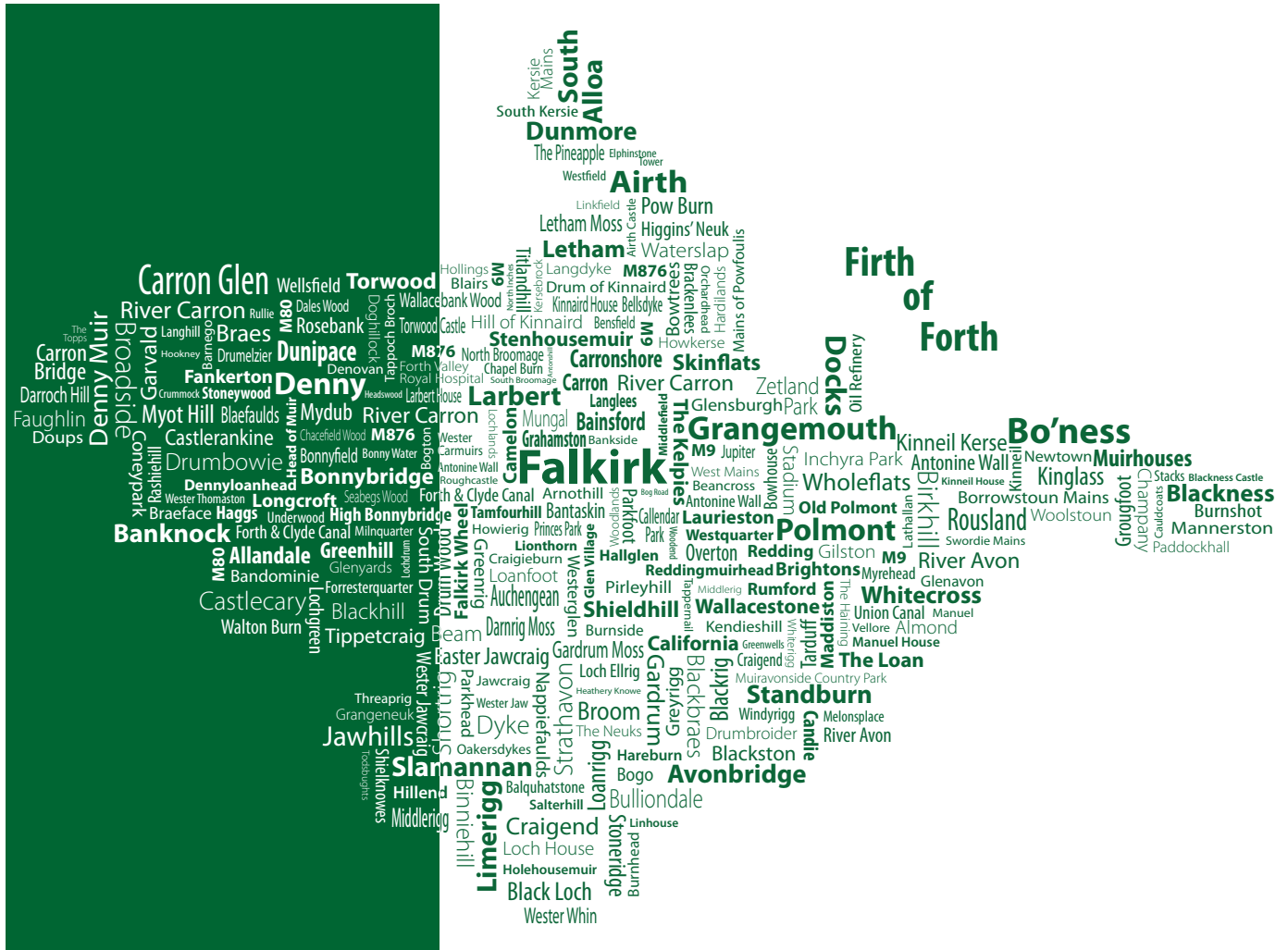


# Local Development Plan<sup>2</sup>

# Technical Report 8 (Revised): **Green Network**

June 2018



# Falkirk Council

# **Falkirk Local Development Plan 2**

## **Technical Report 8: Green Network**

### **1. Introduction**

1.1 The purpose of this technical paper is to inform choices about open space and green network policy in the emerging Falkirk Local Development Plan (LDP2). This paper will:

- Review the legislative context for green networks;
- Evaluate the case for re-defining green network functions as a measure of green network component performance and review the performance of each green network component;
- Review the priorities established for each green network component and whether opportunities to deliver those priorities have been identified;
- Review the suite of Green Network Opportunities within each component and decide which of them should be carried forward into LDP2; and
- Identify any new Green Network Opportunities which have emerged

### **2. Policy context**

#### Scottish Planning Policy

2.1 SPP has been completely rewritten and now refers to the green network within the “Maximising the benefits of green infrastructure” section (p50) it states that the planning system should:

- consider green infrastructure as an integral element of places from the outset of the planning process;
- assess current and future needs and opportunities for green infrastructure to provide multiple benefits;
- facilitate the provision and long-term, integrated management of green infrastructure and prevent fragmentation; and
- provide for easy and safe access to and within green infrastructure, including core paths and other important routes, within the context of statutory access rights under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003.

2.2 It further states that Development Plans should be based on a holistic, integrated and cross-sectoral approach to green infrastructure. They should be informed by relevant, up-to-date audits, strategies and action plans covering green infrastructure’s multiple functions, for example open space, playing fields, pitches, outdoor access, core paths, active travel strategies, the historic environment, biodiversity, forestry and woodland, river basins, flood management, coastal zones and the marine environment.

2.3 In particular SPP indicates that the LDP should:

- identify and protect open space identified in the open space audit and strategy as valued and functional or capable of being brought into use to meet local needs;
- seek to enhance existing and promote the creation of new green infrastructure, which may include retrofitting;
- identify sites for new indoor or outdoor sports, recreation or play facilities where a need has been identified in a local facility strategy, playing field strategy or similar document;
- safeguard existing and potential allotment sites to ensure that local authorities meet their statutory duty to provide allotments where there is proven demand;
- encourage opportunities for a range of community growing spaces;
- safeguard access rights and core paths, and encourage new and enhanced opportunities for access linked to wider networks;
- encourage the temporary use of unused or underused land as green infrastructure while making clear that this will not prevent any future development potential which has been identified from being realised.

2.4 The SG's green infrastructure, design and placemaking guidance has an exhaustive list of green infrastructure components which can be split into the following broad categories:

- Parks and open space (including gardens and woodlands);
- Access networks;
- SUDS; and
- Waterbodies

### National Planning Framework 3

2.5 The Central Scotland Green Network has been carried forward as a National Development into NPF3 but with specific priority given to:

- remediation of derelict land;
- prioritised action in disadvantaged communities; and
- active travel (walking and cycling).

### Central Scotland Green Network

2.6 The Central Scotland Forest Strategy has been subsumed into the Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN). The CSGN has five themes:

- A Place for Growth
- A Place in Balance
- A Place to Feel Good
- A Place to Belong; and
- A Place for Nature

2.7 It also has various “themes for action over the next few years.”:

- Vacant and derelict land
- Disadvantaged Areas
- Active Travel
- Employment and Training
- Urban Greening
- Green Network and Businesses
- Greenspace for Living, Health and Wellbeing;
- Woodland Creation
- Carbon Sequestration
- Landscape
- Community Growing
- Habitat Connectivity
- Water Environment; and
- Outdoor Learning and Play

### Falkirk Greenspace

2.8 Falkirk Greenspace – A Strategy for our Green Network has replaced the Falkirk Greenspace Initiative and the Falkirk Outdoor Access Strategy. It has the following priority actions.

- Making Falkirk “the place to be”
- Tackling Vacant and Derelict Land
- Creating and Accessible Green Network
- Creating Space to Grow
- Making Space for Outdoor Learning
- Planting, Protecting and Managing Woodland
- Protecting and Enhancing the Water Environment
- Protecting and Enhancing the Variety of Life; and
- Protecting and Enhancing our Landscapes

### Falkirk Indicative Forestry Strategy

2.9 The Falkirk Urban Woodland Strategy and the Falkirk Indicative Forestry Strategy have been replaced by the Falkirk Forestry and Woodland Strategy. The Strategy has five aims:

- Expanding Falkirk’s Woodland Resource and Improving its Management
- Improving Woodlands’ Contribution to Climate Resilience and Reducing our Impacts
- Enhancing the Quality of Falkirk’s Environment
- Optimising Falkirk’s Forest and Woodland Economy; and
- Empowering Communities and Enhancing Quality of Life

2.10 The Falkirk Forestry and Woodland Strategy aims to support the delivery of 850ha of new woodland between 2015 and 2055. This equates to a rate of 21.25ha/ year. The current rate of woodland planting sits at a five year average of 4.64ha/year.

#### Falkirk Open Space Strategy

2.11 The reviewed Falkirk Open Space Strategy was adopted in October 2016. It has four themes:

- Modernising our parks and open spaces;
- Addressing inequality and fostering community through open space investment;
- Working and investing more efficiently; and
- Generating capital and revenue for investment in parks and open spaces.

### **3. Review the performance of each function within each open space component**

3.1 The priorities for each open space component were previously formulated by assessing the component's performance against 5 distinct green network functions:

- Habitat
- Access
- Landscape
- Climate Change; and
- Urban Open Space

3.2 Given the changed policy context above, is there a need to change the way that we assess how each open space component is performing? Should the assessment instead be against how the green network component is helping to meet the aims and objectives of the various green network related strategies?

3.3 Table 1 below is a matrix of the themes for action identified for the CSGN against the priority actions identified within the Falkirk Greenspace Strategy. The purpose of matrix exercise is to understand whether the priorities of Falkirk Greenspace Strategy align with the themes for action of CSGN.

3.4 What the table shows is that Falkirk Greenspace generally aligns with CSGN other than CSGN's focus on urban greening and disadvantaged areas.

**Table 1: Matrix of CSGN “Themes for Action” against Falkirk Greenspace “Priority Actions”**

	Vacant and derelict land	Disadvantaged Areas	Active Travel	Employment and Training	Urban Greening	Green Network and Businesses	Greenspace for Living, Health and Wellbeing	Woodland Creation	Carbon Sequestration	Landscape	Community Growing	Habitat Connectivity	Water Environment	Outdoor Learning and Play
Making Falkirk “the place to be”				X		X	X							X
Tackling Vacant and Derelict Land	X													
Creating an Accessible Green Network			X											
Creating Space to Grow											X			
Making Space for Outdoor Learning														X
Planting, Protecting and Managing Woodland								X	X					
Protecting and Enhancing the Water Environment												X	X	
Protecting and Enhancing the Variety of Life												X		
Protecting and Enhancing our Landscapes										X				

3.5 Table 2 below is a matrix of LDP green network functions against Falkirk Greenspace “Priority Actions” with two additional themes for action which Falkirk Greenspace did not address. The purpose of the matrix is to understand whether the currently defined green network functions align with CSGN and Falkirk Greenspace

**Table 2: Matrix of LDP Green Network Functions against CSGN/Falkirk Greenspace priorities**

	Making Falkirk “the place to be”	Tackling Vacant and Derelict Land	Creating an Accessible Green Network	Creating Space to Grow	Making Space for Outdoor Learning	Planting, Protecting and Managing	Protecting and Enhancing the Water	Protecting and Enhancing the Variety	Protecting and Enhancing our	Disadvantaged Areas	Urban Greening
Habitat							X	X			
Access			X								
Landscape		X				X			X		
Climate Change						X	X				
Urban Open Space				X	X						X

3.6 What the table shows is that the existing green network functions broadly align with the CSGN themes for action and the Falkirk Greenspace priority actions with the exception of “Making Falkirk the Place to Be” and “Disadvantaged Areas”

3.7 So, in conclusion the suggested new functions are:

**Habitat** – Value for protecting and enhancing the variety of life and for connecting habitats. Protecting and enhancing the water environment

**Access** – An accessible green network which promotes active travel

**Landscape** – Protecting and enhancing the value of the landscape, planting, protecting and managing woodland and tackling vacant and derelict land

**Climate Change** – Providing opportunities for: carbon sequestration; species migration; and opportunities for sustainable flood management

**Placemaking** – Providing opportunities for: urban recreation; spaces to grow; spaces for outdoor learning; employment and training; and a setting for businesses.

**Serving disadvantaged communities** – Is the component in close proximity to a bottom 15% SIMD datazone.

3.8 Table 3 below reviews the existing performance of each of these functions within each green network component to see what changes have taken place since the drafting of the previous green network technical report in November 2011.



