INVERCLYDE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN
2014

SUPPLEMENTARY GUIDANCE on THE GREEN NETWORK

CONTENTS

GREEN NETWORK

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Background

This document sets out the Inverclyde Council requirements for the appraisal and delivery of green infrastructure and green networks through development management processes. It explains the role of each and seeks to demonstrate how better places can be delivered through the provision of well designed, multi-functional and inter-connected networks of open spaces.

Section 2 describes what a Green Network is along with its key functions while section 3 provides information on the existing Green Network assets, the key opportunities for enhancements, and how Inverclyde Council will determine the need for on and off-site contributions to the Green Network. Section 4 of the document sets out the approach to consider green networks as part of the site appraisal and design process. This will be used by Inverclyde Council to help frame pre-application discussions with developers about their proposals, while also ultimately providing a framework by which Council staff will assess the quality of the green network component of planning applications.

This document provides guidance to supplement **Policy ENV3** - 'Safeguarding and Enhancing the Green Network' in the Inverclyde Local Development Plan (LDP) 2014.

It is the aim of the Green Network policy to safeguard existing spaces whilst also identifying and creating links between spaces, as appropriate opportunities arise through development. Green or open spaces need to be embedded in developments from the outset to ensure that proper attention is paid to their contribution to the overall area.

The Council's recognition of the benefits of quality open space (including water courses and other bodies of water) in the ongoing regeneration process in Inverclyde will be taken forward through this Supplementary Guidance on the Green Network.

The Guidance is aimed at:

- Developers and professionals considering new projects;

- Communities/interest groups considering the impact of a proposed development; and

- Local authority Officers and Councillors considering planning applications

Status of the Guidance

As well as supplementing the LDP, this guidance has been prepared to meet the requirements of Scottish Planning Policy 2014 –

> *'Planning should protect, enhance and promote green infrastructure, including open space and green networks, as an integral component of successful placemaking.'*

It will be adopted as statutory Supplementary Guidance under the Planning etc (Scotland) Act 2006 when the Inverclyde Local Development Plan is adopted and will be a material consideration for the Council in the assessment of all planning applications.

It is intended that this guidance will be used in tandem with other Council documents such as the Council Open Space Strategy, the Core Paths Plan and Riverside Inverclyde Urban Development Framework (2007), as well as Scottish Government's Designing Places and Designing Streets policy documents. The Scottish Government has also published Green Infrastructure Design and Placemaking, which also provides good practice examples of how to integrate green infrastructure within placemaking.

Three recent publications dealing with Inverclyde, the ERZ and Ironside Farrar studies on Area Renewal and the Green Network and the Integrated Green Infrastructure (IGI) Design Study for Spango Valley have investigated how to take Green Network opportunities forward in the area.

2.0   GREEN NETWORK

What is a Green Network?

Green Networks – Connected areas of green infrastructure and open space that together form an integrated and multi-functional network. It comprises natural, semi natural and man-made green spaces which are linked together to form corridors both within and outwith settlements and to connect the urban area with the surrounding countryside. These spaces and corridors combine to enhance the areas' biodiversity, increase opportunities for physical activity and provide a good working environment for business investment.

Green Infrastructure – Includes the 'green' and 'blue' (water environment) features of the natural and built environments that can provide benefits without being connected. Green features include parks, woodlands, trees, play spaces, allotments, community growing spaces, playing fields, hedges, verges and gardens. Blue features include rivers, lochs, wetlands, canals, other water courses, ponds, swales, coastal and marine areas including beaches, porous paving and sustainable urban drainage systems.

Open Space – Space consisting of any vegetated land or structure, water, path or geological feature within and on the edge of settlements, and civic space consisting of squares, market places and other paved or hard landscaped areas with a civic function. Some spaces may combine green and civic elements.
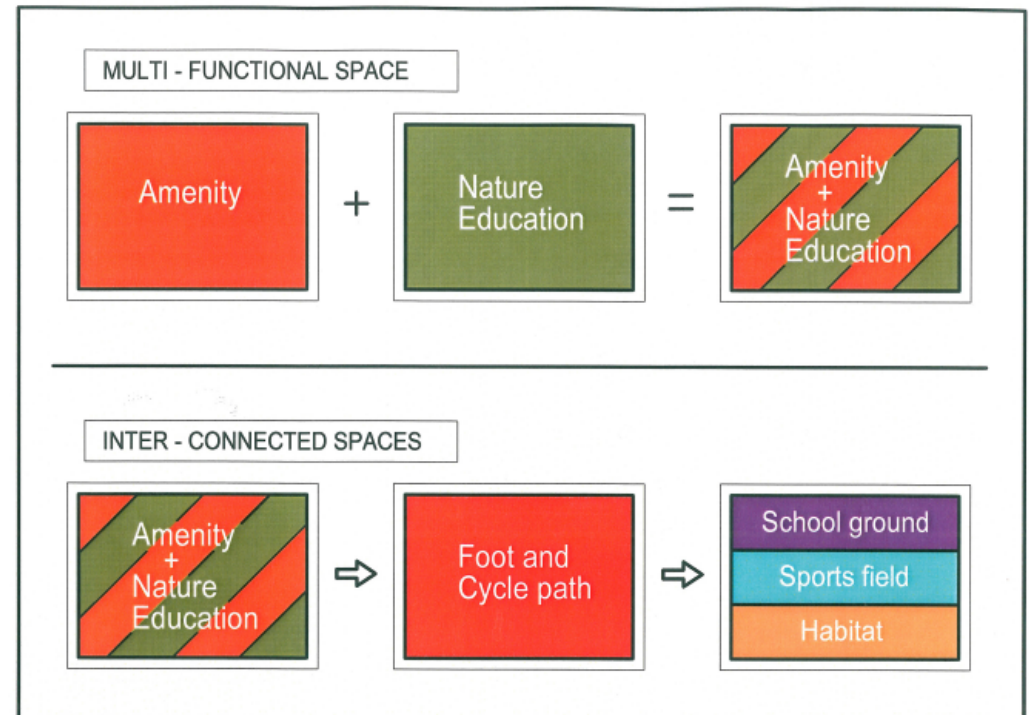
Planning Principles to Deliver the Green Network

