



**Argyll and Bute Council**  
**Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal Agus Bhòid**

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*4 October 2016*

**NOTICE OF MEETING**

A meeting of the **HELENSBURGH & LOMOND AREA COMMITTEE** will be held in the **PILLAR HALL, VICTORIA HALLS, HELENSBURGH** on **TUESDAY, 11 OCTOBER 2016** at **9:30 AM**, which you are requested to attend.

Douglas Hendry  
Executive Director of Customer Services

**BUSINESS**

- 1. APOLOGIES**
- 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
- 3. MINUTES**
  - (a) Minutes of previous Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee meeting held on 9 August 2016. (Pages 1 - 6)
- 4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**
- 5. FRIENDS OF DUCHESS WOOD - MANAGEMENT PLAN OCTOBER 2016 - SEPTEMBER 2021** (Pages 7 - 76)  
Report by Chair, Friends of Duchess Wood.
- 6. HERMITAGE PARK UPDATE** (Pages 77 - 84)  
Report by Executive Director – Development and Infrastructure Services.
- 7. EDUCATION MOD FUNDING STEERING GROUP** (Pages 85 - 86)  
Report by Executive Director – Customer Services.
- 8. HELENSBURGH & LOMOND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTION PLAN 2016/2021** (Pages 87 - 108)  
Report by Executive Director – Development and Infrastructure Services

**9. ROADS REVENUE BUDGET - FQ1** (Pages 109 - 116)

Report by Executive Director – Development and Infrastructure Services.

**10. CIVIC FURNITURE AND MEMORABILIA - HELENSBURGH** (Pages 117 - 170)

Report by Executive Director – Customer Services.

**11. HELENSBURGH - OPTIONS FOR SURPLUS CHORD FUNDS** (Pages 171 - 180)

Report by Executive Director – Development & Infrastructure Services.

**E1** (a) Appendix A (Pages 181 - 184)

**12. HELENSBURGH SHOPFRONTS INITIATIVE- UPDATE** (Pages 185 - 188)

Report by Executive Director – Development & Infrastructure Services.

**E2** (a) Appendices (Pages 189 - 192)

The Committee will be asked to pass a resolution in terms of Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 to exclude the public for items of business with an “E” on the grounds that it is likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in the appropriate paragraph of Part I of Schedule 7a to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

The appropriate paragraphs are:-

**E1 Paragraph 8**

The amount of any expenditure proposed to be incurred by the authority under any particular contract for the acquisition of property or the supply of goods or services.

**E1 Paragraph 9**

Any terms proposed or to be proposed by or to the authority in the course of negotiations for a contract for the acquisition or disposal of property or the supply of goods or services

**E2 Paragraph 6**

Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular Person (other than the authority)

## **Helensburgh & Lomond Area Committee**

Councillor Maurice Corry	Councillor Vivien Dance
Councillor George Freeman	Councillor David Kinniburgh
Councillor Robert Graham MacIntyre (Vice-Chair)	
Councillor Aileen Morton	Councillor Ellen Morton
Councillor Gary Mulvaney (Chair)	Councillor James Robb
Councillor Richard Trail	

Shona Barton – Area Committee Manager

Contact: Theresa McLetchie - Tel: 01436 657621

**MINUTES of MEETING of HELENSBURGH & LOMOND AREA COMMITTEE held in the MARRIAGE ROOM, HELENSBURGH AND LOMOND CIVIC CENTRE, 38 EAST CLYDE STREET HELENSBURGH on TUESDAY, 9 AUGUST 2016**

**Present:** Councillor Gary Mulvaney (Chair)

Councillor Maurice Corry                      Councillor Aileen Morton  
Councillor Vivien Dance                      Councillor Ellen Morton  
Councillor David Kinniburgh                Councillor Richard Trail  
Councillor Robert G MacIntyre

**Attending:** Shona Barton, Area Committee Manager  
David Clements, Improvement and Organisational Development Programme Manager  
Audrey Baird, Community Development Officer  
Kevin MacIntosh, Network Performance Manager  
Andrew Collins, Regeneration Project Manager

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of the following:-

Councillor George Freeman  
Councillor James Robb.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. MINUTES**

(a) **Minutes of previous Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee meeting held on 14 June 2016.**

The Minute of the meeting held on 14 June 2016 was approved as a true record.

**4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

The Chair invited questions from the members of the public in attendance at the meeting.

No questions were submitted.

**5. AREA SCORECARD FQ1 - 2016-17**

The Committee considered a report presenting the Area Scorecard, with exceptional performance for financial quarter 1 of 2016-17 (April – June 2016).

**Decision:**

Members agreed to note the exceptional performance presented on the scorecard.

(Ref: Report by Executive Director of Customer Services, dated 9 August 2016, submitted.)

### **6. INTEGRATED CARE FUND/ HEATH & WELLBEING FUND ALLOCATIONS**

The Committee considered a report which provided details of the NHS Resource Allocation (NRAC) formula and how the allocation of funding for the Argyll & Bute Health & Social Care Partnership (A&BHSCP) on the Integrated Care Fund Locality Allocations (ICFLA) and the Heath & Wellbeing Fund (H&WF) is determined.

**Decision:**

Members agreed to note the report.

(Ref: Report by Chief Officer, Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership, dated 9 August 2016, submitted.)

### **7. CHARITY AND TRUST FUNDS**

The Committee considered a report which advised on the proposed method for the distribution of the charities and trust funds in the Helensburgh and Lomond areas.

**Decision:**

Following discussion, the Area Committee agreed to continue consideration of the report to a future meeting and asked officers to provide further information on:-

1. The options for the Cardross War Memorial, and if it would be more appropriate for this to be transferred to a local community organisation such as the Cardross Trust or the Cardross Community Council;
2. The options for distribution of the Miss Annie Dickson Bequest, and
3. The efficiency of dealing with the Charities and Trust Funds, looking at options for the future in terms of the administration and officer time involved.

(Ref: Report by Head of Strategic Finance, dated 9 August 2016, submitted.)

### **8. ROADS REVENUE BUDGET - 2015-2016 - 4TH QUARTER END OF YEAR**

The Committee considered a report which advised of the roads revenue budget position at the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of the financial year 2015/16.

**Decision:**

Members agreed:-

1. To note the report; and
2. That the Network Performance Manager would review the issues raised by Members which included outstanding footpath issues in Helensburgh Town Centre and remedial work to the Helensburgh Pier car park.

(Ref: Report by Executive Director – Development and Infrastructure Services, dated 9 August 2016, submitted.)

**9. ADOPTED ROADS AND FOOTWAYS IN HELENSBURGH**

The Committee considered a report which advised of the anomalies where carriageways were adopted by virtue of being included on the list of adopted streets but verges and footways have remained in private ownership.

**Decision:**

Members agreed:-

1. To note the report;
2. That officers would edit the report at 2.1 ensuring the wording was complete; and
3. That officers would ensure that the Guidance Note for the Argyll and Bute Council website was clear and concise.

(Ref: Report by Executive Director – Development and Infrastructure Services, dated 9 August 2016, submitted.)

**10. THIRD SECTOR GRANTS - (SECOND TRANCHE)**

The Committee considered a report which provided the detail of recommendations for the award of Third Sector Grants to Third Sector organisations for Helensburgh and Lomond.

**Decision:**

Members agreed the following funding awards for the 6 organisations from the Third Sector grants budget.

Ref No	Organisation	Grant 2014/15	Grant 2015/16	Total Project Cost	Amount Requested	Recommendation 2016	Amount Awarded
1	Cove Burgh Hall	n/a	£2485	£7280	£2550	£2550	£2550
2	Helensburgh and Lomond Foodbank	n/a	£1550 (returned £788)	£9000	£1500	£1500	£1500
3	Kirkmichael Community Development	New	New	£1000	£500	£500	£500

	Group						
4	Helensburgh Savoy	£1325	£600	£11900	£1000	£780	£780
5	West of Scotland Military Wives Choir	£645	n/a	£1990	£950	£950	£950
6	Helensburgh and Lomond Autism	£1500	£768	£5000	£2500	£1973	£1973
						<b>Total available</b>	<b>£8,253</b>
						<b>Total recommended</b>	<b>£8,253</b>

Ref: Report by Executive Director – Community Services, dated 9 August 2016, submitted.)

#### 11. END OF PROJECT MONITORING REPORT - 2015-16

The Committee considered a report which provided detail of the positive outcomes for communities in Helensburgh and Lomond through the allocation of the Council's Third Sector Grant funding in 2015/16.

The Community Development Officer highlighted that Luss and Arden Senior Citizens Association had not utilised all of their funding allocation and would, therefore, be returning some of the money for re-allocation.

#### **Decision:**

Members agreed to note the contents of the report.

Ref: Report by Community Planning Manager, dated 9 August 2016, submitted).

#### 12. NOTICE OF MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER 13

The following Notice of Motion Under Standing Order 13 was before the Area Committee for consideration:

The Helensburgh & Lomond Area Committee recognises the outstanding achievements in 2016 of Helensburgh's Gordon Reid. As a tennis player, representing his country, he has brought enormous pride to local residents and made history in the process.

The Helensburgh & Lomond Area Committee asks the Council to mark Gordon Reid's world-class sporting achievements by awarding him the Freedom of Argyll of Bute.

Proposer: Councillor Aileen Morton

Seconder: Councillor Ellen Morton

#### **Decision**

The Area Committee unanimously agreed the terms of the Motion.

The Committee resolved in terms of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to exclude the public for the following item of business on the grounds that it was likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 8 & 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Local Governments (Scotland) Act 1973.

**E1 13. UPDATE ON CYCLEPATH BETWEEN CARDROSS AND HELENSBURGH**

The Committee considered a report which provided the background to discussion with landowners in relation to the purchase of ground required for the provision of a cycleway alongside the A814 between Colgrain and Cardross.

**Decision:**

Members agreed to note the contents of the report.

(Ref: Report by Executive Director – Customer Services dated 9 August 2016, submitted).

**E1 14. FORMER PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AT BLOOMFIELD, GARELOCHHEAD.**

The Committee considered a report which provided the detail of offers received in respect of the former public convenience at Bloomfield, Garelochhead.

**Decision:**

Members agreed the recommendation contained within the report.

(Ref: Report by Executive Director - Development and Infrastructure Services, dated 9 August 2016, submitted).

**E2 15. HELENSBURGH WATERFRONT**

The Committee considered a report which requested the drawdown of development funding and approval of the Helensburgh Waterfront Development Project Initiation Document (PID).

**Decision:**

Members agreed the recommendations contained within the report.

(Ref: Report by Executive Director – Development and Infrastructure Services, dated 9 August 2016, submitted).

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**ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL****Helensburgh and Lomond Area  
Committee****Development and Infrastructure****11<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

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**Duchess Wood Local Nature Reserve – updated Management Plan**

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**1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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 desired enhancements within the woodland over the next 5 years, and recognises the existing maintenance provision that is in place.

The Management Plan sets out a range of preferred actions designed to help manage the woodland for the linked benefits of biodiversity and public enjoyment. Simultaneously it recognises that to achieve this there will be a need to access external funding sources, and as such seeks no additional revenue or capital funding from Argyll and Bute Council.

Partnership working is a key pillar of the Management Plan, and any external funding would be sought through continued partnership working. There are therefore no financial implications for the Council.

**Duchess Wood Local Nature Reserve – updated Management Plan**

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**2.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 Duchess Wood was the first declared 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 other bodies.

**3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

**4.0 DETAIL**

- 4.1 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. It is worth noting that the bulk of the work drawing this plan together was undertaken by the Friends of Duchess wood, notably their Chairperson Stewart Campbell, to whom the LNR Committee are grateful for the time and work committed.
- 4.2 This management plan is an update to one presented to the Area Committee on the 9<sup>th</sup> October 2012. The LNR Committee agreed an update was needed to reflect, and hopefully take best advantage of, the new range of forestry grants available from the Forestry Commission (Scotland). Thus the lifespan of this Management Plan closely mirrors the planned length of the available grants.
- 4.3 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.
- 4.4 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.

## 5.0 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 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.

## 6.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Policy; none
- 6.2 Financial; the lifespan and timing of the new Management Plan is intended to help take best advantage of appropriate external funding sources. The plan itself recognizes that this external funding is critical. Officer time towards this plan has been, and will continue to be, from existing resources and thus places no additional financial burden on Argyll and Bute Council.
- 6.3 Legal; none
- 6.4 HR; none
- 6.5 Equalities; none
- 6.6 Risk; none
- 6.7 Customer Service; none

**Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure – Pippa Milne**  
**Policy Lead - Councillor Ellen Morton**  
12<sup>th</sup> September 2016

**For further information contact:**  
Charlie Cairns  
Lower Clyde Greenspace Manager  
01475 712464

## APPENDICES

- Appendix 1  
Appendix 2

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Duchess Wood Local Nature Reserve Committee

**MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**1 October 2016 – 30 September 2021**

for the

**DUCHESS WOOD LOCAL NATURE RESERVE**

Helensburgh

Argyll and Bute

(draft 5 July 2016)

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**ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS PLAN.**

A&B	=	Argyll and Bute
A&BC	=	Argyll and Bute Council
CWA	=	Community Woodlands Association
DW	=	Duchess Wood
DWLNRC	=	Argyll and Bute Council Duchess Wood Local Nature Reserve Committee
FCS	=	Forestry Commission Scotland
FODW	=	Friends of Duchess Wood
LBAP	=	Local Biodiversity Action Plan
LCG	=	Lower Clyde Greenspace
LDP	=	Local Development Plan
LEC	=	Luss Estates Company
LNR	=	Local Nature Reserve
MA	=	Management Agreement
MP	=	Management Plan 2007-2011 MP (The third plan) 2012-2016 MP (The fourth plan) 1 October 2016 – 30 September 2021 MP (This plan, the fifth)
NVC	=	National Vegetation Classification
SNH	=	Scottish Natural Heritage

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **Management Plan 1 October 2016 - 30 September 2021**

#### **Overall aims of the Management Plan**

**Duchess Wood is a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) in a town setting and is well used by the local community and visitors from further afield. It will be managed as a semi-natural area, to conserve and enhance its biodiversity and landscape value. While giving priority to the Management Agreement and the LNR objectives, the Wood is a multipurpose facility in which exercise, recreation, research and outdoor education will be encouraged; and as a quiet space it will provide all visitors with opportunities for relaxation and contemplation, thus supporting both mental and physical wellbeing.**

i. This is the fifth consecutive Management Plan for Duchess Wood. It serves three main purposes:

- a. to provide a basis for actions within the five year span;
- b. to provide longer term policy within which the five-year work is set;
- c. to provide the basis for seeking funding to support the actions.

ii. Duchess Wood lies at the western edge of Helensburgh, north of Rhu Road Higher and south of the West Highland railway line. It is bounded on the east by a residential area and on the west by semi-improved wet grassland. At the southern edge there are sports pitches and some housing. Further housing is planned adjacent to the south west boundary.

#### **Designation**

iii. Duchess Wood is one of only two Local Nature Reserves in Argyll and Bute. Duchess Wood lies within the Green Belt, is a Local Nature Conservation Site, is an Open Space Protection Area, and is part of the proposed Helensburgh Green Network being developed in 2015 as a supplement to the A&BC Local Development Plan (LDP). It is a "Woodland of Long Established Plantation Origin" on the Scottish Natural Heritage Ancient Woodland Inventory.

#### **Value**

iv. Duchess Wood is highly valued by the local community and much used by local people and visitors. The importance of Duchess Wood has been recognised in official reports. The "Greenspace Audit and Action Plan" (2006) identified Duchess Wood as one of just four "most valued sites" in the Helensburgh area, and one of only seven designated for priority action. The "Green Belt Landscape Study" (2010, p76) defined Duchess Wood as of high value and described it as "managed well". The main paths in Duchess Wood were designated by A&BC as Core Paths in 2015. The Woodland Trust has described Duchess Wood as "A model nature reserve and community woodland". It is important to emphasise that the value of the Wood is seen not only in terms of its biodiversity, but in its recreational and social uses, and its role in enhancing both the physical and mental health of the community.

#### **Management and partnership**

v. Duchess Wood has been a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) since 1998, and is one of only two LNRs in Argyll and Bute. The landowner is Luss Estates Company (LEC) which in 2010 renewed its Management Agreement (MA) with Argyll and Bute Council (A&BC) to manage the Wood as a Local Nature Reserve for a further ten years, until 31 July



2020. The management aims are described in this Management Plan (MP), the fifth for the Wood.

vi. Argyll and Bute Council exercises its management responsibility through the Duchess Wood Local Nature Reserve Committee (DWLNRC), a sub-committee of A&BC. In addition to a Councillor (as Chair) and A&BC officials, membership of the DWLNRC includes representatives of Luss Estates Company, Lower Clyde Greenspace (LCG), the Scottish charity Friends of Duchess Wood (FODW), Lomond School (one of the main neighbouring landowners), and wider educational and community organisations. Scottish Natural Heritage maintains an overview of LNRs, including Duchess Wood. Numerous other local and national organisations have given, and will continue to give, support to the maintenance and enhancement of the Wood.

vii. Cooperative partnership is the essence of operations in the Wood. The Chair and other A&BC members of DWLNRC work with a range of administrative and legal personnel. FODW, representing the local community, has regular contact with police, fire, environmental and other local services on behalf of DWLNRC; with the Community Payback team; press and other public information links; research groups; as well as with local voluntary groups and national and regional organisations. LCG has partnership links to help arrange works in the Wood and to raise the necessary external grants. A number of other groups and organisations also help manage improvement works in the Wood. The DWLNRC is committed to managing the woodland in a way which encourages multipurpose uses and outcomes, while taking into account the needs of the different users of the Wood and planning for access by visitors of all abilities. In line with guidance from SNH and Forestry Commission Scotland this Plan takes into account the primary designation of the Wood as a Local Nature Reserve and its wider function as community woodland.

viii. One of the broad issues that we will keep under review during the currency of this plan is the impact of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act on the management or stewardship of the Wood and the potential for transfer to a form of community ownership, or partnership with A&BC.

## Long-term objectives

- ix. The long-term objectives reflect the aims above:
- a. to manage the Wood so as to maintain and enhance its semi-natural, mostly broad-leaved, habitat and conserve and improve its biodiversity;
  - b. to provide and enhance provisions for public access;
  - c. to maintain access ways and other facilities used by visitors;
  - d. to encourage and publicise research;
  - e. to encourage and promote education for both children and adults, including the use of the Wood for forest nursery or forest school initiatives;
  - f. to encourage recreational uses of the Wood, including appropriate sporting and entertainment activities;
  - g. to support voluntary involvement.

## Medium term objectives and priorities for action

x. Within each long-term objective are several medium-term objectives, and medium and short term actions, which we anticipate will be met during the life of this plan, **but with the proviso that many of the actions depend on the necessary external funding being found, and this is a major challenge.** The delivery of all of these objectives is supported by a number of agreed operational policies which help determine the approach to be taken. In the context of limited availability of funding it is

important to be clear about where the priorities lie; the main elements are summarised below and set out in a comprehensive action table in the MP.

## **a. Woodland management:**

- continue to restructure the woodland to a more native composition and condition and to assess, protect and enhance its biodiversity;
- implement the strategy and action plan for the boundaries;
- support the increase of "woodland corridors" linking Duchess Wood to other local woodlands;
- increase the biodiversity of the Wood by digging and maintaining suitable pond(s) to provide a still-water habitat;
- continue to investigate the use of timber from the Wood which becomes available as the result of action in support of the MP.

Action priorities

- \* **secure professional advice on woodland management**
- \* **remove selected storm-damaged trees**
- \* **thin sycamore and ash in selected areas**
- \* **create open glades/fell sycamore near peripheral path**
- \* **eradicate Japanese knotweed and rhododendron**
- \* **clear fell small coups of sycamore**
- \* **plant/replant where opportunities arise**
- \* **manage and protect areas of new planting**
- \* **maintain trial ponds and monitor condition**
- \* **boundary management**
- \* **use of timber from Wood**

## **b. Public access:**

- support and publicise access policies based on the Scottish Outdoor Access Code and SNH guidelines for LNRs
- manage and improve existing constructed paths
- improve burn crossing points and drainage
- provide and maintain clear signage to the Wood and around the main paths
- improve access around the Wood for the less able or those looking for easy gradients and smooth, surfaces and create opportunities for those less mobile to take part in activities in the Wood
- explain the benefits to health – both physical and mental – which access around the Wood provides.
- keep question of horse riding route under review.

Action priorities

- \* **maintain the all-abilities loop path and make the car park as suitable as possible for all-abilities use**
- \* **new car park sign from Rhu Road Higher**
- \* **maintain direction and information signs in Wood**
- \* **replace three bridges by large culverts**
- \* **regularly review access policies.**

**c. Maintenance:**

- maintain paths and drainage and other facilities to ensure the Wood remains an attractive, diverse and reasonably safe natural woodland through regular inspection, repair and safeguarding;

Action priorities

- \* **maintain existing paths, drainage, fencing and signs**
- \* **deal with storm damage where it affects access or safety**
- \* **clear litter and report problems to fire, police and other services**
- \* **work in partnership with official and voluntary organisations.**

**d. Research:**

- encourage research into the Wood's plants and wildlife and publish the results.

Action priorities

- \* **engage with the "Citizen Science" initiative as a framework for further research**
- \* **conduct surveys of mammals, other animals (reptiles, amphibians, etc), birds, insects and spiders, and water life and prepare species lists**
- \* **survey the surface geology and soils**
- \* **maintain and improve existing checklists of birds, flowers, trees, fungi and mosses/liverworts found in the Wood.**

**e. Education:**

- enhance the use of the Wood for educational purposes and maintain and improve its educational values and facilities.
- support the use of the Wood for forest nursery or forest school initiatives
- develop links with all local schools so that they can take advantage of the learning environment provided by the Wood, and can feedback information from their work into our understanding of then Wood's biodiversity
- provide information on the Wood's biodiversity for all visitors.

Action priorities

- \* **liaise with schools and tertiary education centres**
- \* **make information for schools available through website**
- \* **evaluate impact of Forest Nursery on Wood environment,**
- \* **visitor survey**
- \* **maintain website and publish information leaflets**
- \* **keep information hub up to date**

## f. Recreation and community engagement

- keep under review policies for recreation and community engagement which take account of the different needs of users.

### Action priorities

- \* **encourage recreational uses of the Wood, including appropriate sporting and entertainment activities;**
- \* **monitor recreational and sporting uses of the Wood and where necessary require formal approval (while taking a proportionate approach to small scale events);**
- \* **ensure such activities cause no damage to the Wood.**

## g. Voluntary effort:

- support voluntary effort to protect, maintain and enhance the Wood and its facilities.

### Action priorities

- \* **support the Friends of Duchess Wood, their coordination of voluntary effort and their representation of the local community**
- \* **facilitate the use of the Wood by other voluntary groups.**

xi. Some of the priorities will need substantial funding; some will need limited funding, whereas others can be undertaken by voluntary action. These priorities indicate a balanced and positive approach which should lead to significant improvements in the biodiversity of the Wood and its value to the local and wider communities.

## Conclusion

xii. Duchess Wood is a long-established woodland, recognised as an outstanding example of a Local Nature Reserve with a high level of planning protection. It is much used and valued as a local facility which also attracts visitors from afar. It is a good example of partnership working, not just between the Council and the Friends of Duchess Wood, but involving a wide range of other contributors. Its long-term value to the people of Helensburgh, to tourism and to biodiversity close to a major town is exceptional, and it is essential that such a facility is fostered for future generations.

## MANAGEMENT PLAN 1 OCTOBER 2016- 30 SEPTEMBER 2021

### INTRODUCTION

1. Duchess Wood, in the Green Belt to the west of Helensburgh, has been a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) since 1998. At the time of writing it is one of only two LNRs in Argyll and Bute and 72 in Scotland. The landowner is Luss Estates Company (LEC) which in 2010 renewed its Management Agreement (MA) with Argyll and Bute Council (A&BC) to manage the Wood as a Local Nature Reserve for a further ten years, until 31 July 2020. This is the fifth Management Plan (MP) for the Wood, although the two earliest plans, dating back to 1994, were of a different nature, and not consecutive.
2. Argyll and Bute Council exercises its management responsibility through the Duchess Wood Local Nature Reserve Committee (DWLNRC), a sub-committee of A&BC. In addition to a Councillor (as Chair) and A&BC officials, membership of the DWLNRC includes representatives of Luss Estates Company, Lower Clyde Greenspace (LCG), the Scottish charity Friends of Duchess Wood (FODW), Lomond School (one of the main neighbouring landowners), and wider educational and community organisations. LCG acts as the Council's agent over some aspects especially in relation to obtaining and managing major grants for which the Council can apply. FODW assists with day-to-day safeguarding tasks and carries out certain management and educational and community liaison tasks delegated to it by the DWLNRC; it also seeks funding related to those tasks. Scottish Natural Heritage maintains an overview of LNRs, including Duchess Wood, and advises and supports as appropriate. Numerous other local and national organisations have given, and will continue to give, support to the maintenance and enhancement of the Wood.
3. Partnership is the key characteristic, not only in terms of representation, but also in taking action. The Chair and other A&BC members of DWLNRC work with a range of administrative and legal personnel. FODW, representing the local community, has regular contact with police, fire, environmental and other local services on behalf of DWLNRC; with the Community Payback team; press and other public information links; research groups; as well as with local voluntary groups and national and regional organisations. LCG has partnership links to help arrange works in the Wood and to raise the necessary external grants. A number of other groups and organisations may also manage improvement works in the Wood. Cooperative partnership is the essence of operations in the Wood. **Where "we" is used in the text it signifies the partnership represented through the DWLNRC.**
4. This combination of interests has shown itself to be dynamic, and a great deal has been achieved in the span of the 2012-16 MP, especially regarding access (paths, culverts, bridges), fencing (including new fencing along the West Highland railway line), clearing of rhododendron and sycamore, the planting of native trees (including native fruiting trees), the removal of the old railway carriage, biodiversity recording, educational activities, a much increased recreational use of the Wood, and greater community involvement. Duchess Wood is highly valued by local residents and visitors for its biodiversity and its recreational and social opportunities; it plays a significant role in enhancing the physical and mental health of the community. It is significant that A&BC continues to support it at a time of financial pressure, but external grants will be essential if the full aspirations of the community are to be maintained.
5. We are committed to managing the woodland in a fashion which encourages multipurpose uses and outcomes. Such an approach complements guidance available from organisations such as SNH and Forestry Commission Scotland. This Plan takes into account the primary designation of the Wood as a Local Nature Reserve (and the

protection and enhancement of its biodiversity), its function as community woodland with a wide range of users, and the possibility, arising from the management activities, of using timber from the Wood for a variety of purposes. We will do this by working in partnership both with official and with voluntary organisations, and by taking into account the needs of the different users of the Wood.

6. One of the broad issues that we will keep under review during the currency of this plan is the impact of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act on the management or stewardship of the Wood and the potential for transfer to a form of community ownership, or partnership with A&BC.

7. This Management Plan covering the five years from 1 October 2016 - 30 September 2021 has been prepared by the DWLNRC, and is an edited and revised version of the MP for 2012-2016. That in turn was based upon the third MP prepared by Erika Luukas of Scottish Origins LLP. **The Plan was noted and approved by A&BC's Helensburgh & Lomond Area Committee on XXXX.**

8. The main emphases for this period will be:

- i. Woodland management
- ii. Access
- iii. Maintenance
- iv. Research
- v. Education
- vi. Recreation
- vii. Voluntary effort

The Plan covers a wide range of activities, some quite substantial, and actions have generally been expressed in positive language such as "X will be done". **However all of the major "woodland management" and "access" actions, and some less substantial actions, depend on the necessary funding being found, and this will be a challenge.** At the same time, many other actions will continue to be undertaken through voluntary and partnership efforts.

## DESCRIPTION

### Location / designation of Duchess Wood

9. Duchess Wood lies at the western edge of Helensburgh, north of Rhu Road Higher and south of the West Highland railway line between Glasgow and Fort William. It is bounded on the east by a residential area and on the west by semi-improved wet grassland. At the southern edge there are sports pitches and some housing. Further housing is planned at the lower boundary of the western edge. The Duchess Wood car park access grid reference is NS 2842 8337. A new map showing the location, accessways and facilities of the Wood is on page 12. This map is also included in Annex 6, along with a section of the Ordnance Survey map of 1862, which shows the outline of the Wood much as it is today, and a map taken from the 2007-2011 MP which shows the designated "compartments" which help in subdividing the Wood. The importance of Duchess Wood has been recognised in official reports. The " Greenspace Audit and Action Plan" (2006) identified Duchess Wood as one of just four "most valued sites" out of 59 Helensburgh sites assessed, and one of only seven designated for priority action. The Ironside Farrar Report "Green Belt Landscape Study" (2010, p76) defined Duchess Wood as of high value and described it as "managed well". The Woodland Trust has described Duchess Wood as "A model nature reserve and community woodland".

10. The Wood is designated in the A&BC Local Development Plan (2015, map 25) as Green Belt, as a Local Nature Reserve, a Local Nature Conservation Site, and an Open

Space Protection Area. It is a "Woodland of Long Established Plantation Origin" (LEPO) on the SNH Ancient Woodland Inventory and is on the A&BC list of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation. It appears in the Argyll and Bute (A&B) Biodiversity Action Plan. The main paths in Duchess Wood have been designated by A&BC as Core Paths, and the Wood is part of the proposed Green Network for Helensburgh.

11. The Wood's aspect is south-south-westerly, its altitude is between 20 and 65 metres above mean sea level and its gradients range from flat to 30°. No site specific soil survey has been carried out, although general surveys of the area suggest that the soil may include gley soils, and forest brown earth soils. Rainfall is about 60 inches a year. The geology underlying the Wood shows two faults running through the area and they form the boundaries between three main rock groupings: (i) Bullrock Greywacke (a form of sandstone) to the north-west, (ii) Sandstone and red-brown siltstone with nodules of limestone to the south-east, and (iii) Rosneath conglomerate to the south and south-east. Small burns with steep-sided banks and gullies run down the hill. The quality of the burn water is clear. Some web links to explanations of the geology are given in the Bibliography at (1).

12. At 23ha, Duchess Wood LNR is a significant remnant in a largely urban landscape of Semi-Natural Woodland, parts of which are most probably of ancient origin, although its initial extent is currently unknown. Although classed as of Long Established Plantation Origin, this assessment is based on the Roy Maps of 1750 which were prepared for military purposes and thus woodlands not of military importance were often not mapped. The 25 inch Ordnance Survey map from 1862 (See Annex 6) shows the woodland area (which was possibly part of the designed landscape of Ardencaple Castle grounds) almost the same as it is today. A summary of the historical context of the Wood is given in Annex 1. The natural woodland is dominated by oak, ash, birch, alder, Scots pine, rowan, and hazel, but there are also significant stands of sycamore and beech. Local information suggests that the dominance of sycamore in sections of the Wood dates back to the great West of Scotland gale of 1968. Ring counting of a recent fallen Scots Pine in the plantation north of Rhu Road Higher suggests that this dates to the period between the first and second world wars. The understorey trees and shrubs and the groundflora are also varied and interesting. The Wood is home to a wide range of animals (including roe deer, fox, moles and bats); birds (including owls, sparrowhawk, jay, and bullfinch); and insects (although further research is needed on the insect life of the Wood). In shaping this MP much helpful information has been taken from "Woodland management: a practical guide" and "A handbook of Scotland's trees"; the full references are given in the Bibliography at (2).

13. A full ecological evaluation using the Ratcliffe (1977) Criteria was prepared for the 2007-11 MP, and this (with some revisions and updates) is attached as Annex 1. This emphasises the value of the Wood as an ecological resource and the potential for continuing to protect and develop its biodiversity.

14. The 2007-11 MP also contained a report detailing the results of a survey of the Wood, using the National Vegetation Classification (NVC) framework, and this is attached as Annex 2, with some revisions to make it more readable for a lay audience, and updates. This description remains an important resource and will continue to inform the management of the Wood during the five year period 2016-21 and beyond. It identifies three main woodland types:

- Oak-Birch-Wood sorrel (the most abundant type)
- Alder-Ash-Yellow pimpernel
- Ash-Rowan-Dog's mercury

The report pointed out that the three types occurred in an intricate mosaic with each other throughout the Wood.