**Table 3: Green network component performance review**

Component Description	Habitat	Access	Landscape	Climate Change	Placemaking	Disadvantaged Communities
Forth Estuary - The Forth Estuary defines the northern boundary of the Falkirk Council area running from South Alloa in the west down to Blackness in the west past Grangemouth and Bo'ness. The Forth Estuary contains a system of tidal mudflats which form part of the Firth of Forth SPA.	High - The Firth of Forth is an SPA, RAMSAR site and a SSSI. It forms important habitat for wintering birds. And much of the inland area will provide supporting habitat for SPA species Bo'ness Foreshore is a Wildlife Site and Local Nature Reserve. The Pow Burn and Estuary near the Kincardine and Clackmannanshire Bridges and Carriden wood are also a wildlife site. There is an RSPB reserve at Skinflats. Potential to link up the broadleaved woodland habitat along the foreshore, there is a strong 2km network extending from the M9 corridor through to Carriden Wood, but only an intermittent 500m network. Further planting between Carriden Wood and Shore Wood to the East of Blackness would help to connect up significant broadleaved woodland networks. The creation of saline lagoons are planned as part of the Inner Forth Landscape Initiative at Skinflats and Kinneil Kerse	Medium - The Forth Foreshore Path runs intermittently along the edge of the Forth. The largest area of coastal access is between Kinneil Foreshore, along Bo'ness Foreshore to Blackness with wider links to Hopetoun House and South Queensferry beyond, this forms part of the John Muir Trail and has recently been upgraded. No path runs along the Foreshore between Kinneil and the Kincardine Bridge. North of the Kincardine Bridge the path returns to the foreshore as far as South Alloa (barring a short stretch to the north of Airth where access is restricted due to an impassable watercourse). Promoting increased access to this part of the green network may conflict with nature conservation objectives and should be approached cautiously. Access improvements between Glensburgh and South Alloa are planned as part of the Inner Forth Landscape Initiative	Medium - The Firth of Forth provides the landscape setting to Blackness, Bo'ness, Grangemouth, Airth, Dunmore and South Alloa. There are a number of vacant and derelict sites along the foreshore particularly within Bo'ness. The large vacant site of the Bo'ness SIRR being the most prominent of these. Much of the Estuary has been identified as a potential area for woodland expansion with the area between Bo'ness and Blackness identified as sensitive	Medium - The coastal floodplain of the Firth of Forth extends inland for over a large area putting the communities of Airth, Grangemouth and Bo'ness at medium risk of flooding. A flood defence scheme has recently been constructed at Bo'ness and a study is underway to prepare a similar scheme of flood defences for Grangemouth. The Skinflats Tidal Exchange Project at Bothkennar Field has enabled a small area of land to be inundated at high tide, whilst this project in itself will only have a minimal positive effect on flood levels, it acts as a demonstration of what can be achieved. There may be opportunities for other larger scale projects which can act to reduce the levels of flood risk and improve habitat for SPA birds, these may come forward as part of the Grangemouth Flood Defences. Linking up woodland habitat networks would aid species migration.	Low - The Firth of Forth abuts the urban areas of Bo'ness and Grangemouth. In Grangemouth, use of the foreshore by industry precludes significant public use, however in Bo'ness the foreshore is far more accessible and is extensively used for passive recreation including as part of the route of the John Muir Trail. The Grangemouth Investment Zone national development site on the Forth Estuary and provides a significant setting for business, however the landscape setting is not a particular driver for businesses locating there. Kinneil Local Nature Reserve provides a location for outdoor learning but there are no other outdoor learning sites along the Forth Estuary despite there being numerous schools in Blackness, Bo'ness, Grangemouth, Skinflats and Airth	Medium - The Deanfield area of Bo'ness and communities around Zetland Park in Grangemouth are within the 15% most deprived in Scotland
Upper Carron - The Upper Carron runs from the Council boundary with Stirling Council eastwards through	High - The Upper Carron contains the Carron Glen SSSI. Fish passage to the Upper Carron has recently been restored at	Medium - Access along the upper Carron corridor is sporadic. There is riverside access to the Carron through the	Medium - The Upper Carron forms an important backdrop to the stalled Carrongrove Mill and Broad Street	Low - Provides an east – west species migration corridor although this is constrained as the Carron passes through Denny.	Medium - The Upper Carron runs through the communities of Denny, Dunipace, Fankerton and Stoneywood and forms	Medium – Stripeside in Denny is within the 15% most deprived communities in Scotland

Component Description	Habitat	Access	Landscape	Climate Change	Placemaking	Disadvantaged Communities
Stoneywood, Fankerton Denny and Dunipace and on towards Larbert. At Larbert, the upper Carron interfaces with the woodland at the Forth Valley Acute Hospital. To the west the Upper Carron leads to the Carron Valley reservoir which has a range of associated recreational activities. and the Communities Along the Carron project aims to increase riparian access.	Carrongrove. The Avon burn, a major tributary of the Carron flows can be traced upstream to the west and north of its confluence with the Carron flowing past Avonbank community woodland under the M80 and then Northwards towards Braes Wood. At its western edge near Carronbridge this part of the green network widens to incorporate woodland at Denny Muir which includes the Denny Muir SSSI Takmidoon Wildlife Site These form part of the wider Carron Valley Forest which stretches to the west.	communities of Denny, Dunipace, Fankerton and Stoneywood. To the east of Denny towards Larbert access to the Carron is restricted. Equally access upstream of Fankerton towards the Carron Valley Reservoir is restricted. These areas forms part of the proposed River Carron Trail.	developments. The area upstream of Fakerton is identified as an area for potential woodland expansion whereas the area downstream of Denny is, in the main, a preferred area for woodland expansion. There are a couple of derelict sites in Denny and Dunipace	The River Carron flood plain is not significant in the Upper Carron catchment The are potentially opportunities for some upper catchment management schemes which may help reduce the risk of flooding further down stream.	the southern boundary of Herbertshire Castle Park in Dunipace. It is an important green corridor through the settlements. The Avon burn runs through Dunipace past the Avonbank community woodland. The Broad Street mixed use development site may provide opportunities for some business activity within this component of the green network. There is an outdoor learning site in the woodlands surrounding Forth Valley Royal Infirmary but none along the Carron in Denny.	
Lower Carron - The lower Carron is much more urban in character, meandering through the heavily populated areas of Larbert, Stenhousemuir, Mungal, Carron, Carronshore and Grangemouth. It was a key driver of the industrial revolution in Scotland serving the Carron Company Ironworks and has many historic industrial features including a system of weirs and lades It acts as a key corridor passing through the larger Carronside open space and forms the northern boundary of the Helix where the Kelpies	Medium - The Lower Carron empties into the Firth of Forth which is a SSSI/SPA and RAMSAR. Within the Lower Carron are the Carron Dams SSSI, Camelon Riverside Wildlife Site and the Carron Meander SINCR. A strong km broadleaved woodland habitat network runs along the length of the Lower Carron as far as the M9 but the 500m network is more fragmented and could be reinforced.	Medium - Access to the river Carron itself is sporadic, with better access in the Stenhousemuir to Grangemouth section than in the Larbert to Stenhousemuir Section. Carronside is crisscrossed by paths connecting the communities that surround it and clearly serves a key recreational function. A further crossing point in the area between Glensburgh Bridge and Carron Road would help to connect the communities of Langlees and Carronshore. The corridor has the potential to act as an important active travel corridor for	Medium - Carronside performs an important greenbelt function forming a buffer between Larbert and Camelon, Stenhousemuir and Mungal and Carron and Langlees.  Opportunities exist to strengthen broadleaved woodland habitat through a programme of planting alongside the river.  In the main the Lower Carron (up to the M9 boundary) has been identified as a preferred area for woodland expansion with a significant area of Carronside identified as "sensitive"	High - The Fluvial floodplain of the River Carron is at its most extensive in the Lower Carron and covers a substantial area causing areas of considerable flood risk in Mungal and Carron. The Coastal floodplain of the River Carron also affects large areas in Carron, Carronshore and Glensburgh, Grangemeouth. It is important that the floodplain function of the Carronside is retained and opportunities to enhance floodplain functionality are harnessed.	High - Major development has taken place at Mungal Farm 1 and 2 in recent years with the creation of Mungal Riverside Park. The Carron forms the northern edge of the Helix and will see substantial regeneration around the Kelpies Sea Locks  Carronside is full of recreational uses including playing fields, a golf course and a community woodland. Important passive open spaces include, the Lade.  Outdoor learning sites at Carron Dams and Abbotshaugh Community	High - Areas of Langlees, Camelon and Stenhousemuir are within the 15% most deprived communities in Scotland

Component Description	Habitat	Access	Landscape	Climate Change	Placemaking	Disadvantaged Communities
are sited.		people travelling between Larbert and Stenhousemuir and the more industrial parts of Falkirk and Grangemouth			Woodland	
Avon - The Avon Corridor runs from it's upper catchment to the South of Cumbernauld through Slamannan to Avonbridge. From Avonbridge it forms the Council's boundary with West Lothian running in a north easterly direction where it intersects with the Union Canal at Muiravonside Park. Just to the north of Linlithgow the river turns west heading towards Grangemouth where it finally discharges into the Forth Estuary.	High - At Slamannan the River Avon corridor acts as important feeding grounds for Bean Geese which are the qualifying species of the Slamannan Plateau SPA. The Avon discharges into the Firth of Forth which is an SPA. Carriber Glen to the east of Muiravonside is a SSSI. Muiravonside is a wildlife site. River Avon North and South Glen is a wildlife site. Avon Gorge is a wildlife site. Polmont Woods is a wildlife site. Avonbank/Birkhill is a SINC.  There's a continuous 2km broadleaved woodland habitat network running from Avonbridge to Wholeflats but a more fragmented 500m network. Upstream of Avonbridge woodland habitat along the River Avon corridor is much more sparse.	High - The River Avon Heritage Trail follows the route of the River Avon and is an important recreational resource. Muiravonside Country Park is the only Country Park within the Council area. Access to the River Avon to the west of Avonbridge is not formalised	Low - The Avon corridor will serve an important function as a landscape corridor between Linlithgow and Whitecross. There is a vacant site on Avonbridge Main Street adjacent to the River Avon.  The Avon corridor is identified as a potential area for woodland expansion.	Low - The River Avon Corridor contains the functional flood plain of the River Avon. There are likely to be opportunities to promote upper catchment management schemes which slow the rate at which the River receives water. Much of the corridor is identified as having potential for woodland expansion. There is an area to the east of Whitecross which is identified as being "sensitive"	Low - The River Avon corridor runs through the urban area at Slamannan and Avonbridge, Linlithgow Bridge and at Wholeflats, Grangemouth. The corridor will form an important buffer between Linlithgow and an expanded Whitecross.  There are no outdoor learning sites associated with the River Avon corridor despite its proximity to primary schools at Avonbridge and Slamannan.	Medium – The area around Slamannan is one of the 15% most deprived in Scotland.
Falkirk Grangemouth Corridor - The Falkirk Grangemouth comprises an area of Greenbelt lying between Falkirk, Grangemouth and Polmont between the River Carron and the River Avon. Big Lottery Funding has been	Medium - The only existing designated sites within the Helix area is Westmains Pond, however there are some substantial woodland blocks which are likely to have high nature conservation value at Abottshaugh and Dalderse. Polmont Woods wildlife	Medium - Although the Helix lies close to Grangemouth, it only really accessible from the Glenrburgh end via the footpath alongside the canal extension. The rest of the town is cut off due to the virtually impermeable M9	Medium -The Helix proposals offer great potential to enhance the landscape value of the area which acts as a key buffer between the urban areas of Falkirk. The Falkirk Stadium lies within the Helix area and acts as an important recreational	Medium - Northern parts of the Helix area are part of the tidal floodplain of the Firth of Forth and River Carron. The Helix area has the potential to act as a key corridor which enables the north south species migration across the district. It is	High - the Helix has become one of the most iconic greenspaces across Central Scotland and has drawn a substantial amount of tourists to the area. The Central Park area does not sit particularly close to any existing community, it	High - The northern end of the Falkirk Grangemouth Corridor is adjacent to Langlees which contains a number of the 15% most deprived communities across Scotland. Westquarter, which links into the Helix is also close to this