Central to Green Networks are the core principles of **multi-functionality** and **inter-connectedness.**

- **Multi-functionality** is where spaces have the ability to perform several functions and provide several benefits on the same area through the integration of different activities and land uses to maximise efficiency; eg open spaces used as amenity spaces which can also be used for education about the natural environment.

- **Inter-connectedness**, particularly physical inter-connectedness, can enhance public engagement with the natural environment and improve opportunities for biodiversity migration.

Diagram 1 below shows how individual sites can be used for multiple functions and then in turn how multi-functional sites can be linked with other surrounding single use or multi-functional spaces.

DIAGRAM 1 - MULTI-FUNCTIONAL and INTER-CONNECTED SPACES

GREEN NETWORK

There are a number of types of spaces and ways in which they can be linked:

Cores / Hubs

Birkmyre Park, Kilmacolm

Large areas of existing or new green space which already deliver a wide range of Green Network benefits such as parks and school grounds. The aim is to protect and expand these areas to create new cores /hubs and to develop corridors to link them together.

Corridors/ Links

Greenock Cut

Continuous corridors of green space along roads, rivers, disused and existing railways, paths and cycleways which connect cores/hubs. A key aim is to increase the number, continuity, visual interaction and functionality of these corridors.

Stepping Stones

Glen Street, Greenock

Isolated areas of habitat, between which many plant and animal species can move over short distances. These intermittent spaces such as street trees, roadside verges and private gardens can functionally connect habitats and facilitate movement without the provision of continuous links.

Isolated Green Spaces

Allotments, Greenock

There are always likely to be some isolated green spaces which are difficult to connect. Although of more limited function than interconnected networks of green spaces, they can still provide substantial benefits to local communities.

Why are Green Networks Important?

Safeguarding and enhancing the Green Network will also contribute towards meeting the strategic local outcomes of the Inverclyde Alliance. The Inverclyde Alliance is the Community Planning Partnership for Inverclyde, involving community organisations as well as the voluntary, business and public sectors. It aims to deliver better outcomes for the community by tackling the big issues in Inverclyde through the promotion of partnership working.

In 2012, the Inverclyde Alliance Board approved the revised Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) for 2012 – 2017. The SOA identifies 8 strategic local outcomes and sets out the context in which they have been developed, identifying the priorities and issues that affect the lives of the people of Inverclyde. Of particular relevance to the Green Network are Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) 4 aimed at improving the health of people in Inverclyde and SOA 7 making Inverclyde a place where people want to live now and safeguarding the environment for future generations.

The Green Network is also a means of contributing to the outcomes of the Active Living Strategy for Inverclyde which was approved in March 2013 and seeks to encourage the population of Inverclyde to be more active more often throughout their daily lives.

Key Functions of the Green Network

The Green Network provides a range of beneficial outcomes:

Climate Change

- Reduction of carbon emissions through provision of non-vehicular travel routes for walking and cycling

- Effective and efficient means of dealing with surface water and flooding through living roofs, large trees and soft landscaping to absorb rainfall

- Reduction in urban heat in the summer and greater shelter in the winter from increased tree canopy cover

- Energy savings through natural rather than engineered solutions

- Reduction in use of fossil fuels through the use of locally sourced supplies of timber, biomass and other bio-fuels

GREEN NETWORK

Clyde Square, Greenock

Placemaking

- Reinforcement of the local landscape character

- Creating a strong local identity and character

- Making places that are beautiful, interesting and distinctive

Pottery Street, Greenock

Economic

- Attractive settings provide spaces in which existing businesses will remain and new ones will invest

- Vibrant places encourage staff recruitment and retention and reduce sickness absence

- Developers can maximise site potential by combining uses such as open space and SUDS

- Proximity to green space boosts property values

Greenock v Weirs

Courtesy of InverclydeNow.com

Health

- Quality green spaces for walking, cycling and play encourage exercise and active travel

- Attractive locations allow for enjoyment of recreation and relax

- Access to green spaces and breathing spaces provide benefits for mental well-being

- Opportunities for growing food locally contribute to healthy eating

Community Event - Battery Park

Courtesy of InverclydeNow.com

Community and Social

- Local communities can take ownership of spaces to create safe, attractive places and develop community spirit

- Attractive locations for socialising, interaction, events and children's play

- Improved physical connections to places, friends, communities, services, families and wider green spaces

- Opportunities for community participation and volunteering

- Opportunities to temporarily use Vacant and Derelict and underused land which can impact negatively on communities

Cartsburn, Greenock

Environment

- Linking existing habitats or natural features allows species movement

- Appropriate management of waterside habitats protects aquatic species

- Creation of diverse habitats which are rich in flora and fauna

- Reduction of pollution and floods through natural drainage

The Green Network Hierarchy

NATIONAL

The Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN) is identified as one of 14 National Developments in the National Planning Framework 3 (NPF3) to make central Scotland a more attractive place to live. The CSGN initiative is expected to progress until 2050 with public sector grant mechanisms being used to influence private sector landowners to create and enhance connections between green and blue spaces (bodies of water/ water courses) in urban areas and improve accessibility to the countryside. Its delivery must be considered and planned for at regional and local authority level when producing policy and making development management decisions.

