Bringing change to life

A Report on the CSGN Development Fund
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1. **Introduction**

This work plan, for the period 2013 – 2016, establishes the scope of CSGN and partner related activities over the next three years. It sets out milestones for the three years of the plan, and milestones and detailed actions to deliver these milestones for Year One. The plan is updated annually.

The work plan contains actions which will help in delivering the statement of need set out in the second **National Planning Framework** and reflects areas where the Partnership Board felt that action was most needed at this early stage in the initiative and where it could add value. This focus has meant that some action identified in the first plan was scaled back and will be revisited in later years if action is still required.

The plan sets out processes for approval and reporting, the strategic context and the business plan intent for the period. Sections on risk, and monitoring and evaluation are provided along with a review of achievements during the second full year of the initiative.

Members of the CSGN Regional Advisory Forum (specifically the Ayrshire Green Network Partnership and the Glasgow Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership (GCVGNP)) have contributed to the development of this plan.

2. **Approvals and Reporting**

First drafts of each year’s work plan are submitted for discussion to the CSGN Partnership Board at its January meeting with a final, approved version ready for the end of March.

Progress on the milestones for the relevant year has reported at each Board meeting. However, in 2013/14, it is proposed that reporting be at six monthly intervals and ‘by exception’. Milestones are set out in Appendix 1.

3. **Strategic Context**

The Government’s Economic Strategy, its National Performance Framework (Scotland Performs), which incorporates national outcomes and indicators, the second National Planning Framework and Climate Change agenda continue to provide the high order strategic direction for all public bodies. They provide the policy context against which the Central Scotland Green Network is being delivered and will be ultimately measured.

Community Planning is a process which helps public agencies to work together with the community to plan and deliver better services. Each Local Authority has established a Community Planning Partnership (CPP), working with its partners, to drive forward this improvement. Each CPP has produced a Community Plan to support its work and to focus effort on addressing often complex long standing issues that face some areas, for example poverty and health inequalities. In keeping with the move to local determinism, reporting on Community Planning is to communities rather than to the Scottish Government. SNH is actively involved in most of the 19 CPPs across the CSGN. Throughout the year, SNH staff have been emphasising the role of the CSGN and the regional green network partnerships as initiatives that help to deliver some of the social, economic and environmental priorities for these partnerships. This advocacy has been assisted by the publication by the Scottish Government of: *Making the most of communities’ natural assets: green infrastructure 2012* ([http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2012/09/8724](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2012/09/8724)).

As part of a concordat between the Scottish Government and Local Government, each Local Authority must develop a Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) with the Scottish Government. Based on the national outcomes and indicators and, under a common framework, the SOA is a strategic
document, setting out the priority issues for each Local Authority area and local outcomes to take account of these local priorities.

The next SOAs will now have to be set in the context of the new Scottish Government guidance Single Outcome Agreements – Guidance to Community Planning Partnerships, published in December 2012. This new guidance gives CPPs and SOAs a sharper focus on addressing economic and health priorities and we will need to articulate the role of CSGN in this context. The role of green infrastructure in encouraging more physical activity is recognised. The new round of SOAs is expected to be drafted by the end of March 2013, so SNH is focusing its current effort on direct engagement with SOA authors to further promote the role of the CSGN and the regional green network partnerships. SNH will be able to review the effectiveness of this engagement in June when the new SOAs are published.

The second National Planning Framework (NPF2), published in 2009, guides Scotland's development to 2030, setting out strategic development priorities to support the Scottish Government's central purpose of sustainable economic growth. NPF2 identifies, as one of 14 National Developments, the creation of a Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN). The Framework sets out a range of needs crucial to economic success, quality of life and sustainable development which require to be addressed through the development of the CSGN. These include:

- complementing improvements in rail, road and communications infrastructure, making Central Scotland a more attractive place to live in, do business and visit.
- improving the health and resilience of the natural environment to help it to adapt to climate change.
- increasing woodland cover to improve the landscape settings of our towns and cities, bringing vacant and derelict land into beneficial use, improving biodiversity and amenity, and helping to absorb CO2.
- improving networks of other habitats, including wetlands, to counter fragmentation and assist species migration.
- developing footpath and cycleway networks and other facilities and attractions to contribute to a more sustainable transport network and expanding the range of recreational opportunities close to major centres of population, helping to encourage active travel and healthier lifestyles.

Several updates have been provided for the NPF2 Action Programme on progress with delivery of the initiative and the CSGN has been proposed as a candidate National Development for the Third National Planning Framework (NPF3). A workshop was held in Glasgow in November 2012 to discuss the CSGN renomination and to seek input from stakeholders on priorities for the future. A Main Issues Report for NPF3 is expected to be published in March 2013, with the final document (following Parliamentary scrutiny) expected in summer 2014. The CSGN Board and Lead Partners will continue to coordinate input on CSGN during the preparation process for NPF3, to ensure that National Development status is maintained.

The Scottish Government's Regeneration Strategy (Achieving a Sustainable Future) was published in December 2011 and provides the policy context for regenerating Scotland's most deprived communities. The strategy highlights the need to ensure access to high quality greenspace as part of creating health nurturing environments and makes specific reference to the delivery of the CSGN. The CSGN Board and Lead Partners will continue to engage with the Scottish Government Regeneration team, local authorities and others to ensure that delivery of regeneration includes green network enhancements where needed.
The Water Framework Directive is a significant driver for the protection and enhancement of blue networks, and the Scotland River Basin Management Plan aim is for 98% of all our waters to be in a good condition by 2027. SEPA has recently consulted on a draft supplementary plan for the River Basin Management Plans, Improving the physical condition of Scotland’s water environment. The aim of the supplementary plan is to promote delivery of long term, catchment wide improvements to the physical condition of Scotland’s water environment. These improvements will benefit habitats, enhance the recreational value of the water environment, and help to manage flood risk. The plan sets out an approach to prioritising and promoting delivery of improvements in rural, urban and coastal water bodies, and for addressing barriers to migratory fish. It proposes actions and responsibilities for a range of partner organisations. At the same time as launching the consultation, the Scottish Government Minister for Environment and Climate Change also announced funding for pilot catchment projects, including catchments in the CSGN area.

There is an on-going ambition to increase afforestation across Scotland. The current aspiration is some 10,000ha p.a. rising perhaps to 15,000ha p.a. in the near to medium term. Since 2011, new woodland creation in the CSGN has been stimulated by the introduction of a new SRDP planting model for the area. However, uptake is still low in comparison with Scotland as a whole. Competing land use demands and high land values continue to present barriers to new woodland creation as do cultural differences between various land managing sectors such as farming and forestry. In 2012, Scottish Government responded to the recommendations of its Woodland Expansion Advisory Group with an Action Plan to inform a more integrated approach to land use in Scotland and address the current barriers to woodland expansion. This work will continue to influence and inform woodland creation initiatives in CSGN. Woodland expansion will also be supported by the Woodland Carbon Code which enables carbon offset planting in Central Scotland, while the new regional Forestry and Woodland Strategies will assist in guiding woodland creation to the most appropriate locations according to local aspirations.

Despite a difficult funding background, 141 projects have or are being delivered with the help of grants of £4.7M offered between 2010-2015 which have been made available in the first three rounds of the CSGN Development Fund. In addition, at the time of writing this plan, a fourth round of funding to support further Green Network activity has recently closed for applications and an announcement on grant allocations will be made shortly.

4. Strategic Intent for the plan period

The immediate context for the work plan is the CSGN Vision and 2010 Baseline Report. The Vision looks to 2050. This is deliberate; it communicates that change isn’t going to happen in a few years and it aligns green network delivery with future key dates for climate change data.

The CSGN initiative is a long term project over a significant geographic area. The Green Network will take thirty to forty years to reach full maturity - delivering a step change in environmental quality will take time. Even in the short to medium term the CSGN will need to make a real and visible difference throughout central Scotland. The work plan needs to reflect this ambition and intent.

The strategic intent in the three years to 2016 is to:

- establish effective stakeholder engagement and communications to facilitate good relations, maximise support and engender early action;
- support existing and emerging regional partnerships recognising their contribution to enabling, development and delivery of the CSGN at a regional level and as a link to local action;
- recognise and positively promote CSGN alignment with Government and council policy priorities, including SOAs, around supporting economic recovery, fostering employment and training,
tackling health inequalities and increasing levels of physical activity, and addressing climate change.

- lay the policy and planning foundations for the CSGN, including influencing Scottish Government and other critical policy and programmes;
- ensure that the ambitions for delivery of the CSGN are fully reflected in strategic and local development plans;
- support the development and implementation of a range of early delivery projects that are helping to realise the vision for Central Scotland, including projects that could be brought forward at short notice should additional budgets become available; and
- support the development and delivery of a number of ‘flagship’ CSGN projects that demonstrate what can be achieved. These might include existing initiatives or new pilot and partnership projects.