# Map of Duchess Wood

(prepared by Kenny Steele, Babcock International, 2015, and based on a map by John Dale, A&BC, 6.9.2012)





## **Duchess Wood in the context of the Argyll and Bute Biodiversity Action Plan**

15. The A&B Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) identifies woodland as a priority habitat and emphasises the vital role that woodlands play in conserving threatened plants, animals and fungi. The LBAP recognises that A&B woodlands hold one of the most diverse ranges of moss, liverwort and lichen communities in the world and are home to many important protected and priority species. Although focused on the opportunities created by the harvesting of commercial forests, the LBAP's vision of increasing woodland habitat networks to help reverse the pattern of habitat fragmentation that has occurred over the centuries is very relevant to the future management of Duchess Wood.

16. The Work Programme in the LBAP includes a number of actions, some of which may have an impact, directly or indirectly, on this MP, such as native woodland expansion and the control of invasive species. The LBAP reference is given in full in the Bibliography at (3) and a fuller summary of the LBAP is given in Annex 3. This 2016-2021 MP aims to address all the biodiversity issues in the LBAP, and seeks to support and learn from the actions envisaged for woodland habitats.

### **Duchess Wood – what we know already**

17. During the period of the 2007-11 MP, the Friends of Duchess Wood arranged the compilation of a number of constantly evolving and updated checklists of species found in the Wood; these now comprise:

- Bryophytes (Mosses and liverworts)
- Ferns
- Fungi
- Trees and shrubs
- Birds
- Flowers and flowering shrubs
- Mammals.

Several of these invaluable checklists (attached in annex 4) were based on longer professional reports – see the Bibliography at (4) and (5). They confirm the diversity of species found in the Wood and the value of the Wood as a haven for a large number of plant and animal species. It will be important during the next period to continue to revise the existing checklists and undertake additional surveys.

18. This description confirms that a great deal is now known about the ecology and biodiversity of Duchess Wood, but that there is much still to be discovered. In essence, we need to know what currently exists. This offers great opportunities for further research and educational work. The development of the "Citizen Science" movement in recent years can shape research which not only aids our understanding of the Wood, but can also contribute nationally to important issues (and see P XX). This updated plan will:

- seek to act on and develop our knowledge,
- integrate the different approaches to classifying the ecology of the Wood,
- identify the biodiversity priorities for the Wood,
- investigate where enhanced protection or support is needed.

## MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES, AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

### Overall aims

**Duchess Wood is a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) in a town setting and is well used by the local community and visitors from further afield. It will be managed as a semi-natural area, to conserve and enhance its biodiversity and landscape value. While giving priority to the Management Agreement and the LNR objectives, the Wood is a multipurpose facility in which exercise, recreation, research and outdoor education will be encouraged; and as a quiet space it will provide all visitors with opportunities for relaxation and contemplation, thus supporting both mental and physical wellbeing.**

19. In line with the views of Scottish Natural Heritage and Forestry Commission Scotland our intention is to manage the Wood as a multipurpose facility - see the web reference at Bibliography (4). The context for its effective management therefore contains a number of strands:

- i. The Management Plan implements the terms of the Management Agreement between Luss Estates Company and Argyll and Bute Council.
- ii. The primary designation of the Wood as a Local Nature Reserve means that we must meet the SNH objectives for such sites (see Bibliography at (5)).
- iii. At the same time we must be conscious of the significant community use of the wood, and while giving priority to the MA and the LNR objectives, take account of the Community Woodland Association objectives for community woodland.
- iv. We will do this by working in partnership with both official and voluntary organisations, and by paying attention to the needs of the different users of the Wood.
- v. A&BC ensures that any legal obligations in relation to public access provisions and health and safety legislation are met.
- vi. A&BC has established the A&BC DWLNRC under the chairmanship of a local councillor to manage the implementation of these objectives, monitor and record all activities, and report to the Council and to the community.
- vii. The DWLNRC delegates authority to FODW to carry out many relevant day-to-day actions

20. This plan sets out what we hope are achievable objectives and actions, in the short term (over the first two years 2016-18); in the medium term (over the next three years 2018-2021); and in the long term (beyond the end date of this MP (30 September 2021)). These objectives are structured in the context of the overall aims for the Wood. The actions in relation to the objectives are described in general terms and specific actions are related to locations in the Wood as illustrated in the map on page 12 and to the compartment structure used in the 2007-11 MP, shown in Annex 6.

21. During the currency of this plan the DWLNRC may evaluate and review the possible relevance and impact on the management of the Wood of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act and its supporting legislation and guidance, and consider the potential for transfer to a form of community ownership or partnership with A&BC. During the period covered by the fourth MP (up to 2016) a number of ideas were put forward for different uses of the Wood. We will evaluate and where appropriate support suggestions for innovative uses of the Wood, for example the establishment of forest nurseries or schools, or the provision of autumn illumination events.

### **Long-term objectives**

22. The following long-term objectives reflect the aims above:
- i. to manage the Wood so as to maintain and enhance its semi-natural, mostly broad-leaved, habitat and conserve and improve its biodiversity;
  - ii. to provide and enhance provisions for public access;
  - iii. to maintain access ways and other facilities used by visitors;
  - iv. to encourage and publicise research;
  - v. to encourage and promote education for both children and adults, including the use of the Wood for forest nursery or forest school initiatives;
  - vi. to encourage recreational uses of the Wood, including appropriate sporting and entertainment activities;
  - vii. to support voluntary involvement.

### **Medium-term objectives**

23. Within each long-term objective are a number of medium-term objectives, and medium and short term actions which we anticipate will be met during the life of this plan (but with the strong proviso set out in paragraph 8). The delivery of all of these objectives is aided by a number of agreed operational policies which help determine the approach to be taken. The detailed objectives, policies and actions are described in the full text which follows, and are set out in table 1 at the end of the text; the main elements are summarised below:

#### **i. Woodland management:**

- a. following the principles of good woodland management and in the context of the available resources, continue to restructure the woodland to a more native composition and condition;
- b. establish a programme of selective thinning of sycamore, and ash and beech where appropriate, to open up the Wood and create additional open glades; to deal with damaged trees, or those near boundaries; and to allow the planting or replanting of native species;
- c. identify individual native trees, or groups of trees, which can be managed as a demonstration of good forestry practice to enhance their later value
- d. eradicate rhododendron and Japanese knotweed and reduce other non-native invasive species;
- e. assess the biodiversity of habitats and species in the Wood to improve understanding of how it can be protected and enhanced;
- f. manage and protect the fruiting trees/shrubs and the oak and other trees planted by FODW around the Pony Field and in other areas of the Wood.
- g. increase the biodiversity of the Wood by digging and maintaining suitable pond(s) to provide a still-water habitat;
- h. establish a strategy and action plan for the boundaries which meets the needs of both the woodland and its neighbours;
- i. increase the "woodland corridors" linking Duchess Wood to other nearby woodlands;
- j. encourage the use of timber from the Wood and in the context of the primary management objectives, sell redundant timber for firewood and make timber from the Wood available for craft purposes.

#### **ii. Public access:**

- a. support and publicise access policies based on the Scottish Outdoor Access Code and SNH guidelines for LNRs

- b. manage and improve existing constructed paths
- c. improve burn crossing points and drainage
- d. provide and maintain clear signage to the Wood and around the main paths
- e. improve access around the Wood for the less able or those looking for easy gradients and smooth, surfaces and create opportunities for those less mobile to take part in activities in the Wood
- f. explain the benefits to health – both physical and mental – which access around the Wood provides.
- g. keep question of horse riding route under review.

**iii. Maintenance:**

- a. maintain paths and drainage and other facilities to ensure that the Wood remains an attractive, diverse and reasonably safe natural woodland, through regular inspection, repair, and safeguarding.

**iv. Research:**

- a. encourage research into the Wood's plants and wildlife and publish the results.

**v. Education:**

- a. enhance the use of the Wood for educational purposes for both children and adults and maintain and enhance its educational values and facilities;
- b. support the use of the Wood for appropriate children's forest nursery or forest school initiatives
- c. develop links with all local schools so that they can take advantage of the learning environment provided by the Wood, and can feedback information from their work into our understanding of the Wood's biodiversity
- d. provide information on the Wood's biodiversity for all visitors.

**vi. Recreation**

- a. keep under review policies for recreation which take account of the different needs of users.

**vii. Voluntary effort:**

- a. support the Friends of Duchess Wood, their coordination of voluntary effort, and their representation of the local community
- b. facilitate the use of the Wood by other voluntary groups.

**Woodland management**

24. Effective woodland management is potentially the most demanding aspect of protecting and enhancing the Wood and professional advice is likely to be necessary to help plan and undertake this work. Useful source texts which this section draws on are "Woodland management: a practical guide" and "A handbook of Scotland's trees", as well as the FCS, SNH and CWA websites.

25. The management context for the Wood is established firstly by the requirements of the LEC/A&BC Management Agreement which has as its objective to *"preserve and enhance the appearance of the Managed Land, and to promote the enjoyment of the*

*countryside by the public*". The agreement refers to a range of maintenance and access works (which are dealt with later), but also to the proper management of the Wood and the inspection of all trees for obvious signs of disease/damage. FCS guidance supported by SNH emphasises the importance of a multiple use approach, and specific SNH guidance on LNRs concentrates on enhancing recreation, education and biodiversity. The aims of the Community Woodlands Association add economic development, renewable energy and social inclusion to the mix. The A&B Biodiversity Action Plan (see paragraphs 15 and 16) identifies a number of important issues for woodlands which this plan will help address. The overall **policy** is to manage the Wood so as to protect and enhance its biodiversity and its landscape value, while providing suitable public access. At the same time we will examine whether it will be possible to sell, or otherwise make available, unwanted timber from the wood to aid local businesses and craft workers. A primary important **action** will be to secure professional support and advice on woodland management.

### Native trees

26. The Wood has a wide range of native trees, including oak, ash, birch, hazel, alder, rowan, wych elm, willow and others. One main aim of this plan is to conserve and protect the native trees, but also to manage them in a way which gives a variety of age and spacing, and helps encourage greater biodiversity of the understorey, of ground flora and wildlife. **Action** may, in places, involve thinning of native trees and their replacement by the same or different species and while this work is being done, the removal or thinning of any non-native trees – see below.

27. We also propose to identify individual native trees, or groups of trees, which can be managed as a demonstration of good forestry practice, to show what can be done to help produce local timber suitable for a variety of uses, such as furniture, construction, turning and other crafts, woodfuel and charcoal. This approach will also include some of the non-native species discussed below. The establishment of good forestry practice will have a strong educational element and should also help the rural or woodland-based economy.

### Dead wood

28. Leaving dead wood standing or lying naturally or in man-made heaps brings a lot of advantages in terms of creating habitats to support a wide variety of bird, animal and insect life. The Wood already has a fair number of standing and fallen trees. "Woodland Management" suggests a minimum ratio of three standing and three fallen trees per hectare, spread throughout the woodland. The Wood probably has this minimum at present, though it tends to be concentrated in certain areas. The storms during the 2011 - 2014 period left a large number of fallen and broken trees which will add to the deadwood in time. Another problem is that there are many dead, diseased or damaged trees close to the peripheral path (mostly sycamore, some ash), and for safety reasons we propose that the more fragile of these should be felled and the timber left to decay, or removed for other uses. It may also be possible to "ring bark" some trees deeper in the Wood to create standing dead wood in areas where there is little at present. This **action** will be covered by the short term work proposed in the section below.

### Sycamore and ash

29. **Action** to change the Wood to a more natural woodland will mean gradually removing quite substantial numbers of sycamore. Relatively little light penetrates the dense sycamore canopy. FODW work parties have observed that extensive areas of the Wood are now dominated by sycamore. It is the greatest arboreal threat to the character of Duchess Wood and much the biggest challenge to the Wood's management. Experience in the Wood suggests that in current conditions, sycamore is self-seeding freely only in localised areas, although there are many saplings perhaps 20-30 years old,

and regrowth from old stumps is very vigorous. The variation in re-seeding of sycamore is something that will merit further research and testing to see how reseedling can best be controlled. Although the sycamore canopy blankets areas of the Wood thus reducing flower and other lower growth, it is thought that mature trees can support a high (although not particularly diverse) population of wildlife. It appears that ash does self-seed successfully around the Wood, and in several areas ash and sycamore grow side by side, and removal of some mature ash with the sycamore will be necessary. Recent wind experience and FODW observation has shown that many of the sycamore and ash trees are not particularly healthy with damaged and split trunks and upper branches, creating a potential safety risk which will need to be managed.

30. The **policy** is therefore that a number of mature sycamores and ash are identified for retention as specimens through the Wood, but that a major part of the workplan for the next five years and beyond should involve the progressive removal of the rest of the sycamore, ash and in the longer term birch and beech where appropriate. FODW has already started a campaign of removing sycamore saplings through its work parties, but there is urgency to obtain funding for professional felling of the larger trees. Discussion with FCS and with felling and woodfuel selling contractors suggests that there may be sufficient value in sycamore and ash in certain areas to at least cover the cost of felling/thinning and this will be factored into any application for funding under the "Woodlands In and Around Towns" (WIAT) grant scheme. The areas being considered for initial thinning are the lower section from Rhu Road Higher to the garages, and the area immediately north of the garages. In the former section, thin and damaged sycamore, ash and other trees are not growing well under the pine canopy, and a few of the Scots Pine themselves are hung up on other trees or unstable; all would be better removed and the opportunity taken to replant Scots Pine. In the latter section, sycamore has created a closed canopy with little growth underneath. Many of the ash in this area are growing poorly, and several have fallen. A fairly extensive thinning of this area would open it up for replanting with other native trees. In the longer term, if this work is successful, further thinning of sycamore will be carried out along the east and north sections of the main path, where many of the trees show signs of damage and in the adjacent sections of the Wood particularly where birch is growing too thickly or where beech is taking over (and see para 32 below). While planning this work, tests will be made to identify whether any of the trees are of the "ripple" form of sycamore, which may have significant commercial value. As the more detailed description below suggests, thinning or clear felling may cause significant disruption but should also enable us to begin the restructuring of the Wood into a more natural and biodiverse environment. Without this short-term pain, it will be difficult to achieve the long-term gain that is the main objective of this plan.

31. This policy has a number of important implications:

- i. Such extensive work may, on occasion, necessitate professional support and assistance
- ii. Much of the work can only be carried out with mechanised (or possibly horse-drawn in some places) equipment.
- iii. The main peripheral path and some other parts of the paths network may have to be improved to take small log-handling transporters. Experience suggests that this can be managed in an attractive way, commensurate with the setting. Such improvements would also improve accessibility for some users for example horseriders and those with buggies.
- iv. However, while the work is being carried out some areas of the Wood may have to be closed to users.
- v. Although some of the cut wood will be left in the Wood, most will have to be removed, and arrangements will have to be made for the disposal of the timber, which could involve selling wood for a range of purposes.

- vi. This offers opportunities to work with local arboriculturists, tree surgeons, timber and wood fuel merchants, craft workers and others who can use the timber. Areas may have to be created near the main road access (and possibly rail access) points to enable timber to be stored and removed. Removal may also damage access paths and planning of the operations will need to include provision for restoration of the paths.
- vii. Dealing with the brash from tree felling will also have to be considered and while some can again be left to decay, experience has shown that very large quantities can be produced from some trees. Chipping (which may also have some commercial value, or can be used as a mulch in the Wood) or burning may have to be considered.
- viii. Any extensive removal from the main sycamore-dominant areas (north of the garages and along the northern boundary with the railway) will leave quite bare areas for some years. A policy of progressive thinning of sycamore and ash may be more acceptable in certain areas, particularly the heavily used areas near entrances and there will also be biodiversity and maintenance advantages in identifying and clearing a number of small open glades. The cleared or thinned areas can then be replanted with a native mixture of oak, ash, alder, rowan, hazel and other trees and shrubs, the mix depending on the ground conditions and other factors. Another option may be to allow the open glades to be recolonised naturally and to study over time how the woodland develops compared to the replanted areas – this could be a useful research and education opportunity.
- ix. Volunteer work parties organised by FODW can manage the removal of seedlings, regrowth and small saplings, but not anything more than about 100mm in diameter.
- x. In the short term we propose to seek professional advice and seek funding to begin to create open glades and to thin and remove sycamore and ash from close to the main peripheral path and the south/north path from the eastern Rhu Road Higher and Millig Street entrances; these areas are generally easier to access and maintain. We will also look carefully at standing dead or diseased trees near paths and where appropriate fell or prune. With professional advice we will also use the period to plan for the clearance or thinning of a larger area of sycamore (roughly one third of this section) along the northern boundary, then carry out the works at a suitable time. Depending on the success or otherwise of these works we will then plan for the clearance or thinning of the remaining sycamore-dominated area along the northern boundary at a later stage. The timetabling for this work may also depend on the nature of the grants that might be available to support the work.
- xi. It will also be necessary to consider what to do with the cut stumps – whether to try to kill or remove the stump or to allow it to coppice. This is another area where professional advice will be important.

## Beech

32. Beech is more widespread in the Wood than a casual look might suggest. Although not a native tree, it is thought that its natural climatic limit has not yet been reached in the UK, and its presence can be accepted in a sensible way in our natural woodland, contributing to the biodiversity. It is an attractive tree particularly in its spring and autumn colours. There are a number of very large and old mature trees around the boundaries (although again, several of the older trees have been quite badly damaged) and it is the **policy** that these should be protected and retained. However, beech seems to regenerate quite successfully in the Wood (better than sycamore) and it needs to be monitored and controlled. Possible **action** is to allow it to regenerate in a managed way in the North West corner compartment where the mature trees are concentrated. In time it is likely that the beech would become the dominant species there. A number of other semi-mature trees would be identified around the Wood for

retention and protection, while the remaining trees would be removed at the same time as other operations were being carried out in the area.

### Scots Pine plantation

33. The Scots Pine plantation (which possibly has other pines mixed in) between Rhu Road Higher and the Millig Street garages needs to be managed as a separate section. It is narrow and has a long boundary facing the prevailing wind direction, so edge effects will be important. It is also home to a large rookery, with over 80 nests (spring 2016) which needs to be protected. However there is a fairly substantial undergrowth of sycamore and ash in places, and the pine trees are now of such a size that they should be thinned. Much of the undergrowth can be dealt with by volunteer action, but thinning the larger trees and the complexities involving the rookery will need professional advice. There may be timber value in the felled trees which could help fund other work in the Wood.

### Other mature trees

34. Around the Wood there are a number of other mature trees including different conifers, several limes, and a few sweet (Spanish) chestnut. We propose a **policy** to protect and retain these trees, with the proviso that if any become unsafe near to paths, **action** will be taken to assess and manage the problem trees.

35 FODW has planted a number of new trees in recent years – for example the group of 100 oak trees in the middle section of the north of the Wood, the group of fruiting trees and shrubs around the boundaries of the Pony Field, and smaller groups where opportunities presented. It is important to look after these trees while they are still young and subject to deer damage in particular. The **policy** is to continue to look for opportunities to replant, and **action** is to fence and protect, and nurture new plantings. Major opportunities for replanting will occur if any significant sycamore coups are felled.

### Other invasive species

36. As well as the sycamore and beech trees, there are a number of other non-native invasive species which have a major impact on the Wood and its biodiversity, and our **policy** is to control and eradicate them. They include:

- Rhododendron. Scattered throughout the Wood, sometimes in substantial clumps. **Action** to continue removing the bushes and control of regrowth is a short-term priority for this plan. Dealing with the brash involves the same considerations as for the trees, but recent experience has shown that it can successfully be burned.
- Japanese Knotweed. Present in a number of locations around the Wood and has been regularly attacked. **Action** to remove and to continue control of regrowth is also a short-term and urgent priority.
- Laurel. Only present in a few locations, mainly in the south west corner. Its removal and control of regrowth is a medium term priority for **action**.
- Lamium galeobdolon (Tri-coloured archangel). Present in a number of locations around the eastern boundary of the wood. Will be monitored initially, and consideration given to **action** to remove in the medium term.

37. In addition, two native species will be monitored and action considered:

- Bracken. In open areas mainly in the south half of the Wood. The areas are not extensive but one of the few open areas in the Wood is being taken over and trial action is being undertaken in the short term to examine if the



bracken in part of this area can be beaten and bruised and thereby sufficiently weakened to go into decline. Results so far have been encouraging. Care will also be taken to ensure that other ferns are not damaged.

- Brambles are not generally a problem, except that they can erupt and make the ground impassable when a section of woodland is felled – but they can be managed in such circumstances. However there is also a large area of mixed trailing brambles and sub-erect brambles (which are relatively uncommon) at the east end of the pony field, and they are steadily extending their coverage. Professional advice will be sought on how best to control this area.

### Boundary issues

38. Many of the issues identified above are more significant near the boundaries of the Wood, particularly where the boundary is with houses. Duchess Wood is bordered on its east side by a number of residential streets. From the north, they are Macleod Crescent, Macleod Drive, Duchess Drive, and Duchess Park; as the eastern boundary continues south, it runs alongside the end property in Millig Street, then after the garages, alongside Strathclyde Court and its lengthy garden. Kathleen Park in the south west corner also borders the Wood, although it is separated from the Wood by the south bank of the burn which runs behind the houses. It is also important to bear in mind that the northern boundary is formed by the West Highland railway line. A more detailed note on boundary issues is attached as Annex 5. In addition a new housing development in and to the north of the old Dobbie's garden centre beyond the south west corner of the Wood has been designated in the LDP for housing. The development will be contiguous with the Wood and there will be access from it to the Wood; it will be important to monitor the detail of the development and the impact it might have on the Wood.

39. The management of the Wood should take into account the safety (and to an extent the amenity) of neighbouring residents. Branches and trees have fallen into gardens and onto garages in recent years and particularly during the severe storms between 2011 and 2014. Action has been taken by A&BC and FODW to deal with emergency issues that have arisen. An informal survey of the state of the trees close to boundaries was carried out in December 2011, but this preceded the gale of 3 January 2012 when there was a great deal of tree damage. Further informal surveys have since been carried out. In the short term, occasional boundary surveys will be needed. It will then be necessary to consider how to maintain a safe and suitable boundary or transition zone. In carrying out work in the transition zone around the boundary (which could be perhaps 5m wide) we should follow the principles set out in paragraphs 24-34 in relation to particular species and retain native mature trees where they are safe, retain other native trees and some non-native mature trees, but remove and thin drastically other non-native trees (while remembering edge effect issues). Lower, fruiting and flowering native trees such as rowan, hazel, hawthorn and blackthorn could then be planted in the transition zone to create a food-rich environment for birds, animals and insects.

40. At the same time, one of the broader aims of the MP is to ensure that neighbouring residents gain a greater understanding of the management needs of the Wood. There is no strict boundary as far as the wildlife is concerned and gardens are in essence an extension of the Wood. Residents can help protect and improve wildlife in the Wood, particularly the bird life. Boundary residents will also be encouraged to respect the needs of the Wood and not dump inappropriate garden waste (especially where there is a risk of spreading non-native invasive species).

### Pond provision

41. In terms of enhancing the biodiversity of the Wood, one of the main habitats which has recently been introduced with support from the Amphibian and Reptile

Conservation Trust are two still water ponds, which will provide a habitat for frogs, toads and newts, but also be a resource for animals, birds and insects. Although there are numerous relatively fast-flowing burns in the Wood, which provide a special habitat, these ponds will help attract a wider range of wildlife. The ponds are in relatively open areas so that they can warm up, but it was still uncertain at the time of writing whether both ponds would hold sufficient water. In the short term the water retention of the ponds will be monitored and suitable planting organised in and around the ponds to create a better water environment and to deter dogs and human visitors from entering the water.

### **Public access**

#### Access policies

42. Access to Duchess Wood will take into account both the Scottish Outdoor Access Code and the SNH Guidelines for LNRs. The Outdoor Access Code is based upon three key principles:

- Respect the interests of other people. Visitors to the Wood should act with courtesy, consideration and awareness and should respect the needs of other people enjoying the outdoors.
- Care for the environment. The DWLNRC's role is to help maintain the natural and cultural features which make the Wood attractive to visit; visitors are expected to look after the Wood and leave the land as they find it.
- Take responsibility for your own actions. The DWLNRC, on behalf of A&BC will act with care at all times for people's safety. Visitors must remember that the outdoors cannot be made risk-free and should act with care at all times for their own safety and that of others.

The Code allows access for example by cyclists, horse riders, dog walkers, etc., but emphasises the importance of responsible access which takes account of other users of the Wood.

43. The Guidelines for LNRs draw attention to the general objectives of LNRs and explain that access is necessary to:

- maintain and improve biodiversity
- provide opportunities for environmental research and education
- enable people can become involved in nature conservation activities
- quietly enjoy their natural heritage.

The principles in the Access Code and the LNR guidelines are compatible with one another and are built in to the objectives of this management plan.

#### Paths

44. The paths network has been steadily improved since the first Management Agreement was signed, and particularly so since 2002. There are now a number of "constructed" paths, most of which are now designated by A&BC as Core Paths. There are four recognised access points (and the north-west access links the Wood to the round-Helensburgh footpath network and routes to the National Park), a well-laid peripheral path, an all abilities path at the flat, lower part of the Wood (which has been made a circular path thanks to cooperation with the Cricket and Rugby Club when they were carrying out other work), and two subsidiary paths. A small car park is available at the Kathleen Park entrance. In addition, a number of informal or "desire line" paths exist throughout the Wood which are used much less frequently and give access to the more central parts of the Wood. Discussion between local residents and A&BC has been initiated to examine options for new footpaths associated with the possible housing development next to the south west corner of the Wood.

45. There are five main **policies** which will inform future actions in relation to the paths network:

- To help provide and maintain relatively undisturbed “refuges” for wildlife (within the peripheral path, the south-west corner, and the “hammerhead” between Duchess Park and MacLeod Drive), general visitors should be encouraged to use the existing “constructed” paths network. This plan does not envisage the creation of any new paths other than temporary paths to facilitate access for the removal of timber or woodland management, and perhaps paths associated with any new housing beyond the south west corner.
- The paths should be as natural as possible, and support the semi-wild nature of the Wood. This means that any fencing will be limited to narrow bridges, and when the fencing which is currently installed on one side of the Victorian stone bridge on the eastern path, and on part of the steep bank to the south, rots or is damaged, it will not be replaced. A similar approach will be taken to the small section to the south of the Strathclyde Court garages. However, the section of fencing at the bottom of the Scots Pine plantation on Rhu Road Higher should be maintained as it provides an effective barrier to visitors, particularly children and dogs, running onto a busy road.
- The main paths may need to be improved to allow small timber-handling and maintenance vehicles access around the Wood (although any contractor involved would have experience of dealing with such terrain). It may also be necessary to create some temporary paths into other areas of the Wood. The planning for any such use will take into account the need for path restoration. Such improvements/changes may also have benefits for horse riders and others. Clearances over and around paths will also have to be checked and improved to allow vehicles or horses to pass freely.
- The “constructed” paths should be well made, well drained and mud-free, and easy to maintain.
- The “informal” paths should be left as they are, with no attempt at improvement, or management, but should be monitored to check for over-use, and appropriate action taken if this appears to be a problem.

46. The short term priority for action is to resurface, and in places regrade, the all-abilities path which has deteriorated over the last decade. This will restore the smoothness of that path to its state ten years ago to make it more suitable for wheel-chairs and push-chairs. In addition, if any substantial removal of trees is undertaken (as envisaged above), the main paths may need to be improved, and in places widened, to allow access for tree handling equipment. Even if such major works are not carried out, most of the peripheral path will need maintenance in the medium term as some of the edges are deteriorating and some wash-away of the path covering has occurred. Although drainage has been much improved, (following a survey and report by the Paths for All Partnership, commissioned by FODW – see Bibliography at (6)), there are still some areas where paths are damaged by rain and spate erosion, and crisis action will be needed to maintain the paths.

### Burn crossings and drainage

47. Apart from the Victorian stone bridge on the eastern path, the bridges are wooden; three were constructed around 20 years ago and one about ten years ago. They are showing signs of wear. The three older bridges have been repaired regularly, but their life-span is limited. They are also relatively narrow, and two of the three are in awkward positions which do not lend themselves to substantial improvement. The newer bridge (the “Thurgood Bridge”) is in good condition, but the steps down to it are exceptionally steep, and maintaining the fill of the steps is a problem. The steps were improved and refilled during 2014, but they remain a problem for the longer term. By contrast, two large culverts and a number of small culverts installed over the last ten

years have so far proved easier to maintain (although the smaller culverts can block easily). The pathways over the larger culverts are also wide enough to take tree-handling equipment if this is brought in, and horses.

48. Many of the drainage culverts and ditches were installed and dug on the basis of a detailed report by the Paths for All Partnership in 2009 commissioned by the Friends of Duchess Wood. Of the 37 recommendations in that report, those rated as "High priority" and most of those designated as "Medium priority" have been implemented, much of the work having been done by the A&BC Employability Team. This is a good example of how partnership working also furthers the social inclusion potential of work in the Wood. The ditching needs regular maintenance, and the upstream and downstream stonework on the smaller culverts needs occasional maintenance, all of which can largely be carried out by voluntary effort. Other drainage improvements have taken place in the last five years (for example around the information boards on the pony field), and we will continue to monitor and improve areas of the paths which do not drain freely.

49. The **policy** is to continue to review and repair the remaining wooden bridges and maintain other crossings and drainage ditches and as the bridges approach the end of their usefulness and/or become unsafe, to replace them with wider, large diameter culverts (see photograph). The Thurgood Bridge, being only ever likely to be used for pedestrian access, will be maintained as a bridge.

50. A range of **actions** is envisaged in the short and medium term. Depending on other action, in the short term, the bridge to the west of the Pony Field, and in the medium term the north-east bridge, will be replaced by culverts. The south east bridge is likely to remain in reasonable repair in the short term. It is not essential for vehicular access to the peripheral path that it is replaced, but for ease of maintenance, a culvert will be advantageous in the longer term. Access into and out of the burn on the west side of the south east bridge has been graded to allow horses to cross easily, and this approach may be necessary at the other crossings, depending on when culverts can be provided. The Thurgood Bridge will remain, but the gradient of the access steps will be reviewed.

### Signposting

51. There are seven categories of signage in the Wood at present:

- Main Information Boards at the Pony Field
- LNR biodiversity information notices
- Duchess Wood LNR signs
- Finger signposts, mostly at entry points
- Map boards at each entry point
- A stone marking the establishment of the Wood as a LNR
- Waymarkers for the spring flower walk/all-abilities path (green arrows) and main peripheral path (red arrows).

The main Information Boards installed in 2015 give many useful facts and illustrations of the management, history and wildlife of the Wood. The robust Duchess Wood LNR signs installed by Lower Clyde Greenspace remain in good condition and have been supplemented by the new map boards. The finger signposts and biodiversity information signs are starting to deteriorate and some have broken and been repaired. The car park is not signposted.

52. The **policy** is to maintain the existing signage, and develop additional clear, helpful guidance to users of the Wood.

53. The **action** planned in the short term is to maintain, repair and where necessary replace all deteriorated signs and to confirm the request for a brown tourist sign from Rhu Road Higher to the car park.

#### All-abilities access

54. When the Wood first became a LNR, access around the Wood was limited to the able-bodied, who were equipped with wellies to ford the burns, and were able to climb over or round fallen trees. The changes in accessibility which have taken place since then have been remarkable, with the development of the surfaced peripheral path, the provision of bridges and culverts, and the all-abilities surfacing of the lower part of the paths network (recently made circular by the provision of an all-abilities section round the rugby field). However it is recognised that the surface of the all-abilities path has greatly deteriorated and so far funds to regrade or upgrade it have not been available. This is a high priority. The main part of the paths network now varies in its suitability – some parts are still in good condition, but other sections have deteriorated, and significant maintenance is likely to be needed over the period of this Plan. It is possible that the whole of the main circuit could be upgraded to close to an all-abilities standard, though there are some “pinch points” where this might be problematic (and the “ravine” spanned by the Thurgood bridge is always going to be difficult). The improvement of the all-abilities path would create much better opportunities for those less mobile to take part in activities in the Wood (for example the Spring Flower Walk largely follows the route of the all-abilities path, and other information and activities could be concentrated on this area).

