

**REPORT TO:** CLIMATE, NET ZERO AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE - 16 FEBRUARY 2026

**REPORT ON:** DUNDEE'S DRAFT NATURE NETWORK CONSULTATION

**REPORT BY:** EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

**REPORT NO:** 34-2026

**1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To present an update regarding Dundee's Nature Network Consultation in line with guidance from Scottish Government and seek approval to initiate community engagement and consultation.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 It is recommended that the committee notes the progress of the Draft Nature Network and gives approval to seek input from communities prior to the network being considered by elected members as part of the forthcoming Biodiversity Action Plan Review in Autumn 2026.

**3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 None.

**4.0 MAIN TEXT**

4.1 Reference is made to Article II of the minute of the meeting of the Climate, Environment and Biodiversity Committee of 18<sup>th</sup> August 2025, which noted the achievements and progress of the Biodiversity Action Plan (Report [220-2025](#)).

**4.2 Context**

4.2.1 Changes in land use and the fragmentation of habitats are among the leading causes of biodiversity loss. These pressures are particularly acute in urban environments, where land is in high demand and development remains a key priority. To address these challenges, Nature Networks have been established as a strategic approach to identify areas of significant ecological value and assess their connectivity, whilst exploring opportunities to restore degraded habitats, improve site management and strengthen connectivity between habitats.

4.2.2 Nature Networks represent a significant component within the programme for Scottish Government commitment, helping to tackle the climate and nature emergencies, delivering a nature-positive Scotland by 2030 and supporting the National Planning Framework 4. They also support Scotland's Environment Strategy and align with international frameworks such as the Global Biodiversity Framework and the EU's Trans-European Nature Network. All Local Authorities will play a leading role in shaping and implementing local Nature Networks, using tools such as Local Development Plans and Biodiversity Action Plans.

4.2.3 The Scottish Government has recommended that each local authority develop a spatially mapped Nature Network to be integrated into relevant local strategies such as the Biodiversity Action Plan and the Local Development Plan. In addition, the development of Dundee's Nature Network supports the Climate Action Plan by increasing the city's resilience to climate change. A healthy, well-connected network enhances natural adaptation, including improved flood management, better air quality, local cooling and buffering against extreme weather.

4.2.4 Collaboration with neighbouring authorities is recommended to ensure connectivity, contributing to a cohesive national Nature Network across Scotland. Community engagement and consultation have been highlighted as a key stage in developing and delivering the Nature Networks. Engagement will ensure that people understand what a Nature Network is and its importance, along

with the role it will take in a local context. Further information on this is provided in section 4.4 of this report.

### **4.3 Development of the Draft Nature Network**

- 4.3.1 In the Summer of 2025, a series of ward-based Biodiversity Profiles and internet based interactive maps and information, which can be viewed [here](#), were issued to all elected members and were subsequently made publicly available on Dundee City Council's website. These resources highlighted areas across the city that contribute to Dundee's Nature Network alongside recent projects aimed at enhancing the biodiversity within these spaces. Dundee's draft Nature Network map (appendix 1) has been developed, utilising available data of habitats and species, mapping tools provided by Nature Scot and the local knowledge and experience of Dundee's greenspaces as detailed in the Ward Profiles.
- 4.3.2 In line with guidance from Nature Scot, core areas have been identified across the city, acting as important sources of biodiversity that can spread across the wider landscape. They support a variety of habitats and are managed with long term conservation as a primary objective. The largest of these, with multiple national and international conservation designations, is the River Tay. Only small sections of the River Tay's designated areas fall within the city boundary. However, the designated area outwith the boundary has been shown on the map to highlight the important connective role it plays along the waterfront and to Fife.
- 4.3.3 Potential connectivity routes between core sites have also been identified. These routes are indicative rather than physical pathways. The development of these routes considered many opportunities and constraints present across the city and represent the best opportunities for current and future connectivity within Dundee. They also link into the surrounding local authority areas proposed Nature Networks.
- 4.3.4 Along these routes, there are smaller sites which already support biodiversity. Termed 'stepping stone' sites, they are generally smaller than core areas but contain good quality habitat or habitat that could be easily and efficiently enhanced through small scale projects. Some sites already form continuous corridors, such as 'The Miley' and along waterways. Although ecologically desirable, achieving long continuous corridors across the city is not feasible due to urban fragmentation and competing land uses, such as potential development sites. However, the more stepping stones sites there are along a route, the stronger the connectivity between core sites will be.
- 4.3.5 The draft map is a snapshot of the draft Nature Network in Dundee. This network will evolve over time, assisted by actions in the upcoming Biodiversity Action Plan review and potential policies included in the Local Development Plan Review, as well as other council strategies and plans. Whilst the map will provide a framework to prioritise and focus biodiversity action, opportunities to enhance biodiversity should be taken where they arise. Similarly, the map should not prevent sustainable development. Creative approaches to integrating biodiversity into development should be encouraged as directed by NPF4.
- 4.3.6 Not all greenspaces are currently included on the map. This reflects the multiple roles these spaces play across the city. Many spaces, such as playing fields, primarily serve recreational purposes and contain limited habitat. Future work will explore ways to improve biodiversity on these sites without compromising their main use, potentially adding them to the network later. Additionally, smaller sites such as wee forests and community gardens are not currently represented but are recognised as important and they have been considered when drafting the Nature Network. Officers are exploring how this additional information can be represented in a future online version of the draft nature network.

