

**DUCHESS WOOD LOCAL NATURE RESERVE – NEW MANAGEMENT
PLAN**

1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report seeks noting and approval from members of a new management plan for the Duchess Wood Local Nature Reserve (LNR). This management plan will form the framework for enhancements within the woodland over the next 5 years, and recognises the existing maintenance provision that is in place.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee note and approve the management plan appended to this report.

3.0 DETAIL

- 3.1 The management plan has been drawn together by the Duchess Wood LNR Management Committee, comprising representative of Argyll and Bute Council, Lower Clyde Greenspace, Friends of Duchess Wood and Scottish Natural Heritage.
- 3.2 The management plan lists a range of aims and objectives for the LNR over the next 5 years. Overarching these aspirations are a recognition that a robust facility already exists, and that any additional works would require both to be maintenance neutral, and to be funded by non-Council sources.
- 3.3 The resulting management plan focuses on biodiversity improvements, increased community involvement and externally funded infrastructure improvements. This plan has been approved by the LNR Management Committee

4.0 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 Duchess Wood is the only Local Nature Reserve in Argyll and Bute, and is a significant environmental resource. The LNR already benefits from a maintenance schedule supported by Argyll and Bute Council, as approved by the Area Committee in February 2011. As detailed in that Report, maintenance is carried out in partnership with other groups,

notably the Friends of Duchess Wood, Lower Clyde Greenspace and Argyll and Bute Employability.

- 4.2 Approval of this management plan will allow this partnership working to continue, and allow any necessary funding applications to be targeted at external organisations not always open to local authorities.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Policy - None

5.2 Financial – no additional maintenance needs will emerge as a result of this plan without first seeking approval from Argyll and Bute Council. Additionally, the partnership working will allow access to a wide range of funding sources.

5.3 Legal - None

5.4 HR - None

5.5 Equalities - None

5.6 Risk - None

5.7 Customer Service - None

6.0 APPENDICES

6.1 Duchess Wood Local Nature Reserve Management Plan 2012/17

Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure

14th September 2012

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