STRATEGIC

Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership is the lead organisation for delivery of the Central Scotland Green Network in the Glasgow City Region which includes Inverclyde.

Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Strategic Development Plan (GCVSDP) requires the eight GCV local authorities to reflect in their respective Local Development Plans how they will deliver the Green Network through planning policy and development management decision making. The inclusion in the GCVSDP emphasises the key role a high quality, multi-functional Green Network must play in the future success of the city-region.

The Green Network Spatial Priorities identified in the GCVSDP for Inverclyde are **Upper Greenock, East Greenock** and **Port Glasgow**

LOCAL

Inverclyde Green Network Study sets out an ambitious vision for the development of a Green Network in Inverclyde which aims to help ensure the Green Network is a key consideration in all development and policy making processes.
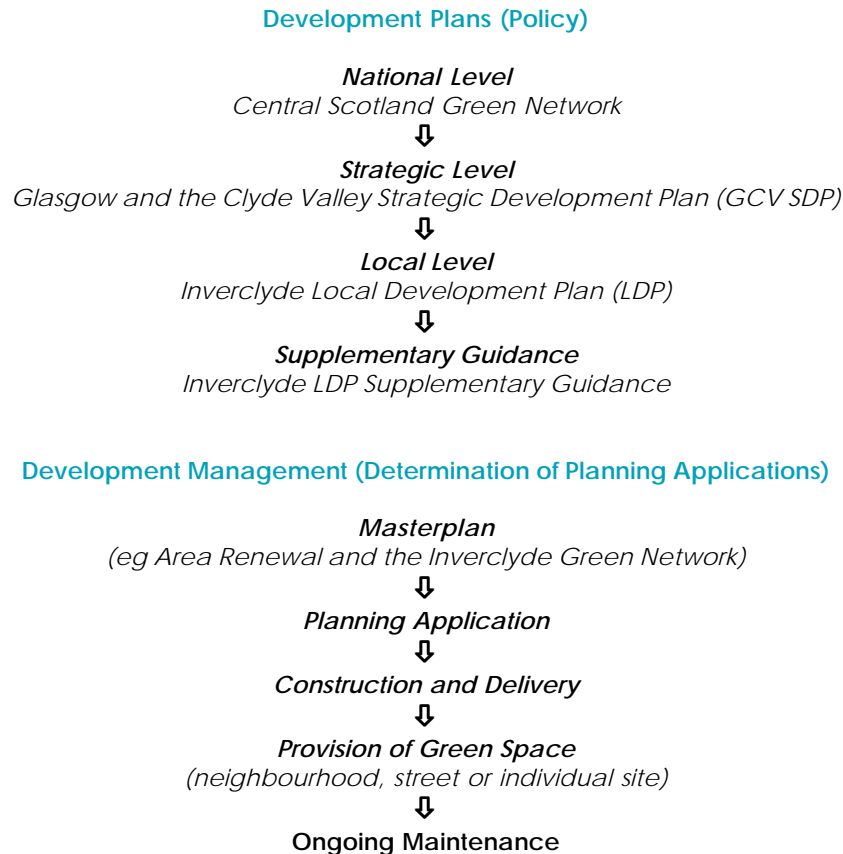
The Inverclyde Green Network Opportunities Mapping for Inverclyde, carried out by the GCV Green Network Partnership in 2012/13, identifies hot spots for Green Network activity, the main ones of which include:

Smithston / Gateside, Greenock
Broomhill / Drumfrochar, Greenock
Bridgend / Gibshill, Greenock
Fyfe Shore / Kelburn, Port Glasgow
Park Farm / Oronsay, Port Glasgow

ERZ and Ironside Farrar's 'Area Renewal and the Inverclyde Green Network' studies identify an opportunity to create green links from the waterfront to the regional park at **Greenock Central**, **Cartsburn**, and **Port Glasgow,** building on and integrating with major regeneration and area renewal projects underway and planned as detailed in **Policy MAC 1-7**.

GREEN NETWORK

The diagram below shows the stages gone through, from a green network project being identified at strategic policy level until it appears on the ground as a completed project and where this Supplementary Guidance document fits into the process.