#### The health benefits of the Wood

55. Access in and around the Wood has the potential to bring health benefits – both physical and mental – to all visitors, and one of the main objectives over the period of the Plan will be to explain these benefits to local users (and potential users) and visitors, as part of the wider campaign to improve Scotland’s health. A recreational overview is given in paragraph 71 below. The Wood is used regularly for cross-country races and training, and for orienteering, and it is has been agreed that a semi-permanent but discreet orienteering course will be established in the Wood. Other challenging athletic events have been held in the Wood in recent years. There are also believed to be geocache points in the Wood which attract visitors. However even regular walking in the Wood brings health benefits – the main path has a fair incline and a circuit from any of the main entry points is about 1 mile in length. In addition although the Wood is busy at times, and social interaction is frequent, it is also easy to go round the Wood and not see anyone; this green circuit, with regular birdsong, varied flowers and trees, and the occasional deer is ideal for helping quiet contemplation and helping to resolving mental challenges. In explaining and publicising the attractions of the Wood, the health benefits will be given greater priority during the period of this Plan.

#### Horse riding route

56. Horse riding is permitted in the Wood and follows the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. A preferred horse trail has been discussed in the past, but it has not been possible to provide this facility. Given the relatively small size of the Wood, and the need to maintain the “refuge” nature of the central part of the Wood, a separate horse trail raises problems. Equally, mixing horseriders, walkers and dogs on paths which have not been designed for horse riding also brings potential difficulties. The recent regrading of the burn crossing by the south-east bridge has been welcomed by riders, and some of the proposed access developments (such as the provision of culverts rather than bridges) should make riding around the wood easier. No clear **policy** on this issue has emerged, and at present the **action** planned is to consult further to try to determine the best way ahead which balances the needs of all users.

## Maintenance

57. The **policy** in relation to maintenance is to make sure that the Wood as a whole is kept in a safe condition for users, while respecting the semi-wild character of the LNR, and that access ways and equipment provided in the Wood are kept in good condition. Many aspects of the maintenance function have been mentioned above, which can be divided into two broad categories: emergency rectification and safety, and routine maintenance.

58. Emergencies, some minor, some significant, arise for a number of reasons. Recent examples have included path erosion due to excessive rain, damage to fencing and bridges, vandalism and wind damage from storms. Responsibility for the management of the Wood rests with A&BC and safety is a fundamental part of that duty. The major crisis maintenance is carried out by A&BC and LCG, while minor work is undertaken by FODW. FODW regularly liaises with the police, fire and other services, and provides a safeguarding function, rectifying what is within its capacity and reporting to the appropriate authority anything that is not.

59. A routine maintenance schedule, attached as Annex 7, has been approved by A&BC and the local environment services section of the Council has the responsibility to apply it. The schedule recognises that routine maintenance is very much a partnership activity. A&BC regularly empties the litter bins placed at all four entry points to the Wood. FODW not only carries out daily clearance of litter beside paths, but periodically holds a litter sweep deeper into the Wood. A&BC then arranges to collect the findings. Bins are generally well-used by the public, including scooping by most dog-owners. However there are continuing problems with dog scoop bags being left for later collection by some owners and then forgotten. Other maintenance includes strimming beside the picnic benches and cutting back undergrowth (especially over and around paths), and clearing culverts to protect paths, especially at the leaf fall in the autumn. FODW has been greatly assisted in these activities by the local Community Payback team and other voluntary effort.

60. In general the **action** envisaged for the 2016-2021 MP will focus on dealing with any emergencies that arise, continuing the present level of regular maintenance in line with the agreed schedule, and undertaking specific action identified in earlier sections; these specific actions are brought together in the Action table below.

## Research

61. The earlier MPs and the research undertaken so far (summarised in paragraph 17) help to understand the diversity of life in the Wood. Since the MP 2012-16 was drawn up, the concept of Citizen Science has developed, and the **policy** for the next four years will be to participate in relevant Citizen Science projects and to encourage and undertake further research in the Wood to help understanding of:

- Which species might need protection
- Which species might need to be controlled
- How greater biodiversity can be encouraged
- How the Wood relates to the local community and to tourism

62. Citizen Science is defined as "scientific work undertaken by members of the general public, often in collaboration with or under the direction of professional scientists and scientific institutions" and SNH leads and coordinates much of the activity in Scotland. The SNH website gives access to the report on an important workshop in May 2015. Amongst the topics which could usefully be pursued in Duchess Wood are

- The use of “camera traps” to help identify mammals, birds, amphibians and reptiles and other wildlife present in the wood
- Air quality surveys through the monitoring of lichen and tar spot on sycamore
- Tree health
- Soil and earthworm surveys
- Pond and flowing water surveys.

The development of Citizen Science in the Wood could involve schools and families in a coordinated way and contribute not only to research specific to the Wood, but also to help build the national picture in those areas of interest.

63. Paragraph 17 above refers to the research already carried out within Duchess Wood and to the seven checklists already prepared by FODW (see Annex 4). In addition, we will continue to monitor the rookery population and we will seek help in surveying

- mammals
- other animals (reptiles, amphibians, etc)
- insects and spiders
- water-living species
- the surface geology and soils
- and we will continue to update and extend the existing species checklists.

The short term priorities will be the rookery, mammals, particularly bats, and butterflies/moths. Bats are a European Protected Species, and like the other priorities for surveys, will have to be considered in the context of adjacent woodland and other habitats. Bat surveys during the 2012-2016 period have shown Pipistrelle and Soprano Pipistrelle bats at least, using the Wood for feeding; where their roosts are remain unclear though guidance suggests that houses and other buildings around the Wood may be their hosts. It is difficult to predict at this stage what the most appropriate priorities might be in the medium term.

64. It is likely that specialist advice or support will be necessary to help plan and undertake some of this work, and contact has been made with Buglife, Plantlife, the Bat Conservation Trust, Butterfly Conservation, and the Amphibians and Reptiles Conservation Trust, all of whom have been supportive of this work. We hope that this essential research can involve local schools and colleges and volunteer groups, and significantly enhance the educational value of the Wood.

## Education

65. The educational value of the Wood has been long appreciated and the **policy** over the five years of this plan will be to develop further both the support which the Wood can give to education and the support that education can give to the Wood. It is important for the long-term management and use of the Wood that children become involved and interested in the Wood from an early age. It should be noted that “education” does not refer only to children since information for adults is as important (see para 62).

66. An Education Pack aimed at primary schools was developed some years ago by the Forestry Commission Scotland but consultation during the period of the 2012-2016 MP has confirmed that in the context of the new curriculum, this is now of limited value. FODW will continue to make the material available on the website, with a suitable warning that parts may be obsolescent and that it needs read in the context of the new curriculum. Primary schools visit the Wood for a range of activities including classroom-linked learning, activities working towards the John Muir award, and Citizen Science related projects. Primary schools also participated during 2014 in a guided visit to the Wood by the Buglife Project Officer and this kind of activity will be pursued further. A more interactive approach to schools’ use of the Wood will be developed which will allow activities and information to be shared. One of the two local secondary schools uses the

Wood regularly for small-scale sporting and developmental activities such as orienteering and team-building, and discussions have taken place with the other secondary school to identify how their pupils could also benefit from the resources offered by the LNR. One of the schools has also liaised with the National Park Service to refurbish bat boxes installed some years ago, and this activity will be helpful in understanding the bat and bird population. Local colleges and universities have used the Wood for project work. There should also be opportunities to use the Wood in rural skills courses, and in the art and science parts of the curriculum.

67. One of the main developments during the 2012-16 MP period was the introduction of the Lomond School Forest Nursery for pre-primary children in the north west of the Wood. It will be interesting to see how this develops, and the DWLNRC will monitor progress and developments.

68. The other side of the coin is the contribution that pupils and students can make to the maintenance and development of the Wood. For example, primary school pupils have assisted in gully clearance, litter sweeps, and tree mulching. A secondary pupil has assisted in the preparation of the FODW Flowers checklist, and university students have carried out mapping activities. There are many ways in which teachers, pupils and students of all ages could assist further, particularly in relation to survey work, identifying species in need of protection, building nest boxes, preparing signs and maps, IT developments, and general environmental improvement work. These kinds of activities can also contribute to the "Volunteering" element of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. The Wood has also been regularly used by scouts, guides, cubs and brownies and this should continue.

69. Education and lifelong learning for adults of all ages are also important. The checklists have attracted broad interest and the development of the Spring Flower Walk, and the guide leaflet, have also proved attractive. Similar leaflets giving guidance on other things to be seen in the Wood will also be considered. A range of local groups use the Wood. Tuition sessions have been organised by FODW about topics including edible fungi, plant identification and foraging, while others value the Wood to hone interests such as ornithology or painting.

70. **Action** will be taken over the five years of the plan to help improve the educational value of the Wood for teachers, pupils, students and adults of all ages. Further leaflets to help visitors understand the biodiversity of the Wood will be developed. Steps will also be taken to encourage greater involvement by local schools and colleges in supporting the work to improve the woodland described in this Plan.

### Recreation

71. It is important to emphasise that the Management Agreement requires A&BC to "preserve and enhance the appearance of the Managed Land, and to promote the enjoyment of the countryside by the public". The Wood has been enjoyed and used for recreation by local residents and visitors for many years. As a recreational facility, the Wood is very successful, and FODW have received many complimentary comments on the attractiveness of the Wood. FODW now publishes three leaflets which are available from dispensers in the Wood and from local visitor centres:

- one gives general information on the Wood (which includes a new member form),
- another details the "Top ten" things to see in the Wood, and which includes the latest map to help guide visitors round the waymarked paths
- the third describes a spring flower walk round the lower part of the Wood, largely on the all-abilities path.

These leaflets are supported by the wide range of information boards mentioned in paragraph 51 above. Earlier work suggested a figure for visits of around 100,000 a year and this figure does not seem too fanciful; a recent partial survey over a cold weekend



(April 2016) suggested a minimum figure of over 90,000 visitors. Most visitors come simply to walk (especially with dogs), but running, cycling, horseriding, bird watching, foraging, painting, photography and general appreciation of the environment are enjoyed by many visitors. Children enjoy a range of more vigorous activities, such as den and dam building, tree climbing, paddling and leaping burns, and collecting cones and leaves. An increasing number of tourists use the Wood and its paths are now linked to the round-Helensburgh footpaths network, and the 50km Three Lochs Way from the south to the north of Loch Lomond via Helensburgh. A&BC's proposed new Green Network includes Duchess Wood.

72. In terms of **policy**, this Plan expects that activities will generally be small-scale, involving individuals, families or other small groups, and that organised activities, other than those involving schools, will be kept to a minimum and cleared through the DWLNRC (and see para 74 below). It is also intended that recreational facilities such as tables, benches and information signage will be confined to the vicinity of the main paths and the Pony Field area.

73. The Pony Field is the focus for information in the Wood and in view of its open, level nature, and its proximity to the car park and rugby pitches it may offer an opportunity to create a small recreational area with enhanced facilities, such as a form of shelter and some natural play facilities (perhaps supported by a mobile phone application, an "App") and current species records (for example of bird sightings). It is recognised that such facilities might be difficult to guard against vandalism, but we think it appropriate to consider them. The edges of the Pony Field are now being treated as an extension of the boundary transition zones discussed earlier and appropriate flowering and fruiting trees such as crab apple, rowan, wild cherry, blackthorn, hawthorn and a small selection of Scottish fruit trees have been planted to provide additional food sources for birds and animals and better opportunities to observe wildlife. As mentioned earlier some sensitive improvements to the area will be necessary if the pony field is to develop in this way, such as limited levelling of the site, and control of the extensive bramble patch on the east side. We will also consider encouraging photography, painting and wood sculpture and displaying the results. Fixed point photography to record the changing seasons and changes in habitats may be valuable both artistically and from a diversity management point of view.

#### Events policy

74. During the period of the 2012-2016 MP, a number of more substantial proposals for recreational use of the Wood were made, including cross-country relay competitions, major orienteering events, several well-attended performances by the Walking Theatre Company and a major night-time "horror" run. Other initiatives were considered – for example a fantasy light show, similar to that mounted successfully near Pitlochry for several years. The DWLNRC has viewed these developments positively as long as they have been properly planned and controlled and any unintended damage quickly rectified. We have developed an Events Policy which should help promoters of such events understand the special circumstances of the Wood and the processes which must be gone through before the Wood can be used in this way.

75. The DWLNRC Events Policy distinguishes between small-scale informal events (such as scout group outings) and larger events involving large numbers of people. The latter must obtain permission from A&BC which has an events pack to guide applicants. Where organisations seek to derive income from an event it may be appropriate for a donation to be made to FODW in recognition of the fact that FODW carries out the day-to-day maintenance of the Wood. Practical requirements for larger events include advance notices at the four entry points to the Wood a week prior to the event alerting the public, clearing up the Wood after the event, and forbidding use of shoes with spikes or metal studs that might damage wooden bridges.

76. The “promotional” aspect of the Management Agreement is also important, particularly in terms of reaching those who might benefit from the recreational and educational opportunities presented by the Wood. FODW produce regular newsletters, publish a number of leaflets, and maintain a website ([www.duchesswood.org.uk](http://www.duchesswood.org.uk)) which give a lot of background information on the Wood, and information on activities. Good relationships have been established with the local media who have given excellent coverage to activities in the Wood.

77. In the short term **action** will focus on encouraging the use of the Wood for appropriate sporting and recreational activities, and monitoring such use, so that no damage is caused to the Wood. Ensuring that organisers understand the need where necessary for formal approval will also be important. We will also maintain the existing facilities and examining the possibility of developing the Pony Field area further (while completing hawthorn hedging work begun earlier), which could be pursued in the medium term. In relation to promotion, the existing sources of information will be used to try to reach a bigger audience and publicity through the local media and national organisations enhanced.

In the end

78. A suggestion has been made that a small part of the Wood might be set aside for interring cremation ashes. This has philosophical attractions, recognising the circle of life in an environment where life is constantly being renewed. It might also have mercenary attractions if donations or fees could help offset other costs in the Wood. However the Wood is relatively small and well used and local residents and visitors might be sensitive to such use. In the short term, informal consultation will take place to gauge reaction to the idea.

### **Voluntary effort**

79. While the primary management responsibility rests with A&BC, much of the progress which has been made in the Wood in the past has depended on a wide range of voluntary effort, and it will be essential to support and encourage this over the period of this MP, and beyond. Many of the earlier paragraphs of the MP describe the work that volunteers have undertaken much of which has been led and organised by FODW, supported by several other local volunteer groups. We are committed to working closely with voluntary groups, particularly FODW, on the delivery of this MP and we will continue to take **action** on behalf of A&BC to support the work of FODW and other local voluntary groups. Direct support for insurance costs of FODW will continue to be covered by A&BC. FODW will represent the local community on the DWLNRC and will coordinate volunteer input to the Committee. More generally, local groups will, where necessary, coordinate their activities and priorities so as to make as efficient and effective use of resources as possible. We will alert groups to opportunities to secure funding and for training and development.

### **Conclusion**

80. Duchess Wood is a long-established woodland, recognised as an outstanding example of a Local Nature Reserve with a high level of planning protection. It is much used and valued as a local facility which also attracts visitors from afar. It is a good example of partnership working, not just between the Council and the Friends of Duchess Wood, but involving a wide range of other contributors. Its long-term value to the people of Helensburgh, to tourism and to biodiversity close to a major town is exceptional, and it is essential that such a facility is fostered for future generations.



**TABLE 1: OBJECTIVES, POLICIES AND ACTIONS**

Long-term objective	Medium term objective	Policy	Action (priorities in bold)	Compartment
<p><b>1. To manage the Wood so as to maintain and enhance its semi-natural, mostly broad-leaved, habitat, and conserve and improve its biodiversity.</b></p>	<p>Continue to restructure the woodland to a more native composition and condition.</p>	<p>To manage the Wood so as to protect and enhance its biodiversity and its landscape value, while providing suitable public access.</p>	<p><b>Secure professional support to advise on woodland management.</b>  Fell standing deadwood near paths and where necessary create additional standing deadwood.  Protect and retain native trees, unless they become unsafe near to paths.  Identify native trees at the sapling stage which can be used to demonstrate good forestry practice  Create open glades around the peripheral path.</p>	<p>All</p>
	<p>Establish a programme of selective thinning of sycamore, and ash and beech where appropriate, accompanied by planting or replanting of native species.</p> <p><b>This is potentially a very long term-action which will need to be carefully managed.</b></p>	<p>Identify a number of mature sycamores for retention as specimens and plan the progressive removal of the rest of the sycamore.</p>	<p><b>(i) Selectively thin areas dominated by sycamore, and where appropriate ash.</b>  <b>(ii) Examine options with professional support for (at minimum) cost-neutral thinning.</b>  <b>(iii) Seek funding for additional/residual costs, and for other aspects of woodland management.</b>  (iv) Clear-fell designated coups where needed and appropriate  (iv) identify mature sycamore to be retained  <b>(v) cut back regrowth and saplings near peripheral path</b>  (vi) treat or manage to prevent regrowth  <b>(vii) re-plant cleared areas with appropriate native trees.</b></p>	<p>Priorities 11, 5, 1, 2, 3  All</p>

		The very large and old beech trees around the boundaries should be protected and retained. Beech should be allowed to regenerate in a managed way in the north west corner where the mature trees are concentrated.	A small number of other semi-mature beech trees will be identified for retention and protection, while the remaining trees will be removed at the same time as other operations are being carried out in the area.	4, 7
	Eradicate rhododendron and Japanese knotweed and reduce other non-native invasive species. Monitor invasive native species.		<b>Remove rhododendron bushes progressively throughout Wood, beginning on west side.</b> Chemically treat or physically inhibit regrowth.	All
			<b>Remove and chemically treat Japanese knotweed.</b>	6b, 9a, 11a
			Monitor and take action to control laurel and lamium when opportunities arise.	1b, 5c, 6b, 8a
			Take action when necessary to control bramble and bracken.	4b, 7a/b
	Assess the biodiversity of habitats and species in the Wood <b>(All woodland management objectives are all intended to contribute to the improvement of biodiversity.)</b>	Improve understanding of the biodiversity of the Wood, protect existing habitats and species and consider how habitats can be improved.	<b>Specific action will be considered in relation to plants; mammals, particularly bats; insects; and birds.</b>	All
	Manage and protect new plantings of fruiting trees and other native trees.	Look for opportunities for new plantings, and provide and maintain initial protection	<b>(i) Further new planting likely to be linked to thinning work</b> <b>(ii) Keep existing protection in good repair, but remove when trees are mature enough.</b>	11, 5 2, 4

	Manage and maintain new ponds.	Monitor development of new ponds and if appropriate look for opportunities to extend.	<p><b>(i) Plant native water plants in and around ponds.</b></p> <p><b>(ii) Provide natural fencing protection around ponds.</b></p> <p><b>(iii) Monitor reptile and amphibian population of the Wood.</b></p>	7, 9
	Establish a strategy and action plan for the Wood boundaries	<p>The management of the Wood should take into account the safety (and to an extent the amenity) of neighbouring residents, and residents should be encouraged to respect and support the Wood.</p> <p>Developments around the Wood will be monitored and action taken where necessary to represent the community interests of the Wood.</p>	<p><b>(i) Carry out a thorough boundary survey, and fell or lop trees identified as particularly dangerous.</b></p> <p><b>(ii) Monitor in particular the proposed development of the old Dobbie's site at the south-west corner of the Wood</b></p> <p>(iii) Begin to establish a transition zone between Wood and gardens</p> <p>(iv) Organise a campaign to help improve understanding of how neighbouring residents can help protect and enhance the Wood.</p> <p>(v) Explore opportunities in relation to neighbouring land.</p>	1c, 5bcd, 6ab, 11a
	Increase the "woodland corridors" between Duchess Wood and other nearby woodlands.	Encourage the establishment of additional woodland, particularly on the western boundary of the Wood.	Look for opportunities to lobby for the establishment of additional woodland.	

	Investigate the use of timber from the Wood.	Timber which is generated in the Wood as a result storm damage or deliberate felling, and which is not needed to aid biodiversity, can be removed in support of the Management Plan objectives.	<p><b>(i) Establish a means of safely gathering and securely storing wood.</b></p> <p><b>(ii) Investigate partnership working with local firewood suppliers or selling firewood directly.</b></p> <p><b>(iii) Establish links with local craft workers so that hardwoods can be made available for turning etc.</b></p> <p>(iv) Investigate other uses of wood products, such as charcoal production.</p>	
<b>2. To provide and enhance provisions for public access.</b>	Support and publicise the Scottish Outdoor Access Code and SNH guidance for LNRs	Ensure that these policies are built in to action and developments in the Wood.	Information and leaflets about the Wood will include references to the Code and guidance.	
	Manage and improve existing constructed paths particularly taking into account the needs of less mobile visitors.	Paths should be as natural as possible, and support the semi-wild nature of the Wood. "Constructed" paths should be well made, well drained and mud-free, whereas "informal" paths should be left as they are. Path surfaces should be "all-abilities" and information and events in the Wood should take needs of less mobile visitors into account.	<p><b>(i) Resurface the all-abilities path and the car park.</b></p> <p>(ii) consider surface improvements in other parts of the paths network</p> <p>(iii) consider all needs when planning information boards and events</p>	
	Improve burn crossing points and drainage	Burn crossings should be well-graded and reasonably wide.	<p><b>(i) Progressively replace S Bridge, SW Bridge and NE Bridge by suitable culverts.</b></p> <p>(ii) Improve grading at Thurgood Bridge, NE Bridge, and S bridge/culvert</p>	



	Provide clear signing to the Wood and around the main paths.	Signage should be clear and appropriate to the woodland setting	<b>Provide signage from Rhu Road Higher to car park.</b>	
	Explain the benefits to health which access around the Wood provides.	Emphasise health benefits in all communications about the Wood	<b>Describe health benefits in grant applications, articles, publicity and information.</b>	
	Keep question of horse riding under review	Improvements for horse riding have been made, but there are still some difficult areas.	Take opportunities that arise, particularly when developing new burn crossings, to improve horse access.	
<b>3. To maintain access ways and other facilities used by visitors.</b>	Maintain paths and drainage, and other facilities in the wood.	Ensure that the Wood as a whole is kept in a reasonably safe condition, while respecting its semi-wild character, and that access ways and equipment provided in the Wood are kept in good condition.	<b>(i) The three remaining wooden bridges on the peripheral path (NE, SE and SW) will be maintained until they can be replaced.</b> (ii) Drainage channels and culverts will be kept clear, and repaired as necessary. (iii) Benches and tables will be repaired and treated as necessary.	
			(i) Maintain information boards and signs. (ii) Maintain colour-coded waymarker posts to indicate main routes round Wood. (iii) Maintain leaflet dispensers for map and other leaflets.	

	Maintain the Wood through regular inspection, repair, and safeguarding, working in partnership with official and voluntary bodies.	As above.	<p><b>(i) Regular inspections and safeguarding will continue, supported by regular and ad-hoc FODW work parties. Litter clearance and reporting problems to emergency services and others.</b></p> <p><b>(ii) The lead on serious issues such as dangerous trees and storm damage will be taken by A&amp;BC in conjunction with FODW and contractors.</b></p>	
<b>4. To encourage and publicise research.</b>	Encourage research into the Wood's plants and wildlife and publish the results	Identify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- which species might need protection, or might need to be controlled;</li> <li>- how greater biodiversity can be encouraged;</li> <li>- how the Wood relates to the local community and to tourism</li> </ul>	<p><b>(i) Engage with the Citizen Science initiative as a framework for further research.</b></p> <p><b>(ii) Undertake surveys of:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>the rookery population</b></li> <li>• <b>mammals (particularly bats)</b></li> <li>• <b>other animals (reptiles, amphibians, etc)</b></li> <li>• <b>insects and spiders (particularly butterflies and moths).</b></li> <li>• <b>water-living species.</b></li> </ul>	
			Investigate sources of information on surface geology and soils.	
			Continue to update and enhance the existing checklists.	

<p><b>5. To encourage and promote the educational use of the Wood.</b></p>	<p>Enhance the use of the Wood for educational purposes.</p>	<p>Develop further both the support which the Wood can give to education and the support that education can give to the Wood.</p>	<p>(i) Improve the educational value of the Wood for teachers, pupils, students and adults of all ages. <b>Liase with, and encourage greater involvement by local schools and colleges</b> in supporting research, and protecting and enhancing the Wood.  (ii) Make information for schools available through both the A&amp;BC and FODW websites.  <b>(iii) Maintain websites and publish information leaflets and checklists.</b>  <b>(iv) Keep information hub up to date.</b></p>	
<p><b>6. Recreation and community engagement</b></p>	<p>Keep under review policies for recreation which take account of the different needs of users.</p>	<p>Encourage recreational use of the Wood, which will mainly be small-scale, involving individuals, families or other small groups. Significant organised activities, other than those involving schools, will be kept to a minimum and cleared through the DWLNRC. Recreational facilities will be confined to the peripheral path and the Pony Field area.</p>	<p><b>(i) Apply the A&amp;BC Events Policy to larger events while taking a proportional approach to smaller events.</b>  (ii) Continue to survey visitors to get a better understanding of numbers and needs.  <b>(ii) Maintain the FODW website and publish information leaflets.</b>  (iii) Promote the Wood as a valuable community recreational resource.  (iv) Examine the possibility of developing the Pony Field area further as a central location for information and recreation.</p>	

<p><b>6. To support voluntary involvement.</b></p>	<p>Support the Friends of Duchess Wood and their coordination of voluntary effort and representation of the local community. Facilitate the use of the Wood by other voluntary groups.</p>	<p>While the primary management responsibility rests with A&amp;BC, voluntary effort is essential to protect, maintain and enhance the Wood and its facilities.</p>	<p><b>(i) Support the work of FODW and other local voluntary groups.</b>  (ii) Direct support for insurance costs will continue to be covered by A&amp;BC.  (iii) FODW will be represented on the DWLNRC.  (iv) Local groups will, where necessary, coordinate their activities and priorities.  (iv) Groups will be alerted to opportunities for training and development.</p>	
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## **ANNEX 1**

### **Ecological evaluation using the Ratcliffe (1977) criteria**

(This is a summary of the sections in the 2007-11 5YP which were based on the long established and widely accepted method of determining the nature conservation value of a site known as the 'Ratcliffe Criteria' (Ratcliffe, 1977). The Ratcliffe Criteria provide a standardised and objective way of assessing the value of a site using the following ten attributes: Size, Naturalness, Representativeness, Rarity, Diversity, Position, History, Fragility, Potential value, and Intrinsic appeal.)

#### **Size**

At 22.99ha, Duchess Wood LNR is a significant remnant of Semi-Natural Woodland, parts of which are most probably of ancient origin, in a largely urban landscape although its initial extent is currently unknown. Although classed on the SNH Ancient Woodland Inventory as of Long Established Plantation Origin (LEPO), this assessment is based on the Roy Maps of 1750 which were prepared for military purposes and thus woodlands not of military importance were often not mapped. Maps by John Ross, 1777 and J Thomson & Co, Edinburgh 1820 show mature tree cover along burnsidings south of the Highlandman's Road, although their precise location is confusing on maps of this age and scale. The 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey 25" map for 1860 (See Annex 6) shows the Wood almost as it is today, except for a small extension in the NE corner which seems to have occurred when the west Highland railway line was built. The older maps also show the woodland as possibly part of the designed landscape of Ardencaple Castle grounds.

Duchess Wood LNR is a small site in a large urban setting and as such is vulnerable to edge effects. Edge effects include issues such as small losses of woodland to developments, erosion, pollution, unauthorised changes in boundaries, which, if allowed to continue unchecked, can accumulate and reduce woodland size and cover over time. Any impact that reduces the size and extent of woodland cover will reduce the value of the woodland. At the same time there are beneficial edge effects associated with the garden habitats and the food and shelter found there - either naturally occurring or provided by the residents. The sports fields too, with their grass edges and insect life, can also provide support for wildlife. What is needed is an approach which looks to support boundary relationships for the environmental and biodiversity benefit of the Wood and its neighbours.

The size of a woodland has a direct impact on its ecology and, put simply, the larger the size, the more functional the woodland is in ecological terms. Greater size allows woodland specialists to persist, and provides territory opportunities sufficiently large to support a wide variety of flora and fauna. This in turn enables healthy populations to interbreed and secures genetic variation in species. It also means that specialist woodland species do not need to run the risk of moving across potentially dangerous non-wooded areas to reach new territories or locate food sources.

Many woodlands of this type are found as very small remnants, often highly degraded and quite often entirely isolated from similar woodland remnants. The size and therefore importance of Duchess Wood should also be viewed with regard to its connectivity to adjacent and other nearby woodland which, when taken as a whole, significantly increases its overall size and thus nature conservation value. It is also very valuable due to its setting on the edge of Helensburgh, providing a larger than average asset for interpreting woodland and natural heritage values to a wide audience which, if located further from the urban setting, would not be possible. This plan also identifies opportunities in the longer term for expansion of the Wood and improving connectivity, which could have a significant impact on the conservation value of the Wood.

## Diversity

The diversity of Duchess Wood is high with three woodland communities identified within its boundary. The landforms, soils, hydrology and lack of high intensity modern management have resulted in a woodland that today provides a wide variety of habitats for both specialist and generalist species of flora and fauna. The mosaic of these differing habitats across the site results in a very varied and thus valuable asset in nature conservation terms across an area that is larger than average in an urban setting. Woodland of this size and diversity of communities could, and probably does, support a number of species of conservation interest, and more research is needed to identify conservation priorities in the Wood.

## Naturalness

The assessment of naturalness is intimately connected to the assessment of woodland origin. The site can be classed as a combination of ancient and planted woodland. The overall character of the current woodland is semi-natural in most areas and native with remnants of non-native underplanting and self-seeded Sycamore.

For the purposes of this evaluation, naturalness is measured by assessing the combination of woodland character, how long internal woodland conditions are likely to have prevailed, and, whether human impact has been detrimental to the functional ecology of the woodland and other habitats contained within it over time.

There is a strong association between the distribution of some plants and the history of woodland sites. The National Vegetation Classification (NVC)<sup>i</sup>-based survey of the Wood (see Annex 2) which was part of the 2007-11 MP identified that several of the species present in the Wood are woodland specialists that require continuous woodland interior conditions over long periods of time and are considered to be indicators of ancient woodland (Kirby et al 2005). These include Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scriptus*), Wood Sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Water Avens (*Geum rivale*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Great Wood-rush (*Luzula sylvatica*), Red Campion (*Silene dioica*), Herb Robert (*Geranium robertianum*), Hard Fern (*Blechnum spicant*), Ivy (*Hedera helix*) and Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*). These plants are distributed across the site, although some are localised, which suggest that woodland interior conditions have been present over a long period of time.

Although subject to many years of recreational use, commercial underplantings and the regeneration of Sycamore, the woodland groundflora in the majority of areas still survives intact and in fairly good condition with composition and abundance levels as one would expect for such woodland types. Recreational use has in the past impacted on some path edges through visitors avoiding wet areas and thus widening paths through usage (braiding). However, work has been undertaken to improve paths and their edges and this damage is localised in informal path areas. Where braiding has ceased, groundflora recovery has been excellent.

The commercial underplantings may include some specimens of Norway spruce in Compartment 4 and Scots pine in Compartment 11. The Scots pine however constitutes most of compartment 11, along with some oak, ash and birch. Holly, Elder, Hawthorn, Hazel, Bramble and Honeysuckle occur in the understorey and evidence site suitability to support native broadleaved woodland. Any operational activities within Compartment 11 need to consider the established Rookery and, although not subject to statutory protection, operations should only be implemented outwith the bird breeding season to avoid disturbing the population unnecessarily. Management of some of the younger broadleaved trees and restocking over time with more appropriate species should however be considered as a long-term objective to increase the diversity of tree, shrub, groundflora and fauna species on the site.