#### **4.4 Proposed Community Engagement**

- 4.4.1 A limited consultation was undertaken in December, comprising an internal staff survey and engagement with key stakeholders including Nature Scot, RSPB, Eden, Abertay University and Scottish Water. This process helped to identify existing constraints within the network and secured commitment from a range of organisations to support further consultation and wider public engagement as well as facilitating the future delivery of the Nature Network.
- 4.4.2 Delivering and shaping Dundee's Nature Network will require strong community involvement. Communities can often provide more detailed, local data which is not recorded elsewhere particularly regarding species and habitats as well as how the area is used by visitors. Public understanding of why sites are managed in particular ways is also essential and community participation will be a driving force for future projects. It is important that initiatives deliver multiple benefits for both people and nature, supporting the vision set out in the Biodiversity Action Plan of 'Working together to protect, enhance and raise awareness of biodiversity in Dundee for the benefit of all.'
- 4.4.3 Funding has been identified from the Nature Restoration Fund revenue allocation to support a community engagement event scheduled for March 2026. This event will be delivered with key stakeholders. Its primary purpose is to raise awareness of the draft Nature Network and provide an opportunity for public consultation and local data gathering. This will ensure that the final map is accurate and well informed. In addition, the event will serve as a platform to generate project ideas that will contribute to proposed actions in the forthcoming Biodiversity Action Plan review and facilitate the future development of a biodiversity opportunity map to help guide future development and implementation of initiatives, which will be dependent on available funding.
- 4.4.4 The above event will mark the start of a wider programme of public engagement. This programme will use a range of methods to ensure accessibility and inclusivity. It is anticipated that this will include an online survey, with paper versions available, to provide an opportunity for people to feedback on the draft map and identify potential opportunities for enhancement. Supporting information on Nature Networks will be provided as part of the survey to enable participants to provide informed opinions. The Council, in collaboration with stakeholder organisations, will also deliver information on Nature Networks in a wide range of formats alongside nature-based activities at a range of events and locations to promote the Nature Network and to provide additional opportunities to consult with communities across the city. This process will be concluded in July 2026.
- 4.5 The draft Nature Network map can be viewed in Appendix 1 and online [here](#). This map may change in response to consultation prior to being incorporated into draft local strategies and plans referenced above.

#### **5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 This report has been subject to the screening tool and does not make any recommendations for change to strategy, policy, procedures, services or funding and so has not been subject to an Integrated Impact Assessment. An appropriate senior manager has reviewed and agreed with this assessment.

#### **6.0 CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 The Council Management Team have been consulted in the preparation of this report and agree with its contents.

**7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

8.1 None.

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29 January 2026



### Draft Nature Network Sites

1	Greater Camperdown	Core Site
2	Caird Park	Core Site
3	The Law	Core Site
4	Greater Balgay	Core Site
5	Riverside Nature Park	Core Site
6	Broughty Ferry Esplanade	Core Site
7	Middleton Woods and adjacent greenspace	Core Site
8	The Dighty Corridor	Core Site
9	Monifieth Bay SSSI (part of internationally important wider Tay site- 9a/10a)	Core Site
10	Inner Tay Estuary SSSI (part of internationally important wider Tay site-9a/10a)	Core Site
9a/10a	River Tay (national and international conservation designations)	Core Site (partly within city boundary)
11	Ardler Pond West	Stepping Stone Site
12	Ardler Gleneagles	Stepping Stone Site
13	Ardler Pond East	Stepping Stone Site
14	Crematorium	Stepping Stone Site
15	St Leonards Park	Stepping Stone Site
16	Fairmuir Park	Stepping Stone Site
17	Denhead of Gray	Stepping Stone Site
18	The Miley	Stepping Stone Site
19	Myrekirk Park	Stepping Stone Site
20	South Road Park	Stepping Stone Site
21	Technology Park	Stepping Stone Site
22	Balgay Cemetery Elliot Park and Royal Victoria	Stepping Stone Site
23	Victoria Park	Stepping Stone Site
24	Ninewells Arboretum	Stepping Stone Site
25	Spey Drive Biodiversity Grassland	Stepping Stone Site
26	Helenbank Park	Stepping Stone Site

27	Lochee Road Biodiversity Grassland	Stepping Stone Site
28	Keswick Park	Stepping Stone Site
29	Baxter Park	Stepping Stone Site
30	Eastern Cemetery	Stepping Stone Site
31	Dawson Park	Stepping Stone Site
32	Balgillo Road Park	Stepping Stone Site
33	Anton Drive Woodland	Stepping Stone Site
34	Reres Park	Stepping Stone Site
35	Gillies Park and Eastern Cemetery	Stepping Stone Site
36	Dudhope Park	Stepping Stone Site
37	Lochee Road	Stepping Stone Site
38	Magdalen Green	Stepping Stone Site
39	Riverside Biodiversity Grassland	Stepping Stone Site
40	Dundee Botanic Gardens	Stepping Stone Site
41	Riverside Drive	Stepping Stone Site
42	Riverside Drive (North Side)	Stepping Stone Site
43	Kings Cross Hospital Woodland	Stepping Stone Site
44	Kellyfield Park	Stepping Stone Site
45	Hilltown Park	Stepping Stone Site
46	Rosebank Park	Stepping Stone Site
47	Douglas Park	Stepping Stone Site
48	Stannergate	Stepping Stone Site
49	Stobsmuir Ponds	Stepping Stone Site
50	Thurso Crescent	Stepping Stone Site
51	Balgowan Avenue	Stepping Stone Site
52	Fithie Burn	Stepping Stone Site
53	Murroes Burn	Stepping Stone Site
54	Airlie Den	Stepping Stone Site
55	Swallow Roundabout Wetland	Stepping Stone Site