DIAGRAM 2: GREEN NETWORK POLICY AND IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

Development Plans (Policy)

National Level
Central Scotland Green Network
⇩

Strategic Level
Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Strategic Development Plan (GCV SDP)
⇩

Local Level
Inverclyde Local Development Plan (LDP)
⇩

Supplementary Guidance
Inverclyde LDP Supplementary Guidance

Development Management (Determination of Planning Applications)

Masterplan
(eg Area Renewal and the Inverclyde Green Network)
⇩

Planning Application
⇩

Construction and Delivery
⇩

Provision of Green Space
(neighbourhood, street or individual site)
⇩

Ongoing Maintenance

3.0   **THE INVERCLYDE GREEN NETWORK**

The Inverclyde Green Network Study (2008) provides a focus for the development of a Green Network in Inverclyde that meets the aspirations set out at national level. Its aims are to:

- Prepare a strategy for the development of a high quality Green Network across Inverclyde;

- Maximise social, economic and environmental benefits and secure the Inverclyde element for the GCV Green Network for the long term; and

- Identify ways in which the active use of the Green Network can be encouraged and more sustainable approaches to long term management introduced

Vision for an Inverclyde Green Network

'By 2025 the combination of its outstanding environment, high quality development and unrivalled location means that Inverclyde is widely recognised as an attractive place to live, work and spend leisure time.

This is reflected in high levels of investment, a vibrant local economy and a growing population. Communities are actively involved in managing their environment; local people and visitors have a wide range of opportunities to experience and enjoy the area's natural and cultural heritage.

The Green Network has been at the core of the area's transformation, contributing to the regeneration of the Waterfront and the remodelling of residential areas, and forming key links within and between communities and with Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park. Development of the Green Network has delivered and continues to deliver a broad range of economic, community, health and environmental outcomes.'

Inverclyde Green Network Study, 2008

Policy

The development of the Inverclyde Green Network aims to meet these aspirations through a variety of policies at strategic and local level.

Strategy Support Measure 8 in the GCVSDP states that the development of a multi-functional Green Network will contribute to the economic competitiveness and quality of life of the city region and that delivery of the Green Network should be a priority for Local Development Plans so as to ensure that key environmental, social and regeneration objectives are achieved.

The integration of the Green Network into the fabric of new development, and retrospectively into the existing urban environment, reflecting local distinctiveness and the needs and aspirations of local people, will be a key contributor to the delivery of the placemaking agenda. The quality of both the built and natural environment, impacts upon the quality of life of all citizens, a fact which needs to be embedded within the principles applied throughout the LDP. This is done through the Sustainable Development Strategy Core Policies SDS3 Placemaking and SDS4 Green Network and through Policy ENV3 which outlines how the Green Network links in Inverclyde will be safeguarded and enhanced to ensure elements of the right quality are created in the right places to achieve the widest possible benefits.

Policy SDS3 Placemaking

High quality placemaking in all new development will be promoted by having regard to Inverclyde's historic urban fabric, built cultural heritage and natural environment, including its setting on the coast and upland moors. This heritage and environment will inform the protection and enhancement of Inverclyde by having regard to the Scottish Government's placemaking policies, in particular through the application of 'Designing Places' and 'Designing Streets' and through embedding Green Network principles in all new development.

Policy SDS4 Green Network

The sustainable development strategy will be assisted and placemaking strengthened by safeguarding and where possible enhancing the existing green network of routes, as well as access to this network. Accordingly, new developments, in particular large scale renewal and regeneration projects, should embed 'greening' principles to contribute to the strategic and local green network wherever appropriate opportunities arise.

Policy ENV3 – Safeguarding and Enhancing the Green Network

Inverclyde Council will support, safeguard and where practicable, enhance Green Network links in accordance with Supplementary Guidance on the Green Network.

The provision of the Green Network should be a core component of any master plan or Local Development Framework. Where development proposals would encroach upon or undermine the green network, alternative routes and green space will be expected to be provided or enabled. The Council will also seek to complete the following Green Network links as shown on the Proposals Map:

(a)   Custom House Quay, Greenock – Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park

(b)   Victoria Harbour, Greenock – Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park

(c)   Coronation Park, Port Glasgow – Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park

(d)   Spango Valley – Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park.

GREEN NETWORK

Assets

There are many assets in Inverclyde which form the foundation upon which the Green Network can be enhanced:

DIAGRAM 3: GREEN NETWORK ASSETS

The River Clyde Waterfront – is a key strategic resource for the area which at present is underutilised in many locations. The waterfront settlements of Port Glasgow and Greenock in particular have been disconnected from the Clyde because of the industrial landscape which developed along the waterfront in the past.

Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park – is another significant Green Network asset in Inverclyde. It connects the settlements of Port Glasgow, Greenock, Gourock, Wemyss Bay and Inverkip and has several key resources such as countryside trails, cycle routes and wildlife habitats that are important elements of the Green Network.

The Greenock Cut – is part of an aqueduct system that is located on the hills to the south of Greenock. It was recently restored and upgraded to provide part of an access network that connects Overton and Cornalees Visitor Centre.

Lunderston Bay – lies to the north of Inverkip and is a popular resource with over 350,000 people visiting the area annually. A significant proportion of these drive to the site but there are proposals to extend the National Cycle Route along the coast to provide a link towards Gourock and beyond to the Inverclyde boundary.

NCR75 and NCR753 – provide a connection overland from Renfrewshire into Inverclyde connecting Quarriers and Kilmacolm to the waterfront settlements.

Lyle Hill – provides a panoramic view across the Clyde estuary overlooking Gourock, the Tail of the Bank, where the river becomes the Firth of Clyde, and beyond to the Cowal Peninsula, the Holy Loch and the southern Highlands.

Public Parks – there are a number of attractive parks within the settlements of Inverclyde including Coronation Park, Battery Park, Gourock Park, Birkmyre Park and Well Park which provide a range of facilities.

Harbours / Marinas - There are a number of harbours / marinas along the waterfront within easy access of the town / village centres.