The Partnership Board is keen to encourage early and strategic action in addition to the partner projects which have been/are being realised through the CSGN Development Fund. It has identified 9 specific areas where it believes that it can add value and where it wishes to see significant progress in the next three years. Additionally, the Board and the Lead Partners wish to ensure the critical elements for a green network that are set out in NPF2 continue to remain a focus for action in the plan period. These are set out below.

5. **Activity Strands**

By way of explanation, the activity strands break down into ‘A Place for ….’ themed-based actions and are focused on development and physical delivery. Enabling actions are intended to create the right environment and conditions in which the vision and aims can be realised.

Five themes have been identified to help realise the CSGN vision. Under each Theme subheadings have been provided to capture the place-making and people-based activities we intend to take forward during the plan period. These are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Themes</th>
<th>Theme Action Areas</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A1</td>
<td>A place for growth</td>
<td>A1.1 – Vacant &amp; Derelict Land</td>
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<td>A1.2 – Green Network Businesses</td>
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<td>A1.3 – Employment &amp; Training</td>
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<td>A2</td>
<td>A place in balance</td>
<td>A2.1 – Woodland Creation</td>
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<td>A2.2 – Urban Greening</td>
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<td>A2.3 – Water Environment</td>
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<td>A3</td>
<td>A place to feel good</td>
<td>A3.1 – Greenspace for Health &amp; Well-being</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>A3.2 – Recreation &amp; Active Travel</td>
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<td>A3.3 – Community Growing</td>
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<td>A4</td>
<td>A place to belong</td>
<td>A4.1 – Greenspace for Living</td>
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<td>A4.2 – Greenspace for Learning &amp; Play</td>
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<td>A5</td>
<td>A place for nature</td>
<td>A5.1 – Integrated Habitat Networks</td>
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<td>A5.2 – Landscape Action</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Three Enabling Strands have been identified to help create the right environment and conditions in which the Vision can begin to be realised. These are:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Enabling Strand</th>
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<tr>
<td>SE1</td>
<td>Championing the Vision</td>
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<td>SE2</td>
<td>Establishing a supportive environment</td>
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<tr>
<td>SE3</td>
<td>Removing barriers</td>
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Appendix 1 sets out the milestones we intend to achieve over the next three years against each of the themes and enabling strands.

Appendix 2 sets out milestones and related actions, we intend to achieve or work towards in Year One of the plan. Progress against these milestones will be reported every six months and ‘by exception’.

Other ‘business as usual’ milestones and associated actions, which are not set out in the plan but are also required to ensure day to day delivery of the initiative (such as data management, sharing good practice and monitoring and evaluation) will be tracked by the Lead Partners and Support Unit. This information can be supplied if requested.

6. Risk Management

The current abbreviated Risk Register is attached as Appendix 3. The risks are reviewed six monthly by the Board.

Currently the main generic risks to delivery of the CSGN lie around:

- In the short term – lack of dedicated funding and funding by others hampers delivery; possible loss of momentum if the governance review results in the need for reordering of structures and processes; and lack of prioritisation of CSGN by other partners as a result of their own constrained circumstances and due to loss of internal capacity.

- In the medium term – lack of funding frustrates new mechanisms to deliver the CSGN and continues to limit delivery; the initiative fails to deliver sufficient land use change; local authority partners don’t sufficiently prioritise the CSGN actions; and as a consequence of these, broader economic and social aims aren’t being met.

- In the longer term – if the short and medium risks aren’t addressed, the initiative will fail to deliver a step change in environmental quality.

To address the short term risks, the Board and Lead Partners will need to focus effort into securing funding, addressing the governance review as quickly as possible, ensuring the CSGN is embedded in NPF3, that the remaining local authority concordats are signed and acted upon and that effort is invested in maximising the efforts of government, local authority, regional and third sector partners to deliver the CSGN.

7. Monitoring & Evaluation

FCS, SNH and the Support Unit meet regularly and communicate frequently to ensure the smooth running of the initiative. Detailed progress against work plan actions is monitored at least every six months using a ‘traffic light’ system to indicate progress against the targets. Remedial action, if
required, then factored into the next six month period. This more detailed report can be shared with Board members by contacting the Support Unit.

In August 2012, we published our first Annual Review for the period 2011/12.

The first major review will commence in 2015/16 and will measure progress since the launch of the initiative in 2010.

8. Commentary on Performance in 2012/2013

We are beginning to see good progress across a number of areas driven by CSGN Development Funding and by the actions of the Lead Partners and the Support Unit. Appendix 4 records outputs and actions for the period 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013.

Highlights include: having greening reintroduced into the criteria for the Scottish Governments’ Vacant and Derelict Land Fund; the success of two funded projects in national awards (Glasgow City Council’s Stalled Spaces Initiative in the 2012 Scottish Awards for Quality in Planning and Edinburgh & Lothian Green Space Trust’s Temporary Greenspace Study in the 2012 Landscape Institute Awards); the development of the John Muir Trail, with work now on site; the high quality environment emerging at the Forth Valley Royal Hospital in Larbert; the imminent publication of the Allotment Design Guide by the Scottish Allotments and Gardens Society; the considerable number of growing initiatives supported by the Development Fund; progress with mapping and use of Integrated Habitat Network data; the 2012 CSGN Forum; signing the first 7 Local Authority Concordats; the evident level of stakeholder support for CSGN to be in NPF3; the green network content beginning to appear in draft development plan, main issue reports etc. and the events throughout the year and the issue of monthly case studies which have allowed us to share good practice.

The Chair has been active throughout the year meeting politicians and decision-makers and representing the CSGN at conferences and events. Individuals from the Board have also represented the CSGN at external meetings and events, and engaged with stakeholders to advance the cause of the CSGN.

Reflecting the short term risks, area which have not progressed so well have often been constrained by lack of funding. This is also notable in terms of the CSGN Development Fund which was again hugely oversubscribed. Looking forward, winning additional and new funds must be a priority for next year. This would allow us to support more projects, do more directly and increase our communications and engagement effort.
MILESTONES TO 2016

THEMATIC MILESTONES

A1 A Place for Growth

A1.1 Vacant & Derelict Land

- ‘Greening’ (including temporary greening) of VDL is specifically acknowledged as a legitimate goal in relevant Scottish Government policies, programmes and funding streams – Years 1 - 2
- Pilot projects are providing case studies of best practice mechanisms, funding models and approaches in greening of VDL, and these are being promoted and disseminated – Year 1
- Sites are being removed from the VDL register through ‘greening’ and green end uses are more commonly utilised in the VDL register when identifying preferred and intended end uses – Year 2
- Technical guidance has been developed and disseminated to address any gaps identified in current advice – Year 2

A1.2 Green Network Businesses

- The CSGN business case studies have been disseminated widely to help begin the process of engaging with business interests – Year 1
- Methodologies have been identified and adopted to increase engagement with businesses as a means to encourage more action by businesses in delivering, using or managing the CSGN – Year 2

A1.3 Employment & Training

- National, regional and local partners have been provided with information to help establish tailored programmes to provide training opportunities for unemployed people, especially 16-24 year olds, which also deliver, manage or maintain CSGN infrastructure or related programmes – Year 1
- Case studies have been disseminated to increase the awareness in the Scottish Government of how implementation of the CSGN can deliver significant training and employment opportunities – Year 2

A2 A Place in Balance

A2.1 Woodland Creation

- Deliver a CSGN Woodland Creation Action Plan that draws together key elements of the Forestry and Woodland Strategies for the CSGN area and addresses key barriers to woodland creation – Year 1
- New and innovative mechanisms for woodland creation within the CSGN area have been identified and investigated – Year 1
- A step change in the rate of woodland creation (compared to the 2010 baseline) has been achieved – Year 2
A2.2 Urban Greening

- Results from pilot projects in Glasgow and Edinburgh are captured allowing learning from these approaches to be shared across the Network – Year 1

- The Climate Change Adaptation Framework and regional or local Adaptation Strategies and partners to these plans recognise the potential contribution of urban greening to addressing climate change – Year 1

- Demonstration projects are underway to test retrofitting of urban greening solutions (within existing built environments) and new build projects – Years 2 - 3

- Learning from the demonstration projects has been disseminated to increase the awareness in the Scottish Government of how implementation of the CSGN can deliver successful adaptation outcomes and has led to recognition in Scottish Government that funding for urban greening is required and support is in development – Year 3

A2.3 Water Environment

- 5 improvement schemes have been developed to funding application stage – Year 1

- 10 improvement schemes have been implemented – by Year 2

- A single catchment green network delivery project has been undertaken in Ayrshire to pilot assessment and delivery methodologies – Years 2 - 3

A3 A Place to Feel Good

A3.1 Greenspace for Health & Well-being

- NHS Greenspace projects have been developed within each NHS Board area to demonstrate good practice in the management and use of the outdoors across a range of health care settings – Years 1 - 3

- Targeted demonstration projects are in place within two local authorities to support increasing levels of physical activity in the outdoors – Years 1 - 3

- More Local Authority SOAs include indicators on levels of access to greenspace (compared to the 2012 baseline) and/or levels of outdoor activity – Year 3

