boroughs had registered their support.
- 1.5. Officers understand London National Park City is registered as a charity and does not have a planning role since its legal status is not in any way similar to a National Park.
- 1.6. It is understood that Adelaide became the second city internationally to declare itself a National Park City in December 2021.
- 1.7. The National Park City movement uses the idea of 'National Park's' as a model for managing open spaces that members of the public are familiar with.
- 1.8. Officers have participated in some early discussions with representatives of the Glasgow National Park City Group.
- 1.9. A paper presented to this Committee on 24th August 2021 briefly noted:

“Glasgow National Park City- the Council is in the process of endorsing the development of the Glasgow National Park City initiative- a community led movement and vision for a greener, healthier and wilder Glasgow.”
<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/councillorsandcommittees/agenda.asp?meetingid=17772>

- 1.10. A further paper presented to this Committee 5th October 2021 noted that, in terms of next steps, further discussions will take place between Council officers and representatives from the Glasgow National Park City campaign group, and that:

A further report would be brought back to this Committee at a future meeting date to provide an update, and that:

Further work will be undertaken to fully understand the implications, including any further financial implications or contributions required.

2. Glasgow National Park City campaign- Aims and Vision

2.1 It is noted that the Glasgow National Park City campaign group's aims are:

- A place where everyone is engaged with nature and the outdoors.
- A city where nature is thriving, and spaces and places are connected.
- A city that's reducing its ecological impact.
- A place where every child has the chance to learn and have fun in nature every day.
- A city with clean, healthy air and water.
- A city where people are proud of their natural and cultural heritage.
- A place where everyone has access to green, healthy, sustainable travel.
- A city nearing the top of health and wellbeing tables instead of the bottom.
- A place where excellent design delivers buildings and spaces that respond to the needs of people and nature.
- A place where everyone feels empowered and inspired to make our city greener, healthier and wilder.

2.2 These aims have been developed through a series of events and consultations and have been signed up to by a variety of organisations who already support the National Park City vision, with objectives being achieved via action taken to:

- coordinate and promote action to establish a Glasgow National Park City
- connect, amplify and support the work of any individuals and groups who help to achieve this aim
- work with other organisations to secure their long-term commitment to establishing a Glasgow National Park City

3 Application Process

3.1 Declaring a National Park City currently involves an application process to the National Park City foundation which is guided by the contents of their published application pack.

3.2 The application pack notes ten steps:

- Do some research
- Register your campaign
- Explore the potential
- Start to create your story
- Draft proposals, including your Charter
- Make your case, grow your community and secure support
- Develop your capacity
- Submit your portfolio application

- Agree to the National Park City Family's commitments
- Confirm, celebrate and launch

3.3 The application process requires the development of a portfolio of evidence answering 23 criteria, pulling together evidence of existing projects and strategies as well as showing a clear vision for the NPC and how it will be governed and monitored.

4 Links to existing Glasgow City Council Strategy and Workplan

4.1 It is envisaged that any endorsement of the Glasgow National Park City initiative would serve to, amplify, support, and communicate existing strategy and activity, including but not restricted to:

- City Development Plan Action Programme
- Glasgow Open Space Strategy,
- Parks and Greenspaces Vision
- Corporate Asset Management Plan,
- Local Biodiversity Action Plan
- Pollinator Plan, as well as our contribution to wider work being undertaken towards
- Clyde Climate Forest, and
- Blueprint for a Green Network.

5 Implications for Glasgow City Council

5.1 It is understood that any National Park City status for Glasgow would have no implications for the City Development Plan, since its legal status would not be in any way similar to a National Park.

5.2 Should Glasgow City Council to sign up as a supporter, it is be anticipated that we would share with other supporters the administration arrangements, e.g. hosting and minuting meetings, document preparation, etc. and that our contribution would be from existing resources.

5.3 It is understood that whilst there is not currently a charge levied to be National Park City, that there is a cost of circa £10,000 to apply for National Park City Status in order to cover the Foundations costs. The National Park City Campaign Group intends to approach a range of funders and that this could potentially include national charitable funders and crowdfunding.