In addition to the many formal or maintained assets in Inverclyde and the stunning views afforded by the topography of the area, there are many semi natural and informal open space areas which contribute to the quality of the environment.

Proposed Green Network Projects in Inverclyde

Work carried out for Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership in 2011 identified strategic 'hotspots' that are priority areas where green space should be increased. These areas were recognised through an examination of:

- Where the Green Network resource currently exists and where there are opportunities to improve the resource

- Where there are priority areas to expand the Green Network to increase public access to green space and enlarge biodiversity habitat networks

- Where there are major areas of land use change and social need

Three strategic 'hotspots' have been identified in Inverclyde that are priority areas where green space should be increased. These areas of Upper Greenock, Greenock East and Port Glasgow, identified in the approved GCVSDP, are shown in **Diagram 4** – 'Green Network Strategic Priorities'.

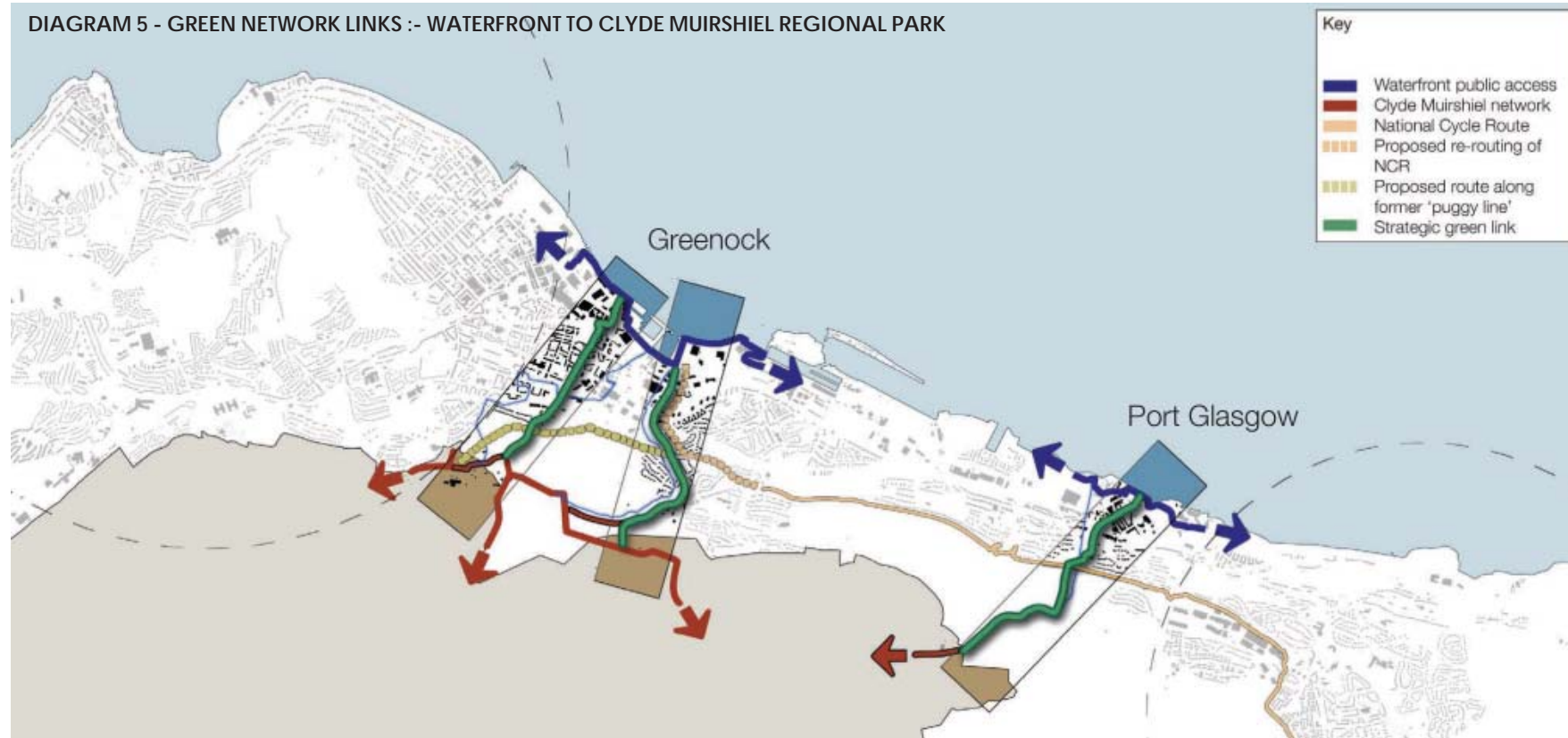**DIAGRAM 4 – GREEN NETWORK STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