A3.2 Recreation & Active Travel

- The John Muir Trail, has been established and promoted, and work is ongoing to enhance facilities and encourage use – Year 1

- By 2015, progress has been made in encouraging establishment and uptake of Active Travel schemes by key employers, and these cases are well documented and promoted; plans are in place to progress further schemes – Year 3

- By 2015, existing routes within the network of longer distance routes are collectively promoted as part of a CSGN active recreation and travel network; progress is being made in addressing priority network gaps and improving existing routes – Year 3
A3.3 Community Growing

- The SAGS Allotment Design Guide has been launched and shared widely – Year 1
- A co-ordinated yearlong PR campaign to promote community growing has been developed with key stakeholders and launched – Years 1 - 2
- More public land is becoming available to develop formal allotments and informal growing spaces – Years 2 – 3

A4 A Place to Belong

A4.1 Greenspace for Living

- A scoping exercise with relevant partners and interests has identified issues and needs around greenspace around rented housing and recommended appropriate actions – Year 1
- Detailed engagement with relevant stakeholders has led to an agreed approach to addressing known barriers to greenspace design and management and to identifying funding – Year 1
- Funding has been obtained and is being dispersed to projects which address greenspace design, use and management around rented homes – Years 2 - 3
- Emerging best practice approaches to greenspace delivery and management have been identified and learning disseminated – Year 3

A4.2 Greenspace for Learning & Play

- Ensure that support and advice on incorporating green/natural spaces into school design is available to local authorities and others undertaking school building/ refurbishment programmes – Years 1 - 3
- The number of teachers confident/trained to use outdoor spaces for learning has increased significantly following a programme of Continuing Professional Development training and events across the CSGN area – Years 1 - 2
- Work with local authorities to identify key gaps/deficits in provision of greenspace in and around schools and take forward a series of improvement projects – Years 1 - 3
- A network of good practice exemplars (sites and teaching practice) has been identified/created across the CSGN area and supported to disseminate learning to the education sector – Year 2

A5 A Place for Nature

A5.1 Integrated Habitat Networks

- The Ecological Coherence project encompassing landscape scale habitat network enhancement projects is submitted for LIFE+ funding – Year 1
- The Ecological coherence LIFE+ project has secured funding and the project has started (or alternate sources of funding are being sought) – Year 2
- IHN data and associated web based land use planning tools have been promoted in policy and practice and are actively used by decision-makers – Year 1
- The IHN model has been rerun with updated methodology and data sources and the results reported upon, published and disseminated – Year 2
A5.3 Landscape Action

- Placebook Scotland has been developed to promote awareness, appreciation and debate on the landscapes in the CSGN area – Years 1 - 2

- Wildness and other special qualities of landscape across the CSGN area mapped and promoted in policy and practice – Year 2

- Technical guidance has been prepared and disseminated to inform future landscape change in peri-urban areas – Year 2

- At least 2 strategic landscape enhancement projects have been established to complement existing and proposed Heritage Lottery Funded landscape partnership projects – Year 3

STRATEGIC ENABLING

SE1 Championing the Vision

- Key stakeholders are aware of the scope and ambition of the CSGN and support its delivery – Years 1 – 3

- Flagship projects have been identified, supported and promoted – Years 1 - 3

SE2 Establishing a supportive environment

- CSGN is incorporated into the third National Planning Framework restating Scottish Government support for the initiative – Years 1 – 2

- The role of green networks and green infrastructure has been included within more Local Development Plans and is informing supplementary planning guidance, development planning and management decisions – Years 1 - 3

- There is an increasing use of green networks in masterplans for large developments – Years 1 - 3

- Scottish Government and its agencies have incorporated references to the creation of the CSGN into relevant policies and programmes – Years 1 - 3

- CSGN Champions have been identified at a very senior level within key public bodies and are seeking to ensure that capacity exists within these organisations to drive delivery of the CSGN from within each organisation – Years 1 - 2

SE3 Removing barriers

- SNH and FCS have sought to influence the next Scottish Rural Development Plan (SRDP2) so that it provides better support to deliver CSGN objectives than SRDP1 – Year 1

- Priority programmes and funding sources include reference to Green Network objectives to support delivery of the next phase of the CSGN initiative – Year 1 - 2

- Case studies have been disseminated to encourage better management of publically owned green space and Green Network assets – Year 2 - 3
**Key Milestones and Actions for 2013/2014**