The nature conservation values of the site were assessed as medium to high in the 1997 management plan. The impact of human activities has not been so significant as to reduce the overall conservation values and future potential of the site and the Wood functions very well in terms of woodland and landscape ecology. Encouraging the use of the peripheral paths for most users of the Wood has helped the main blocks of woodland to remain relatively undisturbed. Active management has aided the conservation of the woodland and secured its status as a long-established woodland for the foreseeable future. General trends in woodland recreation show that use is increasing year on year, so continued active management in Duchess Wood is considered essential to secure its long-term survival in an urban setting. Active planning and management will provide the necessary framework to balance nature conservation and public access objectives and ensure the site is sustainably managed to increase both biodiversity and social benefits.

In conclusion, the woodland is considered to be essentially semi-natural using the above identified criteria, despite human intervention, giving it a significantly high nature conservation value in an urban setting.

### **Rarity**

The rarity of the Atlantic oakwoods is well documented and researched. Atlantic oakwoods are identified as habitat of high importance in the European Union's Habitats Directive. The oakwoods are restricted to the Atlantic coastal fringes of Britain, France, Ireland and Spain. They are described in the UK Biodiversity Plan as 'upland oakwoods', and are recognised as Britain's temperate rainforest.

Duchess Wood provides a more lowland example of Atlantic oakwood types, displaying a different character to the more exposed lichen-rich upland examples. Nonetheless, its rarity in global terms is recognised by all relevant authorities and its conservation value is significant.

Nature conservation value is added to the Atlantic Oakwood by the wet woodland types, the Upland Mixed Ashwood (W9) and Wet Woodland (W7) that together form an intricate mosaic of priority habitats across the site.

Refer to Diversity section below for rare species of conservation interest.

### **Fragility**

Fragility is measured as a habitat's susceptibility to change. The inherent nature of woodland habitat, the specialist species it is composed of and supports, the intricate symbiotic relationships that occur between species means it is highly fragile and not robust against change.

The community relationships are often so closely interlinked from mycorrhiza in the soil to specialist invertebrates in the canopies, that if one species or population is removed, it could have serious implications for the community as a whole.

Duchess Wood has been subject to various types of management intervention in the past which have impacted on local ecological processes but not to the extent that ecological functionality has been impeded. However, it is currently fragile through neglect of invasive non-native species and inappropriate access in various areas.

Duchess Wood LNR, although large in terms of urban woodland resources, is fragile due to its small size in wider urban landscape terms. Surrounding urban development and other urban land uses can put unsustainable pressures on this type of site through imposed isolation, litter/fly tipping and inappropriate methods of access. Care is therefore required to ensure that such pressures are limited. Any loss of woodland cover



to further urban or other developments would have significant negative impacts on the woodland.

### **Typicalness/Representativeness**

Duchess Wood LNR is a typical example of Atlantic Oakwoods, Upland Mixed Ashwoods and Wet Woodlands<sup>ii</sup> in an intricate mosaic. It may in fact be one of the better, less modified examples as the limited planting activities have not disrupted the wider functional ecology of the site. The site is therefore somewhat less typical of this type of woodland due to its less modified state which significantly increases its nature conservation value. The woodland does show typical successional characteristics, including those represented by a significant sycamore component which results in a decline in native groundflora.

Plant community composition is that typically expected for each of the types identified, and each community is fully represented with both the frequency and abundance of the characteristic species assessed as excellent.

(Included in this section in the 2007-11 MP were references to bluebells (included in Schedule 8 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act), and to Maidenhair spleenwort and two types of sub erect brambles<sup>iii</sup> as being uncommon species present in the Wood. This whole issue of protected species in the wood needs a more detailed review, as the array of controls seems very complex. The Bullfinch, for example, which is present in the Wood, is a UK Priority Species - on UKBAP.)

### **Position in Ecological Unit (Landscape Ecology)**

The importance of landscape ecology with the emphasis of policies orientated towards integrated land management is now recognised and non-isolation from similar populations and the distances between them therefore cannot be underestimated. In this situation, Duchess Wood performs an important role in local landscape ecology. Its extent and shape provides an excellent refuge for specialist woodland species. Although it is bounded by urban housing to the east and south and a railway line to the north, it connects (across/under the railway) to Ardencaple Wood to the north, following the burn, essentially creating a much larger continuous woodland habitat. There may also be an opportunity to connect Duchess Wood with the broadleaved woodland directly to the west above Torwoodhill, which would create a continuous woodland cover of approximately 50-60ha.

Duchess Wood LNR is the most significant remnant refuge from which populations can expand to facilitate genetic outbreeding within these other smaller woodland remnants, thus making it important in nature conservation terms.

### **Recorded History**

The area of which Duchess Wood is a part is has for many years been part of the Ardencaple estate<sup>iv</sup>. The estate was sold in 1767 to John, 4<sup>th</sup> Duke of Argyll who bestowed it on his son Lord Frederick and on his death, it passed into the possession of Lord Frederick's nephew, Lord John Campbell, who in 1839 became the 7<sup>th</sup> Duke and moved to Inverary, but retained ownership of the Ardencaple estate. On his death, in 1847, his wife Ann(e), the Dowager Duchess of Argyll, moved back to Ardencaple Castle, where she lived for a number of years. The estate was sold to Sir James Colquhoun in 1862, and it is assumed that the Dowager Duchess moved elsewhere; she died in 1874. Local research suggests that Duchess Wood may be named after Ann. It is worth noting this history here, as improvements in the Wood, and some of the specimen tree planting, may date back to this 15 year period from 1847-62.

In the year in which this updated plan comes into effect, 2012, the wood will have been in the ownership of the Colquhouns of Luss for 150 years. Unfortunately, Luss Estate records were largely destroyed in a fire some years ago, and it has not so far been possible to investigate the history of the woodland area in any detail. Old maps have been consulted (Appendices 7, 8 & 9) and although woodland cover is shown on the area of the site, it appears to be restricted to the riparian areas along the eastern and western boundaries. The trees also appear to be associated with Ardencaple (Castle) Estate on maps drawn by Charles Ross, 1777. The 1898-1904 OS map appears to show the boundaries of the Wood almost exactly as we know them today, except that the northern boundary is defined by the old stone dyke, which is still there. Further research into the history of the estate would help confirm the longevity of the woodland, and throw light on its ecology, and might also reveal when the various stone dykes were built.

It is also worth referring to another aspect of the history of the Wood, namely that a branch of the Highlandman's Road from Glen Fruin to the coast passed down the Ardencaple Farm road, then through the Wood, roughly following the east side path, over the stone bridge roughly half way down the path. Little is known of this route, but research might reveal when improvements took place and the bridge was built.

### **Potential value**

Value is often associated with the restoration potential of woodlands where previous use or management has had a degrading influence. The composition and condition of much of Duchess Wood can be classed as excellent, and the potential value of the woodland as a whole could be increased significantly by a more positive approach to woodland management to progressively remove invasive species (including sycamore) and re-establish a more appropriate woodland mix.

In terms of recreation, the site has high value due to its proximity to Helensburgh and Rhu and its attraction to tourists. The paths in the wood have been linked in to the wider footpath network to the west and north and work on these links will continue during the period of this updated plan.

In terms of education, the site is already subject to use by the local schools, and it is hoped that this can be increased. The provision of adequate high quality interpretation will also increase the educational value of the site to a wider informal audience.

The Wood also offers valuable opportunities for research, to build upon the work that has already been done. This will help in the enhanced management of the Wood.

### **Intrinsic Appeal**

The intrinsic appeal of particular locations is subjective by nature. In this instance, the assessments above have identified intrinsic appeal values on several levels.

The woodland has significant value to the local community, evidenced by the heavy use it receives and the interest shown by the community when the Local Nature Reserve consultation was undertaken. The woodlands' accessibility and proximity to Helensburgh and Rhu adds appeal as it is accessible on foot to the local population. The size, composition, condition and nature of the woodland also means that the visitor experience is one of semi-wilderness rather than urban woodland and although sounds from the town are heard, the isolation and effect of muffling provides for a relaxing, healthy and interesting visit.

A land use consultants' report commissioned by LCG on open spaces identified 51 open spaces in and around Helensburgh. Duchess Wood was one of only four spaces recorded as "most valued" and one of only eight assessed as "important".

The Scottish Biodiversity List includes social criteria identified in a 2005 survey which indicate the species and habitats which were most important to the Scottish public.<sup>v</sup> The Wood has three of the top ten animals, including the No 1, roe or red deer, and seven of the top ten plants; woodland is ranked three in the habitat list with rivers and streams at five. This gives a sense of the overall intrinsic appeal of the wood.

The improvements to the Wood's paths now provide a link from the south-west of Helensburgh to the round-town network of countryside paths created during the past 15 years through initiatives of the Helensburgh Green Belt Group, the Access Forum / Trust, Lower Clyde Greenspace and the Employability Team, with the support of relevant landowners. The Green Belt Group's leaflet "The Countryside Around Helensburgh" and the Access Trust's footpath map illustrate the progress that has been made. It also now provides access to the new 50 km Three Lochs Way.

The location of Duchess Wood LNR in the urban landscape provides ideal opportunities to link woodland and access management with wider social inclusion agendas such as the provision of all ability access routes, local, regional and national social health and fitness programmes and environmental volunteer health groups such as the Green Gym initiatives. The woodland also has significant value in terms of landscape character, providing a green wooded backdrop for Helensburgh and making the immediate housing estates more pleasant places to live. The history of Duchess Wood provides linkages with the past and provides glimpses of historical woodland management techniques such as coppicing.

## Annex 2

### THE NATIONAL VEGETATION CLASSIFICATION: GROUND VEGETATION & ENVIRONMENTAL ATTRIBUTES

The 2007-11 MP contained a section detailing the results of a survey of the wood, using the National Vegetation Classification (NVC) framework. A summary of this description is given below as it will continue to inform the management of the Wood during the next five year period and beyond. The "W" prefix denotes a particular woodland classification.

**W7 Alder-Ash-Yellow pimpernel woodland** (*Alnus glutinosa* – *Fraxinus excelsior* – *Lysimachia nemorum* )

Sub-community W7b-c: **Tufted Hair-grass** (*Deschampsia cespitosa*)

#### Origin & Structure

This sub-community is typical of moist to very wet mineral soils and often occurs in wet flushes on slopes where drainage is temporarily impeded and is associated most with gradation to neighbouring W11 Oak and W9 Ash woodland types around the banks of burns. Alder rarely entirely dominates and tends to occur with Ash, Downy birch and Sessile Oak dependent on very local flushing.

#### Overstorey Species and Age Classes

Alder, Ash, Sessile Oak. Aged between 5-50 years.

#### Size Classes

Size classes range from seedling regeneration and pole stage examples to mature specimens at approximately 20m. The canopy has quite a low character in places although individual Oak and Ash are reaching 25m.

#### Sub-storey structure

The sub-storey is excellent in small pockets with Rowan, Hazel, Elder and Birch occurring frequently. An odd Sycamore is also present but does not dominate as it does in other areas of the wood.

#### Under-storey composition

The under-storey is more sporadic, although younger Hazel and Rowan occur. Some are low growing neglected coppice stools.

#### Ground Layer

The ground layer is typical for W7c type communities. Tufted Hair-Grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*), Wood-Sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*), Broad Buckler Fern (*Dryopteris dilatata*), Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Great Wood-Rush (*Luzula sylvatica*), Wood Horsetail (*Equisetum sylvaticum*), and Wild Honeysuckle (*Lonicera perclymenum*) occur frequently. Dense pockets of Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) provide linkage to W9 Ash types in intricate mosaics.

#### Threats and Trends

Invasion by *Rhododendron ponticum* presents an immediate threat as this will outcompete and shade all native flora, acidifying soils over time. There are some quite large areas of rhododendron within the Wood, mainly in compartments 4 and 8. Invasion by Japanese Knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*), present on the car park burn, and in a few other small pockets will have similar effects to *Rhododendron* but poses a more serious threat due to its highly invasive nature and ability to spread rapidly by rhizomes. Laurel (*Prunus lusitanica*) also occurs and although non-native and shade bearing, its ability to spread is not as great as the species named above. However, over time it can also cause a decline in native flora.

The above species are all present on site and require appropriate control; a start has been made in the current 5YP period, but further efforts are needed.

Trampling by woodland users is a continuing problem and can damage the groundflora. Where desire-lines have been created through persistent use, groundflora has in places been eradicated, leading to erosion in some areas and waterlogged pools in others.

### **W9 Ash-Rowan- Dog's mercury woodland (*Fraxinus excelsior-Sorbus aucuparia-Mercurialis perennis*)**

Sub-community W9a *Typical sub-community*

#### Origin & Structure

This sub-community represents the most typical of the W9 woodland type. Ash dominates although Oak, Rowan, Wych elm and Birch are locally frequent. This woodland type is generally restricted to the immediate riparian areas, particularly the deeper gorges within Duchess Wood. It is also the dominant woodland type found in compartment 6 to the east which displays a very rich groundflora.

#### Over-storey Species and Age Classes

The over-storey has a distinct character dominated by Ash with less frequent Oak, Rowan and Wych elm. Willows and Alder occur in the wettest pockets within the community creating intricate mosaics with W7 woodland types.

Age classes range from seedling stage to 80 years.

#### Size Classes

In pockets, the Ash reaches 25m in height. Other species tend to appear closer to 15-20m in height which gives the canopy a distinct two layered appearance.

#### Sub-storey structure

The sub-storey consists of younger specimens of all the species in the canopy.

#### Under-storey composition

The understory is variable but includes Hazel, Holly, Rowan and occasional Birch in the drier areas, the wetter areas having a more open character.

#### Ground Layer

Ground flora is dominated by Dog's mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Wood sage (*Teucrium scorodonia*), Herb Robert (*Geranium robertianum*), Red campion (*Silene dioica*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Wood sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*), Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*), Wood aven (*Geum urbanum*), Barren

strawberry (*Potentilla sterilis*), Stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*), Dog-violet (*Viola riviniana*) providing a rich and varied appearance. These species occur in very close association with both the Oak (W11) and Alder (W7) woodland types and create intricate mosaics across the woodland.

Some ferns, including Lady-fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*), Hard fern (*Blechnum spicant*), Male-fern (*Dryopteris felix-mas*) and Broad Buckler fern (*Dryopteris dilatata*) are frequent, particularly in more shaded and damp pockets.

A high frequency and abundance of liverworts, mosses and ferns gives a rich and 'green' appearance to the community in late season.

### Threats and Trends

The spread of *Rhododendron ponticum*, Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*) and Portugal laurel (*Prunus lusitanica*) may pose a threat if these species are not controlled.

### **W11 Oak-Birch-Wood sorrel woodland (*Quercus petraea* – *Betula pubescens* – *Oxalis acetosella*)**

Sub-community W11a Broad Buckler fern (*Dryopteris dilatata*) sub-community

#### Origin & Structure

This is the most abundant sub-community found within Duchess Wood. It occurs from the north of the site to the south and appears in an intricate mosaic with more linear communities of W9 and W7 throughout. This community is rich in appearance although in many areas the abundance of shade bearing Sycamore has adversely affected the typical groundflora. Spring flowering species, such as Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Wood sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*) and Wood anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*) are likely to be less affected due to their ecology which involves growth and flowering before trees are in full leaf. However, later flowering species appear less abundant than they would if Sycamore were not present.

#### Over-storey Species and Age Classes

Over-storey species are dominated by Oak with Rowan, Ash and Birch frequent. Non-native specimens include Norway spruce, sycamore, sweet chestnut, lime, beech and larch. The origin of the Scots Pine is unknown, but their character suggests non-native origin, perhaps German. Although present in the other NVC types, sycamore is most abundant in the oak woodland areas, that is to say that although sycamore may be the dominant canopy species, the groundflora is that of typical W11 oakwood.

Three large old Lime trees occur in compartment 5 that may have been planted adjacent to the old road that passed close by running north/south. An interesting layered, possibly ancient neglected coppice, of Sweet chestnut occurs on the western boundary.

Ages range from seedling (sporadic) to possibly 100+ years.

#### Size Classes

The average height of the canopy is 15-25m although this varies considerably throughout.

#### Sub-storey structure

Sub-storey species are less frequent than one would expect, most likely due to the competition from significant presence of sycamore. Where the sub-storey occurs, Rowan, Birch and Holly can locally dominate.

An area of Birch dominated coppice occurs to the west in Compartment 4. Although Birch dominates, groundflora indicates it is not a Birch woodland type, rather a Birch dominated pocket of W11.

### Under-storey composition

Where the understory is not significantly affected by sycamore, typical species are abundant, particularly Hazel.

### Ground Layer

The ground layer consists of sporadic Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), with Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Wood sage (*Teucrium scorodonia*), Broad Buckler fern (*Dryopteris dilatata*), Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*), Wood aven (*Geum urbanum*), Wood sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*), Hard-fern (*Blechnum spicant*), Tufted Hair-grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*), Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*) and Wild honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*), with oak, ash, hazel rowan and alder seedlings present.

### Threats and Trends

Sycamore often occurs within this woodland type. However, it is not a native to Scotland, rather a naturalised species that, due to its prolific seeding capabilities and shade bearing form, often out-competes native woodland types and becomes the climax species over time. Although sycamore can provide some biodiversity benefit, it cannot provide the same level of benefit, even as a component, as an intact and ecologically functioning oak woodland.

## Annex 3

### ARGYLL AND BUTE LOCAL BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN 2010-2015

The A&B Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP)<sup>vi</sup> identifies woodland as a priority habitat and emphasises the vital role that woodlands play in conserving threatened plants, animals and fungi. The LBAP recognises that our woodlands hold one of the most diverse ranges of moss, liverwort and lichen communities in the world and are home to many important protected and priority species. Although focused on the opportunities created by the harvesting of commercial forests, the plan's vision of increasing woodland habitat networks to help reverse the pattern of habitat fragmentation that has occurred over the centuries is very relevant to the future management of Duchess Wood and to adjacent woodlands.

The LBAP identifies a number of factors limiting the biodiversity of forest and woodland ecosystems, including:

- Limited extent and fragmented nature of native woodland habitat.
- Lack of structural diversity and deadwood.
- Limited natural regeneration of some woodlands.
- Limited or inappropriate management of woodland, including woodland grazing.
- Spread of invasive species, particularly *Rhododendron*, which forms dense thickets that out-compete native shrubs and ground flora and casts a dense shade, beneath which lichens and bryophytes are unable to persist.
- Inappropriate woodland management, e.g. coppicing Atlantic oakwood and hazelwood.
- Climate change.

The LBAP also tabulates priority species against different types of woodland habitat; none of the plant priorities are known at present in Duchess Wood, and of the birds, the black grouse and the cuckoo are known in the vicinity. Four types of bat are listed, but the species occurring in the Wood are not known.

The Work Programme table in the LBAP includes a number of actions, some of which directly or indirectly may have an impact on this 5YP:

- Native woodland expansion
- Control of invasive species
- Native woodland survey of Scotland Forest education initiative (The local group is aiming to re-establish new activities.)
- The pearl-bordered fritillary survey 2010-2015
- Bat box project
- Fungi, lichen and bryophyte management advice
- Dead wood management advice
- Bryophyte and lichen ID training and surveys
- Woodland management advice.



**Annex 4****CHECKLISTS OF SPECIES IN DUCHESS WOOD**

It should be noted that the FODW checklists are not exhaustive in coverage but are seen as evolving lists which can be amended at any time. Those concerning flowers, flowering shrubs, fungi and bryophytes are based on initial professional surveys (copies of reports available for inspection). Although some attempt has been made to cover seasonal changes, the potential for gradual extension of the checklists is a recognised feature. The lists are all available on the FODW website.

**Bird Checklist**

Common Name/ *Scientific Name*

Blackbird *Turdus merula*  
 Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*  
 Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*  
 Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*  
 Buzzard *Buteo buteo*  
 Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*  
 Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*  
 Coal Tit *Parus ater*  
 Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*  
 Dunnock *Prunella modularis*  
 Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*  
 Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*  
 Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopus major*  
 Great tit *Parus major*  
 Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*  
 Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*  
 Jay *Garrulus glandarius*  
 Long-tailed tit *Aegithalos caudatus*  
 Magpie *Pica pica*  
 Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*  
 Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*  
 Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba*  
 Redwing *Turdus iliacus*  
 Robin *Erithacus rubecula*  
 Rook *Corvus frugilegus*  
 Siskin *Carduelis spinus*  
 Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*  
 Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*  
 Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*  
 Tree Creeper *Certhia familiaris*  
 Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*  
 Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*  
 Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*  
 Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

**Bryophytes (Mosses and liverworts) Checklist**

*Scientific Name*/Common Name

*Amphidium mougeotii* Mougeot's Yoke-moss  
*Aneura euromaxima* (proposed name No Common Name)  
*Atrichum undulatum* Common Smoothcap  
*Brachythecium rutabulum* Rough-stalked Feather-moss

*Calliergonella cuspidate* Pointed Spear-moss  
*Calypogeia arguta* Notched Pouchwort  
*Campylopus pyriformis* Dwarf Swan-neck Moss  
*Cephalozia bicuspidate* Two-horned Pincerwort  
*Cephalozia lunulifolia* Moon-leaved Pincerwort  
*Cephaloziella sp* Threadwort  
*Chiloscyphus polyanthos* St Winifrid's Moss  
*Cololejeunea minutissima* Minute Pouncewort  
*Conocephalum conicum s.l.* Great Scented Liverwort  
*Dicranella heteromalla* Silky Forklet-moss  
*Dicranum scoparium* Broom Fork-moss  
*Diplophyllum albicans* White Earwort  
*Fissidens bryoides var. curnovii* Curnow's Pocket-moss  
*Fissidens taxifolius* Common Pocket-moss  
*Fontinalis antipyretica var. antipyretica* Greater Water-moss  
*Frullania dilatata* Dilated Scalewort  
*Heterocladium heteropterum* Wry-leaved Tamarisk-moss  
*Hookeria lucens* Shining Hookeria  
*Hygrohypnum luridum* Drab Brook-moss  
*Hycomium armoricum* Flagellate Feather-moss  
*Hypnum andoi* Mamillate Plait-moss  
*Isothecium myosuroides* Slender Mouse-tail Moss  
*Kindbergia praelonga* Common Feather-moss  
*Lejeunea cavifolia* Micheli's Least Pouncewort  
*Lejeunea lamacerina* Western Pouncewort  
*Lepidozia reptans* Creeping Fingerwort  
*Lophocolea bidentata* Bifid Crestwort  
*Lophocolea heterophylla* Variable-leaved Crestwort  
*Lophocolea semiteres* Southern Crestwort  
*Masupella emarginata var. emarginata* Notched Rustwort  
*Metzgeria conjugata* Rock Veilwort  
*Metzgeria consanguinea* Whiskered Veilwort  
*Metzgeria furcata* Forked Veilwort  
*Metzgeria violacea* Blueish Veilwort  
*Microlejeunea ulicina* Fairy Beads  
*Mnium hornum* Swan's-neck Thyme-moss  
*Nowellia curvifolia* Wood-rust  
*Orthodontium lineare* Cape Thread-moss  
*Orthotrichum affine* Wood Bristle-moss  
*Orthotrichum pulchellum* Elegant Bristle-moss  
*Oxyrrhynchium hians* Swartz's Feather-moss  
*Pellia endiviifolia* Endive Pellia  
*Pellia epiphylla* Overleaf Pellia  
*Plagiochila asplenioides* Greater Featherwort  
*Plagiochila porelloides* Lesser Featherwort  
*Plagiomnium undulatum* Hart's-tongue Thyme-moss  
*Plagiothecium curvifolium* Curved Silk-moss  
*Plagiothecium undulatum* Waved Silk-moss  
*Platyhypnidium riparioides* Long-beaked Water Feather-moss  
*Pogonatum aloides* Aloe Haircap  
*Polytrichastrum formosum* Bank Haircap  
*Polytrichum commune* Common Haircap  
*Pseudoscleropodium purum* Neat Feather-moss  
*Racomitrium aciculare* Yellow Fringe-moss  
*Radula complanata* Even Scalewort  
*Rhizomnium punctatum* Dotted Thyme-moss  
*Rhytidiadelphus loreus* Little Shaggy-moss

*Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus* Springy Turf-moss  
*Saccogyna viticulosa* Stragglng Pouchwort  
*Scapania gracilis* Western Earwort  
*Scapania scandica* Norwegian Earwort  
*Scapania umbrosa* Shady Earwort  
*Scapania undulata* Water Earwort  
*Sciuro-hypnum plumosum* Rusty Feather-moss  
*Tetraphis pellucida* Pellucid Four-tooth Moss  
*Thamnobryum alopecurum* Fox-tail Feather-moss  
*Thuidium tamariscinum* Common Tamarisk-moss  
*Ulota bruchii* Bruch's Pincushion  
*Ulota crispa* Crisped Pincushion  
*Ulota drummondii* Drummond's Pincushion  
*Ulota phyllantha* Frizzled Pincushion

### Ferns checklist

Common Name/Scientific Name

Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*  
 Hard – fern *Blechnum spicant*  
 Hart's - tongue *Phyllitis scolopendrium*  
 Hybrid Polypody *Polypodium x mantoniae*  
 Intermediate Polypody *Polypodium interjectum*  
 Male – fern *Dryopteris filix – mas*  
 Scaly Male – fern *Dryopteris affinis*

### Fungi checklist

Scientific Name/Common Name

*Auricularia auricula-judae* Jelly Ear  
*Baeospora myosura* Conifercone Cap  
*Chondrostereum purpureum* Silverleaf Fungus  
*Coprinopsis laanii* No common name  
*Cortinarius obtusus* No common name  
*Crepidotus epibryus* No common name  
*Crepidotus mollis* Peeling Oysterling  
*Crepidotus variabilis* Variable Oysterling  
*Dacrymyces stillatus* Common Jelly Spot  
*Flammulina velutipes* Velvet Shank  
*Fomes fomentarius* Hoof Fungus / Tinder Bracket  
*Ganoderma applanatum* Artist's Bracket  
*Gymnopilus penetrans* Common Rustgill  
*Heterobasidion annosum* Root Rot  
*Hymenochaete corrugata* Glue Crust  
*Hypoxylon fragiforme* Beech Woodward  
*Hypoxylon fuscum* Hazel Woodward  
*Kretzschmaria deusta* Brittle Cinder  
*'Kuehneromyces mutabilis* Sheathed Woodtuft  
*Laccaria laccata* Deceiver  
*Laetiporus sulphurous* Chicken of the Woods  
*Mycena arcangeliana* Angel's Bonnet  
*Mycena filopes* Iodine Bonnet  
*Mycena galericulata* Common Bonnet  
*Mycena inclinata* Clustered Bonnet  
*Mycena vitilis* Snapping Bonnet

Nectria cinnabarina Coral Spot  
 Phellinus ferreus Cinnamon Porecrust  
 Piptoporus betulinus Birch Polypore / Razorstrop Fungus  
 Psathyrella piluliformis Common Stump Brittlestem  
 Psathyrella sarcocephala No common name  
 Rhytisma acerinum Sycamore Tarspot  
 Russula nigricans Blackening Brittlegill  
 Schizophyllum commune Splitgill  
 Schizopora paradoxa Split Porecrust  
 Scleroderma citrinum Common Earthball  
 Scutellinia crinita No common name  
 Stereum hirsutum Hairy Curtain Crust  
 Stereum rugosum Bleeding Broadleaf Crust  
 Trametes versicolor Turkeytail  
 Tremella foliacea Leafy Brain  
 Tubaria romagnesiana No common name  
 Xylaria hypoxylon Candlesnuff Fungus  
 Xylaria longipes Dead Moll's Fingers  
 Xylaria polymorpha Dead Man's Fingers

**Trees checklist**

*Scientific Name/Common Name*

*Acer platanoides* Norway Maple  
*Acer pseudoplatanus* Sycamore  
*Aesculus hippocastanum* Horse Chestnut  
*Alnus glutinosa* Alder  
*Betula pendula* Silver Birch  
*Betula pubescens* Downy Birch  
*Castanea sativa* Sweet Chestnut  
*Corylus avellana* Hazel  
*Cotoneaster horizontalis* Wall Cotoneaster  
*Crataegus monogyna* Hawthorn  
*Cytisus scoparius* Broom  
*Fagus sylvatica* Beech  
*Fraxinus excelsior* Ash  
*Hedera algeriensis* Algerian ivy  
*Hedera helix* Ivy  
*Hydrangea macrophylla* Hydrangea  
*Ilex aquifolium* Holly  
*Ilex X altaclerensis* Highclere Holly  
*Larix X marschlinsii* Hybrid larch  
*Leycesteria Formosa* Himalayan Honeysuckle  
*Ligustrum ovalifolium* Privet  
*Lonicera nitida* Japanese Honeysuckle  
*Lonicera periclymenum* Honeysuckle  
*Lonicera pileata* Box- leaved Honeysuckle *Philadelphus coronarius* Mock Orange  
*Picea abies* Norway Spruce  
*Pinus sylvestris* Scots Pine  
*Prunus avium* Gean  
*Prunus laurocerasus* Cherry Laurel  
*Prunus spinosa* Blackthorn  
*Quercus robur* Pedunculate Oak  
*Rhododendron ponticum* Rhododendron  
*Ribes nigrum* Black Currant  
*Ribes rubrum* Red Currant

*Ribes sanguineum* Flowering currant  
*Rubus fruticosus* agg Bramble  
*Salix caprea* Goat Willow  
*Sambucus nigra* Elder  
*Sambucus racemosa* Red-berried Elder  
*Sorbus aucuparia* Rowan  
*Sorbus X intermedia* Swedish Whitebeam  
*Taxus baccata* Yew  
*Tilia X vulgaris* Common Lime  
*Tsuga heterophylla* Western Hemlock  
*Ulex europaeus* Gorse  
*Ulmus glabra* Wych Elm  
*Vinca major* Lesser Periwinkle  
*Vinca minor* Greater Periwinkle

**Flowers checklist**

Scientific Name/Common Name

*Aegopodium podagraria* Bishop's-Weed/Ground Elder  
*Ajuga reptans* Bugle  
*Alchemilla mollis* Soft Lady's Mantle  
*Allium ursinum* Ramsons  
*Carex pendula* Pendulous Sedge  
*Carex sylvatica* Wood-Sedge  
*Chrysosplenium oppositifolium* Opposite-leaved Golden Saxifrage  
*Conopodium majus* Pignut  
*Cortaderia richardii* Early Pampas-Grass  
*Corylus avellana* Hazel  
*Cotoneaster bullatus* Hollyberry Cotoneaster  
*Cotoneaster simonsii* Himalayan Cotoneaster  
*Cytisus scoparius* Broom  
*Dactylis glomerata* Cock's-Foot Grass  
*Deschampsia cespitosa* Tufted Hair-Grass  
*Digitalis purpurea* Foxglove  
*Fallopia japonica* Japanese Knotweed  
*Ficaria verna ssp fertilis* Lesser Celandine  
*Ficaria verna ssp verna* Lesser Celandine, with bulbils  
*Filipendula ulmaria* Meadowsweet  
*Fuchsia magellanica* Hardy Fuchsia  
*Galanthus nivalis* Snowdrop  
*Galanthus nivalis 'Flore-pleno'* Double Snowdrop  
*Galium odoratum* Woodruff  
*Geranium robertianum* Herb Robert  
*Geum urbanum* Wood Aven  
*Hedera helix* Common Ivy  
*Hedera 'Hibernica'* Irish Ivy  
*Helleborus x hybridus* Lenten Rose hybrid  
*Heracleum sphondylium* Hogweed  
*Hyacinthoides x massartiana* Hybrid Bluebell  
*Hyacinthoides non-scripta* Bluebell  
*Hypericum x inodorum* Tall Tutsan  
*Hypochaeris radicata* Cat's-Ear  
*Lamiastrum galeobdolon ssp. argentatum* Aluminium/Tricoloured Archangel  
*Leycesteria formosa* Himalayan Honeysuckle  
*Ligustrum ovalifolium* Garden Privet  
*Lonicera nitida* Wilson's/Hedging Honeysuckle

*Lonicera periclymenum* Wild Honeysuckle  
*Lonicera hybrid* Garden hybrid Honeysuckle  
*Luzula sylvatica* Great Wood-Rush  
*Lysimachia nemorum* Yellow Pimpernel  
*Meconopsis cambrica* Welsh Poppy  
*Mercurialis perennis* Dog's Mercury  
*Narcissus (various garden types)* Daffodil  
*Oxalis acetosella* Wood-Sorrel  
*Persicaria wallichii* Himalayan Knotweed  
*Primula vulgaris* Primrose  
*Prunella vulgaris* Selfheal  
*Prunus laurocerasus* Cherry Laurel  
*Ranunculus repens* Creeping Buttercup  
*Rhododendron ponticum* Rhododendron/Wild Rhododendron  
*Ribes uva-crispa* Gooseberry  
*Rubus fissus* A Sub-Erect Bramble  
*Rubus idaeus* Raspberry  
*Rubus scissus* A Sub-Erect Bramble  
*Rubus ssp* Brambles  
*Rumex acetosa* Common Sorrel  
*Rumex obtusifolius* Broad-Leaved Dock  
*Sambucus nigra* Elder  
*Sambucus racemosa* Red-Berried Elder  
*Tolmiea menziesii* Pick-a-back plant  
*Urtica dioica* Nettle  
*Vinca major* Greater Periwinkle  
*Vinca minor* Lesser Periwinkle

**Mammals checklist**

*Scientific Name/Common Name*

<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	Hedgehog
<i>Talpa europaea</i>	Mole
<i>Sorex araneus</i>	Common shrew
<i>Clethrionomys glareolus</i>	Bank vole
<i>Apodemus sylvaticus</i>	Wood mouse
<i>Mus musculus</i>	House mouse
<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	Brown rat
<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	Grey squirrel
<i>Oryctolagus caniculus</i>	Rabbit
<i>Mustela nivalis</i>	Weasel
<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	Fox
<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	Pipistrelle bat
<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	Soprano pipistrelle
<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>	Roe deer

## **ANNEX 5**

### **Friends of Duchess Wood paper: Consideration of boundary/neighbour issues**

Duchess Wood is bordered on its east side by a number of residential streets. From the north, they are Macleod Crescent, Macleod Drive, Duchess Drive, and Duchess Park; as the eastern boundary continues south, it runs alongside the end property in Millig Street, then after the garages, alongside Strathclyde Court and its garden. Kathleen Park in the south west corner also borders the Wood, although it is separated from the Wood by the south banks of the burn which runs behind the houses.