Component Description	Habitat	Access	Landscape	Climate Change	Placemaking	Disadvantaged Communities
secured for the creation of enhanced open space within the greenbelt comprising parkland, allotments, woodland planting and playing fields. At the northern edge of the Helix the River Carron and the Forth and Clyde Canal converge at the proposed Kelpies Sea Lock which is intended to become a major visitor attraction. The southern section of the Helix is traversed east to west by the line of the Antonine Wall and contains the Mumrills Fort scheduled ancient monument.	site, Avonbank/Birkhill SINC, Avon Gorge SSSI.	motorway which forms the Helix's eastern boundary. To a lesser degree the same could be said from Laurieston with the barrier this time is the Laurieston bypass. Improvement of access to the Helix area from Grangemouth and Laurieston should be seen as a priority. In general the Helix proposals have the potential to greatly increase the accessibility of the area. A recreational node at Little Kerse continues to provide a range of recreational facilities.	<p>hub housing a five a side pitches complex. The Falkirk Gateway strategic development opportunity abuts the Helix area to the west and there is considerable potential for this development to improve the function of the Helix area. The Avondale Landfill site is currently operational and a large area has been safeguarded for its extension. Once the capacity of this area has been used up it is likely to undergo a comprehensive landscape restoration.</p> <p>There are a couple of vacant/ derelict sites at Westmains industrial estate adjacent to the Helix. One of them has become part of Helix Park. Woodland habitat connectivity through the Helix area is limited, particularly since the removal of Middlefield Wood top make way for the Helix Central Park. There may be a long term opportunity to connect the woodland habitats at Dalderse, Abbotshaugh and Westquarter Glen.</p>	linked to the north by the Lower Carron component of the green network and to the south by the South Falkirk component of the green network via Westquarter Glen. This component of the Green network could act as a key node enabling species migration, this function is currently severely diminished as the M9 severs it.	<p>is nonetheless very well used by Council residents and visitors alike. The communities of Westfield, Laurieston, Polmont, Grangemouth and Langlees all border the Helix area and there will be a need to maximise the urban open space function of those areas in close proximity to existing communities. Little Kerse is a key recreational facility for Grangemouth. Connectivity to this part of the green network from Polmont is currently limited.</p> <p>There are two outdoor learning sites within the Helix</p>	component of the green network.
South Falkirk - The South Falkirk component on the green network forms a chain of nearby open spaces to the South of Falkirk where there has been substantial	High - South Falkirk is a huge area of open space containing Howierigg Muir SSSI; parts of the Slamannan Plateau SSSI; Roughcastle, Cleuch Plantation, Callendar	High - There is an extensive and improving network of core paths throughout the South Falkirk Area. The Bespoke mountain bike trails complement this	High - The South Falkirk area is also in part a large greenbelt which contains the growth of Falkirk in a Southerly direction. The Tamfourhill regeneration	High - The South Falkirk section of the Green Network forms an important east west link in the wider central Scotland Green Network and helps in species migration	Medium - To the west of Westquarter Burn the South Falkirk area is of great importance to the communities which surround it providing a wealth of passive	Medium – A small part of Hallglen near Callendar Wood is one of the 15% most deprived communities in Scotland

Component Description	Habitat	Access	Landscape	Climate Change	Placemaking	Disadvantaged Communities
woodland planting and access improvements. Spaces of note within this section of the Green Network include: The Falkirk Wheel; Roughcastle; St Helen's Loch; Tamfourhill; Bantaskine Estate; Standalane (Site of the Battle of Falkirk Muir); Lionthorn Community Woodland; Hallglen Haven; Westquarter Burn; and Callendar Park and Wood.	<p>Wood and Lake, Wildlife Sites and Bantaskine Estate, Hallglen Haven and Union Canal SINCE. There are also large stands of woodland which are likely to have a high nature conservation value. The South Falkirk area and the Falkirk Helix Area are linked by Westquarter Glen which serves a key function in allowing wildlife to permeate the wider urban area.</p> <p>There appears to be a reasonable opportunity to connect fragmented woodland habitat networks within the South Falkirk area.</p>	provision. The John Muir Trail also passes through the South Falkirk area	<p>project offers the opportunity to improve the area of the Green Network along the Forth and Clyde Canal and around the Falkirk Wheel.</p> <p>A small site adjacent to the Bantaskine Estate is identified as vacant/derelict.</p> <p>The area to the south of Hallglen is identified as a preferred area for woodland expansion. A significant amount of eastern part of the South Falkirk area is identified as "sensitive".</p>	across central Scotland in reaction to climate change	<p>recreation activities.</p> <p>There is an outdoor learning site in Callendar Wood but nowhere else within this component of the Green Network</p>	
North Larbert - The section of the green network is less connected and to an extent still quite conceptual. Key existing parts of this section of the network include: Torwood, Plean Country Park and the Policy Woodlands around the Forth Valley Royal Infirmary; and areas of farmland and woodland which wrap around the northern edge of Larbert and the eastern edge of Stenhousemuir, Carron and Carronshore.	Medium - RSNH/Torwood/Plean section of the green network contains the Torwood Glen, Torwood Mire, South Torwood and Wallacebank Wood wildlife sites. It also contains substantial broadleaf woodland blocks at Torwood, RSNH and Hillhouse Farm/Wood. This section of the Green Network could provide an important northwards habitat link facilitating species migration, however, the M876 forms a key barrier severing the network and constraining species	Medium - The woodland estate of the Forth Valley Royal Infirmary are now a major recreational resource. There is no direct north south access link through this section of the green network, a more circuitous route between Larbert and Torwood runs westwards from RSNH across the M876 towards Denny and the Upper Carron. At Denovan it heads north towards Torwood through Torwood itself. The creation of a North Larbert – Denny – Torwood Loop is one of the objectives of the	Medium - The policy woodlands around the Forth Valley Royal Infirmary are now actively managed by the Forestry Commission and provide an effective landscape buffer when viewed from the west. The green network around the northern fringe of the Hill of Kinnaird Housing site will develop through the lifetime of the plan as this housing site is built out. The masterplan shows a woodland buffer strip to the Motorway which is accessible along part of its length.	Low - The North Larbert component of the Green Network could become a key north/south corridor for the facilitation of species migration in reaction to climate change.	<p>Medium - The woodland policies around the Forth Valley Royal Infirmary are now a well used recreational resource it includes the Larbert Loch viewing platform which is likely to be complimented by the Forth Valley Maggies Cetnre within the lifetime of the LDP the by both residents of Larbert,</p> <p>If the Larbert and Stenhousemuir area is to be axpanded to the north east in the future then this component of the green network could serve a key urban open space function.</p>	Low – There are no deprived communities in the vicinity of this component of the green network

Component Description	Habitat	Access	Landscape	Climate Change	Placemaking	Disadvantaged Communities
	<p>migration. North Larbert/Carron/Carronshore section of this part of the green network contains a large stand of broadleaf woodland at Kinnaird House Lodge. Other than this the rest of the land within this component of the green network is agricultural.</p>	<p>Falkirk Greenspace Strategy and was a green network opportunity in the previous plan. There are no core path links heading northwards into Plean Country Park or between Torwood and North Broomage along the A9. Glenbervie Golf Course also sits within this part of the green network. Given the future expansion of Larbert to the North this component of the green network could serve a key recreational function in the future.</p>	<p>There are a couple of vacant/derelict sites at Larbert House, these are in the process of being redeveloped as housing</p> <p>The area to the North of RSNH towards Torwood and east of Stenhousemuir have been identified as preferred areas for woodland expansion.</p>		<p>There is an outdoor learning site at the Forth Valley Royal Infirmary woodlands</p> <p>The Kinnaird area has a deficit in access to an open space containing a sports area</p> <p>Residents of Torwood don't have access to parkland, playspace or a sports area</p>	
<p>Canals - The Forth and Clyde and Union Canals are a key active travel corridors across the Council area linking various urban centres within and beyond the Council area including Linlithgow and Edinburgh along the Union Canal and Kilsyth, Kirkintilloch, Bishopbriggs and Glasgow along the Forth and Clyde canal. The two canals meet at the Falkirk Wheel which forms an important open space within the wider South Falkirk component of the Green Network.</p>	<p>High - The Forth and Clyde Canal is a wildlife site along the entirety of its length within the Falkirk Council area. It passes through the Roughcastle and West Mains Pond wildlife sites, and Falkirk Gasworks SINC. The Union Canal is a site of importance for nature conservation for the entirety of its length. The Canal passes through Bantaskine Estate and Hallglen Haven SINC as well as Westquarter Burn, Almond Bing and Muiravonside Wildlife Sites. Both canals act as key eastwest habitat corridors.</p>	<p>High - Core paths run the entire length of both canals however, the paths along sections of the Canal are in differing states of repair. Both Canals are part of the national cycle network which extends westwards towards the Glasgow and eastwards towards Edinburgh.</p> <p>Both Canals form part of the John Muir Trail. The Forth Clyde Canal westwards from Bonybridge and the Union Canal eastwards from Glen village</p>	<p>Medium - The Kelpies sea lock where the Forth and Clyde Canal empties into the River Carron is likely to provide a catalyst to wider landscape regeneration in the Helix area.</p> <p>The canal network is not identified as having any specific potential for woodland expansion.</p>	<p>Medium - Both Canals have a role to play in managing flood risk. They are regulated by a complex hydrological system which draws water from remote reservoirs and expels it in times of flood risk to other water courses. If managed correctly the Canals can help to reduce overall flood risk. As key east/west habitat corridors the canals can assist in species migration.</p>	<p>High - The Forth and Clyde Canal runs to the south of the Banknock SIRR, to the north of the Tamfourhill regeneration area and the Falkirk Gateway and Falkirk Canal Interchange Strategic Development Opportunities. The Union Canal passes to the South of the Falkirk Canal Interchange, Gilston SDO and the Whitecross SIRR. Both canals can act as green infrastructure to support investment.</p> <p>The Forth and Clyde Canal is a key linear corridor through Bonnybridge, Camelon, Falkirk and Glensburgh. The proposed Kelpies Sea lock where</p>	<p>High - Parts of Hallglen and Camelon are within the 15% most deprived communities in Scotland</p>

Component Description	Habitat	Access	Landscape	Climate Change	Placemaking	Disadvantaged Communities
					<p>the Forth and Clyde Canal empties into the River Carron is likely to act as a new focus for recreation in the wider Helix area.</p> <p>The Union Canal is a key linear corridor through Falkirk and the Polmont Area.</p> <p>There are no outdoor learning sites along either of the canal corridors</p>	
<p>South Bo'ness - Kinneil comprises the Kinneil woods and the wider Kinneil Estate as well as Kinneil Foreshore which is the site of the former Kinneil colliery. The line of the Antonine Wall runs through Kinneil Estate. Kinneil Foreshore forms one of the most important parts of the Firth of Forth component of the green network.</p> <p>To the South of Bo'ness the green network currently comprises Bo'mains Farm, Bo'mains Meadow SSSI and West Lothian Golf Course with an extensive access network. It then wraps around the east of Bo'ness at Muirhouses taking in Carriden Wood and linking with the forth foreshore.</p>	<p>Medium - The Kinneil Estate, Bo'ness foreshore and Carriden Wood wildlife sites form part of this component of the green network as well as the The Bo'mains meadow SSSI. It also incorporates significant stands of woodland at Wester Flints, West Lothian Golf Course and Kinglass</p>	<p>Medium - This component of the Green Network is criss-crossed by core paths and other rights of way. There aren't really any lateral connections between these paths other than the road to the south of West Lothian Golf Course</p> <p>The Kinneil section of this component offers considerable opportunity for recreational access</p>	<p>High - This component of the Green Network forms part of the Greenbelt and provides the landscape setting to the town of Bo'ness. It is also part of a special landscape area.</p> <p>South Bo'ness is in the main identified as a potential area for woodland expansion with "sensitive" areas</p>	<p>Medium - The Kinneil Foreshore forms part of the Firth of Forth Coastal Floodplain. There may be opportunities for managed coastal realignment.</p>	<p>High - Bo'ness is very well provided for in terms of Urban Open Space and a number of the urban open space corridors link directly into the wider green network</p> <p>The Drum Business Park and the Kinglass Farm 1 housing site sit within this component of the green network</p>	<p>Medium - The Deanfield area of Bo'ness is one of the 15% most deprived communities in Scotland</p>
Bonny Water - This component of the Green	Medium - This component of the green network	Medium - Riparian access is limited along the Bonny	Medium - This part of the green network forms an	High - The Bonny Water corridor is a significant	High - Bonnyfield Nature Park and the Bonny	Low – There are no deprived communities in