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Theme or Enabling Strand</th>
<th>Milestones to March 2014</th>
<th>Actions to March 2014</th>
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<td>1. Discuss and agree next steps with stakeholders, including local authorities and Scottish Government Regeneration Division (to ensure read across to Regeneration Strategy and criteria for VDL Fund in 2012-13 to 2014-15). 2. Form small, short-life, informal ‘sounding board’ of key stakeholders to steer work on VDL, identify barriers to advanced, permanent and temporary greening &amp; how to overcome them; and identify examples of successful greening of VDL to be developed into case studies illustrating the costs and benefits. <strong>Year 1 onwards</strong> 3. Update mapping and data for sites in the CSGN area and apply analysis to determine the sites that would have the biggest impact if greened, those where the greatest opportunity for greening exists and those that are naturally greening. 4. Ensure greening of VDL remains a priority within the CSGN Development Fund. 5. Host a seminar (or series of workshops) with stakeholders to identify and disseminate good practice, relevant guidance and advice and to explore further support needed to accelerate greening of VDL. 6. Continue to fund Forest Enterprise to deliver a programme of site remediation/greening. 7. Provide dedicated advice and support to local authorities, the NHS and landowners to bring forward proposals for greening of VDL sites.</td>
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<td>A1.2</td>
<td>Green Network Businesses</td>
<td>The CSGN business case studies have been disseminated widely to help begin the process of engaging with business interests – Year 1</td>
<td>1. Disseminate the business case studies to relevant journals and intermediary business bodies and at trade events. 2. Seek opportunities to make presentations to businesses audiences to promote the case studies and to flag opportunities for business engagement with the CSGN 3. Continue to develop additional business case studies if better examples become available for write up.</td>
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<td>Methodologies have been identified and adopted to increase engagement with businesses as a means to encourage more action by businesses in delivering, using or managing the CSGN – Year 1</td>
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<td>4. Explore opportunities for business sponsorship of CSGN activities.</td>
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<td>5. Explore the potential for some form of award to help capture business use/development of green infrastructure</td>
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<td>A1.3</td>
<td>Employment &amp; Training</td>
<td>National, regional and local partners have been provided with information to help establish tailored programmes to provide training opportunities for unemployed people, especially 16-24 year olds, which also deliver, manage or maintain CSGN infrastructure or related programmes – Year 1</td>
<td>Year 1 onwards</td>
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<td>1. Undertake a survey to capture the current level of training and employment initiatives delivering GN activities in the CSGN and to identify good practice.</td>
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<td>2. Use these data to extrapolate the potential volume of training and employment activity that could be offered in the CSGN area if resources could be made available.</td>
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<td>3. Prepare 3 to 5 case studies to demonstrate to CSGN partners what can be achieved along with local/statistical information derived from the survey.</td>
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<td>4. Provide CSGN partners with tailored data and the cases studies to encourage development of further programmes.</td>
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<td>5. Prepare a report and submit a report to the Scottish Government setting out what is achieved and seeking endorsement of the approach and a commitment to continue to support environmentally-based training for unemployed people.</td>
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<td>A2</td>
<td>A Place in Balance</td>
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<tr>
<td>A2.1</td>
<td>Woodland Creation</td>
<td>Deliver a CSGN Woodland Creation Action Plan that draws together key elements of the Forestry and Woodland Strategies for the CSGN area and addresses key barriers to woodland creation – Year 1</td>
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<td>New and innovative mechanisms for woodland creation within the CSGN area have been identified and investigated – Year 1</td>
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<td>1. Produce statistics and analysis confirming the CSGN baseline for: - woodland cover and production forecast; - forestry employment within the region; - the economic contribution of forestry sector in the CSGN area.</td>
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<td>2. Work with CSGN woodland expansion steering group to deliver a programme of work to increase woodland creation in the CSGN area.</td>
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<td>3. Commission studies into new and innovative mechanisms for supporting woodland creation (e.g. carbon offsetting) and opportunities for increased farm forestry within the CSGN area.</td>
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<td>4. Deliver a series of woodland creation promotion events across the CSGN area and a number of geographically targeted studies</td>
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<td>Code</td>
<td>Theme or Enabling Strand</td>
<td>Milestones to March 2014</td>
<td>Actions to March 2014</td>
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<td>focusing on key opportunity areas.</td>
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<td>5. Develop, publish and promote a series of case studies of woodland creation or farm forestry projects.</td>
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<td>6. Provide proactive support, advice and guidance for landowners wishing to develop woodland creation proposals.</td>
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<td><strong>A2.2 Urban Greening</strong></td>
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<td>Results from pilot projects in Glasgow are captured allowing learning from these approaches to be shared across the Network – Year 1</td>
<td>1. Disseminate learning from pilot projects in Glasgow to CSGN partners.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2. Support national and regional partners to encourage national, regional and local adaptation strategies to utilise green infrastructure solutions to address climate change (and air pollution).</td>
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<td>3. Provide secretariat support to the Scottish Green Roof Forum and assist in delivering a national conference to promote the contribution of green roofs/wall and street trees as part of sustainable urban drainage systems.</td>
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<td><strong>Year 1 onwards</strong></td>
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<td>4. Work with partners to obtain/commission datasets and undertake strategic analysis across the CSGN area to identify priority areas for climate change adaptation intervention and disseminate the findings.</td>
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<td>5. Work with partners to develop demonstration urban greening and retro-fitting projects and disseminate the findings widely.</td>
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<td>6. Prepare a report and submit a report to the Scottish Government setting out what is achieved and seeking endorsement of urban greening as a valid and cost-effective solution to climate change.</td>
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<td><strong>A2.3 Water Environment</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>5 improvement schemes have been developed to funding application stage – Year 1</td>
<td>1. Implement 5 funded schemes identified from the Clyde and Forth studies.</td>
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<td><strong>Year 1 onwards</strong></td>
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<td>2. Implement a further 5 funded schemes identified from the Clyde and Forth studies.</td>
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<td>3. Establish a pilot project on an Ayrshire catchment to pilot assessments techniques and test delivery methodologies.</td>
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<td>Code</td>
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<tr>
<td>A3</td>
<td>A Place to Feel Good</td>
<td></td>
<td>Year 1 onwards</td>
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<tr>
<td>A3.1</td>
<td>Greenspace for Health &amp; Well-being</td>
<td>NHS Greenspace projects have been developed within each NHS Board area to demonstrate good practice in the management and use of the outdoors across a range of health care settings – Years 1-3. Targeted demonstration projects are in place within two local authorities to support increasing levels of physical activity in the outdoors – Years 1-3.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1. Maintain delivery of NHS greenspace project.</td>
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<td>2. Continue to develop and take forward green exercise demonstration projects in at least two health board areas and take forward the increasing participation demonstration projects.</td>
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<td>3. Continue to work with Greenspace Scotland on open space standards.</td>
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<td>4. Provide advice and support to Local Authorities on green network policies and Open Space Strategies.</td>
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<td>5. Use opportunities provided by Year of Natural Scotland 2013 and Year of Homecoming 2014 to promote participation in enjoying the outdoors.</td>
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<tr>
<td>A3.2</td>
<td>Recreation &amp; Active Travel</td>
<td>The John Muir Trail, has been established and promoted, and work is ongoing to enhance facilities and encourage use – Year 1.</td>
<td>Year 1 onwards</td>
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<td>1. Complete path works on John Muir Trail</td>
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<td>2. Complete web page designs and web-contents and initiate planning for 2014 launch event for John Muir Trail</td>
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<td>3. Continue to consult on and agree the CSGN longer distance route network proposal and action plan with partners by Sept 2013.</td>
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<td>4. Assess priority action stemming from active travel strategic overview and begin implementation, eg.</td>
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<td>• Development and promotion of case studies and demonstrations</td>
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<td>• Working with key employers to establish active travel schemes and to promote “taster schemes”</td>
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<td>• Development and promotion of active travel monitoring tool for LAs</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Identify key gaps and infrastructure for walking and cycling</td>
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<td>5. Scope a networked paths and places proposal, work with partners to secure funding and implement a demonstration project which encourages wider action.</td>
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| A3.3 | Community Growing        | • The SAGS Allotment Design Guide has been launched and shared widely – Year 1  
• A co-ordinated yearlong PR campaign to promote community growing has been developed with key stakeholders and launched – Years 1 - 2 | 1. Co-ordinate the issue of the SAGS Allotment Design Guide to ensure it is distributed to Scottish Ministers, local authorities and other landholding public bodies and stakeholders.  
2. Form a communications group with key stakeholders to develop a yearlong campaign to promote community growing and CSGN supported projects.  
3. Launch the campaign in time for Harvest Festival 2013 or another key date in the growing/food calendar.  
4. Agree with stakeholders how community growing activities can be captured to aid dissemination and sharing of ideas (preference would be for an open source web-based solution).  
5. **Year 1 onwards**  
6. Review the impact and outcomes of CSGN-funded growing projects.  
7. Work with 2 or 3 local authorities on a pilot basis to assess the need/demand for growing space versus current supply and examine how the need could be met, including through development and use of VDL.  
8. Based on the pilots engage with other local authorities and landholding public bodies (inc NHS) to explore how land can be used for community growing. |
| A3   | A Place to Belong         |                           |                       |
| A4.1 | Greenspace for Living    | • A scoping exercise with relevant partners and interests has identified issues and needs around greenspace around rented housing and recommended appropriate actions – Years 1  
• Detailed engagement with relevant stakeholders has led to an agreed approach to addressing known barriers to greenspace design and management and to identifying funding – Year 1 | 1. Host an event with relevant partners to explore issues around the use and management of greenspace around rented housing and consider how barriers can be overcome. Report findings to the CSGN Board.  
2. Explore the potential of joint working with key stakeholders to develop an approach, based on existing knowledge, to tackle the barriers identified.  
3. **Year 1 onwards**  
3. Use this approach to develop funding streams to tackle the identified barriers.  
4. Disperse grants to projects tackling the barriers and/or delivering well-designed, well-managed multi-purpose greenspace.  
5. Ensure that existing advice on design, use and management of greenspace around social housing is available to Local Authorities and other landlords. |
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<tr>
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<td></td>
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<td>6. Disseminate any emerging best practice approaches to greenspace delivery and management.</td>
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<td>A4.2</td>
<td>Greenspace for Learning &amp; Play</td>
<td>Ensure that support and advice on incorporating green/natural spaces into school design is available to local authorities and others undertaking school building/refurbishment programmes – Years 1 - 3</td>
<td>1. Maintain delivery of the Teaching in Nature project and associated delivery of a programme of CPD events for teachers aimed at increasing their confidence and competence in managing outdoor learning.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The number of teachers confident/trained to use outdoor spaces for learning has increased significantly following a programme of Continuing Professional Development training and events across the CSGN area – Years 1 - 2</td>
<td>2. Work with Local Authorities to identify and address key gaps/deficits in provisions of greenspace in and around schools.</td>
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<td>Work with local authorities to identify key gaps/deficits in provision of greenspace in and around schools and take forward a series of improvement projects – Years 1 – 3</td>
<td>3. Ensure that support and advice on incorporating green/natural spaces into school design is available to Local Authorities and others undertaking school building/refurbishment programmes.</td>
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<td>4. Continue to support Grounds for Learning to develop 25 exemplar projects within the CSGN area.</td>
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<td>5. Continue to support an expansion in Forest School and Forest Kindergarten across the CSGN area.</td>
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<td>6. Finalise and promote the network of good practice sites across the CSGN area.</td>
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<td>A5.1</td>
<td>Integrated Habitat Networks</td>
<td>The Ecological Coherence project encompassing landscape scale habitat network enhancement projects is submitted for LIFE+ funding – Year 1</td>
<td>1. Submit the habitat network / ecological coherence project for EU LIFE+ funding in June 2013.</td>
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<td>IHN data and associated web based land use planning tools have been promoted in policy and practice and are actively used by</td>
<td>2. Continue the programme of awareness raising events for key partners including planners, developers, NGOs and Regional Partners, to include IHN update consultation.</td>
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<td>3. Continue development of an IHN protocol with partners for the planned re-run of IHN with additional data layers.</td>
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<td>A5.2</td>
<td>Landscape Action</td>
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<td>decision-makers – Year 1</td>
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<td>Placebook Scotland has been developed to promote awareness, appreciation and debate on the landscapes in the CSGN area – Years 1-2</td>
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<td>Year 1 onwards</td>
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<td>1. Promote the on-going use of PBS, including the development of new material on it.</td>
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<td>2. Complete preparation of technical guidance for peri-urban areas across CSGN.</td>
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<td>3. Publish and promote data on wildness, tranquillity and viewpoints in policy and practice.</td>
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<td>4. Initiate and take forward strategic landscape enhancement projects.</td>
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<td>SE1</td>
<td>Championing the Vision</td>
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<td>Key stakeholders are aware of the scope and ambition of the CSGN and support its delivery – Years 1 - 3</td>
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<td>Flagship projects have been identified, supported and promoted – Years 1 - 3</td>
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<td>1. Promote the use of the CSGN Brand and compliance with the brand guidelines.</td>
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<td>2. Continue to develop the CSGN website (to become the preferred source for CSGN information) and other communication materials to deliver effective communications to support engagement with Government, partners, funders and stakeholders.</td>
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<td>3. Hold relevant events, including an annual CSGN Forum to present good practice and new ideas, and arrange for a CSGN presence at other key events.</td>
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<td>4. Deliver regular media coverage in national and local press and relevant professional or specialist journals to raise the profile of the CSGN amongst politicians, decision-makers and GN professionals</td>
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<td>5. Where requested provide training for internal CSGN Champions from within the Board, lead partners, the Support Unit and regional partners to assist with media activity and support stakeholder engagement.</td>
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<td>6. Identify, support and promote potential CSGN flagship projects as part of positive communications around the CSGN.</td>
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<td>Code</td>
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| SE2  | Establishing a supportive environment | CSGN is incorporated into the third National Planning Framework restating Scottish Government support for the initiative – Years 1 – 2  
The role of green networks and green infrastructure has been included within more Local Development Plans and is informing supplementary planning guidance, development planning and management decisions – Years 1 - 3  
There is an increasing use of green networks in masterplans for large developments – Years 1 - 3  
Scottish Government and its agencies have incorporated references to the creation of the CSGN into relevant policies and programmes – Years 1 - 3  
CSGN Champions have been identified at a very senior level within key public bodies and are seeking to ensure that capacity exists within these organisations to drive delivery of the CSGN from within each organisation – Years 1 - 2 | 1. Respond to the issues raised and recommendations set out in the Governance Review and make changes as required to ensure that appropriate governance structures and processes are in place by April 2014.  
2. Supply CSGN content to the NPF3 team to meet the programme for consulting on the Main Issues Report (MIR) and coordinate stakeholder engagement around the MIR to ensure continued support for CSGN in NPF3.  
3. Continue to encourage other NPF2/3 National Developments to contribute to the CSGN, and to assist in the development of green network mitigation solutions for Beuly Denny Transmission Line.  
4. Engage with the 19 Local Authorities and 2 Strategic Development Plan Teams to promote good quality green network content in Local Development and Strategic Development Plans and Supplementary Planning Guidance or other guidance.  
5. Maintain an overview of green network representation in development plans - spatial and written policies, supplementary planning guidance and action programmes.  
6. Engage with the 19 Community Planning Partnerships to promote the role of green networks in delivering their priorities  
7. Engage with the remaining 11 LAs to promote sign-up to the CSGN LA Concordat.  
8. Provide secretariat support to the CSGN Regional Advisory Forum (RAF) and involve members in shaping CSGN priorities and aligning their activities to deliver the CSGN.  
9. Working with LAs and RAF identify and address gaps in cross-boundary and cross-sectoral working to encourage better integration and coherence in policies, programmes and quality standards.  
10. Continue engagement with other Government Agencies to encourage their support and delivery of CSGN.  
11. Identify Champions within key partner organisations and work with them to secure partner commitment to delivering the vision and building the capacity and effectiveness of the partnership. |
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<tr>
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<th>Theme or Enabling Strand</th>
<th>Milestones to March 2014</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| SE3  | Removing barriers        | SNH and FCS have sought to influence the next Scottish Rural Development Plan (SRDP2) so that it provides better support to deliver CSGN objectives than SRDP1 – Year 1  
Priority programmes and funding sources include reference to Green Network objectives to support delivery of the next phase of the CSGN initiative – Year 1 - 2 | 1. Provide input to shape the next SRDP Round to encourage better support for CSGN related activity and easier take up.  
2. Secure funding to continue the CSGN Development Fund. Promote and manage future annual rounds.  
3. Secure funding to continue the CSGN Community Project Fund. Promote and manage future annual rounds.  
4. Assist in the development of new funding streams aligned to the agenda-based/spatial priorities working with Government, other CSGN partners and major funding sources such as the BIG Lottery Fund and private investors.  
5. Explore possible use of carbon offset funding to support accelerated woodland creation and peatland management in the CSGN area. |
### ABBREVIATED RISK REGISTER (Number Code relates to full Risk Register)