The northern boundary is formed by the West Highland railway line, and the southern boundary mainly by sports fields; this note is mainly about the eastern residential boundaries.

The Macleod Crescent properties are at the top of the steep bank that runs down to the burn in that area. There are trees along that bank, one of which fell in the December 2011 gale; A&BC felled a number of other trees following this gale and more fell in January 2012. The area has become a little inaccessible in recent years, since the Thurgood Bridge was installed, thereby directing walkers to a more suitable route.

Some of the Macleod Drive properties border the north-south boundary of the wood below the stone bridge. An old stone dyke forms the boundary for much of this length, and there are mature trees close to the boundary, including a very large old beech.

The rest of the Macleod Drive properties border the north boundary of the "hammerhead" and a fair sized ditch runs along much of this length. The Duchess Drive properties border the east boundary of the hammerhead, and there are numerous mature trees close to the boundary, of various species. In the area of the Macleod Drive/Duchess Drive corner, there are a number of large pines; one of these is isolated from the rest and may be more vulnerable. A large branch from an oak tree fell into the back garden of one of the Duchess Drive houses in the 23 May 2011 storm and further trees and large branches fell into Duchess Drive properties in the December 2011 and January 2012 gales. Again, A&BC took protective action after these storms. The Duchess Park (and the end of Queen Street) properties border the south boundary of the hammerhead; there are numerous mature trees along this boundary. A number of mature trees and large branches fell during the 2011/2012 gales, mostly into the Wood, but some into gardens, particularly at the north west corner of Duchess Park. The hammerhead is less accessible than the rest of the Wood and has only informal paths, which has made dealing with storm damage more difficult.

South of the hammerhead, the end two houses in Duchess Park and the end house in Millig Street border the wood. The eastern boundary continues through the Strathclyde Court garages into the Scots Pine plantation between the garages and Rhu Road Higher, where the border is with the gardens of Strathclyde Court. This is a mixed, scrubby area under the Scots/Corsican pines and the rookery, and there have been incidents here in the past with branches falling into Strathclyde Court. A number of large trees fell in this area in the 2011/12 storms, particularly the January 2012 gale, and the upper parts of some of the trees landed in the gardens of Strathclyde Court; again A&BC has dealt with the immediate remedial work in relation to the trees crossing into the gardens, although further heavy work is needed to begin to clear the woodland floor.

Most of the properties that border the wood were built between the 60s and early 80s, while one or two predate this. Over the last 30-40 years the trees in the wood, particularly the sycamores and birches, have grown substantially, and the shading effect on gardens has increased significantly. The Macleod Drive houses have the wood on their south side, and suffer particularly from shading and light loss, while those houses

which border a western boundary of the wood also suffer in the late afternoon and evenings. The issue about light is similar to the concerns over high hedging which have taken up parliamentary time in recent years. On the other hand, the wood gives considerable shelter to all the properties.

We understand that up until the first management agreement was signed 15 years ago, Luss Estates staff inspected the wood boundaries each year and dealt with significant overhanging branches or suspect trees, but this has not happened on a regular basis since then. It is possible that as a result, there are now more overhanging branches and potentially dangerous trees than during the first 20-30 years of the housing boundaries.

On the other hand, there are also places where residents have used the wood to dump mainly garden waste over their boundary; there are one or two examples of scrap machinery, but not many; and with better access these could easily be removed. Invasive species may have entered the Wood from gardens and one of the aims should be to get greater understanding and cooperation between neighbouring residents and the management needs of the wood. We need to remember that gardens are in essence an extension of the wood and residents can help protect and improve wildlife in the wood, particularly the bird life.

In terms of the management plan, a thorough boundary survey is needed to better inform future actions. Thinning the boundary areas; removing dangerous trees; removing some of the trees which are very close to boundaries; removing overhanging branches; and making access around the boundaries easier for maintenance, should all be considered.

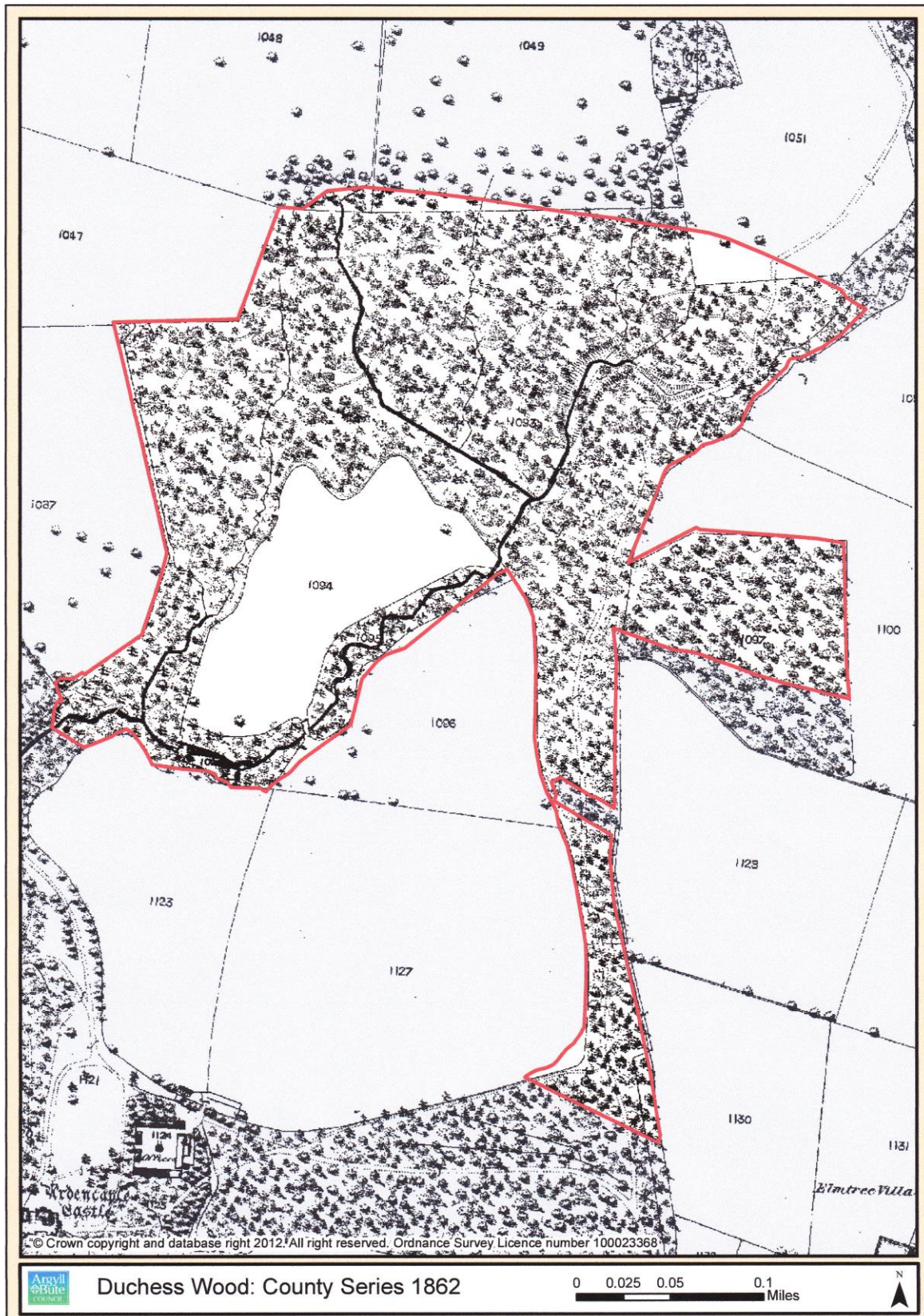
The updated management plan needs to take boundary issues seriously; while there is a risk that some residents might use management plan commitments to seek an unfair level of Council resource, this is outweighed by the potential risks of falling trees and branches if the boundary zone is not managed. The storms of 2011/12 have clearly demonstrated the scale of the problem and the risks involved.

Proper boundary management will bring gains for biodiversity in the Wood; gains in amenity for residents; and greater support for the aims of the management plan.



ANNEX 6 Maps

Ordnance Survey County Series 1862

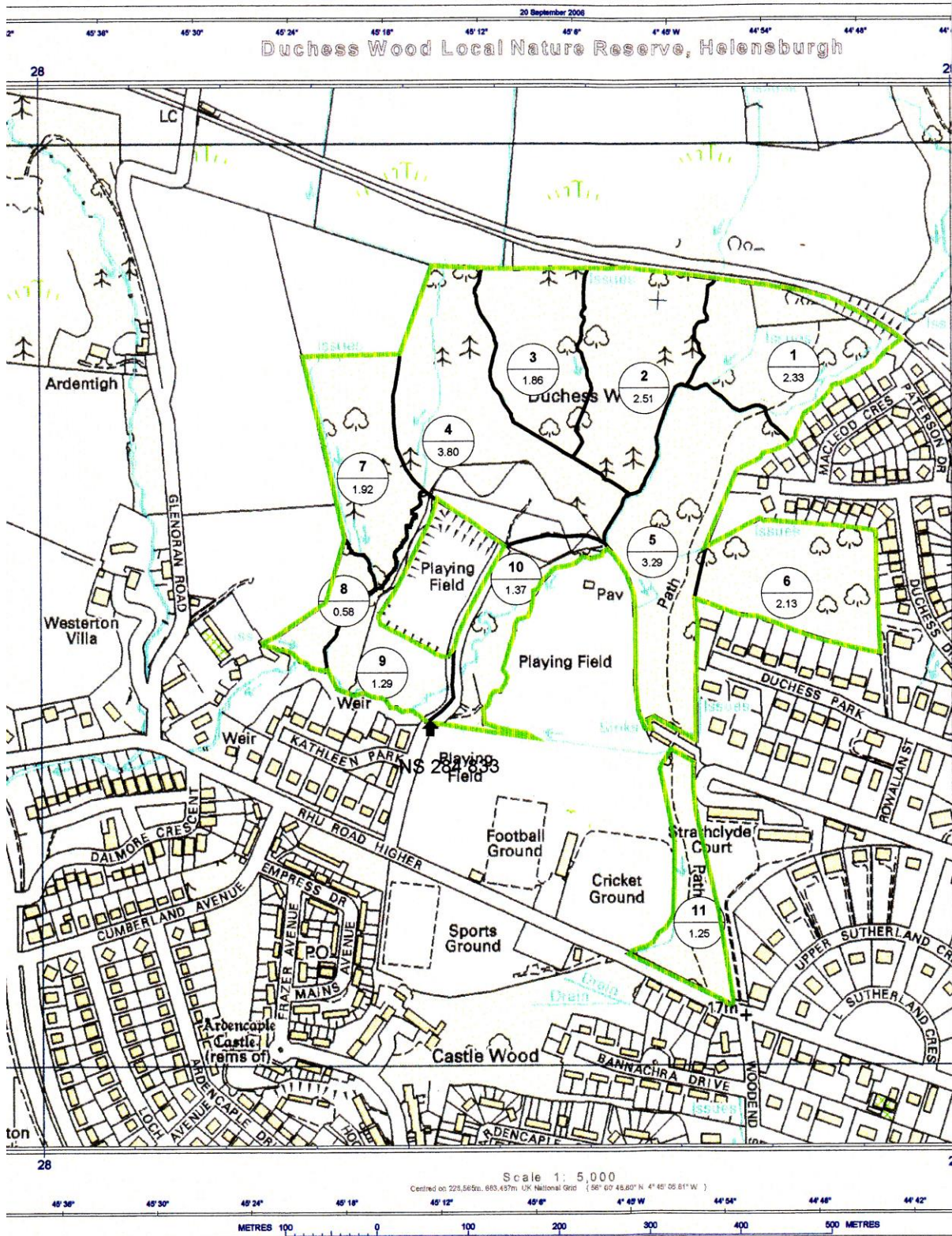


# Map of Duchess Wood

(prepared by Kenny Steele, Babcock International, 2015, and based on a map by John Dale, A&BC, 6.9.2012)



Compartment map from 2007-2011 Management Plan



## ANNEX 7

### Duchess Wood Local Nature Reserve maintenance schedule

1. What elements of the woodland should be subjected to *routine* maintenance by Argyll and Bute Council?
  - Regular inspections of paths for safety issues
  - Damage and rectification to paths which cause safety issues/significant trip hazard
  - Risk arising from trees overhanging paths or properties
  - Bins
  - Uplift of fly tipping or larger accumulations of litter.
2. What elements would benefit from an initial one-off input from Argyll and Bute Council?
  - Japanese Knotweed eradication, with some follow-up visits
  - Annual tree survey - paths and alongside properties.
  - Car park maintenance
3. What elements could be maintained through sources other than Argyll and Bute Council?
  - General keeping tidy activities could be tackled through the FODW, TCV, Green Gym, Community Payback
  - Repairs to bridges, benches and information boards by FODW/Community Payback
  - Other damage to paths from heavy rain
  - Larger scale path maintenance could be tackled by or TCV teams or, in exceptional circumstances, contractors. In the case of contractors this would be dependent on additional funding being secured by LCG/FODW.
  - drainage ditches and culverts can be cleared through the input of FODW and other volunteers (a navy team assisted in 2015).
  - Leaf raking/clearing fallen branches by FODW/Green Gym/TCV
  - Litter on or adjacent to the paths managed by FODW
  - Strimming alongside picnic benches by FODW

### Assessment of current partnership capacity levels

#### Argyll and Bute Council

A one-off sum of funding is available towards maintenance support of Duchess Wood. This funding should be used as carefully as possible to ensure that the maximum benefit, for the greatest possible time, is delivered within Duchess Wood Local Nature Reserve. The backbone of support from the Council is essential to much that goes on in the Wood, but funding pressures mean that support has to be carefully managed.

#### Lower Clyde Greenspace

To date Lower Clyde Greenspace has used limited reserve funding to support a range of activities within Duchess Wood, notably safety surveys of trees, tree surgery and larger scale footpath improvements. With a remit now covering the whole of Argyll and Bute, coupled with the end of the approved SFGS scheme and no access to Argyll and Bute Council capital funding, Lower Clyde Greenspace can bring best value through a planning, coordination and support role.

#### Argyll and Bute Employability

The employability team have delivered the bulk of the outcomes highlighted in the SFGS grant, allowing exceptional value for money to be obtained. However the employability Team was wound up in 2015, so this source of support has now been lost.

## Friends of Duchess Wood (FODW)

As already indicated the FODW already deliver a range of enhancement and maintenance benefits within Duchess Wood. Their activities are understandably limited by the availability and abilities of their members, the funding available, and their level of insurance cover. FODW has also when funds permitted enlisted the assistance of contractors to undertake heavier work.

## Helensburgh and District Access Trust

This group has contributed significantly to the development of the path network within, and linking to, Duchess Woods LNR.

## Community Payback Teams

Community Payback has undertaken a wide range of work including strimming around the Pony Field, drainage installation and repair and the installation of waymarkers. CP should continue to be available to assist with work, dependent on the other demands for their services.

## Local Schools

Teachers from local schools and their pupils contribute significantly to the development of educational resources, and Lomond School are represented on the LNR Management Committee.

## Other environmental bodies.

The wood has benefited from assistance from SNH and FCS and a number of environmental charities such as The Community Woodlands Association, Buglife, Plantlife, and the Amphibians and Reptiles Conservation Trust and this kind of professional support is invaluable and is likely to continue.

## Local funding sources

Grants or work from the Round Table, the Third Sector Interface, Action Earth, SNH, and Babcock International has been invaluable in progressing improvements in the Wood, and such support will continue to be sought from local organisations.

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**References**

<sup>i</sup> See: <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-4264> for NVC description

<sup>ii</sup> These appear to be descriptions from the EC Habitats Directive, 92/43/EEC, Annex 1, “Natural habitat types of community interest whose conservation requires the designation of special areas of conservation”. These habitat descriptions don’t match easily with the Annex 1 descriptions: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CONSLEG:1992L0043:20070101:EN:PDF>

<sup>iii</sup> Good bramble list at: <http://hedgerowmobile.com//index.html>

<sup>iv</sup> From a note by Alistair McIntyre

<sup>v</sup> See: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/03/27152321/0>

<sup>vi</sup> See: <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/sites/default/files/planning-and-environment/AandB%20BAP%20Draft.pdf>

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**ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL****HELENSBURGH & LOMOND AREA  
COMMITTEE****DEVELOPMENT AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES****11<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

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**Hermitage Park Update**

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**1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.0.1 This report provides an update on the current delivery phase of Hermitage Park.
- 1.0.2 Hermitage Park in Helensburgh is an important heritage asset and includes the town's 'A' Listed war memorial. The Hermitage Park project aims to create a sustainable park for residents and visitors to the area and a resource for the local community. It aims to deliver outcomes related to the economy, health and wellbeing, culture and heritage, and enjoys widespread local support.
- 1.0.3 The park was successful in its stage two funding application to the Heritage Lottery Fund Parks for People (HLF) for £2,333,247. The Council approved the HLF Terms of Grant for the conservation, development and reconfiguration of the recreational facilities of Hermitage Park in Helensburgh on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2016 and permission to start was granted by HLF on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2016.
- 1.0.4 The Hermitage Park stage two project total cost is £3,375,587 and includes funding from a range of sources, including a council commitment of £280,000 agreed in February 2013. All match funding is now in place, subject to funding conditions being met.
- 1.0.5 Gillespies, the lead consultants, and the design team have been re-appointed. Detailed design drawings necessary to complete RIBA work stage four are now complete and have been approved by HLF following a formal meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2016.
- 1.0.6 The procurement process is progressing following a suppliers open day held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2016 where by 23 external contractors attended. Following this the project received 21 applications to the pre-qualification questionnaire stage, and from this ten contractors were invited to tender (6<sup>th</sup> September).
- 1.0.7 The Hermitage Park Manager/ Delivery Officer was recruited and took up post on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2016.

**1.1 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1.1.1 The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee note the content of this report.

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ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL

HELENSBURGH & LOMOND AREA  
COMMITTEE

DEVELOPMENT AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

11<sup>th</sup> October 2016

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## Hermitage Park Update

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### 2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The main purpose of the report is to provide an update of the delivery stage of the Hermitage Park project.
- 2.2 The park was successful in its stage two funding application to HLF for £2,333,247. The Council approved the HLF Terms of Grant for the conservation, development and reconfiguration of the recreational facilities of Hermitage Park in Helensburgh on 21st January 2016 and permission to start was granted by HLF on 4th May 2016.
- 2.3 The Hermitage Park project stage two cost is £3,375,587 and includes funding from a range of sources, including a council commitment of £280,000 agreed in February 2013. All match funding is now in place, subject to funding conditions being met.

### 3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee note the content of this report.

### 4. DETAIL

- 4.1 Following a number of area committee and business day reports, the HLF Board met on the 16<sup>th</sup> December 2015 and the Hermitage Park stage two award for £2,333,247 was awarded to the Hermitage Park project. Subsequently on 21st January 2016 the full council approved the HLF Terms of Grant for the grant awarded for the conservation, development and reconfiguration of the recreational facilities of Hermitage Park in Helensburgh. Permission to start the project was granted by the HLF on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2016.
- 4.2 Elected members were asked, in order to begin work on the project, to underwrite the funding gap. Following a successful Ministry of Defence Covenant application of £253,000 and a further successful application to Sustrans of £300,000, all match funding for the Hermitage Park project is in place, therefore any underwriting by the Council is no longer required. The table below illustrates the funding for the second



stage of the project. Each of the funding sources listed below have confirmed their support and supporting evidence can be provide if required.

<b>HLF STAGE TWO - Delivery Phase 2016 - 2021</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Confirmation of funding</b>
HLF	£2,333,247	confirmed
ABC (earmarked reserves)	£280,000	confirmed
War Memorial Trust	£60,000	confirmed
FoHPA	£20,000	confirmed
MOD Covenant	£253,000	confirmed
Sustrans	£300,000	confirmed
Volunteer in kind	£129,340	Confirmed (written letters of support)
<b>Total project</b>	<b>£3,375,587</b>	

- 4.3 The Hermitage Park Steering Group continues to meet monthly and includes representatives from The Friends of Hermitage Park Association, Schools and Youth, Ministry of Defence, Leisure Services and Helensburgh Community Council. The group is chaired by Tom Murphy, Amenity Services Manager and is governed by a partnership agreement, which was updated following the start of the delivery stage of the project.
- 4.4 Gillespies have been re-appointed as lead consultants for the delivery phase, alongside the design team. Work has progressed on the delivery of the detailed design and contracts drawing and the project is now at RIBA work stage four 26 and continues to be subject to HLF approval. Detailed design has enabled improvements to accessibility for those with wheelchairs and buggies to allow for direct access to the plaza area. Full planning permission and listed building consent has been granted subject to certain conditions for the delivery of the project. Detailed design has enabled improvements to accessibility for those with wheelchairs and buggies to allow for direct access to the plaza area.
- 4.5 The project is in the middle of the procurement process, with a healthy response to the pre-qualification questionnaire stage, receiving 21 applications. The contracts work has been split into two lots to ensure the highest quality is delivered. Lot one is for the delivery of the new pavilion, and lot two is for the delivery of the landscaping and conservation works. Following the evaluation of the PQQ, ten contractors were invited to tender on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2016, five for each lot. The procurement process and timings are as following:-
- Suppliers open day (10<sup>th</sup> March) 23 external contractors attended - COMPLETE
  - Pre-qualification questionnaire stage (July 2016) COMPLETE
  - Initiation to tender stage - Sept to Oct 2016
  - Tender evaluation 18<sup>th</sup> Oct to 4<sup>th</sup> Nov 2016
  - Appointment of contractor(s) - Nov 2016
  - Works start Dec 2016 and complete June 2018
- 4.6 As part of the project a risk register has been prepared and is updated by Gillespies, our main contractor for the project. The main issues and risks for the council are highlighted below, as presented to the Area Committee meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> August 2015 and updated subsequent to this. A risk register, which is a requirement

of HLF funding, will continue to be monitored and updated throughout the life of the project.

Service choices	<p>There will be a requirement to ring-fence management and maintenance resource for the park for up to 10 years following completion. It is currently estimated that the future maintenance costs will not exceed the current maintenance costs. This is due to the existing maintenance provision being significantly reduced through for example changes to former high maintenance Victorian style bedding/planting to more modern low maintenance schemes.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the service choices process will further reduce resource available for amenity and parkland. This will result in any ring-fencing reducing flexibility and reducing delivery specifications to none ring-fenced areas.</p>	<b>The Management and maintenance plan was approved by the council.</b>
HLF funding	If we do not proceed with the park's development there may be a requirement to reimburse HLF development costs. This amounts to £169,700.	<b>HLF awarded funding and all match funding in place.</b>
Capital investment	If we do not proceed then the opportunity to harness over £3million of external investment in the park in order to make it sustainable, will be lost.	<b>Completed.</b>
Health and Safety	<p>If the park continues to deteriorate the limited resource available will have to be prioritised to ensure there are no health and safety implications for park users.</p> <p>If HLF funding is not secured there will still be a requirement to consider the future management and maintenance of the park.</p>	<b>Completed</b>
Reputation	<p>If we do not proceed local goodwill and the positive media profile will be lost.</p> <p>There needs to be a sustainable maintenance plan in place that ensures resources are available for up to 10 years following the completion of the works. This maintenance plan also needs to take into consideration resource requirements and maintenance standards for the remaining council area.</p>	<b>The Management and maintenance plan was approved by council.</b>

4.7 The HLF second stage (delivery) works will include the following;

- Park Manager/Delivery Officer post for five years
- Development of proposed capital elements, which includes the A Listed war, memorial and gardens, hermitage wishing well, mill archaeological remains, pavilion, redesign of recreational elements, drainage, paths, bridges and interpretation,
- Improvements to the natural heritage,
- Opportunities for reducing carbon emissions, guided by the Hermitage Park Environmental Assessment,

- Activities with visitors and volunteers, skills and training etc., as set out within the Activity Plan.

#### 4.8 **Timeline**

The timeline agreed between HLF and council officers is as follows:

- 4.10.1 Re-appointment of lead consultant and design team - COMPLETE
- 4.10.2 Appointment of Hermitage Park Manager/Delivery Officer - COMPLETE
- 4.10.3 Procurement process and appointment of contracts work team - Nov 2016
- 4.10.4 Works commence on the ground - Dec 2016
- 4.10.5 Marketing plan - September 2016 to September 2018
- 4.10.6 Interpretation plan - October 2016 to February 2018
- 4.10.7 Activity plan - December 2016 to March 2021
- 4.10.8 Works complete - June 2018
- 4.10.9 Project completes (revenue/interpretation/training/activities) – March 2021.

### 5. **CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 The Hermitage Park project has been awarded a HLF grant that will release circa £3,095,587 of funding and support for a Council investment of £280,000. The funding award and demonstrable community support provides an opportunity to create a sustainable park for residents and visitors alike and fits well with strategies for the area. All match funding has been secured and HLF have granted permission to start the delivery project that will conserve and interpret the heritage within the park and encourage visitors to learn about it; reconfigure part of the recreational facilities and provide a dynamic hub through the development of a new pavilion and engage with people through working in partnership to ‘Grow Our Park Together’.

### 6. **IMPLICATIONS**

- |     |            |   |
|-----|------------|---|
| 6.1 | Policy     | None.   |
| 6.2 | Financial  | £280,000 has been allocated from ear marked reserves for 2015/16 onwards. All other match funding has been secured, subject to conditions being met. The provision of additional car parking and the associated budget is out with the scope of the HLF bid and budget for this was identified from Section 75 monies. £75,000 was approved for this purpose. |
| 6.3 | Legal      | Bound by HLF terms of grant approved by Council 21 <sup>st</sup> Jan 2016.  |
| 6.4 | HR         | None.   |
| 6.5 | Equalities | None but the proposed improvements increase accessibility of the Park to those with mobility problems and visitors with pushchairs.   |
| 6.6 | Risk       | As detailed in the report.  |

6.7 Customer Services None.

**Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure**

**Policy Lead:** Cllr Ellen Morton

9<sup>th</sup> September 2016

**For further information contact:**

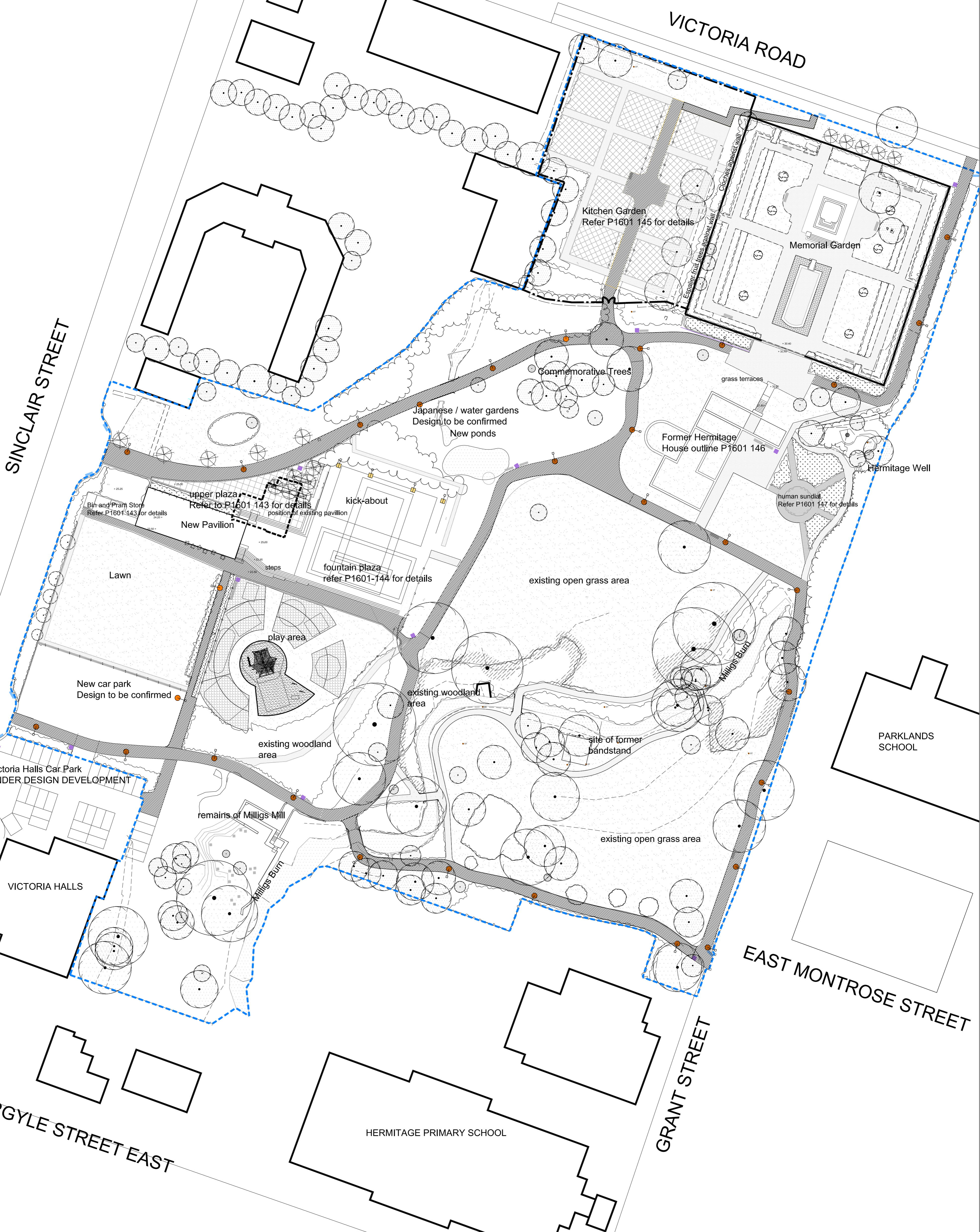
Melissa Simpson, Hermitage Park Development Officer.

