

DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
ROAD AND INFRASTRUCTURE

NATURE RESTORATION FUND SPEND OPTIONS

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 In July 2021 the Scottish Government launched the Nature Restoration Fund, which provided £10 million in the financial year for projects addressing biodiversity loss and climate change, half of which was delivered via Local Authorities.

1.2 The Nature Restoration Fund aims to support large-scale, multi-year, multi-partner projects, which deliver transformative change to drive forward nature recovery.

1.3 Appendix 1 of this report sets out a number of projects which officers recommend are taken forward, utilising the funding allocated by the Scottish Government. The projects selected are time sensitive in terms of delivery and will provide a basis for further decision making by Members in relation to biodiversity and the remaining nature restoration funds.

1.4 The Scottish Government have a further fund available to Local Authorities and U&I (the Argyle and Bute Islands) to support projects that help Scotland's species, woodlands, rivers and seas back on the road to recovery. The process which is open to the Council, and is also open to projects that help Scotland's species, woodlands, rivers and seas back on the road to recovery.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that Policy and Resources Committee:-

- a) Note the allocation of Nature Restoration Funding received;
- b) Agree to the recommended projects as set out in Appendix 1 of this report; and
- c) Agree that officers bring forward a further list of projects for consideration to the Policy and Resources Committee in December 2023.

3.0 DETAIL

3.1 The proposed

APPENDIX 1 LIST OF PROJECTS

OPTION	INDICATIVE COST	LEAD OFFICER	COMMENT	CATEGORY
School Biodiversity Fund	£68k	Climate Change Board	Competitive fund for local schools to develop Biodiversity Action Plans for their respective grounds. Tree planting, food growing, education materials (Cooler Futures . potential partnership with ACT)	Habitat restoration
Woodland clearance and native replanting at Kilmory Estate / Kilmory Business Park	£50k	Commercial Services	Woodland around Kilmory Estate and Screening Business Park over mature and likely require felling and re-planting. Using a mix of native species that will enhance local biodiversity.	Habitat Restoration
Nature Networks Mapping project (as per NPF4)	£25K	Development and Economic Growth	The primary purpose of a Nature Network is ecological connectivity. This connectivity is required for fully functioning and healthy ecosystems. One of these priorities is establishing Nature Networks through Nature-based solutions, which provide multiple advantages supporting biodiversity, climatic resilience, and societal well-being. Contributes to 30 x 30 objectives https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/protected-areas-and-species/30-30-and-nature-networks/30-30-explained	Habitat Restoration
Argyll and Bute Local Biodiversity Action Plan refresh	£30k	Development and Economic Growth	To develop a clear new framework for Local Biodiversity Action within Argyll and Bute for the next 10 years (this is to ensure delivery) in order to contribute	Habitat Restoration