#### RATING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Risk Heading</th>
<th>Risk Description</th>
<th>Risk Effect</th>
<th>Owner</th>
<th>Probability</th>
<th>Impact</th>
<th>PI Score</th>
<th>Risk Level</th>
<th>Mitigation</th>
<th>Residual Risk</th>
<th>Owner</th>
<th>Completion Date</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 &amp; less</td>
<td>Initiative ownership</td>
<td>Other public agencies or the private sector use lead partner activity as a reason not to participate/act</td>
<td>CSGN not realised as originally envisaged</td>
<td>PB</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Lead partners to encourage and leave space for others to act</td>
<td>PB</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>FCS and SNH actively engaging with LAs and NHS and supporting action by others through the Development Fund.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 - 14</td>
<td>Initiative delivery</td>
<td>Lack of funding continues to frustrate new and existing mechanisms to deliver, manage and maintain the GN</td>
<td>Failure to convert plans to actions. Failure to stimulate others (especially the private sector) to act. Failure to deliver or look after the physical network</td>
<td>PB</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Initiative is scalable (not all or nothing). Ensure CSGN is embedded in new SRDP. Continue to seek other funds</td>
<td>PB / SNH / FCS</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Need to: influence SRDP; win support for new mechanisms (albeit any new money may be constrained in the short term); and look at combining funds from economic and social strands to match with environmental budgets.</td>
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#### SHORT TERM RISKS

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<th>Impact</th>
<th>PI Score</th>
<th>Risk Level</th>
<th>Mitigation</th>
<th>Residual Risk</th>
<th>Owner</th>
<th>Completion Date</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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<tr>
<td>IO3</td>
<td>Initiative ownership</td>
<td>Other public agencies or the private sector use lead partner activity as a reason not to participate/act</td>
<td>CSGN not realised as originally envisaged</td>
<td>PB</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Lead partners to encourage and leave space for others to act</td>
<td>PB</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>FCS and SNH actively engaging with LAs and NHS and supporting action by others through the Development Fund.</td>
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<tr>
<td>ID2</td>
<td>Initiative delivery</td>
<td>Lack of funding continues to frustrate new and existing mechanisms to deliver, manage and maintain the GN</td>
<td>Failure to convert plans to actions. Failure to stimulate others (especially the private sector) to act. Failure to deliver or look after the physical network</td>
<td>PB</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Initiative is scalable (not all or nothing). Ensure CSGN is embedded in new SRDP. Continue to seek other funds</td>
<td>PB / SNH / FCS</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Need to: influence SRDP; win support for new mechanisms (albeit any new money may be constrained in the short term); and look at combining funds from economic and social strands to match with environmental budgets.</td>
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#### KEY
- FCS: Forestry Commission Scotland
- SNH: Scottish Natural Heritage
- PB: Partnership Board
- SU: Support Unit
- CSFT: Central Scotland Forest Trust
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<th>Residual Risk</th>
<th>Owner</th>
<th>Completion Date</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PW5</td>
<td>Partnership working</td>
<td>Governance review requires reordering of arrangements and relationships</td>
<td>Resource being applied to ‘delivery’ has to be applied to organisation and process changes</td>
<td>PB/ FCS/ SNH</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Can’t be defined until review is complete and follow up actions have been identified.</td>
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<td>PB/ FCS/ SNH</td>
<td>2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>PD1</td>
<td>Partnership delivery</td>
<td>LA Partners don’t prioritise CSGN actions sufficiently within SOAs</td>
<td>CSGN marginalised in LAs. Failure to engage wider LA community</td>
<td>SNH</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Need for active relationships with each LA and to work to ensure CSGN is embedded in SOAs. Need to promote wider engagement with other agencies and with ministers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>SNH</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>SNH working with the Improvement Service on relevant SOA indicators. FCS creating links with the NHS and other parts of government. Need to engage with other agencies is critical to delivery.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PD4</td>
<td>Partnership delivery</td>
<td>Inadequate funds to realise delivery</td>
<td>Inadequate direct action and/or incentivised action by others</td>
<td>PB</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>PB to seek dedicated funding for the initiative. LAs need to maintain GN delivery budgets. FCS and SNH need to identify further funds to sustain the Development Fund</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PB</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Reality is that mitigation is being limited due to low resourcing and this position is unlikely to change in the short or medium term. CSGN Development Funding continues to help meet some of the demand but doesn’t fill the gap.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Risk Identification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Risk Heading</th>
<th>Risk Description</th>
<th>Risk Effect</th>
<th>Owner</th>
<th>Probability</th>
<th>Impact</th>
<th>PI Score</th>
<th>Risk Level</th>
<th>Mitigation</th>
<th>Residual Risk</th>
<th>Owner</th>
<th>Completion Date</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PD5</td>
<td>Partnership delivery</td>
<td>Loss of partner capacity due to cuts in staffing levels</td>
<td>Compromised capacity to deliver especially in the short term</td>
<td>PB</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Heightened effort to engage with decision-makers and need for new structures to be adopted</td>
<td>PB</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>LA and other cuts now beginning to impact. Capacity has been lost but work continues just more slowly as individuals take on greater workloads. Most evident in less time for meetings/joint working.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>SG4</td>
<td>Governance</td>
<td>Failure to maintain political support</td>
<td>Decreased status of CSGN in a future NPF3</td>
<td>PB</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Effective engagement and communications with elected members and Scottish Gov staff</td>
<td>PB</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Communications Strategy being delivered. Mobilising for NPF3 stakeholder engagement event.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### MEDIUM TERM RISKS