Tel: +44(0)1436 658989

[melissa.simpson@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:melissa.simpson@argyll-bute.gov.uk)

**APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 Hermitage Park Masterplan



**KEY**

Project boundary	Existing tree groups retained See P10383-00-001-002	Proposed wildflower edges Ref Q30	Primary paths See P10383-00-001-102	Proposed park lighting Refer to Engineers details	Proposed Entrance signs Refer to Campbells&Co info	Proposed new rubber crumb safety surface Ref Q26
Existing contours and levels	Proposed trees and specimen shrubs	Grass Ref Q30	Secondary paths See P10383-00-001-102	Existing flood lights Refer to Engineers details	Proposed 1.8m high fences with gates See P10383-00-001-103	
+23.50 Proposed levels	Mixed seasonal interest planting by others	Proposed Demonstration Gardens	Proposed fountain and upper plaza	Proposed benches Ref Q50	Proposed Ponds	
Existing trees	Hedges and shrubs By others		Resin Bonded Gravel Ref Q23	Proposed litter bins Ref Q50		

Rev	Details	Date	By	Chk
00	Draft Issued for Billing	27.06.16	AB	JON
00	Issued for Billing - Amendment to ramp/bin store & kitchen garden access	13.08.16	AB	JON
00	Issued for Tender - Amendments to play area	22.08.16	AB	JON

**NOTES:**

- This drawing is to be read in conjunction with all relevant contract documentation from the design team, with any conflicting information to be brought to the attention of Gillespies LLP in writing before commencing on site.
- The contractor is to check and verify all levels and dimensions before construction. Any discrepancies are to be brought to the attention of Gillespies LLP in writing before commencing on site.
- All dimensions in mm, unless otherwise stated. All dimensions to be checked on site.
- Do not scale from this drawing, use figured dimensions only.
- All sub base and concrete design and specification to engineer's details. All diagrams provided here are purely indicative.
- Waterproofing of any element to be specified by others.
- All proprietary products shall be installed in accordance with manufacturers written instructions.
- Plant numbers are an indication only and plants should be ordered to suit site areas in accordance with scheduled plant details.
- Any proposed plant substitution shall be agreed with the landscape architect prior to ordering.

Project title  
**Hermitage Park**  
 Helensburgh

Drawing title  
**MASTERPLAN**

Drawing number  
**P10383-00-001-101**

Revision  
**00**

Client  
**Argyll and Bute Council**

Drawing Status  
**TENDER**

Date  
 01.06.15

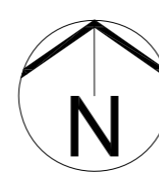
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**GILLESPIES**

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 T: 0141 420 8200 E: design.glasgow@gillespies.co.uk



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**ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL****Helensburgh and Lomond Area  
Committee****Customer Services****11 October 2016**

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**Education MOD Funding Steering Group**

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**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Councillor George Freeman has intimated his resignation as a member of the Education MOD Funding Steering Group. Members are asked to consider appointing a replacement.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The Area Committee is asked to consider making an appointment to the Education MOD Funding Steering Group to take effect immediately and for a period until the next Local Government Elections in May 2017.

**3.0 DETAIL**

- 3.1 Councillor Freeman and Councillor Ellen Morton were appointed to the Education MOD Funding Steering Group by the Area Committee at the meeting held on 12 June 2012.
- 3.2 The Funding Steering Group was set up in April 2012 following a successful bid to the support fund for schools with service children. The Steering Group meets 3 times per year and facilitates partnerships between stakeholders and the Education Service. The Steering Group is also responsible for drafting and placing further bids to the Support Fund for Schools with Service Children and identifying and adopting emerging good practice across the UK. They have been successful with all bids they have submitted since the start of the fund to provide additional educational support to service pupils in the Helensburgh and Lomond Area.

**4.0 CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 The composition of the Steering Group includes representation from 2 Councillors from the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee. Following the resignation of Councillor Freeman from this position, the Area Committee are asked to consider the appointment of a replacement.

**5.0 IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Policy none

5.2 Financial - none

5.3 Legal – none

5.4 HR - none

5.5 Equalities - none

5.6 Risk - none

5.7 Customer Service - none

**Executive Director of Customer Services**

9 September 2016

**For further information contact:** Shona Barton, Area Committee Manager, Tel:  
(01436) 657605

**APPENDICES**

None



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HELENSBURGH & LOMOND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTION PLAN 2016/2021

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**1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to seek approval from the Helensburgh and Lomond (H&L) Area Committee on the proposed H&L Economic Development Action Plan (EDAP), 2016/21 aligned to the overarching Strategic Argyll and Bute Economic Development Action Plan.
- 1.2 The content of the Strategic and H&L EDAPs fits with and contributes to the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) long term objectives 2023 developed by the Community Planning Partnership.
- 1.3 It is important to note that the Strategic and H&L EDAPs are working documents so that economic opportunities can be captured and addressed as they arise during 2016/21.
- 1.4 The following recommendations are for consideration:
  - The H&L Area Committee notes the content of this paper.
  - The H&L Area Committee provides comments on the H&L EDAP, 2016/21 and endorses the plan as a working document as outlined in **Appendix 1**.
  - The H&L Area Committee notes the content of the *draft* Strategic EDAP (see **Appendix 2**) and provides any comments ahead of the Council's Environment, Development and Infrastructure (EDI) Committee in November 2016.

HELENSBURGH & LOMOND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTION PLAN 2016/2021

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**2. INTRODUCTION**

2.1 The purpose of this paper is to seek approval from the H&L Area Committee on the proposed H&L EDAP, 2016/21 aligned to the overarching Strategic Argyll and Bute Economic Development Action Plan.

**3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.1 The recommendations for the H&L Area Committee are as follows:

- The H&L Area Committee notes the content of this paper.
- The H&L Area Committee provides comments on the H&L EDAP, 2016/21 and endorses the plan as a working document as outlined in **Appendix 1**.
- The H&L Area Committee notes the content of the *draft* Strategic EDAP (see **Appendix 2**) and provides any comments ahead of the Council's Environment, Development and Infrastructure (EDI) Committee in November 2016.

**4. DEVELOPMENT, PREPARATION AND DELIVERY OF THE H&L EDAP**

4.1 The overarching challenge for the H&L economy is to retain its population, particularly the young people, by improving and enhancing the skills profile of the area by rebalancing to a higher skilled workforce able to obtain higher value employment which in turn will attract higher earnings.

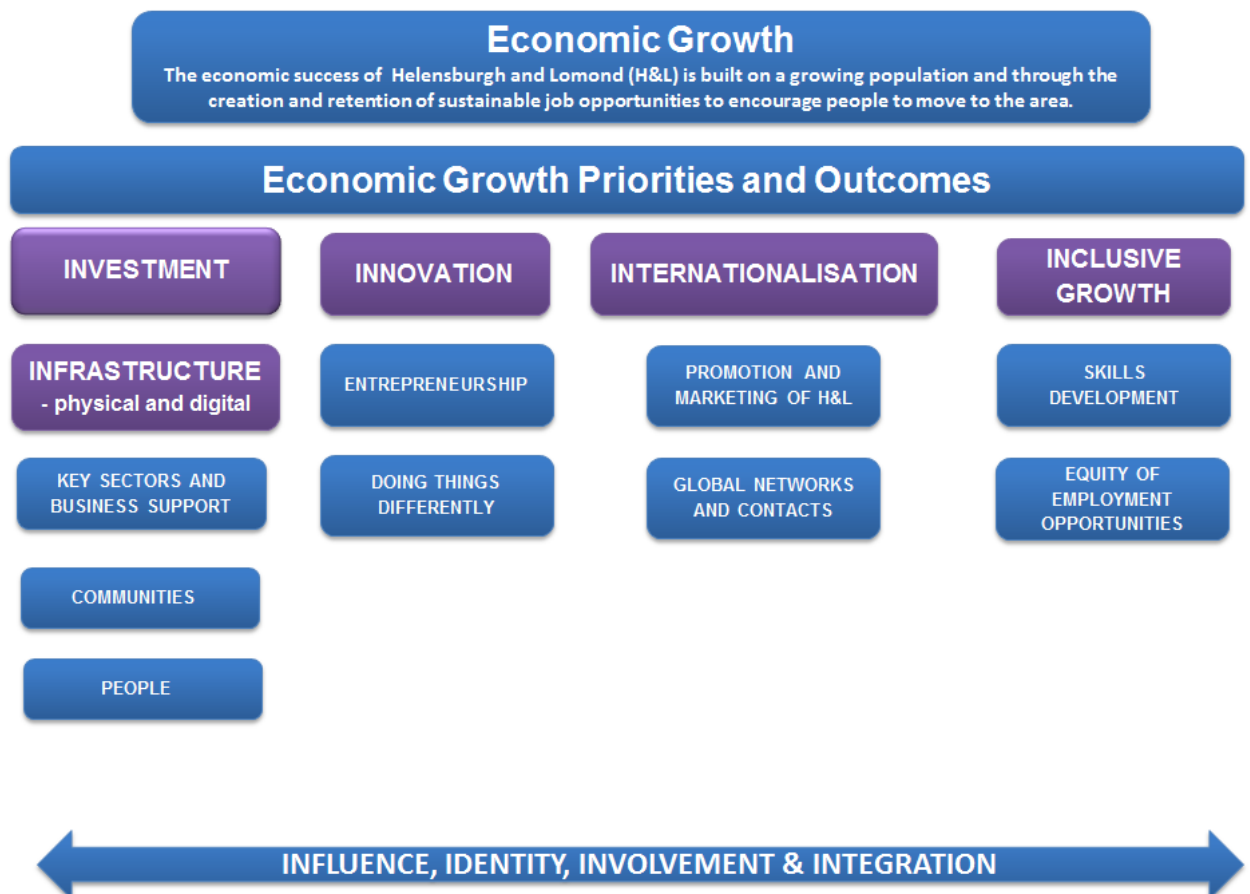
4.2 The revised EDAP for H&L will now focus on opportunities for economic growth aligned to the four priorities (referred to as '4i's) outlined in Scotland's Economic Strategy:

- Investment;
- Innovation;
- Internationalisation; and
- Inclusive growth.

The 'Investment' priority in Scotland's Economic Strategy focuses on investment in 'Infrastructure'. Given that this is a significant issue for the Helensburgh and Lomond area, and for Argyll and Bute as a whole, 'Infrastructure' has been considered as a key priority.

- 4.3 A workshop session was held in Helensburgh, on Tuesday, 31<sup>st</sup> May 2016 to discuss the:
- revised structure based around the strategic priorities identified in Scotland’s Economic Strategy;
  - required specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and timebound (SMART) in–year milestones/actions to be delivered in order to achieve the proposed success measures, many in subsequent years; and
  - duration of the H&L EDAP, where it was recognised that this plan should focus on a longer time period i.e. five years, to allow for the achievement of outcomes.
- 4.4 There was a general consensus that ‘Investment’ and ‘Infrastructure’, and ‘Innovation’ were critical areas of focus. In addition there were additional ‘i’s suggested i.e. ‘Influence’, ‘Identity’, ‘Involvement; and ‘Integration’ as outlined in **Figure 1** below. However, it should be noted that all the ‘i’s are not mutually exclusive of each other.

**Figure 1: Economic Growth Framework for H&L**



- 4.5 To continue the inclusive approach, a draft H&L EDAP for 2016/21 was circulated to all elected members and other workshop attendees (including those that had sent their apologies) on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2016 with comments requested by 6<sup>th</sup> July 2016, in order to meet the timeline required for the submission of the Area Committee paper. However, this report was subsequently delayed until the October H&L Area Committee due to the issues outlined in the following paragraph.

4.6 On consideration of all appropriate comments, suggestions and amendments that were captured and fed back, it became apparent that there were a number of common actions to be delivered in partnership by staff in the Economic Development and Strategic Transportation service with key stakeholders across all of Argyll and Bute's administration areas (as well as within). It was identified that there was a requirement for the preparation of a refreshed overarching Argyll and Bute Strategic EDAP, using the new structure in **Figure 1** above, to replace the current 2013-2018 document. Some of these issues were as follows:

- digital and mobile connectivity;
- facilitation of housing development;
- the actions and outcomes to be developed and delivered through the Council's Single Investment Plan (includes a digital focus);
- marketing and promotion of Argyll and Bute across key sectors;
- business support with a focus on the delivery of the Business Gateway, Local Growth Accelerator Programme (50% funded by ERDF monies) across the whole of Argyll and Bute;
- skills development and modern apprenticeship opportunities; and
- access to key European funding sources such as Argyll and the Islands LEADER and European Maritime and Fisheries programmes.

4.7 In order for this action to be taken forward it was agreed, through notifying the chair of the H&L Area Committee, to bring a paper to the October meeting.

4.8 It is recognised that other substantive projects are also key to the sustainable economic growth of H&L, such as transformational concepts surrounding the pier and lagoon development where appropriate feasibility studies on the long term viability on such a development will be taken forward through the Single Investment Plan.

4.9 With regard to housing development for the H&L area this equates to the development of 345 houses by the end of 2021, of which circa 145 will be affordable homes and circa 200 will be private dwellings.

4.10 Following approval by the Area Committee, officers will work to implement the key in-year milestones/actions as contained in the H&L EDAP and those in the overarching Strategic EDAP.

## 5. CONCLUSION

5.1 This report provides the H&L Area Committee with a revised area-based EDAP aligned as appropriate to the four priorities outlined in Scotland's Economic Strategy. The H&L EDAP is a working document for 2016/21 to enable economic growth opportunities to be included as they arise.

5.2 Further to feedback received from participants during the short consultation period from May to July 2016 it became apparent that there were a number of common actions to be delivered in partnership by staff in the Economic Development and Strategic Transportation service with key stakeholders across all of Argyll and Bute's administration areas (as well as within). It was identified that there was a requirement for the preparation of a refreshed

overarching Argyll and Bute Strategic EDAP to replace the current 2013-2018 document.

**6. IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 The implications for the H&L Area Committee are as outlined in **Table 6.1** below.

<b>Table 6.1: Implications for the H&amp;L Area Committee</b>	
<b>Policy</b>	The H&L EDAP 2016/21 (and subsequent in-year plans) must align and adhere, as appropriate, to Local Development Plan and the SOA Local/SOA long term objectives, 2016-2023.
<b>Financial</b>	The H&L EDAP will ensure that the area’s resources are allocated efficiently and effectively with regard to the economic development priorities and ambitions for H&L. There will need to be annual consideration of best alignment between resources and priorities.
<b>Legal</b>	All legal implications at project level will be taken into consideration.
<b>HR</b>	The H&L EDAP priorities will be resourced in terms of staff time in the context of the Council’s annual service planning process and through shared staff resource discussions with Community Planning Partners.
<b>Equalities</b>	The H&L EDAP will comply with all Equal Opportunities policies and obligations.
<b>Risk</b>	None.
<b>Customer Service</b>	The H&L EDAP will provide internal and external customers with a clear articulation of the key priorities for developing the H&L economy, thereby facilitating focus, effective resource planning and partnership working at the local level.

**Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure**  
**Policy Lead, Cllr Aileen Morton**  
 12<sup>th</sup> September 2016

**For further information contact:**

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**APPENDIX 1: HELENSBURGH AND LOMOND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTION PLAN, 2016/21**

*It should be noted that the SMART actions outlined below will be undertaken by appropriate staff and teams of staff across the EDST Service.*

**INVESTMENT**

Investment in infrastructure (physical and digital), islands, key sectors, business support, communities and people will in turn attract further business investment, stimulate economic activity and deepen access to the labour market in the Helensburgh and Lomond (H&L) area.

<b>H&amp;L: INVESTMENT IN INFRASTRUCTURE - PHYSICAL/CAPITAL PROJECTS</b>				
<b>SOA Long Term Objectives (2023)</b>	<b>Outcome (by year 5)</b>	<b>Description of Activity</b>	<b>Milestones/Actions (in year)</b>	<b>Medium to Longer Term Success Measure</b>
Rural Growth is underpinned by a cohesive approach to regeneration. (Outcome 2)	Capital investment has successfully regenerated H&L in a manner that optimises sustainable economic growth.	Regenerate the Helensburgh Waterfront (new swimming pool and leisure facilities building, flood defences, car parking, public realm and retail development opportunity).	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Approval of Project Initiation Document and development funding, August 2016 (Libor £5m award from UK Government).</li> <li>2. Procurement of Design Team and Project Cost Consultants, autumn 2016.</li> <li>3. Concept designs taken forward to detailed design, planning and Full Business Case development.</li> </ol>	Helensburgh Waterfront redevelopment completed by July 2020, pool opened spring 2020.
		Council approval to purchase former Gasometer site.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Autumn 2016.</li> <li>2. Explore the potential to incorporate an overflow, multi storey, car park.</li> </ol>	New park and ride adjacent to the Central train station.
		Shop front grants	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Second phase during March to June 2016.</li> <li>2. Evaluation of round 2 applications July 2016.</li> <li>3. Report to H&amp;L Area Committee on outcome of evaluation/approval of applications September/ October 2016.</li> </ol>	Helensburgh shop fronts completed, offering an improved public realm to attract visitors.
		Redevelopment of Hermitage Park	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Contract award and capital works commence autumn 2016.</li> <li>2. Activity plan underway by December 2016.</li> </ol>	Hermitage Park capital regeneration completed by summer 2018 and activity plan by end of 2020. Hermitage Park Green Flag status awarded by spring 2018.
		Redevelopment of Kilmahew/St. Peter's Seminary.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Establish monitoring system for draw down of Council and Regeneration Community Grant Fund monies.</li> <li>2. Works commence spring 2017.</li> </ol>	Kilmahew/St. Peter's Seminary is redeveloped as a major cultural and heritage destination. Capital works complete autumn 2018.

<b>H&amp;L: INVESTMENT IN KEY SECTORS AND BUSINESS SUPPORT</b>				
<b>SOA Long Term Objectives (2023)</b>	<b>Outcome (by year 5)</b>	<b>Description of Activity</b>	<b>Milestones/Actions (in year)</b>	<b>Medium to Longer Term Success Measure</b>
The environment is part of the solution to a growing economy.	H&L recognised as an accessible location for documentary/film production.	Documentary and film production in H&L.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Attract 2 documentary/film productions to H&amp;L by end of March 2017.</li> <li>2. Calculate the spend generated by production activity by end of March 2017.</li> </ol>	An increase in spend from documentary/film activity (evidence based from 2016) by end of 2021.
Entrepreneurship is at the heart of all we do. (Outcome 1)	Sustainable and growing businesses in H&L.	Roadshow across the H&L business community to promote available business support with a focus on the EDFR funded Local Growth Accelerator Programme.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Head of Economic Development &amp; Strategic Transportation accompanied by Business Gateway staff will repeat the Business Lunch event held late 2015 in Helensburgh in the autumn 2016.</li> </ol>	Establish new and grow existing relationships between the Council and the H&L business community.
		Development of Ben Arthur Resort	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Publicise and market Ben Arthur site, Arrochar as a major development site for leisure and recreation facilities.</li> </ol>	Start on-site by end of 2017 with completion by end of 2019.
		Delivery of the Luss Masterplan.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Encourage the expansion of the Luss village for residential and commercial use.</li> </ol>	30 additional houses in Luss by end of 2018.
Areas within Argyll and Bute realise their unique potential through partnership working. (Outcome 1)	H&L (Faslane/HM Clyde Naval Base) is recognised as a key location for defence at a national level.	Development and delivery of the Maritime Change Programme.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A Strategic Delivery Framework formalised with the MOD and other Community Planning Partners during 2016.</li> <li>2. An Action Programme to be developed by the end of March 2017 to exploit the identified economic opportunities from this programme.</li> </ol>	Maritime Change delivered by 2021.

<b>H&amp;L: INVESTMENT IN PEOPLE</b>				
<b>SOA Long Term Objectives (2023)</b>	<b>Outcome (by year 5)</b>	<b>Description of Activity</b>	<b>Milestones/Actions (in year)</b>	<b>Medium to Longer Term Success Measure</b>
<p>Everyone in Argyll and Bute is supported to be ambitious and realise their full potential. (Outcome 3)</p> <p>Education and training opportunities are aligned to economic development opportunities both within Argyll and Bute and nationally. (Outcome 3)</p>	<p>Education and skills training opportunities are aligned to economic development opportunities within H&amp;L.</p>	<p>Education and skills training with a focus on the expertise at the HM Clyde Naval Base.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify 10 retired professionals to transfer skills and knowledge to young people/school pupils by end of March 2017.</li> <li>2. Development of supply chain businesses to support the HM Clyde Naval Base at Faslane.</li> </ol>	<p>H&amp;L is recognised as a key location for defence related training and related supply chain businesses by 2021.</p>



## **INNOVATION**

H&L must foster a culture of innovation alongside specific initiatives.

<b>H&amp;L: INNOVATION - ENTREPRENEURSHIP</b>				
<b>SOA Long Term Objectives (2023)</b>	<b>Outcome (by year 5)</b>	<b>Description of Activity</b>	<b>Milestones/Actions (in year)</b>	<b>Medium to Longer Term Success Measure</b>
Entrepreneurship is at the heart of all we do. (Outcome 1)	H&L is recognised as a key location for enterprise and entrepreneurial activity.	Identify building blocks for establishing the Virtual Centre for Innovators in Helensburgh.	1. Argyll and Bute Council to work with Scottish Enterprise (SE) and key stakeholders, such as the Helensburgh Community Council, to take forward the concept of a Virtual Centre for Innovators by the end of 2017.	Increase in enterprise and entrepreneurship activity by end of 2019 (evidence based with 2016).

## INTERNATIONALISATION

Enable H&L to take advantage of international opportunities by rethinking its role in an evolving global context.

INTERNATIONALISATION – PROMOTION AND MARKETING OF H&L				
SOA Long Term Objectives (2023)	Outcome (by year 5)	Description of Activity	Milestones/Actions (in year)	Medium to Longer Term Success Measure
Argyll and Bute has a positively promoted image within and outwith its area boundary. (Outcome 1)	H&L is a destination of choice for families, individuals and businesses to relocate, live and work.	Delivery of the Marketing Action Plan.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Promotion of success of major capital regeneration projects and venue marketing, such as the Colquhoun Square Helensburgh and successful NVA event at St. Peter's Seminary, Cardross.</li> <li>2. Joined up marketing of local events e.g. Highland Games, Winter Festival, Beer Festival, half marathons/10k, music festivals, regattas, Navy Days, etc. - attractive for visitors and also for people who may decide to move there.</li> <li>3. Establish a joint working group, comprising of key stakeholders potentially led by the local AITC agent, to assist with this work to focus on activities and actions across the whole of the H&amp;L area to attract day trippers, longer stay visitors and new residents.</li> </ol>	<p>Print and digital materials available for Argyll and Bute Council and its partners (2017/18 and ongoing).</p> <p>Increase in visitors to events (evidence based with 2016).</p> <p>Establish group by the end of March 2017.</p> <p>H&amp;L is recognised as a destination of choice to visit and live by 2021.</p>

## APPENDIX 2: ARGYLL AND BUTE STRATEGIC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTION PLAN, 2016/21

### INVESTMENT

Investment in infrastructure (physical and digital), islands, key sectors, business support, communities and people will in turn attract further business investment, stimulate economic activity and deepen access to the labour market for Argyll and Bute.

<b>INVESTMENT IN INFRASTRUCTURE - PHYSICAL/CAPITAL PROJECTS</b>					
<b>SOA Long Term Objectives (2023)</b>	<b>Outcome (by year 5)</b>	<b>Description of Activity</b>	<b>Milestones/Actions (in year)</b>	<b>Medium to Longer Term Success Measure</b>	<b>Key Partners</b>
Areas within Argyll and Bute realise their potential through partnership working. (Outcome 1)	Integrated sustainable transport networks.	Permanent solution to the surrounding of the A83 to ensure the road remains open at all times.  Upgrade of the A82 and A85.	1. Ongoing lobbying to the Scottish Government by elected members in partnership with the private sector.	Reduction in the number of days the A83 is unavailable.  Recognition by the Scottish Government on the strategic importance of the trunk roads through Argyll.	Argyll and Bute Council and local communities.
Buildings and land use are optimised to best sustain economic growth. (Outcome 2)	External infrastructure funding levered into Argyll and Bute	Preparation and delivery of a Single Investment Plan.	1. Analyse existing documents, identify key projects and sites by the end of March 2017.  2. Identify partners, solutions, costs, responsibilities and funding by end of March 2017.  3. Finalise plan and present to members and Community Planning Partnership by end of March 2017.	Production of the Single Investment Plan Actions during 2017/18. Inclusion of specific actions to take forward in the strategic and /or area-based EDAPs for 2018 until 2021.	Argyll and Bute Council (Strategic Transportation Policy Officer)
<b>INVESTMENT IN DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE – BROADBAND AND MOBILE</b>					
<b>SOA Long Term Objectives (2023)</b>	<b>Outcome (by year 5)</b>	<b>Description of Activity</b>	<b>Milestones/Actions (in year)</b>	<b>Medium to Longer Term Success Measure</b>	<b>Key Partners</b>
The digital network is equitable to high standards experienced across Scotland. (Outcome 2)	Full coverage of superfast broadband connectivity across Argyll and Bute	Highlands and Islands project in partnership with BT (including Giga Plus Argyll Project).	1. Continue to lobby the Highlands and Islands project in partnership with BT to achieve full coverage.	Capacity to deliver next generation broadband to 95% of premises by 2018.  Full coverage by 2021. As indicated by the Scottish Government to the R100 programme.	Argyll and Bute Council (Digital Liaison Officer), HIE, BT and Community Broadband Scotland (CBS).

<b>INVESTMENT IN DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE – BROADBAND AND MOBILE (continued)</b>					
<b>SOA Long Term Objectives (2023)</b>	<b>Outcome (by year 5)</b>	<b>Description of Activity</b>	<b>Milestones/Actions (in year)</b>	<b>Medium to Longer Term Success Measure</b>	<b>Key Partners</b>
The digital network is equitable to high standards experienced across Scotland. (Outcome 2)	Increased coverage of mobile connectivity across Argyll and Bute.	Home Office led Emergency Service Mobile Communication Programme (ESCMP) to extend 4G coverage. Increased commercial coverage from MNOs.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continue to assist EE to extend mobile coverage across Argyll and Bute, also engage with Home Office to assist in the network extension programme in extreme rural locations.</li> <li>2. Continue to lobby Mobile Network Operators (MNOs) to extend commercial coverage.</li> </ol>	<p>ESCMP has full coverage by 2017 prior to Airwaves transfer 2020.</p> <p>MNOs have their target of 98% of all premises to have 4G coverage by 2020.</p>	Argyll and Bute Council (Digital Liaison Officer), Home Office, EE and Cornerstone Telecommunications Infrastructure Limited (CTIL) (network partnership between Vodafone and O2)
<b>INVESTMENT IN ISLANDS (INCLUDING INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT)</b>					
<b>SOA Long Term Objectives (2023)</b>	<b>Outcome (by year 5)</b>	<b>Description of Activity</b>	<b>Milestones/Actions (in year)</b>	<b>Medium to Longer Term Success Measure</b>	<b>Key Partners</b>
Areas within Argyll and Bute realise their potential through partnership working. (Outcome 1)	The islands in the Argyll and Bute area are thriving through taking advantage of opportunities to diversify their economic base.	Argyll and the Islands Taskforce activity.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Islands Connections event, October 2016.</li> <li>2. Consulting island communities with regard to support and content of event.</li> <li>3. Engaging with Scottish Government Islands Bill consultations.</li> </ol>	<p>Completion of Islands Connections event.</p> <p>Argyll and Bute to positively influence the Scottish Government Islands Bill.</p>	Argyll and the Islands Taskforce activity.
	External infrastructure funding levered into the island communities.	Preparation and delivery of a Single Infrastructure Plan with regard to ferries.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Analyse existing documents with regard to ferry services and capacity by September 2016.</li> <li>2. Work with Calmac to develop solutions and responsibilities by September 2016.</li> <li>3. Finalise plan (including ferry issues) and present to members and Community Planning Partnership, November 2016.</li> </ol>	Production of the Single Investment Plan Actions during 2017/18. Inclusion of specific actions to take forward in the strategic and /or area-based EDAPs for 2018 until 2021.	Argyll and Bute Council and Calmac.

<b>INVESTMENT IN ISLANDS (INCLUDING INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT (continued))</b>					
<b>SOA Long Term Objectives (2023)</b>	<b>Outcome (by year 5)</b>	<b>Description of Activity</b>	<b>Milestones/Actions (in year)</b>	<b>Medium to Longer Term Success Measure</b>	<b>Key Partners</b>
Education and training opportunities are aligned to economic development opportunities both within Argyll and Bute and nationally. (Outcome 3)	Education and skills training opportunities are aligned to economic development opportunities across the island communities.	Modern apprenticeship opportunities.	1. Work in partnership with Skills Development Scotland and Calmac to identify modern apprenticeship opportunities.	Increase uptake in modern apprenticeship opportunities for island residents by the end of 2018 (evidence based with 2016).	Argyll and Bute Council and Calmac.
<b>INVESTMENT IN KEY SECTORS AND BUSINESS SUPPORT</b>					
<b>SOA Long Term Objectives (2023)</b>	<b>Outcome (by year 5)</b>	<b>Description of Activity</b>	<b>Milestones/Actions (in year)</b>	<b>Medium to Longer Term Success Measure</b>	<b>Key Partners</b>
Argyll and Bute has a thriving economy especially within the key sectors of tourism, maritime, food and drink. (Outcome 1)	Argyll and Bute is recognised as an all year round tourism destination	Collate market intelligence on the tourism market across Argyll and Bute and its administrative areas.	1. Establish (as far as practicable) a tourism baseline for Argyll and Bute based on identified key attractions and subsequent analysis.	Completion of baseline for end of 2017.	Argyll and Bute Council.
		Support Argyll and the Isles Tourism Co-operative (AITC) in its activities, linked to the Council's objectives and the Tourism Strategy.	1. Engage with tourism businesses to develop an understanding of their plans and requirements for future growth and expansion across Argyll and Bute and support in value added activities.  2. Collaborate and build relations with other complementary local authorities on the west coast for aligned marketing and growth approach.	Attract further tourism sector investment to Argyll and Bute by end of 2021 (evidence based with 2016).	Argyll and Bute Council and AITC.
Argyll and Bute has a thriving economy especially within the key sectors of tourism, maritime, food and drink. (Outcome 1)	Sustainable growth in tourism through skills development with Argyll and Bute as a whole being accredited as a World Host destination.	Roll-out World Host training.	1. Work in conjunction with Business Gateway and AITC to promote and encourage business uptake of World Host training.	Increased number of businesses placing staff through accredited World Host training by end of 2018 (evidence based with 2016).	Argyll and Bute Council (Business Gateway Team) and AITC.