Component Description	Habitat	Access	Landscape	Climate Change	Placemaking	Disadvantaged Communities
Network runs from the Bonny Water's confluence with the River Carron westwards through Bonnybridge towards Banknock and to North Lanarkshire beyond. It comprises the flood plain of the Bonny Water and is bounded to the south by the Forth and Clyde Canal.	includes Bonnyfield Local Nature Reserve; the Forth and Clyde Canal and Parkfoot Moss Wildlife Sites as well as a significant stand of woodland at Bonnywood Farm.	Water to the west of Bonnybridge town centre, however the Forth and Clyde Canal forms a suitable alternative route running more or less alongside the route of the Bonny Water.	important landscape setting to the southern edge of Banknock SIRR and the Diageo bonded warehouse complex at Denyloanhead. It also forms a significant part of the Antonine Wall World Heritage Site buffer zone.  To the west of Bonnybridge town centre the Bonny Water corridor is identified as a sensitive area for woodland expansion, to the east of Bonnybridge town centre the corridor is identified as an opportunity for urban woodland.  There are no vacant or derelict sites along the Bonny Water corridor.	fluvial floodplain. There may be scope for catchment management schemes to help reduce overall flood risk in the area. The Corridor is a key east west habitat corridor connecting into the Kelvin Valley. There is a constriction at Bonnybridge town centre which may restrict species migration.	Water Corridor to the east of Bonnybridge are significant recreational resources. The Forth and Clyde Canal west of Bonnybridge is also a significant recreational resource.  There is an outdoor learning site at Bonnyfield Nature Park.  The Banknock South and Garngrew Road development site sit alongside the Bonny Water corridor and offer placemaking opportunities.	the vicinity of this component of the green network
Denny - This component of the green network runs through and around the urban area and countryside surrounding Denny. It starts in the north at the Castlerankine Burn's confluence with the River Carron running south through a corridor of open space which adjoins Nethermains Road. After passing under the M80 the burn flows westwards then southwards towards Drumbowie Reservoir. At Drunmowie Reservoir, the green network turns to the east incorporating Little Denny Reservoir, a	High - Drumbowie Reservoir, Little Denny Reservoir and Cowden Wildlife sites sit within this part of the green network. The Castlerankine Burn sits within a broadleaf woodland valley and is likely to be of value for nature conservation. Chasefield wood to the east is the largest expanse of woodland within this part of the green network but is a conifer woodland so has lesser biodiversity value.	Medium - In the western part of this component of the green network access opportunities are limited. A core path runs westwards from Drumbowie towards Banton. In the eastern part of this section of the green network access opportunities are more easily found. There is an extensive network within Chasefield Wood and between Head of Muir and Denny. Chasefield Woods is connected to the River Carron via the core path network at Mydub Farm, Herbertshire Playing	Medium - A large urban expansion of Denny is planned at Mydub Farm together with the building of the Denny Eastern Access Road. The area to the north of Chasefield wood is likely to become increasingly important for recreation purposes. Landscape and habitat improvement proposals at Cloybank Estate near Banknock could eventually link this part of the green network to the Banknock SGA via the Doups Burn.  The Former Denny High School is a prominent	Medium - Although the Castlerankine Burn does not have any significant area of flood plain it does feed into the River Carron which has an extensive flood plain in its lower reaches. Upper Catchment management may be appropriate here. This component of the Green network could also act as a east west corridor for species migration linking with North Lanarkshire and the River Carron	High - Near its confluence with the River Carron the Castlerankine burn runs through the urban area of Denny and is a valuable recreational resource. The green wedge between Head of Muir and Denny is similarly valuable and provides an important visual buffer between the two settlements. The site of the former Deny High School is currently occupied by Denny Football Centre.  There are three outdoor learning sites within this	Medium - An area adjacent to the former Denny High School and the Little Denny Burn is within the 15% most deprived communities in Scotland



Component Description	Habitat	Access	Landscape	Climate Change	Placemaking	Disadvantaged Communities
wide corridor of open space between Denny and Head of Muir and eventually linking to Chasefield Woods where it terminates. Cowden Wildlife site and a core path to its north also form part of this green network and connect to Banton in North Lanarkshire to the West.		Fields and Denny Cemetary.	derelict site within this part of the green network.  Much of this component of the green network is identified as a preferred area for woodland expansion.		part of the green network. This is a high concentration	
Carse - Dunmore Park, Moss and Wood run in an easterly direction from the Firth of Forth and the village of Dunmore towards Cowie within Stirling. Dunmore Park is on the Inventory of Historic Gardens and Designated Landscapes and includes the Pineapple. The Tor Burn forms one of the northern boundaries of the Council area and runs eastwards from Torwod joining the Pow burn as it passes under the M9 past Letham towards Airth where it empties into the Firth of Forth. Halfway between Torwood and Airth the burn runs around the northern edge of Letham Moss which is a site where commercial peat extraction takes place.	High - As well as forming an important riparian habitat which may contain important supporting habitat for the qualifying species of the Firth of Forth SPA, this component of the green network incorporates the Dunmore Moss and Wood Wildlife Sites Letham Moss SINC and the Pow Burn and Estuary wildlife site at its confluence with the Forth Estuary. To the south of Airth a stretch of the Pow Burn has been subject to some major morphological alterations from previous industrial use. Restoration of the natural course of the river would be of benefit to biodiversity.	Medium - The Core Path network runs around Dunmore Park and links to the core path which runs along the Firth of Forth. No core paths follow the line of the Pow burn but there is some potential to create this link. A core path skirts to the north of Letham Moss connecting into a wider network which connects Larbert with Airth.	Medium - Dunmore Park is on the Inventory of Historic Gardens and Designated Landscapes. The Pow Burn corridor forms an important part of the landscape setting of Airth and Letham. Although no major development is currently planned here, the integrity of this corridor should be protected.  There are vacant/derelict sites at Waterslap and Dunmore Park  The area to the west of Airth is identified as a preferred area for woodland expansion, the area to the east is identified as a potential area for woodland expansion. The area around Dunmore and Letham Moss is identified as sensitive.	High - The Pow Burn has an extensive coastal and fluvial flood plain and empties into the Firth of Forth which itself has an extensive flood plain. There may be opportunities to promote upper catchment management schemes to reduce the incidence of flood risk. Restoration of the natural course of the Pow Burn may reduce flood risk in the area.	Low - Dunmore Park, Moss and Wood are readily accessible to residents of Dunmore however this is not a significant population. The Pow burn could become an important recreational corridor for the residents of Airth and Letham.  There are no outdoor learning sites within this component of the green network.	Low – There are no deprived communities in the vicinity of this component of the green network
Upper Braes - The Upper Braes fringe incorporates a concentration of	High - This is the largest component of the green network and contains the	Low - A number of core paths criss-cross this section of the green	Medium - Limerigg sits in the middle of this part of the green network	High - This part of the green network forms an important north south	Low - This part of the green network can form an important recreational	Low – There are no deprived communities in the vicinity of this

Component Description	Habitat	Access	Landscape	Climate Change	Placemaking	Disadvantaged Communities
important mosaic habitat and commercial forestry running north to south along the western boundary of the Council area with North Lanarkshire from Allandale to Limerigg. The green network extends well into North Lanarkshire towards Cumbernauld, Caldercruix and West Lothian towards Blackridge. The western fringe links into the Falkirk South, Upper Braes and River Avon parts of the green network.	highest concentration of land of biodiversity and nature conservation value. It includes the Black Loch Moss SAC, the Slamannan Plateau SPA and SSSI, Blawhorn Moss, Black Loch Moss and West Fannyside Moss SSSI; Wester Drum, South Drum Moss, Blackhill Moss, Lochgreen Moss, Graystone Knowe, North Walton Burn, Garbethillmuir Moss, Easter Greenrig, Upper Avon Mires, Grangeneuk Moss, Rashiehill Mire, Balquhatstone, Shielknowes Moss, Easter Drumclair, Black Loch, Wester Whin Wildlife Sites and South Drum Claypit, Tippetcraig, Limerigg Ponds, Little Black Loch and Stoneridge SINC	network, but none of them follow a continuous north south route. This reflects that this part of the green network has wildlife and habitats at its focus rather than people.	surrounded by commercial forestry. Two new development sites are proposed within Limerigg which the green network will provide a landscape setting for.  There is extensive existing woodland within this part of the green network with much of the rest of the area identified as a preferred area for woodland expansion.	corridor which will assist in enabling species migration through Central Scotland. Some tributaries of the River Avon run through this part of the green network, there is a considerable fluvial flood plain around Slamannan associated with the River Avon and these tributaries. There may be scope for some upper catchment flood management schemes to reduce overall flood risk. It also contains large concentrations of carbon rich Soils which provide important flood prevention services.	resource for the residents of Limerigg.  There are no outdoor learning sites within this component of the green network	component of the green network
Mid Braes - The Mid Braes is a loose collection of designated sites and woodland running from Jawcraig in the west to Standdurn in the east. This part of the green network passes close to the northern boundary of Avonbridge incorporating the former quarry at Fogger Mountain.	High - Darnrigg Moss SSSI; Newcraig (Auchengean), Barleyside, Standburn, Loch Ellrig and Gardrum Moss, Drumbroider, Righead, and Candie Mire Wildlife Sites	Low - There is a well developed access network in and around Standburn but no continuous east west route across this part of the green network. This reflects that this part of the green network has wildlife and habitats at its focus rather than people.	Low - This part of the green network will provide a landscape setting proposed housing development at the west of Standburn  Jawcraig Works and High Stanerig are derelict sites within this component of the green network  Most of this component of the green network is identified as a potential area for woodland expansion. An area to the north of Avonbridge is identified as a preferred area for woodland	Medium - No major watercourses run through this part of the green network. There is potential for this part of the network to become an important east-west habitat corridor enabling species migration.  Carbon rich soils?	Low - This part of the green network has the potential to act as an urban open space to the residents of Avonbridge through the improvement of access links to Fogger Mountain.  There are no outdoor learning sites within this component of the green network	Low – There are no deprived communities in the vicinity of this component of the green network

Component Description	Habitat	Access	Landscape	Climate Change	Placemaking	Disadvantaged Communities
			expansion			
Lower Braes – This component of the green network forms a tract of mainly agricultural land wrapping around the southern edges of the communities of Shieldhill, Reddingmuirhead, Wallacestone, Rumford and Maddiston and enveloping the village of California. A future extension of this area could involve establishing a landscape buffer between the eastern edge of Polmont and the western edge of the Whitecross SIRR.	<p>High - There appears to be a reasonable opportunity to connect fragmented woodland habitat networks within the South Falkirk area.</p> <p>Westquarter Burn, Rumford West, California, Madiston West and Haining Wood Wildlife Sites and Wallacestone, Maddiston, Union Canal and Rumford East SINC.</p>	<p>Medium - There are currently good access links between California, Shieldhill, Reddingmuirhead and Wallacestone. Accessibility within other parts of this component of the green network is limited.</p>	<p>High - There is intense development pressure along the A801 corridor from housing sites at Toravon and Parkhall, the SIRR at Whitecross and the SDO at Gilston. This component of the Green network can act as a landscape buffer and green infrastructure to stimulate economic investment.</p> <p>The areas between Reddinmuirhead and Shieldhill, Wallacestone and California and to the north of Shieldhill are identified as preferred areas for woodland expansion.</p> <p>A small area of land adjacent to a tributary of the Manuel Burn to the rear of Forgie Crescent is identified as vacant/derelict</p>	<p>Medium - The main watercourses running through the South Falkirk area are the Westquarter, Glen Gardrum, Polmont and Manuel Burns. Neither have particularly significant flood plains but as they empty into either the Grange Burn or River Avon which both causes significant flood risk within Grangemouth there is scope for the development of upper catchment management schemes to reduce overall flood risk.</p>	<p>Low - This component offers considerable opportunity for recreational access and could become a valuable resource. The current agricultural use may present a stumbling block to this aspiration.</p> <p>There is an outdoor learning site within California Community Woodland but nowhere else within this component of the green network.</p> <p>No community growing sites within this component.</p>	<p>Medium – A small part of Maddiston is one of the 15% most deprived communities in Scotland</p>

#### 4. Review the suite of Green Network Opportunities within each component

4.1 The purpose of this section is to review the priorities for each green network component based on:

- their performance against each of the green network functions as outlined in table 3;
- progress made towards achieving the priority since it was established in LDP 1; and
- any change in the strategic context

4.2 This section also shows whether opportunities to address the reviewed priorities have been identified. Table 4 below summarises the review.