GREEN NETWORK

Within **Policy ENV3**, three local Green Network routes have been identified within the main urban area of Inverclyde at **Central Greenock**, **Cartsburn** and **Port Glasgow** to link the strategic coastal access routes at the Waterfront with Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park. These links, also shown in Diagram 4, lie within the strategic priority areas of Central East Greenock and near to areas of change in Port Glasgow. Two of the routes already connect to the Park boundary while a third, at Port Glasgow, is indicative and will be defined in more detail following further investigation. This third route is therefore not identified on the LDP Proposals Map.
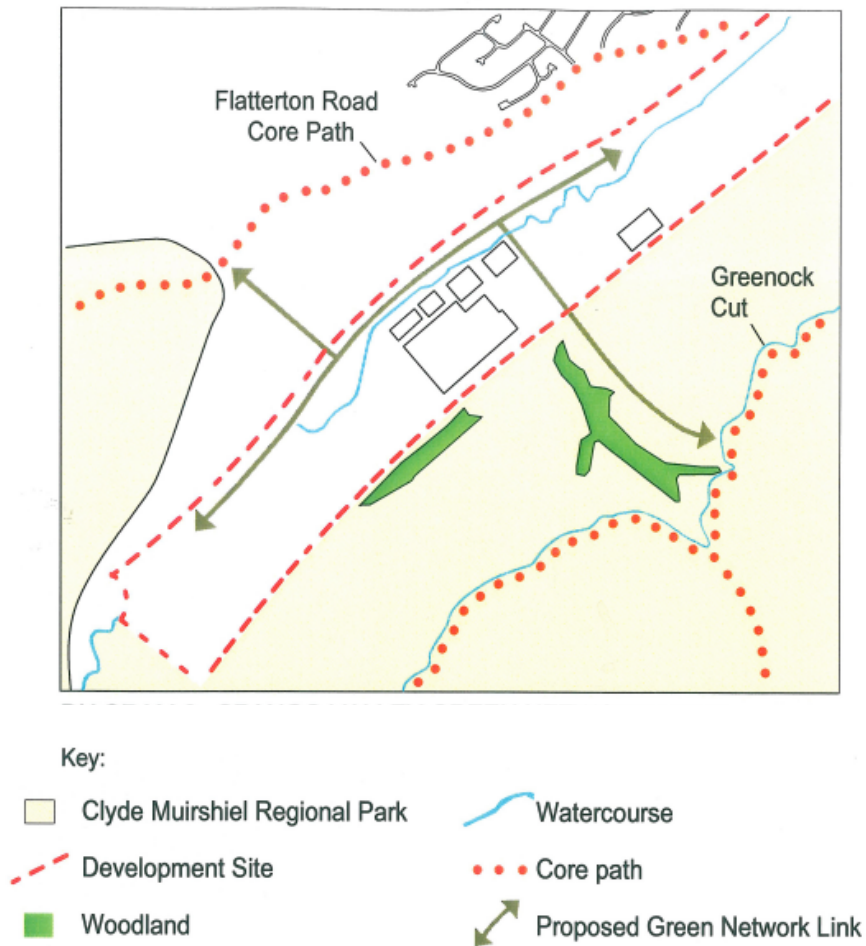
At present these local routes contain a series of physically disconnected and socially isolated neighbourhoods where there is an absence of public open space and a lack of a coherent Green Network.

The three links provide an opportunity through regeneration to resolve or mitigate many of the underlying problems in these areas. The establishment of an effective Green Network through the urban area will help redefine existing neighbourhoods. In addition, the Green Network will play a role in redefining the character of the urban area and physically and perceptually tying it to its wider landscape setting. This process will be taken forward by the Council as resources and development opportunities arise. Diagram 5– 'Green Network Links' shows in more detail how the proposed Green Network links would create green public routes through the urban area to Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park (for further details refer to LDP Background Paper 'Area Renewal and the Inverclyde Green Network' by ERZ).

DIAGRAM 5 - GREEN NETWORK LINKS :- WATERFRONT TO CLYDE MUIRSHIEL REGIONAL PARK

Key
- Waterfront public access
- Clyde Muirshiel network
- National Cycle Route
- Proposed re-routing of NCR
- Proposed route along former 'puggy line'
- Strategic green link

A fourth opportunity for a proposed Green Network route (shown on Diagram 6) at the former IBM site at Spango Valley to the south west of Greenock was identified in the IGI study (2012). This opportunity is linked with the future redevelopment of the area (see **MAC7: Spango Valley, south west Greenock**), and focuses on water management and access networks. These proposals are identified in the Action Programme accompanying the Local Development Plan.

DIAGRAM 6 – SPANGO VALLEY GREEN NETWORK LINKS

Flatterton Road
Core Path

Greenock
Cut

Key:

- Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park
- Development Site
- Woodland
- Watercourse
- Core path
- Proposed Green Network Link

The Inverclyde Coastal Route also contributes to the Green Network links and works will be undertaken to complete three main elements of the route.

The section between the **former Inverkip Power Station** and **Ardgowan / Bruaeacre Road, Wemyss Bay** will be delivered through both public and private funding with the section within the Power Station site (see **MAC4** in the **Local Development Framework Supplementary Guidance**) being completed by the developers. Sustainable access will be a condition of the planning permission for the site and in particular the provision of good coastal links.

At **Kempock Point, Gourock** the route will be incorporated into the town centre redevelopment which will consist of the road realignment, public open space provision, boating facilities and pedestrian links.

In Greenock, the route through the **James Watt Dock - Garvel Island** site (see **MAC2** in the **Local Development Framework Supplementary Guidance**) will be implemented through the private funding of developers and will complement the predominantly housing-led mixed use development that is proposed for the site.