INVESTMENT IN KEY SECTORS AND BUSINESS SUPPORT (continued)					
SOA Long Term Objectives (2023)	Outcome (by year 5)	Description of Activity	Milestones/Actions (in year)	Medium to Longer Term Success Measure	Key Partners
Argyll and Bute has a thriving economy especially within the key sectors of tourism, maritime, food and drink. (Outcome 1)	A recognised and sustainable cruise ship market value chain for Argyll and Bute.	Work with partners, improved research, relations and proactive promotion of the region.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Research cruise ship market structure and identify growth opportunities</li> <li>2. Proactively market the region to prospective new companies.</li> <li>3. Maintain current relations and keep up to date with market needs.</li> <li>4. Ensure Argyll and Bute is packaged effectively alongside the rest of the West Coast of Scotland.</li> </ol>	Increase cruise ship visits at ports and increase passenger volume across Argyll and Bute as a whole by 2021 (evidence based with 2016).	Argyll and Bute Council (Economic Growth Team).
Argyll and Bute has a thriving economy especially within the key sectors of tourism, maritime, food and drink. (Outcome 1)	A sustainable food and drink industry supply chain that adds value across all it key components (primary producers to processors) in order to generate economic growth, improved provenance and profile for Argyll and Bute.	Support the development of the aquaculture sector through the recommendations of the Economic Forum.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Engage with aquaculture businesses to develop an understanding of their plans and requirements for future growth and expansion within Argyll and Bute by end of March 2017.</li> <li>2. Feed into the Scottish Government's 'Review of the Aquaculture Consenting Regime' in collaboration with colleagues from Marine Planning by end of March 2017.</li> </ol>	<p>Attract and measure level of aquaculture investment to Argyll and Bute by the end of 2021.</p> <p>Adopt recommendations of the consenting review.</p>	Argyll and Bute Council (Economic Growth Team), HIE, AITC, VS, Scotland Food and Drink.
		Support Food from Argyll in its development.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Grow a portfolio of successful Argyll and Bute food and drink case studies with recommendations to feed into the development of Food from Argyll by end of March 2017.</li> <li>2. Collaborate with other local authorities on the west coast for a concerted marketing and growth approach, including a focus on a food and drink trail by end of March 2017.</li> <li>3. Explore the above as a potential Argyll and the Islands LEADER co-operation project.</li> </ol>	Growth of Food from Argyll and/or West Coast food & drink brand(s) by 10 producers across the whole of Argyll and Bute by the end of 2018.	Argyll and Bute Council (Economic Growth Team), HIE, AITC, VS, Scotland Food and Drink.

INVESTMENT IN KEY SECTORS AND BUSINESS SUPPORT (continued)					
SOA Long Term Objectives (2023)	Outcome (by year 5)	Description of Activity	Milestones/Actions (in year)	Medium to Longer Term Success Measure	Key Partners
Education and training opportunities are aligned to economic development opportunities both within Argyll and Bute and nationally. (Outcome 3)	Forestry industry has moved up the value chain.	Greater access to local training and employment opportunities for the forestry sector.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Review of Forest and Woodland Strategy in conjunction with Forestry Commission Scotland to establish baselines for training and employment opportunities and identify key growth opportunities for the forestry sector in Argyll and Bute.</li> <li>2. Develop a close working relationship with University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) by working on securing inward investment and local training opportunities.</li> <li>3. Through initial biomass discussions with businesses with input from Business Gateway and in partnership with HIE and participation in wood fuel forums throughout the year, gather market intelligence to identify gaps and opportunities for Argyll and Bute.</li> </ol>	<p>Establish a baseline and identify sustainable forestry activities and opportunities for Argyll and Bute by early 2018.</p> <p>Increased local take up of training opportunities by end of 2018 (evidence based with 2016).</p> <p>Encourage development of wood biomass power facilities throughout Argyll and Bute.</p>	Argyll and Bute Council (Economic Growth and Business Gateway Teams), HIE, Skills Development Scotland (SDS) and Scottish Forestry Commission (SFC).
Entrepreneurship is at the heart of all we do. (Outcome 1)	Sustainable and growing businesses in Argyll and Bute.	Business Gateway – Local Growth Accelerator Programme where 50% of funding has been secured from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Launch of Local Growth Accelerator Programme (autumn 2016). Argyll and Bute Council area <b>annual</b> targets to the end of 2018: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specialist Advice: 12 businesses assisted with one to one advice.</li> <li>• Growth Grant: 12 businesses supported with grant funding.</li> <li>• Graduate Placement Service: 4 businesses supported with six to twelve month graduate placements.</li> <li>• Growth Workshops: 144 attendees at 24 workshops, 48 businesses assisted.</li> <li>• Regional Specific Entrepreneurial Support: 12 businesses assisted with advice, information or events.</li> <li>• Key Sector Support: 33 businesses assisted with advice, information or events.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	<p>Successful delivery of the Local Growth Accelerator Programme with associated outcomes by end of December 2018.</p> <p>Meeting European compliance rules resulting in 100% draw down of European funding claims (ERDF and LEADER) from the Scottish Government.</p>	Argyll and Bute Council Business Gateway Team.

INVESTMENT IN COMMUNITIES					
SOA Long Term Objectives (2023)	Outcome (by year 5)	Description of Activity	Milestones/Actions (in year)	Medium to Longer Term Success Measure	Key Partners
Argyll and Bute has a thriving economy especially within the key sectors of tourism, maritime, food and drink. (Outcome 1)  Rural growth is underpinned by a cohesive approach to regeneration. (Outcome 2)	Maximise European funding and Argyll and Bute's policy influence in order to promote sustainable economic growth and regeneration across Argyll and Bute.	Argyll and the Islands LEADER programme, 2014-2020.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Given that the Argyll and Bute Council is the Accountable Body for LEADER and EMFF, submit a paper to the Environment, Development and Infrastructure (EDI) Committee on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2016 to seek approval for the formal launch of LEADER on Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> August 2016.</li> <li>Development of the Small Business Support Scheme and Farm Diversification during July 2016.</li> <li>Develop and prepare scoring paperwork for LEADER projects by end of September 2016.</li> <li>Ongoing work with communities and project applicants on initial expressions of interest and then applications as appropriate. First anticipated LEADER Local Action Group meeting is 27<sup>th</sup> October 2016.</li> </ol>	<p>Number of rural economic development projects supported by 2018.</p> <p>Achieving spend of circa. £9m throughout Argyll and Bute through a combination of LEADER and additional levered-in funding by 2018.</p> <p>Compliant completion of the Argyll and the Islands LEADER 2014-2020 programme by end of 2020.</p>	Argyll and Bute Council (European Team) and Argyll and the Islands LEADER Local Action Group.
		Argyll and the Ayrshires EMFF (European Maritime and Fisheries Fund) programme, 2014-2020.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalised Framework Agreement between Argyll and Bute Council and Marine Scotland by the end of August 2016.</li> <li>Establishment of joint marketing material for the Fisheries Local Action Group with the Ayrshires by the end of September 2016.</li> <li>Seek programme guidance and application forms from Marine Scotland in order to launch the programme before the end of 2016.</li> </ol>	<p>Number of EMFF supported projects across the Argyll and the Ayrshires FLAG area by 2018.</p> <p>Compliant completion of the Argyll and the Ayrshires EMFF 2014-2020 programme by end of 2020.</p>	Argyll and Bute Council (European Team) and Argyll and the Ayrshires Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG).
Areas within Argyll and Bute realise their unique potential through partnership working. (Outcome 1)	Thriving, sustainable and successful Argyll and Bute Communities and the Third Sector.	Generic support to communities and third sector organisations to access funding information.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of communities and third sector organisations accessing the Funding Alert and amount of funding secured as a consequence. Measured annually. By end of March 2017.</li> </ol>	Ongoing sustainable communities that have access to the appropriate support information.	Argyll and Bute Council (Social Enterprise Team).



INVESTMENT IN PEOPLE					
SOA Long Term Objectives (2023)	Outcome (by year 5)	Description of Activity	Milestones/Actions (in year)	Medium to Longer Term Success Measure	Key Partners
<p>Everyone in Argyll and Bute is supported to be ambitious and realise their full potential. (Outcome 3)</p> <p>Education and training opportunities are aligned to economic development opportunities both within Argyll and Bute and nationally. (Outcome 3)</p>	<p>Education and skills training opportunities are aligned to economic development opportunities within Argyll and Bute.</p>	<p>Council's Modern Apprenticeship Programme.</p>	<p>1. Work with appropriate Council departments to encourage the uptake of modern apprenticeships throughout 2016/17.</p>	<p>Increased uptake of Council modern apprenticeships by end of 2018 (evidence based with 2016).</p>	<p>Argyll and Bute Council and SDS.</p>

## **INNOVATION**

Argyll and Bute Council must foster a culture of innovation alongside specific initiatives.

<b>INNOVATION - ENTREPRENEURSHIP</b>					
<b>SOA Long Term Objectives (2023)</b>	<b>Outcome (by year 5)</b>	<b>Description of Activity</b>	<b>Milestones/Actions (in year)</b>	<b>Medium to Longer Term Success Measure</b>	<b>Key Partners</b>
Entrepreneurship is at the heart of all we do. (Outcome 1)	Argyll and Bute is recognised as a key location for enterprise and entrepreneurial activity.	Increase the level of entrepreneurship throughout Argyll and Bute.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Work with Argyll College UHI and HIE to take forward the concept of a Coastal Communities Centre for Creativity and Enterprise and relevant qualifications in Entrepreneurship for businesses by the end of 2016.</li> <li>2. Business Gateway to assist in facilitating a survey to micro businesses on what the demands and gaps are with regard to entrepreneurship and enterprise skills development by the end of 2016.</li> </ol>	Increase in enterprise and entrepreneurship activity by end of 2018 (evidence based with 2016).	Argyll and Bute Council, Argyll College UHI and HIE.
<b>INNOVATION – DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY</b>					
<b>SOA Long Term Objectives (2023)</b>	<b>Outcome (by year 5)</b>	<b>Description of Activity</b>	<b>Milestones/Actions (in year)</b>	<b>Medium to Longer Term Success Measure</b>	<b>Key Partners</b>
Argyll and Bute has a thriving economy especially within the key sectors of tourism, maritime, food and drink. (Outcome 1)  Argyll and Bute embraces digital opportunities. (Outcome 1)	Argyll and Bute has a robust profile through social media and a robust tourism sector.	Building on the Explore Argyll and the Isles suite of leaflets use digital and social media more innovatively to increase awareness of the Argyll and Bute area as a place to live, work and visit.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Scope out how the Council’s website and social media facilities can be used more innovatively (e.g. promoting a series of events in an area) to encourage more people to visit and/or relocate to the area (set a baseline of activity).</li> <li>2. Work with businesses to assess the scope for joint ticketing to attractions across Argyll and Bute.</li> <li>3. Identify key business figures and/or celebrities to champion Argyll and Bute.</li> </ol>	<p>Exponential increase in social media reach and website visits by end of 2018 (measure against 2016 baseline).</p> <p>Joint ticket deals to increase visit to attractions by 10% by end of 2020 (measure against 2016 baseline).</p> <p>Increase traction in media (evidence base required) through coverage of celebrity champions by the end of 2020.</p>	Argyll and Bute Council (Promotions and Marketing Officer) and tourism businesses through AITC.

## INTERNATIONALISATION

Enable Argyll and Bute Council to take advantage of international opportunities by rethinking its role in an evolving global context.

INTERNATIONALISATION – PROMOTION AND MARKETING OF ARGYLL AND BUTE					
SOA Long Term Objectives (2023)	Outcome (by year 5)	Description of Activity	Milestones/Actions (in year)	Medium to Longer Term Success Measure	Key Partners
Argyll and Bute has a positively promoted image within and outwith its area boundary. (Outcome 1)	Argyll and Bute is a destination of choice for families, individuals and businesses to relocate, live and work.	Delivery of the Marketing Action Plan.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop a digital picture library which includes images of areas across Argyll and Bute.</li> <li>2. Promote Argyll and Bute as a place to stay or relocate – develop case studies for difference audiences.</li> </ol>	<p>Photo library complete for use by Argyll and Bute Council and partners (2017/18 and ongoing).</p> <p>Case study subject(s) identified, stories written and library created (2017/18 and ongoing).</p>	Argyll and Bute Council (Promotions and Marketing Officer)
		Delivery of the Marketing Plan for the Argyll Sea Kayak Trail.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Promotion of the Argyll Sea Kayak Trail through the discrete marketing plan for that project.</li> </ol>	<p>National and international recognition of the recreational activities such as kayaking in Argyll and Bute.</p>	
<p>Argyll and Bute has a positively promoted image within and outwith its area boundary. (Outcome 1)</p> <p>Education and training opportunities are aligned to economic development opportunities both within Argyll and Bute and nationally. (Outcome 3)</p>	Education and skills training opportunities are aligned to economic development opportunities within Argyll and Bute.	Securing inward investment and local employment/training opportunities for Argyll and Bute.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop a close working relationship with Scottish Development International (SDI), Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) and Argyll College UHI to identify and attract inward investment to Argyll and Bute.</li> <li>2. Focus on opportunities in Argyll and Bute that could secure funding from the Council via the Inward Investment Fund (£1m) and Rural Resettlement Fund (£500k).</li> </ol>	<p>Increased take up in training opportunities linked to inward investment local job opportunities by the end of 2018.</p> <p>Dissemination and delivery of the Council wide Inward Investment Fund (£1m) and Rural Resettlement Fund (£500k).</p>	Argyll and Bute Council (Economic Development), HIE, SDI and Argyll College UHI.

INTERNATIONALISATION – GLOBAL NETWORKS AND CONTACTS					
SOA Long Term Objectives (2023)	Outcome (by year 5)	Description of Activity	Milestones/Actions (in year)	Medium to Longer Term Success Measure	Key Partners
Argyll and Bute has a thriving economy especially within the key sectors of tourism, maritime, food and drink. (Outcome 1)  Argyll and Bute has a positively promoted image within and outwith its area boundary. (Outcome 1)	A sustainable food and drink industry supply chain that adds value across all it key components (primary producers to processors) in order to generate economic growth, improved provenance and profile for Argyll and Bute.	Strengthen the region’s twinning arrangement with the Bavarian district Amberg-Sulzbach to expand Argyll and Bute’s international network.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Complete a successful twinning visit to Amberg-Sulzbach in August 2016 in order to expose businesses to international markets and share best practice and expertise in economic growth of the food and drink sector.</li> <li>2. Convene a task force for collaborative projects by end of 2016 and promote activity with businesses through Business Gateway and in partnership with HIE.</li> <li>3. Explore opportunities for an Argyll and the Islands LEADER co-operation project focusing on this theme.</li> </ol>	<p>Promotional information on the two areas appears on the Amberg-Sulzbach and Argyll and Bute Council digital platforms</p> <p>Local businesses capitalise on potential market opportunities in Amberg-Sulzabach and/or wider Bavaria.</p> <p>Local food/drink producers participate in a LEADER co-operation project.</p>	Argyll and Bute Council, Amberg-Sulzbach and the private sector.
		Sharing of good practice from international food and drink trade shows and events.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Council attends/supports industry representatives to attend international food and drink trade shows and events.</li> </ol>	<p>Trade show attendance (identify trade shows and quantify).</p>	

## **INCLUSIVE GROWTH**

Argyll and Bute is recognised as an area that promotes fair and equitable inclusive growth.

<b>INCLUSIVE GROWTH – SKILLS DEVELOPMENT</b>					
<b>SOA Long Term Objectives (2023)</b>	<b>Outcome (by year 5)</b>	<b>Description of Activity</b>	<b>Milestones/Actions (in year)</b>	<b>Medium to Longer Term Success Measure</b>	<b>Key Partners</b>
Education and training opportunities are aligned to economic development opportunities both within Argyll and Bute and nationally. (Outcome 3)	Robust and sustainable engagement between employers and education.	Argyll and Bute Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) Regional Group.	1. Economic Development, in partnership with Education colleges, Argyll College UHI, Skills Development Scotland and HIE to assist the private sector to prepare and submit the Argyll and Bute DYW Regional Group bid to the Scottish Government by end of September 2016.	Delivery of the 11 Wood Commission Recommendations and associated key performance indicators to be taken forward by DYW Regional Groups by the end of March 2019.	Argyll and Bute Council, Argyll College UHI, SDS, HIE and the private sector.
<b>INCLUSIVE GROWTH – EQUITY OF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES</b>					
<b>SOA Long Term Objectives (2023)</b>	<b>Outcome (by year 5)</b>	<b>Description of Activity</b>	<b>Milestones/Actions (in year)</b>	<b>Medium to Longer Term Success Measure</b>	<b>Key Partners</b>
Everyone in Argyll and Bute is supported to be ambitious and realise their full potential. (Outcome 3)	Education and skills training opportunities are aligned to economic development opportunities within the Argyll and Bute area.	Preparation prior to devolved Welfare agenda.	1. In partnership with other appropriate Council departments input to the preparation of the Welfare agenda for Scotland prior to being devolved to the Scottish Government on 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2017.	Council's Employability Team is integral to the delivery of the Welfare agenda during 2017/18.	Argyll and Bute Council and other local authority areas across Scotland.

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**ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL****HELENSBURGH AND LOMOND  
AREA COMMITTEE****DEVELOPMENT AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES****11 OCTOBER 2016**

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**ROADS REVENUE BUDGET - 2016/17 – 1<sup>st</sup> QUARTER UPDATE**

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**1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 Roads revenue activities include drain cleansing, ditching, carriageway and footway repairs, roadside verge cutting and associated maintenance works. The revenue budgets complement the capital works which generally consist of road reconstruction, edge strengthening, resurfacing and surface dressing. This report is to advise Members of the roads revenue budget position at the end of the 1st Quarter of financial year 2016/17. It also provides a commentary of the main operational activities undertaken in the quarter.
- 1.2 2016/17 Budget - The overall roads maintenance budget for the 2016/17 year (excluding winter maintenance and coastal protection) is £3,972,055. The roads maintenance budget for the 2016/17 year (excluding winter maintenance, coastal protection and centrally allocated budgets) for the Helensburgh and Lomond area, is £632,800. £145,526 has been spent at the end of the 1st Quarter – 23%

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ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL

HELENBURGH AND LOMOND  
AREA COMMITTEE

DEVELOPMENT AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

11 OCTOBER 2016

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**ROADS REVENUE BUDGET - 2016/17 – 1<sup>st</sup> QUARTER UPDATE**

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**2.0 INTRODUCTION**

2.1 This report follows-on from the report presented earlier in the year at the August Area Committee, which provided information on road maintenance revenue activities being delivered in Q4 2015/16.

**3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.1 That the Committee notes this report.

**4.0 DETAILS**

**Financial Position**

4.1 The Roads Operations Budget is proposed in line with the Roads Maintenance and Management Strategy and the Roads Maintenance and Asset Management Plan (RAMP). The available budget has been allocated to target the higher priority activities. Like most road authorities, and as recently highlighted by the national audit carried out by Audit Scotland, there is insufficient funding available to carry out the desired level of maintenance activity.

4.2 Roads revenue expenditure is closely monitored by separating types of work into different 'activities'. This report is based solely upon financial information which has been collated through the 'Total' costing system. Budgetary figures provided in the Appendices to this report represent spends to the end of Q1 for the present financial year. Winter maintenance and coastal protection costs have been excluded from this report.

4.3 Appendix 1 shows the overall roads revenue maintenance budget for 2016 to 2017 for each area. The overall roads maintenance budget for the 2016/17 year (excluding winter maintenance and coastal protection) was £3,972,055 as indicated in the table.

4.4 Appendix 2 provides information on percentage spend at the end of Q1 for 2016/17 for each area

4.5 Appendix 3 shows spend at the end of Q1 for all activities in the Helensburgh and Lomond area this financial year 2016/17.



4.6 Appendix 4 shows graphically Helensburgh and Lomond budget profiles. Profiles are set for each budget line and are used to manage actual expenditure against available budget. Appropriate action has been taken over the financial year to achieve a level of satisfactory performance, whilst ensuring that we work within the available budget. The Graph shows 'target' spend (the black line) versus 'actual' spend (the red line)

**Operational Activities this Quarter**

4.7 Our safety inspection regime continued and any identified faults were attended within the required timescales.

Revenue Activities - summary

Footway resurfacing – Cardross  
Traffic Signs (Not Suitable for HGV'S) – A814 Loch Long etc  
Traffic Signs - Replacements and Repairs– various  
Roadmaster Patching - East / West Helensburgh

Capital Activities - summary

Pre-SD Patching – B833, Old A82, Luss, Glen Fruin Road, Highfields Road, West King Street, A814 Rhu Road Lower.  
Pre-SD Drainage works – Culvert replacement on Glen Fruin and Highfields Rd.  
Roadmaster – pre-SD locations

**5.0 CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 This report provides Members with a financial update on the roads revenue maintenance budget for the Helensburgh and Lomond Area at the end of Q1 2016/17.
- 5.2 It indicates that a spend of £145,526 or 23% has been recorded against the roads maintenance revenue budget.
- 5.3 Further quarterly reports will continue to be presented to Members at future Area Committees.

**6.0 IMPLICATIONS**

6.1	Policy	Works assessed and carried out under the current Roads Asset Management and Maintenance Plan.
6.2	Financial	This report details the current revenue position
6.3	Legal	None
6.4	HR	None
6.5	Equalities	None

6.6	Risk	None
6.7	Customer Services	Maintains service level commitment set out in Service Plan.

**Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure**

**Policy Lead Cllr** Ellen Morton

**Head of Roads & Amenity Services** Jim Smith

28 August 2015

**For further information contact:** Kevin McIntosh, Roads Performance Manager,  
Tel: 01546 604621

**APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – 2015/16 - Roads Revenue Budget

Appendix 2 – 2015/16 – End of Q1 Budget Spend

Appendix 3 – 2015/16 – Budget Spend Q1 Detail – Helensburgh and Lomond

Appendix 4 – 2015/16 – End of Q1 – Spend profiles Helensburgh and Lomond

**APPENDICES**

## Roads Revenue Maintenance Budget 2016 to 2017

Activity	Activity Description	Mid Argyll	Kintyre	Islay	MAKI	Lorn	Mull	OLI	Bute	Cowal	B&C	Lomond	Central	Total
0201	Resurfacing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0301	Anit Skid Treatment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0501	Patching	46,666	46,667	46,667	140,000	93,333	46,667	140,000	52,800	123,200	176,000	97,500	0	553,500
0502	Potholing	87,000	87,000	87,000	261,000	166,667	83,333	250,000	27,000	63,000	90,000	30,000	0	631,000
0503	Road Master	56,667	56,666	56,667	170,000	113,333	56,667	170,000	33,000	77,000	110,000	70,000	0	520,000
0701	Bridges	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	230,755	230,755
0801	Cattle Grids	2,667	2,667	2,666	8,000	3,333	1,667	5,000	0	0	0	300	0	13,300
1001	Footways/Kerbs	17,666	17,667	17,667	53,000	35,333	17,667	53,000	15,900	37,100	53,000	53,000	0	212,000
1002	Cycleway/Patching	1,800	1,800	1,800	5,400	6,667	3,333	10,000	1,500	3,500	5,000	10,000	0	30,400
1301	Remedial Earthworks	3,334	3,333	3,333	10,000	13,333	6,667	20,000	1,620	3,780	5,400	5,000	0	40,400
1401	Drainage/Culverts	15,666	15,667	15,667	47,000	34,000	17,000	51,000	14,700	34,300	49,000	59,000	0	206,000
1402	Drainage/Ditches	50,334	50,333	50,333	151,000	87,333	43,667	131,000	25,380	59,220	84,600	71,000	0	437,600
1601	Scrub/Tree Maintenance	10,000	10,000	10,000	30,000	24,667	12,333	37,000	9,300	21,700	31,000	30,000	0	128,000
1701	Roads Markings/Studs	5,000	5,000	5,000	15,000	10,000	5,000	15,000	3,600	8,400	12,000	10,000	0	52,000
1801	Gully Emptying	16,000	16,000	16,000	48,000	36,000	18,000	54,000	33,600	78,400	112,000	56,000	0	270,000
2001	Boundary Fences/Walls	2,500	2,500	2,500	7,500	5,000	2,500	7,500	2,250	5,250	7,500	7,500	0	30,000
2101	Pedestrian Guardrails	1,166	1,167	1,167	3,500	2,333	1,167	3,500	1,050	2,450	3,500	3,500	0	14,000
2201	Traffic Signals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	31,000	31,000
2301	Traffic Signs	3,334	3,333	3,333	10,000	3,333	1,667	5,000	1,500	3,500	5,000	13,500	0	33,500
2311	Illuminated Bollards	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2401	Vehicle Safety Fence	8,334	8,333	8,333	25,000	16,667	8,333	25,000	7,500	17,500	25,000	25,000	0	100,000
2411	Street Name Plates	166	167	167	500	333	167	500	150	350	500	500	0	2,000
2501	Sweeping and Cleaning	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3201	Emergency Incidents	3,500	3,500	3,000	10,000	5,000	5,000	10,000	5,000	5,000	10,000	10,000	0	40,000
3202	Summer Standby	8,100	8,100	8,100	24,300	8,933	4,467	13,400	2,550	5,950	8,500	8,300	7,500	62,000
	<b>Roads</b>	<b>339,900</b>	<b>339,900</b>	<b>339,400</b>	<b>1,019,200</b>	<b>665,598</b>	<b>335,302</b>	<b>1,000,900</b>	<b>238,400</b>	<b>549,600</b>	<b>788,000</b>	<b>560,100</b>	<b>269,255</b>	<b>3,637,455</b>
1501	Grass Cutting	25,000	25,000	25,000	75,000	58,667	29,333	88,000	15,870	37,030	52,900	55,000	0	270,900
1503	Weed Spraying	5,000	5,000	5,000	15,000	13,333	6,667	20,000	3,300	7,700	11,000	17,700	0	63,700
	<b>Amenity</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>90,000</b>	<b>72,000</b>	<b>36,000</b>	<b>108,000</b>	<b>19,170</b>	<b>44,730</b>	<b>63,900</b>	<b>72,700</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>334,600</b>
		<b>369,900</b>	<b>369,900</b>	<b>369,400</b>	<b>1,109,200</b>	<b>737,598</b>	<b>371,302</b>	<b>1,108,900</b>	<b>257,570</b>	<b>594,330</b>	<b>851,900</b>	<b>632,800</b>	<b>269,255</b>	<b>3,972,055</b>

## Roads Revenue Maintenance Budget 2015 to 2016

	COMBINED AREA BUDGETS *												
	Mid Argyll	Kintyre	Islay	MAKI	Lorn	Mull	OLI	Bute	Cowal	B & C	H & L	**Bridges / Cattle grids etc.	Total
Area Budget	£339,900	£339,900	£339,400	£1,109,200	£737,598	£371,302	£1,108,900	£257,570	£594,330	£851,900	£632,800	£269,255	£3,972,055
Actual Spend - End of Q1	£52,238	£49,295	£55,688	£157,221	£105,555	£150,437	£255,992	£84,927	£82,017	£166,944	£145,526	£64,561	£790,244
	£287,662	£290,605	£283,712	£951,979	£632,043	£220,865	£852,908	£172,643	£512,313	£684,956	£487,274	£204,694	£3,181,811
Percentage Spend	15%	15%	16%	14%	14%	41%	23%	33%	14%	20%	23%	24%	20%

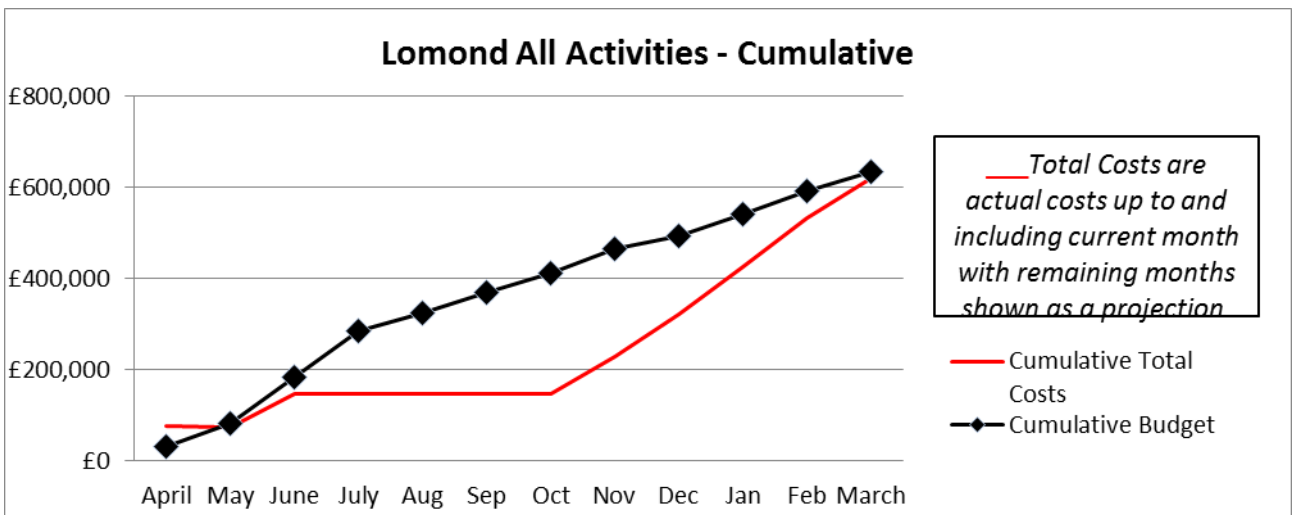
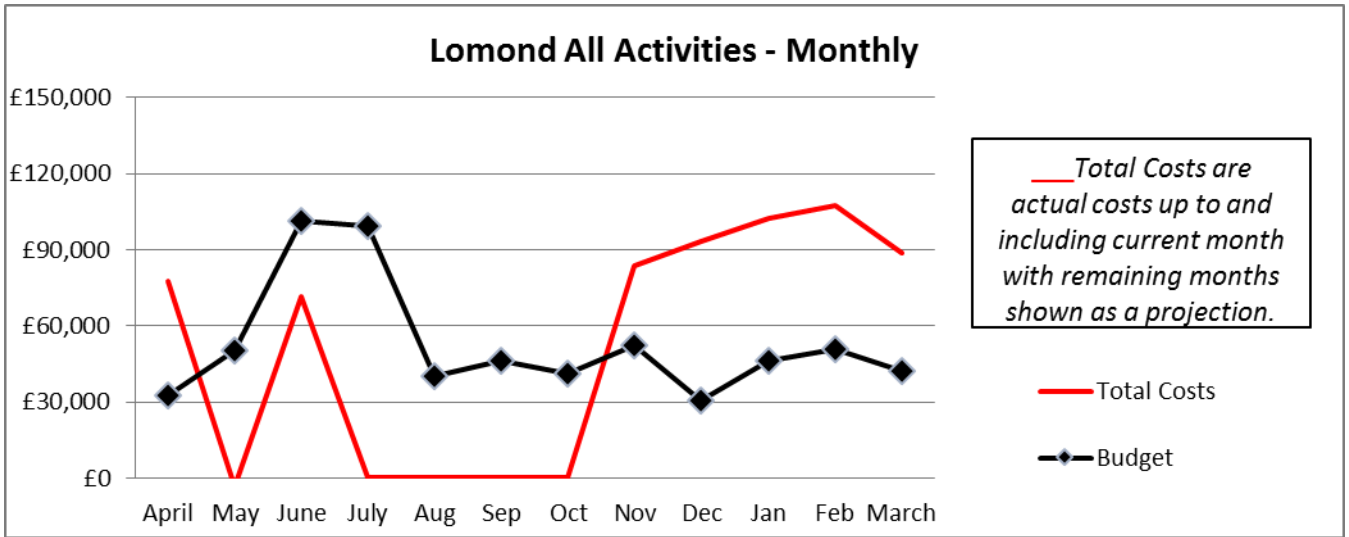
\* Combined Area Budgets - See Appendix 1 for list of activities included.