**Table 4: Review of the priorities within each green network component.**

Component	LDP 1 Priorities	Reviewed Priorities	Opportunities
Forth Estuary	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Preserve/Enhance nature conservation function</li> <li>2. Investigate opportunities for major managed coastal realignment project to reduce overall flood risk and enhance habitat</li> <li>3. Improve public access along the Firth of Forth between Grangemouth and the Kincardine Bridge and the Kincardine Bridge and South Alloa – <b>This has the potential to cause disturbance to Firth of Forth SPA qualifying species. Access along the Firth of Forth between the Kincardine Bridge and South Alloa is now possible. Remove as a priority.</b></li> <li>4. Improve the use of the Firth of Forth as a public open space in Bo'ness</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Preserve/Enhance nature conservation function;</li> <li>2. Investigate opportunities for major managed coastal realignment project to reduce overall flood risk and enhance habitat; and</li> <li>3. Improve the place-making function of the Firth of Forth</li> </ol>	<p>GN01. John Muir Way – Priorities 1 &amp; 3 GN03. Kinneil Kerse - Priorities 1 &amp; 2 GN04. Bothkennar/Skinflats - Priorities 1 &amp; 2 GN25. Outdoor Learning Sites – Priority 3</p> <p>Figure 4.3 of the MIR indicates that focus at the Bo'ness Foreshore site could shift to developing and enhancing its greenspace function and that the site should be reallocated as open space. There may be a case for identifying a specific green network opportunity here given the site's scale. – Priority 3</p>
Upper Carron	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improve access to</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improve access to</li> </ol>	GN06. River Carron

Component	LDP 1 Priorities	Reviewed Priorities	Opportunities
	<p>the Upper Carron between Denny and Larbert</p> <p>2. Remove barrier to fish migration at Carrongrove Mill – <b>This has been achieved. Remove as a priority.</b></p> <p>3. Ensure links to the Upper Carron are retained in Carrongrove Mill and Broad Street developments</p> <p>4. Explore options for upper catchment management</p> <p>5. Improve species migration potential through Denny –</p> <p>6. Promote woodland expansion downstream of Denny</p> <p>7. Consider whether greenspace is an appropriate alternative use for derelict sites in Denny</p>	<p>the Upper Carron between Denny and Larbert</p> <p>2. Ensure links to the Upper Carron are retained in Carrongrove Mill and Broad Street developments</p> <p>3. Explore options for upper catchment management</p> <p>4. Improve species migration potential through Denny –</p> <p>5. Promote woodland expansion downstream of Denny</p> <p>6. Improve the place making function of the River Carron</p>	<p>Corridor Improvements – Priority 1 &amp; 6</p> <p>Sites 015 &amp; 067 – Priority 2</p> <p>Opportunities for upper catchment management (runoff control/ sediment management) may emerge from a flood protection study for Denny and Dunipace which is currently underway. Specific measures could become green network opportunities once identified. Priority 3</p> <p>Sites 012, 013 &amp; 014 can deliver new habitat which enhances species migration potential – Priority 4</p> <p>The Falkirk Forestry and Woodland Strategy will be referenced as key guidance on future management and expansion in the area but no specific green network opportunities have been identified – Priority 5</p> <p>GN25. Outdoor Learning Sites, Gala Park – Priority 6</p>
Lower Carron	<p>1. Improve access</p> <p>2. Improve nature conservation value</p> <p>3. Improve value of public open space</p> <p>4. Investigate opportunities for restoration/ enhancement of the water environment that could improve floodplain functionality</p>	<p>1. Improve access</p> <p>2. Improve nature conservation value</p> <p>3. Improve value of public open space</p> <p>4. Investigate opportunities for restoration/ enhancement of the water environment that could improve floodplain</p> <p>5. Promote woodland expansion in the less sensitive parts of this component</p> <p>6. Promote broadleaved</p>	<p>5. River Carron Corridor Improvements – Priorities 1,2,3,4,5 &amp; 6</p> <p>6. Helix – Priorities 1,2,3,4, &amp; 6</p> <p>Sites 021, 022 &amp; 192 – Priorities 1 &amp; 3</p> <p>16. Larbert Open Space Corridors – Priorities 1,2,3 &amp; 4</p> <p>22. Outdoor learning sites, Carron Dams &amp; Forth Valley Royal Hospital – Priority 3</p> <p>23. Community Growing Site, Coo Park – Priority 3</p>

Component	LDP 1 Priorities	Reviewed Priorities	Opportunities
		woodland expansion within and around the Helix to connect existing woodland habitat at Dalderse and Abbotshaugh.	Opportunities for the restoration/enhancement of the water environment that could improve floodplain may emerge from a flood protection study for Bonnybridge, Denny, Carron and Grangemouth which is expected to be completed in Summer 2018. Specific measures could become green network opportunities once identified. – Priority 4
Avon	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improve/preserve value for nature conservation;</li> <li>2. Continue to improve access along the length of the corridor;</li> <li>3. Promote upper catchment flood management;</li> <li>4. Improve urban setting of the River at Avonbridge;</li> <li>5. Develop robust landscape corridor between Linlithgow and an expanded Whitecross.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improve/preserve value for nature conservation;</li> <li>2. Continue to improve access along the length of the corridor;</li> <li>3. Promote upper catchment flood management;</li> <li>4. Improve urban setting of the river at Avonbridge;</li> <li>5. Develop robust landscape corridor between Linlithgow and an expanded Whitecross;</li> <li>6. Explore opportunities to use the River Avon corridor as a location for outdoor learning.</li> </ol>	<p>GN19. River Avon Corridor – Priorities 1,2 &amp; 4</p> <p>GN20. Muiravonside – Priorities 1,2 &amp; 6</p> <p>GN25. Outdoor learning site, Polmont Woods – Priority 6</p> <p>GN24. Community growing site, Muiravonside</p> <p>GN02. Antonine Wall Trail – Priority 2</p> <p>Site 076 – Priority 2 &amp; 5</p> <p>Opportunities for upper catchment management may emerge from a flood protection study for Bonnybridge, Denny, Carron and Grangemouth which is expected to be completed in Summer 2018. Specific measures could become green network opportunities once identified – Priority 3</p> <p>Figure 4.3 of the MIR indicates that due to low market demand in the rural south villages a number of housing sites are to be de-allocated. Sites 045-047 in Avonbridge could present opportunities to improve the urban</p>

Component	LDP 1 Priorities	Reviewed Priorities	Opportunities
			setting of the river in Avonbridge as open space – Priority 4
Falkirk-Grangemouth Corridor	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Enhance the recreational function of those areas closest to existing communities –</li> <li>2. Recognise potential to act as a north-south species migration corridor and enhance to fulfil this role</li> <li>3. Improve access to Helix area from Grangemouth and Laurieston – <b>Access links to Falkirk Town Centre and Callendar Park are equally important. Revise priority</b></li> <li>4. Ensure the Helix proposals enhance the overall nature conservation value of the area – This is essentially the same as priority 5 - remove</li> <li>5. Protect and enhance nature conservation value</li> <li>6. Secure the long term landscape regeneration of the Avondale landfill site</li> <li>7. Bridge the M9 to link with the Helix and Southern Braes components of the green network</li> <li>8. Enhance access network within this part of the green network linking Polmont, Grangemouth and Bo'ness</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Enhance the recreational function of those areas closest to existing communities</li> <li>2. Recognise potential to act as a north-south species migration corridor and enhance to fulfil this role</li> <li>3. Improve access to Helix area from Grangemouth, Laurieston Falkirk Town Centre and Callendar Park</li> <li>4. Protect and enhance nature conservation value</li> <li>5. Secure the long term landscape regeneration of the Avondale landfill site</li> <li>6. Bridge the M9 to link with the Helix and Southern Braes components of the green network</li> <li>7. Enhance access network within this part of the green network linking Polmont, Grangemouth and Bo'ness</li> <li>8. Promote broadleaved woodland expansion within and around the Helix to connect existing woodland habitat at Dalderse, Abbotshaugh &amp; Westquarter Glen.</li> </ol>	<p>GN07. Helix – Priorities 1,2,3,4,6 &amp; 8</p> <p>7. East Falkirk Open Space Corridor – Priorities 1 &amp; 3</p> <p>GN02. Antonine Wall Trail – Priorities 3 &amp; 7</p> <p>Site 080 &amp; 081 – Priorities 1,2,3, 4 &amp; 8</p> <p>Site 083 – Priority 3</p> <p>Site 095 – Priority 6</p>
South Falkirk	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support the development of the South Falkirk</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support the development of the South Falkirk</li> </ol>	<p>GN01. John Muir Way - Priority 1</p> <p>GN10. Lionthorn Policy</p>

Component	LDP 1 Priorities	Reviewed Priorities	Opportunities
	<p>component of the green network as a recreational resource for the surrounding community</p> <p>2. Investigate opportunities for upper catchment management which may reduce flood risk further downstream, these opportunities may also enhance wider habitat networks</p> <p>3. Maintain the role of the South Falkirk component of the green network as an important east/west habitat corridor.</p> <p>4. Improve/preserve value for nature conservation</p> <p>5. Strengthen links with the Helix through Westquarter Glen</p>	<p>component of the green network as a recreational resource for the surrounding community</p> <p>2. Investigate opportunities for upper catchment management which may reduce flood risk further downstream, these opportunities may also enhance wider habitat networks</p> <p>3. Maintain the role of the South Falkirk component of the green network as an important east/west habitat corridor.</p> <p>4. Improve/preserve value for nature conservation</p> <p>5. Strengthen links with the Helix through Westquarter Glen</p> <p>6. Promote woodland expansion in non-sensitive areas.</p> <p>7. Expand opportunities for outdoor learning and community growing</p>	<p>Bing – Priority 1,3 &amp; 4</p> <p>11. Polmont Open space Corridors – Priority 5</p> <p>21. Antonine Wall Trail – Priority 1</p> <p>22. Outdoor Learning Sites, Callendar Park and Wood – Priority 7</p> <p>23. Community Growing Sites, Bantaskine Park – Priority 7</p> <p>25. Callendar Park and Wood – Priorities 1, 3 &amp; 4</p> <p>Sites 123 &amp; 160 – Priorities 1, 3, 5 &amp; 6</p> <p>Opportunities for upper catchment management may emerge from a flood protection study for Bonnybridge, Denny, Carron and Grangemouth which is expected to be completed in Summer 2018. Specific measures could become green network opportunities once identified. – Priority 2</p> <p>The Falkirk Forestry and Woodland Strategy will be referenced as key guidance on future management and expansion in the area but no specific green network opportunities have been identified – Priority 6</p>
North Larbert	<p>1. Develop the recreational use of the policy woodlands around the Forth Valley acute hospital. Largely achieved but opportunities remain.</p> <p>2. Develop north south links across the M876 to enhance habitat and active travel networks.</p>	<p>1. Develop the recreational use of the policy woodlands around the Forth Valley acute hospital.</p> <p>2. Develop north south links across the M876 to enhance habitat and active travel networks.</p> <p>3. Promote woodland expansion on the non sensitive parts</p>	<p>14. Torwood – Priority 3</p> <p>15. Kinnaird/Carron Policies – Priorities 2 &amp; 3</p> <p>17. Glenbervie to Denny – Priority 2</p> <p>22. Outdoor Learning Sites, Forth Valley Royal Hospital – Priority 1</p> <p>Sites 026 &amp; 094 – Priorities 3 &amp; 4</p> <p>Site 043 – Priority 5</p>