| ID2 | Initiative delivery | Lack of funding continues to frustrate new and existing mechanisms to deliver, manage and maintain the GN | Failure to convert plans to actions. Failure to stimulate others (especially the private sector) to act. Failure to deliver or look after the physical network | PB | 4 | 4 | 16 | Initiative is scalable (not all or nothing). Ensure CSGN is embedded in new SRDP. Continue to seek other funds | PB | SNH FCS | Ongoing | Need to: Influence SRDP; win support for new mechanisms (albeit any new money may be constrained in the short term); and look at combining funds from economic and social strands to match with environmental budgets |
## MEDIUM TERM RISKS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Risk Heading</th>
<th>Risk Description</th>
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<th>Residual Risk</th>
<th>Owner</th>
<th>Completion Date</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ID5</td>
<td>Initiative delivery</td>
<td>Initiative fails to create sufficient land use change to meet woodland creation targets</td>
<td>Existing land use patterns retained, failure to create IHNs and climate change ambitions</td>
<td>FCS</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>New rates under consideration. Woodland Expansion Group has reported. Baseline to be captured. Mechanisms to be explored</td>
<td>FCS</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>FCS working to address potential SRDP hiatus</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ID8</td>
<td>Initiative delivery</td>
<td>Broader economic and social aims aren't met or critical thematic work (eg urban greening) isn't delivered</td>
<td>Compromised integrity and intent of CSGN to deliver transformational change</td>
<td>PB</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Identification of gaps and resources/ agencies/agents to tackle them</td>
<td>PB</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>PB and lead partners need to keep breadth of initiative wide</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ID10</td>
<td>Initiative delivery</td>
<td>Environmental initiatives not seen as political or social priorities</td>
<td>CSGN, along with other environmental programmes, becomes marginalised and unimportant</td>
<td>PB</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Broad ‘church’ of engaged partners required to act and to demonstrate economic and social benefits</td>
<td>PB</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Trend could intensify in future years</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>ID11</td>
<td>Initiative delivery</td>
<td>Failure to deliver tangible impact during period of NPF3</td>
<td>CSGN not nominated for inclusion in NPF4</td>
<td>PB</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Being seen to deliver positive change and to add value</td>
<td>PB</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Funding is critical is we are to deliver real change on the ground</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>No.</td>
<td>Risk Heading</td>
<td>Risk Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>PD1</td>
<td>Partnership delivery</td>
<td>LA Partners don’t prioritise CSGN actions sufficiently within SOAs</td>
<td>CSGN marginalised in LAs. Failure to engage wider LA community</td>
<td>SNH</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
<td>Need for active relationships with each LA and to work to ensure CSGN is embedded in SOAs. Need to promote wider engagement with other agencies and with ministers</td>
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<td>PB</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
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</table>

**LONG TERM RISKS**

| II3 | Initiative Impact | Initiative fails to deliver ‘a step change’ in quality | Initiative loses credibility, fails to meet ambition set out in NPF2 | PB | 3 | 5 | 15 | Was amber | Demonstrate quick wins, deliver a number of flagship projects, and communicate long term vision | | | PB | Ongoing | Step change is long term ambition. Challenge will be to keep CSGN credible and relevant in short to medium term | 1 |
Appendix 4

Annual Progress to 31 March 2013

This report provides an overview of the main actions undertaken by the Board, Lead Partners and the Support Unit in the period 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013 to secure the delivery and promotion of the CSGN.

Key Achievements – Thematic

A Place for Growth:

Progress under this theme included:

- **Vacant & Derelict Land (VDL)**

  As a result of advocacy in the preceding year, the ‘greening’ of vacant and derelict land was reintroduced to the criteria for the Scottish Government’s Vacant and Derelict Land Fund from 2012-13. At least two authorities receiving support from the Fund used it to help to restore sites to green end uses. FCS is continuing to input to proposals for the future of the VDL Fund from 2014-15 and is advocating for the inclusion of ‘greening’ as a legitimate use of the Funds for those authorities which receive it.

  Treatment of VDL received priority in the 2012-13 round of CSGN Development Funding. As a result, 8 projects that address this issue, in whole or in part, were selected to receive funding. The greening of VDL was also retained as a priority for the CSGN Development Fund in 2013-14.

  Opportunities to raise awareness of the benefits of greening VDL sites and to promote successful projects are being pursued directly and by partners. A number of press releases on VDL were issued during the year and were picked up by the papers. Two VDL projects supported through the 2011-12 CSGN Development Fund, Glasgow City Council’s *Stalled Spaces* Initiative and Fife Council’s *Temporary Greening of Vacant & Derelict Land in Fife* Study were showcased at the 2012 CSGN Forum and subsequently published as CSGN case studies. The *Stalled Spaces* Initiative went on to win the Community Involvement category of the 2012 Scottish Award for Quality in Planning. Another funded project, the *Temporary Greenspace Study* led by The Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust and City of Edinburgh Council and developed by the Optimised Environments Consultancy, won the 2012 Landscape Institute Award for Strategic Landscape Planning. We have made efforts to promote these awards through the press and online.

  FCS is pursuing other opportunities to raise the profile of greening projects and to encourage replication. For example, FCS hosted a visit for Scottish Government officials to a number of brownfield sites in the Clyde Gateway area in the autumn and there are proposals for a Ministerial visit to the Bothwell Park site in North Lanarkshire in the Spring of 2013. FCS also made a presentation on the greening of VDL at the Scottish Brownfield Land conference on 30th January.

  Work got underway to map, analyse and ground-truth vacant and derelict sites across the CSGN area to identify opportunities for further greening projects. This will be progressed further next year. A meeting of regional partnerships to share methodologies around identifying suitable VDL sites also took place in October.

- **Green Network Businesses**

  A list of possible businesses to interview, along with a checklist of themes to be explored during interviews were developed with the help of Scottish Enterprise. During 2012, businesses were contacted and 12 agreed to meetings with us or onsite visits. The meetings were useful in assessing the business’s motivation for what had been done, to obtain their permission to act as a CSGN case study and to capture information to enable us to generate relevant text. 11 case studies have been
drafted. The central message we wish to get across to businesses is that investment in GN can help to meet business targets. In order to ensure we have the most appropriate tools to communicate this concept to the target audience we commissioned a design company to prepare a template for the case study reports. The result is that we now have a 2-page summary, to get the messages over quickly, and a more detailed 4-page version. These will be downloadable from the CSGN website which will be updated to support the new content. A plan to engage with business intermediaries has been prepared with the help of our PR consultants.

We will begin dissemination as soon as we have sign off from the first business. This will be gradual but will build in intensity during 2013 as all the case studies become available, at which point we would intend to make presentations and attend relevant business events to promote the case studies. The spread of different types of businesses and locations is good so far, however, we will continue to search for stronger GN connections so that as new or better examples emerge we can ensure they are captured and promoted.

- Employment & Training (E&T)

Whilst employment remains with the UK government, responsibility for training is devolved to the Scottish Government. What has emerged over the last year is a series of Scottish Government, National Agency, including Forestry Commission Scotland, and more local responses to training being set up. In this Local Authorities, and others, are developing local solutions to tackle, particularly, youth unemployment using what resources they can find from within their existing budgets. To look at the possibility of a more strategic approach, we had a number of meetings with experts and began to explore a possible CSGN E&T model capable of being delivered at scale. However, given the position vis-à-vis public sector funding and the political position around the Work Programme, efforts have been suspended for the time being.

Across the CSGN area there are around 65,000 young people unemployed and an additional 152,000 are inactive (Annual Population Survey, ONS Oct 2011-Sep 2012). As a consequence, before the reporting year end, we commissioned data to assess the scale of E&T programmes being operated across the CSGN in 2012 or planned for 2013. Through the survey, we will seek to identify best practice case studies and will write up costed examples of work and training programmes. These will then be used to promote good ideas and ways of working across the Network and to demonstrate to the Scottish Government the capacity of the environmental sector to provide worthwhile and affordable training and employment opportunities.

Building on the previous year when FCS provided funding to train 203 young people within the CSGN using six training providers, in 2012-13, FCS allocated a further £699K (supplemented by £77K of partnership funding) to enable seven organisations to provide training opportunities of a minimum of 10 weeks duration for a further 153 young people. An underspend, identified towards the yearend, enabled FCS to increase the funding available to existing partner training providers allowing a further 73 places to be created during the year. It is hoped to maintain places at around 150 per year for the next two years.

In 2012, a further 4 awards totalling £422K over 3 years were made to employability focused projects through the 2012-15 CSGN Development Fund. These included the establishment of a Core Path Implementation Team by Fife Council that will see young unemployed people between the ages of 16-24 recruited to undertake a programme of signage and minor improvement works to the core path network within south-west Fife. Participants will be supported by Fife Council's Employability and Skills Team and Building Services, and will gain skills, qualifications and experience to help them towards employment.