\*\* Remaining 'central budget' - Bridges, cattle grids, traffic signals, summer stand-by and illuminated bollards

**Budget and Spend end of Q1 –Helensburgh and Lomond**

Activity	Activity Description	Lomond Area		Budget	Percentage
		Budget	Spend to date	Remaining	Budget Spent
0501	Patching	97,500	47,437	50,063	49%
0502	Potholing	30,000	8,606	21,394	29%
0503	Road Master	70,000	15,257	54,743	22%
0701	Bridges	0	0	0	0%
0801	Cattle Grids	300	0	300	0%
1001	Footways/Kerbs	53,000	24	52,976	0%
1002	Cycleway/Patching	10,000	0	10,000	0%
1301	Remedial Earthworks	5,000	0	5,000	0%
1401	Drainage/Culverts	59,000	14,321	44,679	24%
1402	Drainage/Ditches	71,000	13,884	57,116	20%
1601	Scrub/Tree Maintenance	30,000	0	30,000	0%
1701	Roads Markings/Studs	10,000	0	10,000	0%
1801	Gully Emptying	56,000	1,734	54,266	3%
2001	Boundary Fences/Walls	7,500	0	7,500	0%
2101	Pedestrian Guardrails	3,500	0	3,500	0%
2201	Traffic Signals	0	0	0	0%
2301	Traffic Signs	13,500	7,946	5,554	59%
2311	Illuminated Bollards	0	0	0	0%
2401	Vehicle Safety Fence	25,000	0	25,000	0%
2411	Street Name Plates	500	0	500	0%
2501	Sweeping and Cleaning	0	0	0	0%
3201	Emergency Incidents	10,000	3,235	6,765	32%
3202	Summer Standby	8,300	1,679	6,621	20%
<b>Roads</b>		<b>560,100</b>	<b>114,123</b>	<b>445,977</b>	<b>20%</b>
1501	Grass Cutting	55,000	31,403	23,597	57%
1503	Weed Spraying	17,700	0	17,700	0%
<b>Amenity</b>		<b>72,700</b>	<b>31,403</b>	<b>41,297</b>	<b>43%</b>
		<b>632,800</b>	<b>145,526</b>	<b>487,274</b>	<b>23%</b>

1st Quarter Spend Profile - 2016/17



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**ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL**

**Helensburgh and Lomond Area  
Committee**

**Customer Services**

**11 October 2016**

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**Civic Furniture and memorabilia - Helensburgh**

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## **1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The council has agreed a protocol for dealing with items of furniture and memorabilia following building refurbishments and/or office rationalisations and which are deemed to be of historical or local significance. As a result of the office rationalisation project in Helensburgh a number of items have been identified. This report outlines the protocol and asks Members to give consideration to the future of these items in line with the agreed protocol.

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ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL

Helensburgh and Lomond Area  
Committee

Customer Services

11 October 2016

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**Civic Furniture and memorabilia - Helensburgh**

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**2.0 INTRODUCTION**

2.1 As a result of the recent office rationalisation project in Helensburgh, a number of items have been identified in buildings which have been subject to disposal. This report asks Members of the Area Committee to give consideration to the future of the items identified in line with the protocol which has been agreed for dealing with such items.

**3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.1 The Area Committee agrees:-

- (1) That arrangements are made for the items identified at 4.3.2 and 4.4.2 to be moved to the Helensburgh and Lomond Civic Centre and displayed at appropriate locations within the building;
- (2) To loan the Boer War Memorial to the Heritage Trust and to delegate authority to the Executive Director of Customer Services to draw up such legal agreement as required;
- (3) That the William Yellowlees painting is relocated to the Helensburgh Library to be part of the permanent exhibition on Henry Bell;
- (4) To delegate to the Area Committee Manager in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair to identify a suitable location within Helensburgh for the display of the ceremonial chairs located in the Municipal Buildings and in the Marriage Rooms, and if no location can be identified that they are subject to formal valuation and arrangements are made for them to be sold; and
- (5) That the furniture identified at 4.3.1 and 4.4.1 is subject to formal valuation and arrangements are thereafter made for the sale of this furniture to be progressed with the proceeds from the sale being used to facilitate the display of the civic items

**4.0 DETAIL**

4.1 The Policy and Resources Committee at the meeting held on 17 March 2016 agreed a protocol for dealing with furniture and memorabilia following building refurbishments and/or office rationalisations.

4.2 The protocol states:-



- (1) When a building is to be disposed of (a) any furniture of historical or local significance will be identified, as will (b) any art work or other civic items.
- (2) The building user as at the date of departure, together with nominated officers from Community and Culture and Governance and Law, will detail the items specified at (a) and (b) above and will determine if any item may have a significant value. Any such item will only be disposed of after consideration by the relevant Area Committee and referral to Policy and Resources for final determination.
- (3) All other items in category (a) will then be considered by the relevant Area Committee to establish:
  - If the items should be stored for future use by the Council
  - If the items should be offered for sale locally
  - If the items should be offered free to a local community group, having first sought expressions of interest by notice on the Council website, either on loan or as a disposal
  - If the items should be released for recycling
- (4) All other items in category (b) will be considered by the relevant Area Committee, which shall receive the views of the Provost prior to their consideration of the matter, and who may determine:-
  - If the items should be stored for future use by the Council
  - If the items should be offered for sale locally
  - If the items should be offered free to a local community group, having first sought expressions of interest by notice on the Council website, either on loan or as a disposal
  - If the items should be given into the custody of the Archivist or the museum service, or leant to a Private Archive
  - If the items should be released for recycling
- (5) If there is any dispute as to whether an item is of significant value the matter will be determined by the Executive Director of Customer Services after such inquiry as he determines reasonable.
- (6) In reaching a determination on such matters the Area Committee will have regard to the local interest in any items and will be guided by the principle of the strength of local connection and identity with any of the items as may be ascertained by the Committee.

#### 4.3 Municipal Buildings, Helensburgh

- 4.3.1 This building is currently under offer to purchase. The following items have been identified as falling into category (a) furniture of historical or local significance:-

<b>Municipal Buildings, Helensburgh</b>	
Category (a) any furniture of historical or local significance	
<b>Item</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
1 large wooden and leather inlay table (Photograph Appendix 1(a))	Valuation to be obtained and arrangements made for sale.
2 small wooden and leather inlay tables (Photograph Appendix 1(b))	Valuation to be obtained and arrangements made for sale.
1 large and 2 smaller ceremonial chairs – wood and red leather (Photograph Appendix 2)	Locally significant, options to be discussed for relocation.
1 red fabric and wood footstool (Photograph Appendix 3)	Valuation to be obtained and arrangements made for sale.
3 wooden court benches (Photograph Appendix 4)	Valuation to be obtained and arrangements made for sale.
17 wooden chairs, red leather seat (Photograph Appendix 5)	Valuation to be obtained and arrangements made for sale.
4 wooden chairs, green leather seat (Photographs Appendix 6(a) and 6(b))	Valuation to be obtained and arrangements made for sale.

4.3.2 The following items have been identified as falling into category (b) art work or other civic items:-

<b>Municipal Buildings, Helensburgh</b>	
Category (b) art work or other civic items:-	
<b>Item</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
1 civic crest (Photograph Appendix 7)	In line with the view of the Provost, to be relocated and displayed in the Helensburgh and Lomond Civic Centre.
War memorial, commemorating Boer War (Photograph Appendix 8)	To be offered to the Helensburgh Heritage Trust on a loan basis.
2 framed photographs of Queen Elizabeth II (Photograph Appendix 9)	In line with the view of the Provost, to be relocated and displayed in the Helensburgh and Lomond Civic Centre.
1 framed photograph of Duke of Edinburgh (Photograph Appendix 10)	In line with the view of the Provost, to be relocated and displayed in the Helensburgh and Lomond Civic Centre.
1 wooden wall plaque, listing Provosts prior to 1975 (Photograph Appendix 11)	In line with the view of the Provost, to be relocated and displayed in the Helensburgh and Lomond Civic Centre.
Studio of WILLIAM AIKMAN Lady Helen Sutherland nee Colquhoun (1717-1791) Oil on Canvas 127 x 101.6 cm Valued at £4,000* (Appendix 12)	In line with the view of the Provost, to be relocated and displayed in the Helensburgh and Lomond Civic Centre.

Item	Recommendation
SYBILLA MARY DOWNIE Anna, Lady Colquhoun and Luss Signed lower left, oil on canvas 81.5 x 61 cm Valued at £800* (Appendix 13)	In line with the view of the Provost, to be relocated and displayed in the Helensburgh and Lomond Civic Centre.
JAMES GUTHRIE George Maclachlan, Esq, Town Clerk Signed lower left, oil on canvas 91.7 x 70 cm Valued at £2,500* (Appendix 14)	In line with the view of the Provost, to be relocated and displayed in the Helensburgh and Lomond Civic Centre.
NORMAN MACBETH Sir James Colquhoun (1844-1907), 26 <sup>th</sup> Bt of Colquhoun, 2 <sup>nd</sup> of Luss (1873-1907), full length Oil on Canvas, painted 1882 Valued at £8,000* (Appendix 15)	In line with the view of the Provost, to be relocated and displayed in the Helensburgh and Lomond Civic Centre.
WILLIAM YELLOWLEES Henry Bell, Esq, First Provost of the Burgh of Helensburgh (1807-1809) Oil on Canvas 76.2 x 63.5 cm Valued at £1,800 *(Appendix 16)	Painting to be moved to Helensburgh Library to become part of the exhibition on Henry Bell.

\*Valuations on these paintings were carried out by an independent valuer on behalf of the libraries service in April 2015.

#### 4.4 Marriage Room – West King Street, Helensburgh

4.4.1 This building is currently under offer to purchase. The following items have been identified as falling into category (a) furniture of historical or local significance:-

<b>Marriage Rooms, West King Street</b> Category (a) any furniture of historical or local significance	
Item	Recommendation
1 large bookcase (Photograph Appendix 17)	Valuation to be obtained and arrangements made for sale.
1 large leather inlay table (Photograph Appendix 18)	Valuation to be obtained and arrangements made for sale.
1 wooden ceremonial chair (Photograph Appendix 19)	Locally significant, options to be discussed for relocation.
9 wooden and red leather chairs (Photograph Appendix 18)	Valuation to be obtained and arrangements made for sale.

4.4.2 The following items have been identified as falling into category (b) art work or other civic items:-

<b>Marriage Rooms, West King Street</b>	
Category (b) art work or other civic items	
<b>Item</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
3 plaques/crests (Photograph Appendices 20 (a), (b) and (c) )	In line with the view of the Provost, to be relocated and displayed in the Helensburgh and Lomond Civic Centre.

4.5 Expressions of interest

4.5.1 The Provost has agreed that the William Yellowlees painting detailed above will be moved to Helensburgh Library to be part of a permanent exhibition on Henry Bell.

4.5.2 The Helensburgh Heritage Trust have expressed interest in obtaining the War Memorial which commemorates the Boer War. It is intended that an exhibition of Boer War related items will be displayed at the Helensburgh and Lomond Civic Centre. It is suggested that a loan of the war memorial to the Heritage Trust could be arranged.

4.5.3 Discussions have previously taken place with the Libraries Service with a view to the paintings from the Municipal Buildings being displayed in the Helensburgh and Lomond Civic Centre.

4.6 Provost's view

4.6.1 In line with the protocol, the Provost has been consulted in terms of his view in relation to the items which have been identified at 4.3.2 and 4.4.2. The Provost has advised that it would be his view that a suitable display space be found within the Helensburgh and Lomond Civic Centre for these items.

**5.0 CONCLUSION**

5.1 The Council has agreed a protocol for dealing with furniture and memorabilia which have been identified during office rationalisations. As part of the Helensburgh office rationalisation project, the former Marriage Room, West King Street and the former Municipal Buildings are both under offer of purchase. The items identified in this report fall under the agreed protocol and it is for the Area Committee to determine the next steps in terms of the protocol.

Recommendations have been made in regard to each of the items which have been identified, taking account of the protocol and the views of the Provost where this is appropriate.

**6.0 IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Policy - in line with the protocol agreed by the Policy and Resources Committee.
- 6.2 Financial – dependent on final decision there could be financial implications.
- 6.3 Legal – dependent on decision may require input from Governance and Law.
- 6.4 HR - none
- 6.5 Equalities - none
- 6.6 Risk - none
- 6.7 Customer Service - none

**Executive Director of Customer Services**

**Policy Lead** Councillor Dick Walsh

4 October 2016

**For further information contact:** Shona Barton, Area Committee Manager, Tel:  
(01436) 657605

**APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Appendix 20 (c) photographs of various items.

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Appendix 1



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Appendix 1(a)



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Appendix 2



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Appendix 3



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Appendix 4



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Appendix 5



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Appendix 6(a)



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Appendix 9



Appendix 9



Appendix 10



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Appendix 11



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Appendix 12



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Appendix 13



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Appendix 14



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Appendix 15



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Appendix 16



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Appendix 18



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Appendix 19



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Appendix 20 (a)



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Appendix 20(b)



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Appendix 20 (c)



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**ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL****HELENSBURGH & LOMOND AREA  
COMMITTEE****DEVELOPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE  
SERVICES****11 OCTOBER 2016**

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**HELENSBURGH - OPTIONS FOR SURPLUS CHORD FUNDS**

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**1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 Report outlines spend Options for the surplus CHORD funds of £653,119 reported to the Helensburgh & Lomond Area Committee on the 8<sup>th</sup> December April 2015.
- 1.2 The Options are in line with the report that was approved by the Policy and Resources Committee on the 18<sup>th</sup> August 2016, which delegated the allocation of any CHORD surplus funds to Area Committees to approve in accordance with the original CHORD objectives at 4.2.
- 1.3 The Helensburgh CHORD funds were allocated to generate improvements to Helensburgh's Town Centre public realm and West Bay Esplanade. With regard HH01, it is worth noting that the original townscape streetscape boundary considered a wider area but this was scaled back to meet the available budget. The original area included both John St and James Street.
- 1.4 Taking account of the amount of CHORD surplus funds available, the above criteria for the allocation of surplus funds and the risks in delivering the options within the available budget, the report looked at options for extending improvements to Helensburgh Town Centre's public realm and to the West Bay Esplanade.
- 1.5 Given the financial risks of not being able to deliver further improvements to the West Bay Esplanade between William Street and Kidston Park (Option 8) within the available budget, it is proposed this Option is not taken forward.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Helensburgh and Lomond members:

- note the contents of the paper;
- Approve Options 1 to 7 inclusive;
- Approve the drawdown of up to £30,000 to cover development costs to take Options 1 to 5 to tender stage.
- Approve the drawdown of funds to implement the works associated with Options 1 to 5 provided the preferred tender price falls within the available budget, if the preferred tender price exceeds the available funds then officers will bring a report to members outlining alternative

options

- Approve the transfer of £22,000 to the Council's Amenities revenue budget to implement Option 6 – the enhanced maintenance of the Helensburgh Chord works and the purchase of five additional waste bins.
- Approve the drawdown of £62,500 to take forward Option 7 as outlined in 4.5.6.

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ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL

HELENSBURGH & LOMOND AREA  
COMMITTEE

DEVELOPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE  
SERVICES

11 OCTOBER 2016

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## HELENSBURGH- OPTIONS FOR SURPLUS CHORD FUNDS

---

### 2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The purpose of this paper is to outline proposals for allocating the surplus CHORD funds of £653,119 in line with the report that was approved by the Policy and Resources Committee on the 18<sup>th</sup> August 2016, which delegated the allocation of any CHORD surplus funds to Area Committees to approve in accordance with the original town centre project objectives as outlined in 4.2

### 3 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Helensburgh and Lomond members:

- note the contents of the paper;
- Approve Options 1 to 7 inclusive;
- Approve the drawdown of up to £30,000 to cover development costs to take Options 1 to 5 to tender stage.
- Approve the drawdown of funds to implement the works associated with Options 1 to 5 provided the preferred tender price falls within the available budget, if the preferred tender price exceeds the available funds then officers will bring a report to members outlining alternative options
- Approve the transfer of £22,000 to the Council's Amenities revenue budget to implement Option 6 – the enhanced maintenance of the Helensburgh Chord works and the purchase of five additional waste bins.
- Approve the drawdown of funds to take forward Option 7 as outlined in 4.5.6.

### 4. DETAIL

- 4.1 In 2009 the Council approved an investment of approximately £30 million for five of its waterfront main towns to assist regeneration and economic development in Argyll and Bute, Helensburgh' capital funding allocation was £6.66 million. It was agreed that the projects be delivered in the context of the programme objectives for each town as outlined in the original Outline Business Cases.

4.2 The Tables below outlines how the Helensburgh CHORD monies were to be spent:

HH01 - Helensburgh - Town Centre

<i>WHAT:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to develop a more sustainable traffic management scheme in the town centre by reducing traffic through the main streets in the town centre, thus enhancing pedestrian movement, creating events space and a street-cafe culture.</li> <li>• improved enforcement of parking regulations, pay-on-street parking, as well as improved cycling facilities.</li> </ul>
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HH02 - Helensburgh - West Bay

<i>WHAT:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to redevelop the West Bay Esplanade between Colquhoun Square and William Street, linking it to the town centre</li> <li>• to create an environment suitable for leisure strolling with a string of “event points” along the shore and for much better access by customers to the many and varied local shops, restaurants, cafes and bars on West Clyde Street.</li> </ul>
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4.3 Anticipated benefits for Helensburgh include:

- Improved character and appearance of Helensburgh Town Centre and the West Bay esplanade.
- Increased turnover and employment in the retail and hospitality sectors.

4.4 On the 8<sup>th</sup> December 2015 officers reported to the Helensburgh & Lomond Area Committee the level of CHORD surplus funds available following delivery of the two projects listed at 4.2 above. It was agreed at this meeting that officers would come forward with options for the allocation of the surplus funds, £653,119. The Options outlined below are in line with the report that was approved by the Policy and Resources Committee on the 18<sup>th</sup> August 2016, which delegated the allocation of any CHORD surplus funds to Area Committees to approve in accordance with the original town centre objectives stated in 4.2 above. With regard, HH01 it is worth noting that the original townscape streetscape boundary considered a wider area but this was scaled back to meet the available budget. The original area included both John St and James Street.

4.5 **OPTIONS –**

4.5.1 **HH01 – Helensburgh Town Centre - OPTION 1 – James Street (Between West Princes Street and West Clyde Street). 493m<sup>2</sup> of granite paving slabs and 208 linear metre of PCC kerbs, 1029m<sup>2</sup> carriageway resurfacing**

Based on the positive impact the public realm improvement works have had to date on the vitality and economic performance of the town centre there has been requests from businesses on the edge of the completed CHORD improvements to extend the works, particularly along James Street from West



Clyde Street to the junction at West Princes Streets. This stretch includes a number of eatery's and retail units which, based on the positive impact the CHORD works have had on similar businesses, is likely to result in the further enhancement of the economic performance and attractiveness of the town centre to all users, locals and visitors alike.

Proposed works between West Princes Street and West Clyde Street to include removal of existing concrete kerbs and footways to both side of road and replace with granite pavements and PCC kerbing.

Kerb alignment will remain the same with some adjustments to kerb heights and levels to improve drainage, where required. This could be done without adding to the drainage system and therefore it is unlikely to require approval from Scottish Water. Plane and resurface the existing tarmacadam carriageway (45mm asphalt wearing course). Topographical survey information is already available to inform the design.

**4.5.2 HH01 Helensburgh Town Centre – Option 2 East Clyde St – Maitland St  
572m<sup>2</sup> of granite paving slabs and 209 linear metres of kerbs**

Proposed works on East Clyde Street between Sinclair Street and Maitland Street to include removal of existing concrete kerbs and footways to both sides of road and replace with granite pavements and PCC kerbing.

Kerb alignment will remain the same with some adjustments to kerb heights and levels to improve drainage, where required. This could be done without adding to the drainage system and therefore is unlikely to require approval from Scottish Water. Topographical survey would be required to inform the design.

NB if taking forward both Option 1 and Option 2 in granite paving then additional granite paving material (265m<sup>2</sup>) will be required as there is approximately 800m<sup>2</sup> available after allowing for 5% wastage.

**4.5.3 HH01 Helensburgh Town Centre - Option 3 East Clyde St between  
Maitland St and Charlotte Street**

Proposed works include the removal of existing concrete kerbs and footways to both sides of road and resurface pavements in asphalt with chips ( 741m<sup>2</sup>) and replace kerbs (PCC) ( 233 linear metres). This excludes the area on the south side of East Clyde Street which has already been completed outside the Civic Centre.

**4.5.4 HH01 Helensburgh Town Centre – Option 4 Maitland St**

Proposed works include the removal of existing concrete kerbs and footways to both sides of road and resurface pavements in asphalt with chips ( 512m<sup>2</sup>) and replace kerbs (PCC) (208 linear metres). Plane and resurface the existing

tarmacadam carriageway (45mm asphalt wearing course) (1155m<sup>2</sup> carriageway resurfacing)

**4.5.5 *HH01 Helensburgh Town Centre – Option 5 John St between West Clyde and West Princes St***

Proposed works include the removal of existing concrete kerbs and footways to both sides of road and resurface pavements in asphalt with chips ( 522m<sup>2</sup>) and replace kerbs (PCC) (117 linear metres). Plane and resurface the existing tarmacadam carriageway (45mm asphalt wearing course) (1071m<sup>2</sup> carriageway resurfacing)

**4.5.6 HH01 Helensburgh Town Centre – Option 6 Contribution towards the enhanced maintenance of the CHORD works.**

Due to pressures on the Council's revenue budget, savings have required to be made to the scope and frequency of the works undertaken by amenity services in maintaining public spaces across the Council. Therefore to ensure that the flower beds, shrubs, benches and bins within Colquhoun Square and along the esplanade are properly maintained in line with the Management and Maintenance guidelines produced for the works, there is the option to enhance the level of maintenance over the next three years as follows. Also to provide 5 additional bins to address increased usage due to increased footfall, particularly in summer months. The additional costs for the enhanced maintenance regime are provided at Appendix A.

**4.5.7 HH01 – Helensburgh Town Centre – Option 7 contribute towards increasing the number of artworks in the award winning Outdoor Museum and artworks along the West Bay Esplanade (HH02).**

***Expand Outdoor Museum***

The award-winning Outdoor Museum displays a collection of treasured objects brought forward by local residents / organisations in the town - stories of local, national and international significance, and makes them available to the people of Helensburgh, Scotland and beyond. The Museum has been very well received by the local community, visitors to the town, and by the arts, heritage and culture bodies in Scotland and further afield. The Museum recently received the prestigious Saltire Art in Public Places Award with the focus on how art contributes to a distinctive quality of place. The Outdoor Museum was also cited as part of the town's RIAS Public realm award and as in the Scottish Design award and is a focal point in the UK's largest architectural award- the prestigious Doolan Award (Judges visit on Thursday September 15<sup>th</sup>) The Outdoor was also shortlisted for / commended by the FX International Design Awards in the Best Museum 2016 category, with judges stating that every town should have an Outdoor Museum.

To date 15 of the plinths have a unique artwork installed with accompanying text and QR code that connects to the Outdoor Museum website. Of the remaining 100 plinths in the CHORD plan - some could be used to connect, not just to the town itself, but to surrounding areas e.g. the recent national focus on St. Peters Seminary at Cardross is an example of a nominated subject for a plinth that could create circulation between the two places. Closer at hand is the interest from National Trust Scotland in a proposed idea of a George Rickey artwork maquette that could connect all the visitors to Hill House to Helensburgh's town-centre and vice versa.

With interest from other parties in expanding the Outdoor Museum, and thereby creating potentially a critical mass of plinths which could make the Museum a visitor destination in its own right or at the very least make a significant contribution to the Helensburgh day trip offer for visiting the town - there is the option to set aside say **£45k** from the surplus CHORD funds and to use this to submit funding applications to Creative Scotland and the Heritage Lottery Fund to expand the Outdoor Museum

**Light the Comet plinth** - so that the acrylic block in Colquhoun Square is lit at night time. The cost includes purchase of 2 x 0.75m LED luminaires and the preparation of the plinth to hold these lights and the running of power to the plinth from an adjacent supply in the space.

**Flotilla of Comets along the West Bay Esplanade** (installed adjacent to John Muir sculpture)

The remaining seven of the original comets would be repaired and cleaned and mounted on 15 centimetre diameter poles at a height between 2.45m and 2.75m. The poles would need to be embedded in a circular concrete foundation, of diameter approx. 1.5m (depth to be determined probably 1m). The poles could be powder-coated and etched with the plans from the comet's designs. The specifications would allow for the abrasive nature of the esplanade.

#### 4.5.8 ***HH02 – West Bay Esplanade – Option 8 improvement of esplanade between William St and Kidston Park.***

The original Outline Business Case (OBC) for the Helensburgh CHORD project included the redevelopment of the West Bay Esplanade from Colquhoun Street to Kidston Park but, due to budget constraints this was subsequently revised to terminate the works at William Street. The surplus CHORD funds provide the opportunity to extend the esplanade works to Kidston Park, at a cost of circa £650,000 (inclusive of preliminaries, contingencies and professional fees). The scope of the works cover the replacement of the existing surface (William St to the end of the lower path at Kidston Park) to match the new surface, removal of seating wall, new edging to sea wall side with new kerbing to opposite side of esplanade, grading of soft landscaping to suit new kerb level, new handrail to replace existing, refurbishment of existing bench seats, new litter bins, replacement of steps to foreshore, replacement of surfacing to footpath links to road and an allowance for repairs to sea wall. An allowance for fees, preliminaries, and contingencies has also been included. However there is a cost risk in proceeding with this option due to the deteriorating condition of the seating wall and sea wall side of the esplanade which, when disturbed/removed may

unearth additional works with related cost implications that could result in works exceeding the available budget. Therefore if members wish to consider this option then further investigations into the condition of these areas would need to be instructed.

**5 BREAKDOWN OF COSTS v AVAILABLE BUDGET**

A breakdown of the indicative costs for each of the options is provided at Appendix A to this report.

**6. CONCLUSION**

All of the Options included in the report support the original objectives of the Helensburgh CHORD project. Options 1 and 2 would utilise the surplus paving materials stored at Blackhill depot, in fact additional granite paving and kerbs would be required. Option 2 would also enhance the gateway approach to the planned £18m Waterfront Development. Options 3 and 4 would improving the environs in the east side of the town, particularly around the proposed park and ride at the former Gasometer site through upgrading Maitland street which is also the desired pedestrian link from Helensburgh Central to the new Clyde Civic Centre. Option 5 would complete the upgrading of the side streets immediately adjacent to the enhanced works on West Clyde St. Options 6 and 7 will both protect and enhance the council's investment to date in Colquhoun Square. It is feasible that Options 1 to 6 could all be delivered within the available budget therefore maximising the impact of the additional spend, whereas option 8 would require all the surplus funds and potentially additional funds depending on what additional works may be unearthed in disturbing the seating and sea wall areas to lay the new surface material.

Given the financial risks of not being able to deliver further improvements to the West Bay Esplanade between William Street and Kidston Park (Option 7) within the available budget, it is proposed this Option is not taken forward

**7. IMPLICATIONS**

POLICY	The delivery of the CHORD programme fits with the Council's Corporate Plan, Single Outcome Agreement and approved Development Plan policy for town centre regeneration. The economic outcomes from these projects will contribute to the Government's Economic Strategy.
FINANCIAL	The level of surplus funds has been agreed with Finance.
LEGAL	There are currently no legal issues

HR	The options identified take account of current staff resources.
EQUALITIES	There are no equal opportunities implications.
RISK	Any future risk will be addressed as soon as a decision is made as to the utilisation of the remaining funds.
CUSTOMER SERVICES	There are no Customer Services implications.

**Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure Services: Pippa Milne**

**Policy Lead: Ellen Morton**

**27 September 2016**

**For further information - please contact Andrew Collins, Regeneration Project Manager, Development and Infrastructure Services, Economic Development and Strategic Transportation 01436 657633**

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**ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL****Helensburgh & Lomond Area  
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SERVICES****11 October 2016**

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**HELENSBURGH SHOPFRONT ENHANCEMENT INITIATIVE - UPDATE**

---

**1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1.0 The purpose of this report is to: update Members on progress with the Helensburgh Shopfront Enhancement Initiative following the successful completion of the Round 1 Grant Awards; to provide an update on progress with the Round 2 grant applications process; and to seek approval to progress applications subject to the applicants providing clarification on their planning status or in the supplying of additional quotes. Paper also provides an update on expenditure to date

1.1 It is recommended that Members:

- Note the contents of the paper;
- Delegate authority to the Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure Services to approve the current, 14 Round 2 applications, subject to the applicants satisfying the application documentation requirements and providing confirmation of their proposals planning status. Subsequently to extend Round 2 to make use of any remaining balance of s75 funds.

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ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL

Helensburgh & Lomond Area  
Committee

DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE  
SERVICES

11 OCTOBER 2016

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**HELENSBURGH SHOPFRONT ENHANCEMENT INITIATIVE - UPDATE**

---

**2. INTRODUCTION**

2.1 The purpose of this report is to: update Members on progress with the Helensburgh Shopfront Enhancement Initiative following the successful completion of the Round 1 Grant Awards; to provide an update on progress with the Round 2 grant applications process; and to seek approval to progress applications subject to the applicants providing clarification on their planning status or in the supplying of additional quotes. Paper also provides an update on expenditure to date

**3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.1 It is recommended that Members:

- Note the contents of the paper;
- Delegate authority to the Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure Services to approve the current, 14 Round 2 applications, subject to the applicants satisfying the application documentation requirements and providing confirmation of their proposals planning status. Subsequently to extend Round 2 to make use of any remaining balance of s75 funds.

**4. DETAIL**

4.1 On the 14 October 2014, the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee approved twenty Stage 2 (Round 1) Applications for funding from the Helensburgh Shopfront Enhancement Initiative funded from the Section 75 (S75) contributions of the Waitrose development.

4.2 Of these 21 Stage 2 (Round 1) Grant Awards, 17 have fully completed works to their shopfronts, and all have now submitted grant claims, which have been processed and paid. The remainder, Helensburgh Cycles, Catherine's Coffee Shop, The Clock Tower and Visit Helensburgh, decided not to progress with works and subsequently their grant awards were withdrawn.

4.3 As outlined in **Table 1** below there remains approximately £71k of uncommitted S75 funding for the Helensburgh Shopfront Enhancement Initiative at the end of Round 1

4.4 **Table 1:**

<b>Summary Table</b>	
Round 1 - Stage 2 Grant Applications (17)	<b>£63,881.14</b>
Design fees (Round 1)	£11,000.00
Design fees (Round 2)	£2,250.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£77,131.14</b>
Grant funds available	£140,000.00
<b>Balance remaining in the S75 fund</b>	<b>£62,868.86</b>

4.5 Given the positive impact that the shopfront enhancements are having on the townscape a decision paper was brought to the 9<sup>th</sup> February, Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee, where elected members agreed to reopen the Initiative to new applications (Round 2). This additional Round was for a limited period between 1 March and 30 June with the Stage 1 and Stage 2 processes combined.

4.6 Fourteen applications for round 2 grant awards were received by the deadline of the 30 June 2016. Out of these 14 applications some 8 have the potential to command the maximum level of grant of £5,000. Of the remainder, 5 have not provided three comparison quotes so they, in theory, fail at this stage. However we would recommend that officers continue to work with these applicants with a view to them providing all of the necessary documentation etc., subject to which Grant Awards can be approved. The first review of the Round 2 submissions suggests around **£48,607.00** of grant support could be offered if all (14) progress to the next level of assessment. This would still leave **£14,261.86** of the S75 Monies remaining See **Appendix 1 – Status of Round 2 Applications**

## 5. CONCLUSION

5.1 The delivery of the Round 1, Helensburgh Shopfront Enhancement Initiative has made a positive contribution to the vitality of Helensburgh Town Centre which continues to benefit from the newly enhanced public realm works that have delivered a much improved townscape. It is important to continue to encourage further investment by local businesses in the town centre and their respective premises through this initiative. This report therefore seeks the members' approval to progress Round 2 Grant Awards. Officers will provide a further update upon completion of the current Round 2 application assessment, including recommendations with respect to how any remaining S75 funds might be spent.

## 6. IMPLICATIONS

### 6.1 Policy

The delivery of this project fits with the Council's Corporate Plan, Single Outcome Agreement, Economic Development Action Plan and approved Local Development Plan key actions and policy for safe guarding our built heritage and town centre regeneration.

### 6.2 Financial

Grants funded through the S75 monies allocation to enhance shopfronts in the town centre

### 6.3 Legal

Any issues will be dealt with through the Conditions of Grant Contract

### 6.4 HR

The Helensburgh Regeneration Project Manager will have overall responsibility for managing the Shopfronts Enhancement Initiative supported by external consultants as required

### 6.5 Equalities

None

### 6.6 Risk

Financial – the S75 grant is not fully utilised; Quality – the work undertaken is not of acceptable standard. The Conditions of Grant will mitigate against risk, the financial risk is negligible given the time frame for allocating funds

### 6.7 Customer Service

**Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure: Pippa Milne**

**Policy Lead: Ellen Morton**

27 September 2016

**For further information contact:** Andrew Collins, Regeneration Project Manager,  
Phone number: 01436 657633

## APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Status of Round 2 Applications

Appendix 2 – Plan showing completed Round 1 and applications for Round 2

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