Component	LDP 1 Priorities	Reviewed Priorities	Opportunities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Develop links between Torwood and Plein Country Park – <b>This is not an aspiration of the Falkirk Greenspace Strategy. Remove as a priority</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. of this component; Develop a new sports area in the Kinnaird area.</li> <li>5. Develop new open space facilities in Torwood</li> </ul>	
Canals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improve/preserve value for nature conservation</li> <li>2. Promote as key green infrastructure providing a setting for regeneration investment.</li> <li>3. Promote as the spine of the active travel network.</li> <li>4. Maintain and improve access paths along both canals.</li> <li>5. Exploit the potential of the canals to reduce flood risk during times of bad weather. – <b>This is part of Scottish Canals everyday business. Remove as a priority</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improve/preserve value for nature conservation</li> <li>2. Promote as key green infrastructure providing a setting for regeneration investment.</li> <li>3. Promote as the spine of the active travel network.</li> <li>4. Maintain and improve access paths along both canals.</li> <li>5. Expand opportunities for outdoor learning and community growing</li> <li>6. Improve linkages with Falkirk Town Centre</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. John Muir Way – Priorities 2,3 &amp; 4</li> <li>6. Helix – Priorities 1,2,3 &amp; 4</li> <li>11. Polmont Open Space Corridors – Priorities 1,2,3 &amp; 4</li> <li>19. Muiravonside – Priorities 1,2,3,4 &amp; 5</li> <li>20. Bonnyfield Expansion – Priority 1</li> <li>21. Portdownie/Falkirk Canal Corridor – Priorities 1,2,3 &amp; 4</li> <li>22. Outdoor learning sites, Summerford &amp; Bonnyfield LNR – Priority 5</li> <li>23. Community Growing Sites, Bantaskine Park Extension and Muiravonside – Priority 5</li> </ul> <p>Site 007, 011, 018-020, 031, 068, 076, 080084, 086, 203, 204 – Priorities 1,2 3 &amp; 4</p> <p>The preferred option for Main Issue 7 proposes to improve connections within and to Falkirk Town Centre. Figure 5.5 makes clear that an improved connection to the canal is envisaged. This could generate a specific green network opportunity. – Priority 6</p>
South Bo'ness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improve/preserve value for nature conservation</li> <li>2. Improve access network linking Carriden to Kinneil around the south of Bo'ness</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improve/preserve value for nature conservation;</li> <li>2. Improve access network linking Carriden to Kinneil around the south of Bo'ness;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. John Muir Way – Priorities 1 &amp; 2</li> <li>9. Kinneil Estate – Priorities 1,2,3 &amp; 4</li> <li>10. Bo'ness Open Space Corridors – Priorities 1,2 &amp; 4</li> <li>23. Community Growing</li> </ul>

Component	LDP 1 Priorities	Reviewed Priorities	Opportunities
	<p>3. Explore long term opportunities to link this component of the green network to the Avon and Falkirk/Grangemouth Corridor components of the green network</p> <p>4. Explore opportunities for managed coastal realignment to reduce overall level of flood risk, improve biodiversity value and repair morphological alterations as a result of water transport (sea and coastal transport) and dredging (resulting in removal of sediment). <b>Opportunities are along the foreshore which is part of the Forth Estuary rather than the South Bo'ness component of the green network. Remove as a priority</b></p>	<p>3. Explore long term opportunities to link this component of the green network to the Avon and Falkirk/Grangemouth Corridor components of the green network;</p> <p>4. Promote woodland expansion on the non-sensitive parts of this component;</p> <p>5. Expand opportunities for community growing.</p>	<p>Sites, Kinneil Walled Garden – Priority 5</p> <p>26. Antonine Wall Trail – Priority 3</p> <p>Sites 001-003, 064 &amp; 102 – Priorities 1,2 &amp; 4</p>
Bonny Water	<p>1. Promote catchment management schemes to reduce overall flood risk.</p> <p>2. Improve access to corridor from Banknock, Haggs, Longcroft, Dennyloanhead and from south of the Bonny Water in Bonnybridge. – <b>There is no path running alongside the Bonny Water in this location as the primary linear route is the Forth and Clyde Canal, so providing access to the river</b></p>	<p>1. Promote catchment management schemes to reduce overall flood risk.</p> <p>2. Investigate opportunities for the expansion of Bonnyfield Nature Park westwards.</p> <p>3. Extend access network eastwards along the Bonny Water to its confluence with the River Carron.</p> <p>4. Promote woodland expansion opportunities to the east of Bonnybridge town centre.</p>	<p>20. Bonnyfield Expansion – Priority 2</p> <p>22. Outdoor Learning Sites, Bonnyfield LNR – Priority 5</p> <p>Sites 007 &amp; 061 &amp; 065 – Priority 6</p> <p>Inf 11 – Priority 3</p> <p>Opportunities for catchment management may emerge from a flood protection study for Bonnybridge, Denny, Carron and Grangemouth which is expected to be completed in Summer 2018. Specific</p>

Component	LDP 1 Priorities	Reviewed Priorities	Opportunities
	<p><b>would be of limited benefit. Remove as a priority.</b></p> <p>3. Investigate opportunities for the expansion of Bonnyfield Nature Park westwards.</p> <p>4. Extend access network eastwards along the Bonny Water to its confluence with the River Carron.</p>	<p>5. Expand opportunities for outdoor learning.</p> <p>6. Maximise placemaking opportunities alongside the Bonnywater and its tributaries in Banknock and Hags.</p>	<p>measures could become green network opportunities once identified. – Priority 1</p> <p>The Falkirk Forestry and Woodland Strategy will be referenced as key guidance on future management and expansion in the area but no specific green network opportunities have been identified – Priority 5</p>
Denny	<p>1. Enhance habitat connectivity between Cowden, Drumbowie Reservoir, Little Denny Reservoir and the Castlerankine Burn. – Wider opportunities exist to link the broadleaved woodland habitat network between Cowden and the River Carron. <b>Revise this priority</b></p> <p>2. Enhance access opportunities in the western part of this component of the green network – <b>Access network enhancements currently focus on connecting Denny to Torwood and Falkirk rather than improving connections westwards. Revise this priority to recognise the current focus.</b></p> <p>3. Develop linkages between Chasefield Wood and the River Carron</p> <p>4. Improve biodiversity value of Chasefield Wood – <b>Chasefield Wood</b></p>	<p>1. Enhance habitat connectivity between Cowden and the River Carron</p> <p>2. Form new access network connections to Falkirk and Torwood</p> <p>3. Develop linkages between Chasefield Wood and the River Carron</p> <p>4. Develop the role of the area to the north of Chasefield Woods to be used for urban recreation</p> <p>5. Explore opportunities for upper catchment management schemes on the Castlerankine Burn.</p> <p>6. Maintain the green wedge between Denny and Head of Muir and improve its recreational function.</p> <p>7. Promote woodland expansion opportunities</p>	<p>17. Glenbervie to Denny – Priority 2</p> <p>23. Community Growing Sites, Myothill – Priority 6</p> <p>Sites 12, 13 &amp; 14 – Priority 1, 3 &amp; 4</p> <p>INF.11 – Priority 2</p> <p>Opportunities for upper catchment management (runoff control/ sediment management) may emerge from a flood protection study for Denny and Dunipace which is currently underway. Specific measures could become green network opportunities once identified. – Priority 5</p> <p>The Falkirk Forestry and Woodland Strategy will be referenced as key guidance on future management and expansion in the area but no specific green network opportunities have been identified – Priorities 1 &amp; 7</p>

Component	LDP 1 Priorities	Reviewed Priorities	Opportunities
	<p><b>is in private ownership so there is limited opportunity for the LDP to influence this – Remove as a priority</b></p> <p>5. Develop the role of the area to the north of Chasefield Woods to be used for urban recreation</p> <p>6. Explore opportunities for upper catchment management schemes on the Castlerankine Burn.</p> <p>7. Maintain the green wedge between Denny and Head of Muir – <b>Opportunities for recreational enhancement also exist. Revise this priority.</b></p>		
Carse	<p>1. Establish riparian access route along the Pow Burn between Airth and Torwood - <b>This is not a priority of the Falkirk Greenspace Strategy. Remove as a priority.</b></p> <p>2. Develop the role of the Pow burn as an urban open space serving Airth and Letham</p> <p>3. Promote a river restoration scheme to restore the river to its natural course at Waterslap. –</p> <p>4. Explore opportunities for the long term restoration of Letham Moss once commercial peat extraction has ceased.</p>	<p>1. Develop the role of the Pow burn as an urban open space serving Airth and Letham.</p> <p>2. Promote a river restoration scheme to restore the river to its natural course at Waterslap.</p> <p>3. Explore opportunities for the long term restoration of Letham Moss once commercial peat extraction has ceased.</p> <p>4. Promote woodland expansion to the west of Airth linking to existing woodland at Dunmore.</p>	<p>4. Carse Peatland Restoration - Priority 3.</p> <p>No specific green network opportunities have been identified at Waterslap as the land is in private ownership and no meaningful discussion has been had with landowners about the potential to enhance Waterslap as a greenspace. If discussions advance to a point that an opportunity is more likely to come forward within the lifetime of the plan then a green network opportunity can then be identified. – Priorities 1 &amp; 2.</p> <p>The Falkirk Forestry and Woodland Strategy will be referenced as key guidance on future management and</p>

Component	LDP 1 Priorities	Reviewed Priorities	Opportunities
			expansion in the area but no specific green network opportunities have been identified – Priority 4.
Upper Braes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Conserve and Enhance biodiversity value;</li> <li>2. Preserve carbon rich soils;</li> <li>3. Promote upper catchment flood management schemes around the Culloch and Rashieknowe burns;</li> <li>4. Develop the use of the green network as a recreational resource for residents of Limerigg; and</li> <li>5. Improve access network.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Conserve and Enhance biodiversity value;</li> <li>2. Preserve carbon rich soils;</li> <li>3. Promote upper catchment flood management schemes around the Culloch and Rashieknowe burns;</li> <li>4. Develop the use of the green network as a recreational resource for residents of Limerigg;</li> <li>5. Improve access network; and</li> <li>6. Promote woodland expansion to join up existing woodland habitat.</li> </ol>	<p>12. Braes Wetland and Peatland Restoration – Priorities 1 &amp; 2</p> <p>13. Black Loch Access – Priorities 4 &amp; 5</p> <p>A flood protection study has been recommended for Slamannan by the Forth Estuary Flood Risk Management Plan to assess whether sediment management, direct flood management and natural flood management could reduce flood risk. Once completed this study may identify opportunities for upper catchment flood management – Priority 3</p> <p>The Falkirk Forestry and Woodland Strategy will be referenced as key guidance on future management and expansion in the area but no specific green network opportunities have been identified – Priority 6.</p>
Mid Braes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Conserve and enhance biodiversity value – <b>This priority could be more focussed on connecting woodland and wetland habitat networks. Revise this priority.</b></li> <li>2. Improve links from Avonbridge to network through Fogger Mountain. – <b>This component is essentially a network of potentially interconnected habitats rather</b></li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Connect up fragmented habitats and designated sites.</li> <li>2. Promote woodland expansion.</li> </ol>	<p>12. Braes Wetland and Peatland Restoration – Priority 1</p> <p>The Falkirk Forestry and Woodland Strategy will be referenced as key guidance on future management and expansion in the area but no specific green network opportunities have been identified – Priority 1 &amp; 2.</p>

Component	LDP 1 Priorities	Reviewed Priorities	Opportunities
	<p>than a distinct access network. Improving access links to the network would be of limited value. Remove this priority.</p> <p>3. Create and enhance east-west access links through network. – <b>This isn't a priority within the Falkirk Greenspace Strategy. Remove as a priority.</b></p> <p>4. Create link into lower braes at California – <b>An access network between California and Standurn already exists. Remove as a priority.</b></p> <p>5. Create link into Muiravonside – <b>An access network between Standurn and Muiravonside already exists. Remove as a priority.</b></p>		
Lower Braes	<p>1. Support the development of the Lower Braes component of the green network as a recreational resource for the surrounding community</p> <p>2. Investigate opportunities for upper catchment management which may reduce flood risk further downstream, these opportunities may also enhance wider habitat networks.</p> <p>3. Maintain the role of the Lower Braes component of the green network as an important</p>	<p>1. Support the development of the Lower Braes component of the green network as a recreational resource for the surrounding community</p> <p>2. Investigate opportunities for upper catchment management which may reduce flood risk further downstream, these opportunities may also enhance wider habitat networks.</p> <p>3. Maintain the role of the Lower Braes component of the green network as an important</p>	<p>11. Polmont Open Space Corridors - Priorities 1,2 3 &amp; 4 &amp; 5</p> <p>22. Community Growing Sites, California Road Playingfields Maddiston – Priority 8</p> <p>Sites 033-037 – Priorities 1,4 &amp; 6</p> <p>Site 056 – Priorities 1, 3, 5 &amp; 7</p> <p>Sites 123 &amp; 160 – Priority 5</p> <p>Site 140 – Priority 1 &amp; 3</p> <p>The Falkirk Forestry and Woodland Strategy will be referenced as key guidance on future management and expansion in the area but no specific green network opportunities</p>