Additionally, a couple of other successful projects contained a small element of employability, training or skills development. The number of participants benefitting from these projects has still to be confirmed.
Defining & Quantifying CSGN Green Jobs – To combat an apparent lack of information and quantitative data as to the extent of ‘green employment’ within the CSGN area, an expert group met on 30 October 2012 to help with developing a definition of ‘green jobs’ which would be relevant to the CSGN. This workshop was led by leading academics in this field from The Training and Employment Research Unit within Glasgow University and included representatives from the Scottish Government, FCS, SNH, Forest Research, Scottish Enterprise, and Local Authorities within the CSGN area. A summary report from the day was drafted, commented on and circulated in December.

The day revealed some interest in a definition of ‘environmentally friendly jobs’ and led to discussions as to how this definition could be applied to existing datasets. Before doing any more work on this, we are awaiting information from the Office for National Statistics’ (ONS) which is working on defining an ‘Environmental Goods and Services Sector’. This particular definition should be available in the Spring of 2013, when we hope to work with colleagues who attended the Green Jobs Workshop to explore its usefulness. We shall then take a decision as to whether to use this definition or pursue something more tailored to CSGN requirements. Either way, it is our intention to have data on these jobs available for use by partners in the Autumn of 2013.

A Place in Balance:

Progress under this theme included:

- Woodland Creation

Woodland Creation

Two woodland creation posts were recruited in 2012:

The Woodland Creation Programme Manager, based at FCS Central Scotland Conservancy, has held meetings with a range of stakeholders and established a technical steering group of professionals from the public, private and third sector to advise on the Programme. The post holder is developing the CSGN Woodland Creation Action Plan, which sets out actions for the next two years, and is working closely with the regional partners and local authorities to identify opportunities for new woodland creation initiatives across the CSGN.

The CSGN Planning & Acquisitions Forester works within Scottish Lowland Forest District. This post has developed spatial analysis to inform the District’s acquisition programme and identify suitable sites for future woodland expansion of the National Forest Estate. It is also responsible for the development of forest plans on existing holdings.

During the year, we continued to support the preparation of forestry and woodland strategies by local authorities and partners to guide future woodland expansion across the CSGN area. Progress at the year-end is as follows:

- Glasgow & Clyde Valley - published March 2012
- Edinburgh & the Lothians – Ministerial launch and publication October 2012
- Central Scotland Forest Strategy (update) – published March 2013
- Fife – publication due Spring 2013
- Ayrshire – publication due Spring 2013
- Stirling and Clackmannanshire - publication due Spring/Summer 2013
**Urban Greening**

**Climate Change Adaptation Studies** – CSGN funding was made available to the Glasgow Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership (GCVGNP), matching funding from other partners, to enable three distinct but related projects to go ahead looking at: Woodland Creation and Land Use Change at a Catchment Scale; Overheating in Urban Areas; and GIS Analysis of Hazards and Vulnerabilities in Urban Areas.

Work on the three studies was completed in March. Project outputs are being used by GCVGNP in two ways. Firstly, to inform what and where the role of the Green Network and Green Infrastructure should be in a Glasgow and Clyde Valley Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and secondly, to inform the targeting of effort and resources of partners organisations in delivering Green Network components which will provide adaptive capacity e.g. the incentivisation of new woodland creation in the upper catchment or flood plain by Forestry Commission Scotland.

The approaches applied in all three studies are replicable at a range of scales and geographical locations. They have been written up for dissemination to ensure shared benefit across the CSGN. A Climate Change Adaptation Steering Group, including the CSGN, will guide how this is taken forward.

**Scottish Green Roof Forum** – During 2012, the Support Unit replaced SNH in providing secretarial support to the Scottish Green Roof Forum. As well as organising meetings, and preparing papers and minute-taking we have continued to develop the website. Our input has also involved the coordination of the production of an information leaflet on green roofs produced by a member of the Forum. We also changed the website program making it far easier to update the site. We continue to post regular updates on the newly improved website. During the year, members were surveyed to ensure appropriate levels of contact going forward, meeting arrangements were formalised and the Chair of the group (currently SEPA) agreed to draft a brief work plan to focus effort in 2013-14. The Forum met in late January to consider its governance arrangements and to agree priorities for the year ahead.

**Water Environment**

**Clyde River Basin Management Planning (RBMP) Delivery Project** – Site visits with potential delivery bodies and SEPA restoration staff took place in late March 2012 to discuss funding options for four sites which had been assessed back in 2010. At the start of the reporting year, it was anticipated that the habitat creation, habitat management and access improvement recommendations could be taken forward at two of the water courses, even though there were issues with some of the more technical river restoration options (such as removal of a weir). Since then progress is as follows:

**Glazert Water** – Several opportunities for repairing damage done by morphological alterations have been identified and are being pursued by East Dunbartonshire Council through the planning system. The woodland management and creation elements of the project identified by CSFT have been included in the LIFE + bid being coordinated by SNH. In the autumn, SEPA identified the full length of the Glazert Water as one of its priority catchments to receive attention through a new funding stream launched to support work on a number of pilot catchment projects. This should allow improvements to proceed.

**Auldhouse Burn** – Landowner concerns and responses from community consultation meant that this project was quickly identified as unfeasible, and it did not progress further.

**Forth Sub-basin District RBMP & IHN Project** – The desk-based GIS component of the project was completed in June 2012. Four sites of approximately 8km length of river were selected for feasibility studies focusing on river restoration, habitat creation and recreational opportunities. The four river reaches were then surveyed and final reports highlighting river restoration and habitat creation
opportunities were prepared and issued to the steering group for consideration in August 2012. Since then progress is as follows:

**Black Devon, Clackmannanshire** – Initial responses from SEPA regarding an application to the SEPA Restoration Fund to extend the survey work to the full length of the Black Devon were initially favourable. However, changes to the fund criteria made the project ineligible for support. The project has been left with SEPA staff, who hope to be able to survey the lower reaches of the Black Devon in-house.

**Bog Burn/Boghead Burn, West Lothian** – Habitat management options are being considered as part of the SNH LIFE+ bid. SEPA also funded a sedimentation report and farm audits, the results of which will influence the next stages of project development and funding. Landowner and stakeholder engagement has begun. A set of actions required to develop the project to implementation will be in place by the end of March 2013, when the steering group will agree a suitable delivery body.

**Braid Burn, Edinburgh** – Content from one of the reports was used by the Lothians and Fife Green Network Partnership (LFGNP) in their successful bid to the 2012-15 round of the CSGN Development Funding to deliver green network interventions along the Catchment. However, issues being experienced by LFGNP delayed the project over the autumn and winter of 2012. The original project steering group has re-engaged with the project and is pushing forward the RMBP measures as an individual project.

**Kennoway Burn /Back Burn, Fife** – SEPA funded a sedimentation report and farm audits, as sedimentation is one of the major issues effecting the burn, and this needs to be addressed before further restoration options can be taken forward. Habitat management options have been included in the SNH LIFE+ bid, and eligible elements have been included in the Lomond Hills Landscape Partnership Landscape Conservation Action Plan, which enters its delivery phase in 2013.

**A Place to Feel Good:**

Progress under this theme included:

- **Scotland’s Greenspace Map (SGM)** – We continue to support the development of Scotland’s Greenspace Map with representatives from the lead partners and the CSGN SU sitting on the technical working group, being led by greenspace scotland. The project is moving towards a collaborative solution with Ordnance Survey, which will allow Ordnance Survey to generate future iterations of the data. However, there are still a number of issues to be resolved around licencing, technical trials to be carried out and details to be agreed before this will be a certainty.

  The CSGN SU has continued to provide significant technical support to the project, including leading on technical discussions with Ordnance Survey, distributing data, providing some expert user support and following up improved data distribution methods. The data is now available to download by public sector bodies from the protected area of the Ordnance Survey website and will shortly be available to academic users via EDINA.

  Work is underway to identify project management for the SGM going forward and to establish the timescales for working with Ordnance Survey on the next iteration of the data. This in the context of awaiting conclusion of the One Scotland Mapping Agreement (OSMA) replacement project in March 2013 and the re-establishment of the Spatial Information Board (SIB) to prioritise available resources and identify how the SGM project may progress.

- **Access to Urban Greenspace Study** – The pilot work carried out for the Support Unit by Forth Valley GIS was completed in the early part of 2012. Following a news release to Network Partners, we had interest from partners in assisting us in testing the emerging methodology which is currently on-going.
Following submission of the work on the pilot, it was decided to gain wider feedback on the methodology. We consulted with a number of groups (selected councils, regional contacts, policy staff from FCS/SNH and researchers). This highlighted wider applications than we had first envisaged for the methodology.

The work has been demonstrated to lead GIS officers in each of the Scottish Local Authorities and other public bodies across Scotland at the end of 2012, which generated further interest. A workshop at a Sharing Good Practice event in March 2013 will focus on whether the approach is suitable for use in SOAs and how this may be developed.

- **Greenspace for Health & Well-being**

  **Greening the NHS Estate** – Work on making greenspace improvements to the NHS Estates continued throughout the year:

  NHS Ayrshire and Arran – a woodland management plan was developed for the grounds of Ailsa & Ayr Hospital, and the initial phase of works to implement the plan is now underway. This includes remedial tree safety work, thinning and brashing, hedge planting, and two new woodland paths with accessible seating and rest areas.