4.0   DELIVERY OF THE GREEN NETWORK

The planning system is one of the most important means of delivering the Green Network and ensuring that development respects and enhances it. Key roles for the planning system in delivering the Green Network vision are that:

- Planning should promote the development of multi-functional Green Networks – providing multiple functions on individual sites through the integration of different activities and land uses to maximise efficiency;

- Planning should promote the Green Network as a key contributor to placemaking and the enhancement of local distinctiveness;

- Planning should promote the inter-connectedness of individual sites to reduce social isolation and territorialism and create links

- The Green Network should be integrated in the design process for appropriate new developments;

- Planning for the Green Network is based on an understanding of place and its needs;

GREEN NETWORK

- The quality and function of green space and how it will be sustained should be considered from the outset; and

- Proposals which would result in the loss or fragmentation of existing Green Network components will only be supported if they contain mitigation measures to replace or enhance the existing provision

Guidance for Developers

Development of more than 10 houses shall require to contribute to the protection or enhancement of the Green Network. Other types of development will also require to address the Green Network depending upon their scale, location and nature. This will be at the discretion of the Development Management team.

This scale of development presents an opportunity to deliver the Green Network. The greatest benefits are likely to be achieved if Green Network elements are considered as an integral part of the development design process rather than added on later as an afterthought once other elements of the scheme are fixed. It is a role of the planning system, where appropriate, to embed the Green Network into new development and take account of the impact a new development may have on existing Green Networks.

Where Design Statements are submitted as part of a planning application, the opportunities to deliver the Green Network should be included with an appraisal of the site and surroundings to identify the key characteristics of the site. In this document, the developer should demonstrate that their proposals:

- Take account of the wider Green Network

- Protect existing Green Network features

- Deliver Green Network enhancements

Design Principles

To create a successful place requires careful design of the green infrastructure. Individual elements of green infrastructure can provide benefits in their own right but links between these spaces and adjacent sites can produce increased benefits. When looking at a site, three green infrastructure elements should be considered – **context, identity** and **connection:**

Context

- Location and surroundings which can be used to create places with character and maturity of an appropriate size, type and quality within the site to contribute and connect to the wider Green Network

- Wider Green Networks to which the development can be connected, or where developer contributions could be directed if provision within the development is not practicable, appropriate or desirable

- Topography and how it can be used to incorporate infrastructure such as drainage

- Natural features which should be safeguarded and incorporated into the development

- Views into and from the site

- Hydrology and drainage (existing watercourses, groundwater, sewer network and soil types)

- Microclimate (sun, wind, orientation, exposure, shelter)

Identity

- Landscape character

- Green and blue corridors

- Greenspaces

- Flora and fauna

- Wildlife habitats (woodlands, grasslands and wetlands)

Connection

- Safe pedestrian movement from desire lines, green corridors, core paths, cycle routes, rights of way linking within and outwith the site and to public transport hubs

- Habitat networks, linkages allowing for the linking and movement of wildlife

- Vehicular movement, existing roads/transport connections, crossings

- Watercourse links for wildlife

Besides these three elements, there are 6 qualities which are required to ensure the creation of a place of high quality. It must be:

- Welcoming - focus on the entrances

- Distinctive – reinforcement of local identity

- Safe and pleasant – creation of safe locations to socalise

- Easy to move and get around – clear connections of networks

- Resource efficient – creating design solutions out of resources eg SUDS

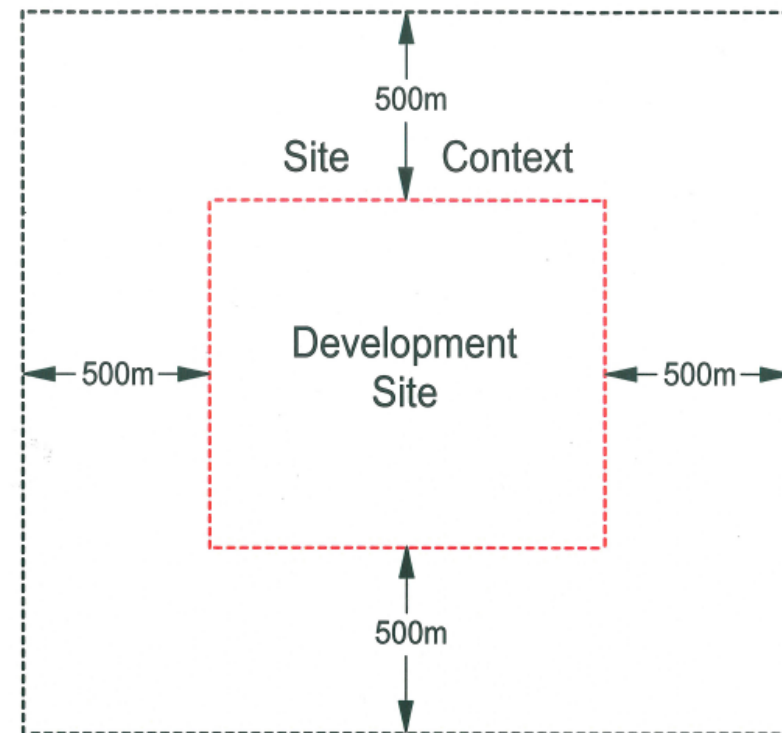- Adaptable – addressing opportunities for a diverse range of functions

With development proposals, comprehensive mitigation measures must be set out where development proposals would adversely affect the Green Network and clear and robust long-term maintenance arrangements put in place.

Site Appraisal

The following diagrams provide an example of how the above principles would be applied to a proposed development site.

Diagram 7 – shows how the proposed development site sits within the wider context which extends to an area 500m from the boundary of the site in all directions where connections from features in the development site to the wider network could be assessed.