Component	LDP 1 Priorities	Reviewed Priorities	Opportunities
	<p>east/west habitat corridor.</p> <p>4. Improve/preserve value for nature conservation</p> <p>5. Strengthen links with the Helix area through Westquarter Glen.</p>	<p>east/west habitat corridor.</p> <p>4. Improve/preserve value for nature conservation</p> <p>5. Strengthen links with the Helix area through Westquarter Glen.</p> <p>6. Establish a landscape buffer between the A803 and the eastern edge of planned development in Maddiston.</p> <p>7. Promote woodland expansion between Reddinmuirhead and Shieldhill, Wallacestone and California and to the north of Shieldhill</p> <p>8. Expand opportunities for community growing.</p>	<p>have been identified - Priority 7</p> <p>Opportunities for upper catchment management may emerge from a flood protection study for Bonnybridge, Denny, Carron and Grangemouth which is expected to be completed in Summer 2018. Specific measures could become green network opportunities once identified. – Priority 2</p>

4.3 Finally, table 5 below reviews the progress made in implementing the suite of green network opportunities identified in LDP1 and assesses whether they should be carried forward into LDP2

**Table 5: Green Network Opportunity Progress Review**

<b>LDP Ref</b>	<b>Opportunity</b>	<b>Description and Comments</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>LDP2 Ref</b>
<b>GN01</b>	<b>John Muir Trail</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section of national long distance route within Falkirk Council area, stretching from Shore Wood, east of Blackness to Forth and Clyde Canal, west of Banknock.</li> <li>• Opportunity for access and landscape improvements along the entire length of the trail.</li> <li>• Particular opportunities for path creation between Blackness and Bo'ness and improvements at Fisher's Brae.</li> <li>• In respect of proposals affecting the River Forth, for permission to be granted, proposals must be accompanied by project-specific information to inform an appropriate assessment. This will allow Falkirk Council to complete an appropriate assessment demonstrating that there will be no adverse effects on the integrity of the Firth of Forth SPA, or Firth of Forth and St Andrew's Bay Complex pSPA, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.</li> </ul>	<p>The Bo'ness to Blackness section of the John Muir Way (JMW) is completed as are the improvements at Fishers Brae. A number of access improvements have also been made along the canals network.</p> <p>Future projects include: a public art project along the seawall at Bridgeness; path upgrading between Bo'ness and Kinneil and a habitat enhancement project in partnership with Buglife although these may all be completed pre-2020.</p> <p>A JMW project officer being recruited nationally and this may lead to some further national themed projects post 2020, otherwise only maintenance works are planned.</p> <p><b>This opportunity should be retained but renamed the "John Muir Way."</b></p>	<b>GN01</b>



<b>GN02</b>	<b>Kinneil Kerse</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Former landfill site which directly abuts the Firth of Forth SPA.</li> <li>• Habitat enhancement proposals will focus around landfill restoration and enhancing and creating new supporting habitat for qualifying species of the Firth of Forth SPA. This will include protection of existing high tide roost sites and creation of suitable refuge areas.</li> <li>• Possible construction of new visitor facilities for bird viewing.</li> <li>• In respect of proposals affecting the River Forth, for permission to be granted, proposals must be accompanied by project-specific information to inform an appropriate assessment. This will allow Falkirk Council to complete an appropriate assessment demonstrating that there will be no adverse effects on the integrity of the Firth of Forth SPA, River Teith SAC, or Firth of Forth and St Andrew's Bay Complex pSPA, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.</li> </ul>	<p>A planning application for initial restoration was granted in Feb 2015. Restoration is proposed over a 5 year time period. Approved works include covering areas of former landfill with different depths of inert compacted material and top soil. Approved works don't include any formal landscaping of the restored site and no post restoration public access to the site is proposed although the public continue to have access to the existing shoreline footpath</p> <p>A planning application for a wetland creation project at Kinneil Lagoons as part of the Inner Forth Landscape Initiative was submitted but subsequently withdrawn. Once waste management licensing issues are resolved it is expected that the application will be re-submitted.</p> <p><b>This opportunity should be retained.</b></p>	<b>GN03</b>
<b>GN03</b>	<b>Bothkennar/Skinflats</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coastal habitats to the north of the mouth of the River Carron.</li> <li>• Opportunities to create new supporting habitat for SPA supporting species and new visitor facilities for bird viewing, and to improve access to the area from the Helix.</li> <li>• Creation of new supporting habitat could involve the managed realignment of the coast which would help to reduce overall flood risk in the area and could contribute to the achievement of river basin planning objectives.</li> <li>• For permission to be granted any proposals must be accompanied by project-specific information to inform an appropriate assessment. This will allow Falkirk Council to complete an appropriate assessment demonstrating that there will be no adverse effects on the integrity of the Firth of Forth SPA, or Firth of Forth and St Andrew's Bay Complex pSPA, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.</li> </ul>	<p>Some habitat, access and landscape improvements have been made as part of the Inner Forth Landscape Initiative but opportunities still remain.</p> <p>An application for managed realignment of the coast at RSPB Skinflats reserve was approved in June 2018 as part of the Inner Forth Landscape Initiative.</p> <p>Further managed realignment opportunities may emerge as part of the Grangemouth Flood Protection Scheme.</p> <p><b>This opportunity should be retained.</b></p>	<b>GN04</b>

<b>GN04</b>	<b>Kincardine-South Alloa</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity to create missing link in Round the Forth Foreshore Path from Airth Sewage Works to Dunmore, and to create path along A905 from Airth to South Alloa.</li> <li>• For permission to be granted any proposals for new access routes must be accompanied by project specific information to inform an appropriate assessment. This will allow Falkirk Council to complete an appropriate assessment demonstrating that there will be no adverse effects on the integrity of the Firth of Forth SPA, or Firth of Forth and St Andrew's Bay Complex pSPA, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.</li> </ul>	<p>The Airth to Dunmore coastal route has been signed and a bridge has been installed which creates the missing link. Path improvement works are still needed but works aren't considered to be major.</p> <p><b>This opportunity should be removed.</b></p>	<b>None</b>
<b>GN05</b>	<b>Carse Peatland Restoration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity for restoration of peatland at Letham Moss and peatland habitat enhancement at Dunmore Moss.</li> </ul>	<p>Money should become available for peatland restoration in the Falkirk area as part of that negotiated for the loss of habitat at Torwood Myre as part of the Denny to Beaulay project.</p> <p>Projects will be partnership in nature and led by Scottish Power but Falkirk Council have a place on the steering group.</p> <p>There may be delivery issues bearing in mind Letham Moss is still being worked but the aspiration to restore Letham Moss once works have been completed remain.</p> <p>Dunmore Moss was considered as a project as part of IFLI but didn't progress due to landownership problems.</p> <p><b>This opportunity should be retained.</b></p>	<b>GN05</b>
<b>GN06</b>	<b>Waterslap</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity for enhancement of an abandoned opencast site which lies between Airth and Letham and forms part of setting of Airth Castle.</li> <li>• Potential river restoration on Pow Burn to improve habitat and flood attenuation value.</li> <li>• Potential to improve access to site from Airth and Letham.</li> </ul>	<p>Deliverability may be an issue due to lack of ownership. The Grangemouth Flood Defence scheme may have an influence on this project. No meaningful discussions have taken place with the landowners to date so it seems unlikely that the delivery of this opportunity is likely within the LDP period.</p> <p><b>This opportunity should be removed.</b></p>	<b>None</b>

<b>GN07</b>	<b>Dunmore Wood</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunities for woodland management and access improvement.</li> </ul>	<p>Woodland is in good state and looking after itself. This is not a priority.</p> <p><b>This opportunity should be removed.</b></p>	<b>None</b>
<b>GN08</b>	<b>River Carron Corridor Improvements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communities Along the Carron Initiative aims to enhance the River Carron's function as a recreational resource for riparian communities.</li> <li>• Opportunity to create River Carron Trail including access improvements at Carrongrove, Denny East to Lochlands, and new bridge across the Carron connecting Carronshore to Abbotshaugh and the Helix.</li> <li>• Further opportunities for habitat restoration and invasive species clearance.</li> <li>• New bridge proposals must be designed to avoid adverse effect on the Firth of Forth SPA as identified in a project-specific Appropriate Assessment. Any works in the Firth of Forth SPA must not cause any impact in terms of the Water Framework Directive.</li> </ul>	<p>Dorrator Bridge replacement opened in July 2014.</p> <p>A planning application for a new footbridge from Carronshore into Helix North approved in Sep 2015 and was opened in June 2018.</p> <p>Invasive species clearance/ habitat restoration work is on-going.</p> <p>CAtCA are reviewing their development plan and this may flag up additional opportunities</p> <p><b>This opportunity should be retained.</b></p>	<b>GN06</b>
<b>GN09</b>	<b>Helix</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First phases of the Helix project are well underway involving creation of new parkland, sentinels, Kelpie sculptures, and a new section of canal.</li> <li>• Opportunities remain to enhance landscape setting of the Helix where it abuts an industrial urban edge and to improve internal path networks and access to the Helix from its surrounding communities.</li> </ul>	<p>A business plan and a 15 year asset management plan for the Helix is under preparation. Parts of the Helix are being managed by Falkirk Community Trust whilst responsibility for delivering improvements in the Helix South and the Helix North have been passed back to the Council. Significant opportunities for improvement remain.</p> <p><b>This opportunity should be retained.</b></p>	<b>GN07</b>

<b>GN10</b>	<b>East Falkirk Open Space Corridor</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity to improve access to the Helix from Falkirk Town Centre.</li> <li>• Opportunity comprises creation of new open space corridor and access network through development sites at Forth Valley College Campus and Falkirk Gateway between the Helix and Victoria Park.</li> </ul>	<p>PPP application for new Forth Valley College submitted approved in 2015 and a detailed application has subsequently been approved. The site was under construction as of June 2018. Plans include provisions for retaining an open space corridor.</p> <p>Falkirk Gateway preliminary development framework acknowledges the opportunity. This needs to be factored into detailed masterplanning.</p> <p>Discussions with Coasters needs to take place regarding the potential purchase of land to create the green link.</p> <p><b>This opportunity should be retained but renamed “ Helix - Falkirk Town Centre Green Corridor”</b></p>	<b>GN08</b>
<b>GN11</b>	<b>Roughcastle</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity to build on existing recreational and access infrastructure through provision of further visitor facilities.</li> </ul>	<p>Major opportunities for expanding recreational and access infrastructure and providing further visitor facilities have been achieved.</p> <p><b>This opportunity should be removed.</b></p>	<b>None</b>
<b>GN12</b>	<b>Rowan Tree/Carmuirns Burn</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Past industrial activity has resulted in a legacy of ferruginous discharges into the Rowan Tree and the Carmuirns Burn.</li> <li>• Opportunities for interception of pollutants before they enter into the burns to improve water quality, river restoration through culvert removal and watercourse naturalisation; and habitat enhancement through introduction of riparian buffers.</li> </ul>	<p>The LDP can have only a limited impact on delivering this opportunity. Very few details in are contained within the RBMP about the extent of the problem or proposed measures for dealing with the problem. Land is most likely privately owned.</p> <p><b>This opportunity should be removed.</b></p>	<b>None</b>
<b>GN13</b>	<b>Lionthorn Policy Bing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity to develop new recreational greenspace on blaes playing fields, building on tree planting, habitat creation and access works previously carried out through Lionthorn Greenspace Project.</li> </ul>	<p>Tender process has revealed that the aspiration to create a new grass pitch here is not affordable. Further consideration is required to refine the vision and specification for the area taking account of available budget. Consultations on a revised scheme will take place during 2018.</p> <p><b>This opportunity should be retained.</b></p>	<b>GN10</b>