5.4 It is envisaged that signing up as a supporter would allow Glasgow City Council to better communicate and align the existing work being done in support of the policies and strategies identified in section 4.1, and at this stage it is not envisaged by officers that any new financial commitments would be associated with either signing up as a supporter or declaring as a National Park City. Should specific projects brought forward in future as part of this declaration have any financial implications for the council these would be subject to further committee approval.

5.5 It is recommended that a community driven approach would be preferred as there are so many community organisations doing environmental work across the City, with Glasgow City Council as one of the supporters, rather than leading on this work. This is also one of the unique elements of a National Park City approach which distinguish it from other top-down initiatives and strategies.

5.6 A designated officer within NRS will act as the main liaison point within the Council for the GNPC Group and will attend meetings to take forward the application process.

5.7 This officer would help to shape and contribute to the portfolio of evidence for the application

5.8 They would also support the public engagement and consultation process

6 Next steps

6.1 Should Glasgow City Council decide to become a supporter of the Glasgow National Park City Campaign, further reports will be brought back to this committee providing updates in relation to the application process.

7 Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

Financial: A fee is charged for the application process to cover National Park City Foundations costs. It is not envisaged at this stage that that National Park City status would have any financial implications for Glasgow City Council; should any specific projects associated with National Park City Status be brought forward in future be considered to have financial implications this would be subject to future approvals

Legal: It is understood that National Park City status would not have any implications in terms of planning law.

Personnel: It is not envisaged at this stage that signing up as a supporter or declaring as a National Park City would have any personnel implications.

Procurement: It is not envisaged at this stage that signing up as a supporter or declaring as a National Park City would have any procurement implications.

Council Strategic Plan: It is considered that potential outcomes which this could contribute to could include:

Excellent and Inclusive Education

Outcomes are;

Our attainment levels improve across all of our schools so that all our children and young people can fulfil their potential.

A Vibrant City

Outcomes are;

Glasgow is a world class destination for tourism, culture, sport, events and heritage. Glaswegians are active and healthier. All citizens have access to the city's cultural life and its heritage. Glasgow acknowledges and promotes its history, heritage and culture.

A Healthier City

Outcomes are;

Glasgow is healthier
our services are focused on early intervention and prevention
citizens and communities are more self-reliant for their health and wellbeing

A Sustainable and Low Carbon City

Outcomes are;

the city is clean and public spaces are well maintained
we have a low carbon footprint as a council and as a city
citizens use active travel including walking and cycling

Resilient and Empowered Neighbourhoods

Outcomes are;

citizens can access good facilities, jobs and services locally

Specifically, Glasgow National Park City could potentially support the following strategic plan priority numbers 21, 25, 38, 63, 65, 71, 74 and 76

Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25? Please specify. Has the potential to support outcomes 6 and 10

What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report? An EQIA screening has not yet been undertaken

Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-economic disadvantage. Has the potential to help address socio-economic disadvantage.

Climate Impacts:

Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify: It is considered that this could potentially contribute to Action 1, 2, 27, 35, 36, 38, 48 and 49

What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal? Has the potential to assist in building consensus, communications and participation around woodland creation and peatland restoration, which can store carbon, and around surface water management, which can form part of climate adaptation. No Climate Impact Assessment or screening has been undertaken at this stage.

Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target? Has the potential to assist in building consensus, communications and participation around woodland creation and peatland restoration which can contribute towards net zero

Privacy and Data Protection Impacts: No data protection impacts

8 Recommendations

- 8.1 It is recommended that Committee notes the recommendation that Glasgow City Council becomes a supporter of the National Park City Campaign and refers this matter to City Administration Committee

Appendix 1 - Glasgow National Park City Supporter Organisation List

Glasgow School of Art
The Conservation VolunteersUrban Roots
The Orchard Project
South Seeds
Lochend GP Surgery
Greenspace Scotland
Fans of Barrowland Park
Friends of LNR's
Green Action Trust
10000 Raingardens
The Nature Library
Operation Play Outdoors
Friends of the River Kelvin
Friends of Knightswood Park
Intelligent Health
Venture Scotland
Open Aye
New Glasgow Society
Carfree Glasgow
Glasgow Natural History Society
Lateral North
Free Wheel North
Hamilton Claypits LNR
The Lost woods
Blairvadach Outdoor Education Centre
Mucky Puddle