DIAGRAM 7 - SITE CONTEXT AND DEVELOPMENT SITE

GREEN NETWORK

Diagram 8 below shows the context area outside the proposed development site (up to 500m from the boundary). This shows the location of:

- existing open space;

- international, national, and local natural heritage designations;

- core paths and cycle routes;

- key streets with trees, hedges/vegetation

- water courses;

- habitats; and

- views into the site

that are in proximity to the site and could link to both the existing green spaces within the site and those planned.
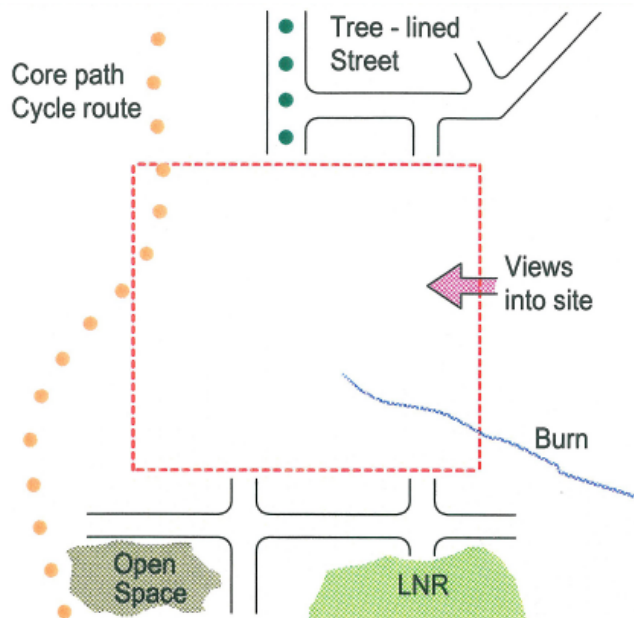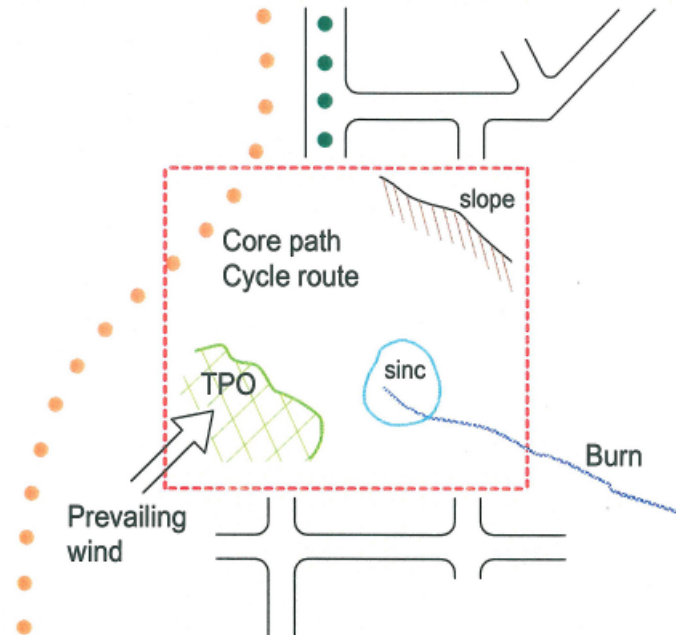
DIAGRAM 8 – SITE CONTEXT APPRAISAL

Diagram 9 below shows the area within the development site and the location of features which could link both within the site and beyond to the wider Green Network. This shows:

- topography

- views in and out

- habitats

- woodland/mature trees/TPOs

- water course

- core paths,/cycleways/active travel routes

- prevailing wind direction

DIAGRAM 9 – DEVELOPMENT SITE APPRAISAL

The site appraisal required will be proportionate to the scale of the proposed development. Developers should demonstrate in their planning application submission how their proposals have responded to the findings of the site and context appraisal.

Recording the various types of green space and links within the development site and the adjacent area ensures the most appropriate options to provide and enhance Green Network links are identified. This method can be applied to all development sites within the Local Development Plan where the sites are of an appropriate size to require assessment of the Green Network.

Summary

The safeguarding and enhancement of the Green Network in Inverclyde, as part of the wider strategic and national Green Network, will be promoted through the Local Development Plan. A number of projects are identified in the Plan such as the Waterfront to Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park links shown in the ERZ study and taken further through the Ironside Farrar study. These projects which will bring a variety of benefits to both residents and visitors to Inverclyde, will progress as opportunities and funding become available. In addition, applicants wishing to develop sites within Inverclyde that are of an appropriate size, will be required to assess the green space assets both within and outwith the site, identifying measures to create new green space and links as well as protect those already in existence.

GREEN NETWORK

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Inverclyde Council Open Space Survey Methodology 2010

Inverclyde Council Active Living Strategy 2013

Routes to Regeneration - The Inverclyde Access Strategy 2002

List of Diagrams

Diagram 1: Multi-functional and Inter-connected spaces

Diagram 2: Green Network Policy and Implementation Process

Diagram 3: Green Network Assets

Diagram 4: Green Network Strategic Priorities

Diagram 5: Green Network Links: Waterfront – Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park

Diagram 6: Spango Valley Green Network Links

Diagram 7: Site Context and Development Site

Diagram 8: Site Context Appraisal

Diagram 9: Development Site Appraisal