<b>GN14</b>	<b>Kinneil Estate</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opportunity to develop visitor facilities in the Kinneil Estate along with continuing management of the woodland close to Antonine Wall World Heritage Site.</li> </ul>	<p>Masterplan prepared and approved. Implementation of the masterplan will stretch into the post 2020 period. Forest Plan being implemented.</p> <p><b>This opportunity should be retained.</b></p>	<b>GN12</b>
<b>GN15</b>	<b>Bo'ness Open Space Corridors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opportunity to improve quality, function and diversity of open space corridors within Bo'ness.</li> <li>Corridors incorporate contiguous open spaces such as Deanburn Glen and Maidenspark, Grahamsdyke playing fields and Newton Park and The Drum, Kinningars Park and Crookies.</li> </ul>	<p>CSGNT sponsored Deanburn Glen project has been delivered as part of the Inner Forth Landscape Initiative. Further opportunities to improve the quality function and diversity of these corridors are identified as opportunities within the Open Space Strategy and may be delivered in association with development as well as from capital funds.</p> <p><b>This opportunity should be retained.</b></p>	<b>GN13</b>
<b>GN16</b>	<b>Lower Braes Southern Fringe</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opportunities to improve landscape setting of Lower Braes villages through woodland planting and other schemes to soften the urban edge.</li> <li>Further opportunities to improve recreational access to the wider countryside, and habitat connectivity between nature conservation sites in the Lower Braes southern fringe.</li> </ul>	<p>Given the Council's limited land ownership, opportunities to improve the landscape setting of the Lower Braes are likely to be delivered exclusively in association with development rather than as a contiguous project.</p> <p><b>This opportunity should be removed.</b></p>	<b>None</b>
<b>GN17</b>	<b>Lathallan/Avonglen</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opportunity for habitat enhancement at the former Avon Glen Quarry.</li> <li>Opportunity for access improvements to link with path network surrounding Lathallan House.</li> </ul>	<p>Planning permission for Lathallan House has lapsed.</p> <p>Work to enhance ponds at Avonglen has been completed and a small management group has been established by Froglife. Future small scale habitat management work is possible but nothing major.</p> <p><b>This opportunity should be removed.</b></p>	<b>None</b>
<b>GN18</b>	<b>Polmont Open Space Corridors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opportunity to improve the quality, function and diversity of open space corridors running through the Polmont area.</li> <li>Opportunities focus on the corridors of the Polmont Burn, Westquarter Burn, Manuel Burn and Union Canal, contiguous open spaces and open spaces linking into these corridors.</li> </ul>	<p>Work carried out along Westquarter Glen, and part of Manuel Burn corridor (Valley Park) is being improved with money from developer contributions.</p> <p>Opportunities still remain, particularly in association with planned development at Gilston.</p> <p><b>This opportunity should be retained but renamed as "Braes Open Space Corridors"</b></p>	<b>GN14</b>

GN19	Mid Braes Habitat Connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity to create new bog and wetland habitat to improve habitat connectivity between existing significant bog and wetland habitats in the Mid Braes.</li> <li>• Opportunities may extend to peatland restoration schemes in areas such as Gardrum Moss, Darnrigg Moss and Drumbroidier Moss.</li> <li>• For permission to be granted proposals must be accompanied by project-specific information to inform an appropriate assessment. This will allow Falkirk Council to complete an appropriate assessment demonstrating that there will be no adverse effects on the integrity of the Slamannan Plateau SPA, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.</li> </ul>	<p>Recent application to vary conditions at Gardrum Moss i.e. the non-submission of a detailed site restoration scheme and aftercare scheme. Gardrum Moss is now owned by Anglo Scottish Biosolids Ltd.</p> <p>Money should become available for peatland restoration in the Falkirk area as part of that negotiated for the loss of habitat at Torwood Myre as part of the Denny to Beaully project. Projects will be partnership in nature and led by Scottish Power but FC have a place on the steering group.</p> <p><b>This opportunity is similar in scope to the Upper Braes Peatland Restoration opportunity so this opportunity should be amalgamated with it and renamed “Braes Wetland and Peatland Restoration”</b></p>	GN15
GN20	Black Loch Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity to create new path to the south of Black Loch to enable access around the loch.</li> <li>• For permission to be granted any new path proposals must be accompanied by project-specific information to inform an appropriate assessment. This will allow Falkirk Council to complete an appropriate assessment demonstrating that there will be no adverse effects on the integrity of the Black Loch Moss SAC, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.</li> </ul>	<p>No progress has been made but this opportunity remains a community aspiration.</p> <p><b>This opportunity should be retained.</b></p>	GN16
GN21	Upper Braes Peatland Restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity for restoration/enhancement of peatland habitat at Garbethill, Fannyside and Wester Arnloss.</li> <li>• For permission to be granted proposals must be accompanied by project-specific information to inform an appropriate assessment. This will allow Falkirk Council to complete an appropriate assessment demonstrating that there will be no adverse effects on the integrity of the Slamannan Plateau SPA, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.</li> </ul>	<p>Money should become available for peatland restoration in the Falkirk area as part of that negotiated for the loss of habitat at Torwood Myre as part of the Denny to Beaully project. Projects will be partnership in nature and led by Scottish Power but FC have a place on the steering group.</p> <p><b>This opportunity is similar in scope to the Mid-Braes Habitat Connectivity opportunity so this opportunity should be amalgamated with it and renamed “Braes Wetland and Peatland Restoration”</b></p>	GN15

<b>GN22</b>	<b>Torwood</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opportunity for woodland management and development of outdoor access network around Torwood.</li> </ul>	<p>Some woodland management work has taken place and access improvement work is in the funding stages.</p> <p>Remaining works not considered significant enough to warrant a green network opportunity designation.</p> <p><b>This opportunity should be removed</b></p>	<b>None</b>
<b>GN23</b>	<b>Kinnaird/Carron Policies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opportunity for management and reinforcement of remnant parkland landscapes along eastern edge of Stenhousemuir and Carronshore.</li> <li>M9 buffer planting as part of Bellsdyke/Hill of Kinnaird urban expansion.</li> </ul>	<p>Buffer planting at the Hill of Kinnaird site has taken place and opportunities to implement improvements through discussions with landowners remain.</p> <p>Given the settlement growth aspirations in the Larbert area it is unlikely that this will be achieved within the lifetime of the LDP</p> <p><b>This opportunity should be removed.</b></p>	<b>None</b>
<b>GN24</b>	<b>Larbert Open Space Corridors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opportunity to improve quality, function and diversity of open space corridors running through the Larbert and Stenhousemuir.</li> <li>Opportunities focus on the open spaces running along Chapel Burn between the River Carron and Bellsdyke Road; and the How Burn between River Carron and Larbert Main Street.</li> </ul>	<p>Access improvements around the Tryst and through Finlay Russell Park have recently been made. The Chapel Burn Corridor is identified as a priority for quality improvement in the Open Space Strategy.</p> <p><b>This opportunity should be retained.</b></p>	<b>GN17</b>
<b>GN25</b>	<b>Glenbervie to Denny</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opportunity to provide missing link in the core path network to enable a circular route between North Broomage and Denny via Glenbervie and Torwood.</li> <li>Complementary opportunities to improve the path network in Torwood and Dales Wood.</li> </ul>	<p>No progress has been made with this project but discussions with the Central Scotland Green Network Trust have started.</p> <p><b>This opportunity should be retained.</b></p>	<b>GN18</b>

<b>GN26</b>	<b>River Avon Corridor</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extensive work completed over the past few decades to create the River Avon Heritage Trail running along the River Avon from Avonbridge to Linlithgow Bridge.</li> <li>• Opportunities remain to extend the access network downstream from Linlithgow Bridge to Grangemouth and upstream from Avonbridge to Slamannan.</li> <li>• For permission to be granted new access proposals must be accompanied by project-specific information to inform an appropriate assessment. This will allow Falkirk Council to complete an appropriate assessment demonstrating that there will be no adverse effects on the integrity of the Slamannan Plateau SPA, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.</li> <li>• Opportunity to enhance and extend riparian habitat and access through phased restoration of Avondale landfill site.</li> </ul>	<p>A Core Path already exists upstream of Avonbridge but major improvement work is still needed. This project has stalled over the issue of landowner permissions but discussions are ongoing.</p> <p><b>This opportunity should be retained.</b></p>	<b>GN19</b>
<b>GN27</b>	<b>Muiravonside</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity to enhance visitor attractions and recreational facilities, and improve woodland management at Muiravonside Country Park.</li> </ul>	<p>A Park Management Plan has been drafted and a Friends Group has been established. Many opportunities for improvement remain.</p> <p><b>This opportunity should be retained.</b></p>	<b>GN20</b>
<b>GN28</b>	<b>Denny-Falkirk Path</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity to link Denny and Camelon/Falkirk utilising solum of disused railway line. Requires two new bridges to cross the Bonny Water and M876.</li> </ul>	<p>Planning application has been approved in Nov 2015 for this section of the path as well as for links into Bonnybridge. Project costed at £6.5m staged implementation/funding applications likely to be the way forward.</p> <p><b>Given the scale of funding required this opportunity should be re-categorised as an infrastructure proposal.</b></p>	<b>None</b>
<b>GN29</b>	<b>Bonnywood to Denny-Falkirk Path</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity to create a new path link between Bonnybridge and the proposed Denny-Falkirk Path (see GN28)</li> <li>• Opportunity comprises creation of new path from the edge of existing network at Bonnywood to the currently disused railway line, involving construction of new ramp to connect to disused railway line.</li> </ul>	<p>Planning application has been approved in Nov 2015. See above.</p> <p><b>Given the scale of funding required this opportunity should be re-categorised as an infrastructure proposal.</b></p>	<b>None</b>



<b>GN30</b>	<b>Bonnyfield Expansion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunities exist to expand Bonnyfield Local Nature Reserve (LNR) to incorporate wetland habitat at Parkfoot Moss to west of bonded warehouse complex.</li> <li>• Further opportunities to improve access to LNR from Seabegs Road area via Seabegs Pend under Forth and Clyde Canal</li> <li>• Opportunities to enhance riparian habitat along the Bonny Water.</li> </ul>	<p>No progress to date but opportunities may emerge as part of the preparation of the Bonnyfield LNR/Duncan Stewart Park masterplan.</p> <p><b>This opportunity should be retained.</b></p>	<b>GN21</b>
<b>GN31</b>	<b>Portdownie/Falkirk Canal Corridor</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity to improve the visual quality of the Forth and Clyde Canal corridor through Falkirk from Portdownie to the Helix.</li> <li>• Particular opportunities to create new access and public realm along canal through development opportunities at Portdownie, Rosebank, Merchiston Road, Gowan Avenue, Etna Road and the Falkirk Gateway.</li> </ul>	<p>Access improvements along the Forth and Clyde Canal have been implemented with re-surfacing and stud lighting. Major further investment planned by Scottish Canals in orientation/interpretation/ environmental improvement.</p> <p>Portdownie development has stalled. Opportunities for interim improvements on this site are being examined.</p> <p><b>This opportunity should be retained but renamed “Falkirk Canal Corridor”</b></p>	<b>GN22</b>
<b>GN32</b>	<b>Bantaskine</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunities for further enhancement of park including interpretation, path creation (as part of the John Muir Trail), canal moorings, tourist facilities and additional allotments.</li> </ul>	<p>Bantaskine isn't identified as a key open space asset or a priority for quality improvement in the Open Space Strategy, however opportunities for further enhancement of the park remain an important aspiration Allotment expansion is suggested here</p> <p><b>This opportunity should be retained but renamed “Bantaskine Park”</b></p>	<b>GN23</b>
<b>None</b>	<b>Antonine Wall Trail</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing an Antonine Wall Trail is one of the aspirations of the Falkirk Greenspace Strategy.</li> </ul>	<p>Stage 2 bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the Rediscovering the Antonine Wall project was submitted in June 2018. If successful delivery of placemaking and play-park improvements along the line of the Antonine Wall will be implemented over the 3 year lifetime of the project.</p>	<b>GN02</b>
<b>None</b>	<b>Zetland Park</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A parks masterplan has been prepared for Zetland Park and fundraising to implement an extensive range of improvements is planned.</li> <li>• Zetland Park is identified as one of 14 key open space assets across the Council area</li> </ul>	<p>A stage 1 bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund was successful in Dec 2017 for the £1.5m regeneration of the park. Stage 2 bid planned for 2019 with implementation if successful thereafter.</p>	<b>GN09</b>

<b>None</b>	<b>Callendar Park and Wood</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Separate masterplans for Callendar Park and Wood have been prepared by Falkirk Community Trust and Forestry Commission Scotland respectively.</li> <li>• Numerous opportunities for improvement are identified and fundraising is ongoing.</li> </ul>	A stage 1 Heritage Lottery Fund bid is under preparation.	<b>GN11</b>
<b>None</b>	<b>Community Growing Sites</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing a network of community growing sites is one of the aspirations of the Falkirk Greenspace Strategy and is likely to be one of the roles of the forthcoming Food Growing Strategy which the Council are required to produce as part of its duties under the Community Empowerment Act.</li> <li>• Numerous opportunities are identified.</li> </ul>		<b>GN24</b>
<b>None</b>	<b>Outdoor learning sites</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing a network of outdoor learning sites is one of the aspirations of the Falkirk Greenspace Strategy.</li> <li>• The aim is to have at least one exemplar outdoor learning site within each high school cluster</li> <li>• Numerous opportunities are identified</li> </ul>		<b>GN25</b>

## Local Development Plan<sup>2</sup>

# Technical Report 8 (Revised): **Green Network**

June 2018



# Falkirk Council