  NHS Glasgow and Clyde Valley – a site masterplan and detailed specification drawings for a range of works was supported for Gartnavel Hospital and a range of hard and soft works are now beginning on site.

  NHS Fife – a project steering group is being established to develop detailed plans for the grounds of Victoria hospital in Kirkcaldy and detailed work will commence during 2013.

  NHS Lothian – Royal Edinburgh Hospital was awarded funding from the Green Exercise Partnership for a path improvement project and to complete a woodland management plan for the hospital grounds. A project steering group was established and a meeting held with NHS Lothian Chairman to discuss opportunities at Little France and connections to the wider regeneration area and proposals being developed by PARC Craigmillar.

  NHS Lanarkshire – three new build HUBco Community Health Centres in East Kilbride, Wishaw and Kilsyth are currently being assessed by the Green Exercise Partnership for suitability as Greening NHS estate demonstration projects for NHS Lanarkshire.

  NHS Forth Valley – Major works have been completed at the Forth Valley Royal Hospital in Larbert. A woodland management plan was prepared and a range of improvements have been undertaken, including: brashing and thinning; path clearance; the removal of invasive vegetation from around Larbert Loch and the woodland areas; remedial tree safety work; substantial felling to thin and improve access to the woodland blocks; a new lochside path and a network of woodland trails; and the installation of site furniture including waymakers, benches and perches. This has facilitated access to the hospital grounds for staff, patients and local people. An onsite Ranger has lead Branching Out and Cardiac Rehabilitation activities in partnership with NHS clinicians, as well as a woodland fun day for families, a Halloween themed event and tai chi sessions in the woodland. In addition, a £41,000 budget was secured to create a wooden viewing platform at the Loch.

  New Green Exercise Partnership webpages have been created by NHS-HS: http://www.healthscotland.com/topics/settings/nhsgreenspace/index.aspx

  **Health Promoting Environments** – A Physical Activity brief advice pilot has been developed in partnership with NHS Health Scotland and will take place in 6 Area Health Boards including Ayrshire & Arran and Lothian in the CSGN area. The Green Exercise Partnership has helped to support the production of resources for participating patients on physical activity and recreation in outdoor
settings. The pilot was launched on 7th March by Shona Robinson. NHS Health Scotland is recruiting an action researcher to track progress using a quality improvement methodology.

After an initial scoping exercise by SNH and FCS a pilot programme to gather and promote information on local greenspace at healthcare settings - Local Green Exercise Asset - will be tested during 2013-14 in two or three Local Authority Areas. The aim of the project is to work with a number of GP practices, hospitals and day care centres to provide user-friendly information on local green assets to encourage people to take healthy exercise.

- **Recreation & Active Travel**

**John Muir Trail Implementation** – Implementation of the 210 Km (130 mile) Trail got under way in earnest in 2012. Land manager negotiations and work on path improvements continued throughout the year. At the end of the reporting period, the only negotiations still underway are with landowners between Strathblane and Balloch, where two attractive options are still being investigated.

On agreed sections of the Trail path improvements have already been completed at Dunbar, East Linton, Dirleton, Longniddry, Linlithgow and Falkirk. Others are being planned, negotiated or are underway at Blackness, Falkirk, between Strathblane and Balloch, and Balloch and Helensburgh. Work remains on programme for the route to be open by Easter 2014.

**John Muir Trail Promotion** – Planned information products include a route brand and logo, map-guide, a dedicated website with mobile phone compatibility, interpretation and artworks, and route merchandise and souvenirs. A brand has been agreed with input from partners and a contract has been let to build the route website to allow the site to be populated from April 2013 onwards. A signage and waymarking project proposal has been developed with local authority input and project delivery through Sustrans has been agreed. This will involve detailed survey work to verify needs for signage locations, contents and orientation, and design, manufacture and installation of all signage. Route launch arrangements are being developed through the 2014 Homecoming Working Group.

**Active Travel** - Following initial scoping work by Paths for All, a more detailed assessment was contracted out to Transform Scotland, in partnership with Deltix Transport Consulting. This work will culminate in the preparation of a Strategic Statement on CSGN Active Travel, informed by key stakeholder discussions. This will identify short-term priority tasks to 2015 and a longer term programme of work. A report is expected by the end of March 2013.

Paths for All is making good progress on a suite of 16 CSGN Active Travel Case Studies which will promote best practice from within the CSGN area and from across Scotland. The case studies will be launched in Spring 2013.

- **Community Growing**

**Growing Spaces Audit** – As part of the 2010 CSGN Baseline research, the *CSGN Community Growing Audit* mapped the extent of community growing within the CSGN area and identified areas which might benefit most from community growing projects. We continued to disseminate the full and summary reports and findings from the report were presented at an SNH Sharing Good Practice event in May 2012.

The Audit summary was used to generate media cover and, having received interest from the press and professional journals, we have continued to generate considerable cover for CSGN funded projects. Where possible this has been linked to national and international programmes like World Kitchen Garden Day in August 2012.

**Allotment Design Guide** – In late 2011, SNH, Scottish Government Food & Drink Division and the CSGN Chair agreed to support the Scottish Allotment and Gardens Society (SAGS) to produce a
comprehensive guide to designing and developing new and existing allotments and growing spaces. The SU appointed a consultant on behalf of the Steering Group and SAGS to help them develop the guide. The Consultant and SAGS presented early information about the guide at the SNH Sharing Good Practice event on 17 May 2012. The guidance is of a high standard and will be of use to planners and community groups looking for information on site development for food growing projects. The guidance will be launched by the Minister when he makes his opening address at the annual SAGS Conference in June 2013.

Growing Projects – We have continued to support a number of community groups to deliver locally-based and run community growing schemes, contributing towards the outcomes of increasing use and enjoyment of the outdoors and helping people to feel good about their physical surroundings. The 2012-15 round of the CSGN Development Fund supported six community growing projects to the value of £582,228, including a second round of funding to Forth Valley Link for its Orchard programme, and to realise market gardens and orchards at Toryglen in Glasgow, Ravenscraig in Kirkaldy, along the Clyde Valley, at various sites in East and Midlothian, and to support the Edinburgh Cyrenians to develop further gardens with NHS Lothian. Ten smaller projects also received support through the 2011/12 CSGN Community Project Fund.

Sharing Good Practice – In May 2012, SNH hosted a sharing good practice event to raise the profile of ‘grow your own’ and to promote community growing, best practice, and case studies. Through our monthly case study reports, we have also profiled five community based food growing initiatives including Royal Edinburgh Community gardens and the Community Land Advisory Service. In these reports we highlighted key findings and showcased how innovative approaches can succeed in the delivery of local growing projects which have important outcomes for those involved.

A Place to Belong:

Progress under this theme included:

- **Greenspace for Living**

Following discussions in June 2012, the Partnership Board agreed in October to establish a Short Term Working Group (STWG) to look at the greenspace issues associated with communally occupied housing. The STWG met for the first time in November to agree what it would focus on. It flagged issues (around evidencing need, looking at trends and capturing what is currently taking place) to be investigated. Greenspace scotland was commissioned to undertake a short scoping study. The findings of this work were discussed by the STWG when it met in February. The group agreed to hold a stakeholder seminar in April to gain further insight into the issues, to consider barriers to tackling those issues and to start to look at possible ways to overcome these. Following this seminar, specific recommendations will be brought to the May meeting of the CSGN Partnership Board.

- **Greenspace for Learning & Play**

**Teaching in Nature project** – This SNH project supports teacher-led professional development in outdoor learning at local places of importance for nature, such as NNRs, LNRs and regional parks. Over the year, SNH has established projects involving 35 teachers in East Ayrshire, Fife, Stirling, North Lanarkshire, West Lothian and Inverclyde and, working through Grounds for Learning, 10 teachers in East and Mid Lothian. We are now contacting the remaining local authorities in the CSGN area in order to establish projects for the next academic year.

**Grounds for Learning (GfL)** - With SNH grant support, GfL has continued to deliver a range of activities in the CSGN area, including training and CPD, the identification and write-up of best practice cases studies across the CSGN area; and the delivery of Sharing Good Practice events on greening school grounds attended by over 100 teachers. With support from FCS and SNH, GfL also took a range of staff from the CSGN area on a study tour to look at play facilities in Berlin. Scottish
Government funding has also supported work on natural play environments, with 10 projects developed in the CSGN area.

**2012-13 CSGN Learning Outdoors Fund** – This year’s fund managed by the CSGN Support Unit on behalf of FCS, launched on 17 September and closed on 10 January. Awards of up to £350 were made to 225 schools and nurseries with the total awarded amounting to £75,492. Funding to buy waterproof clothing was one of the main requests this year.

Linked to this fund, FCS delivered two CPD events for teachers on the Education Scotland 3-18 Places Project. This project encourages schools to use their grounds and local spaces for learning. The CSGN is highly relevant to this programme and the courses demonstrated how the CSGN can add value to school projects.

**A Place for Nature:**

Progress under this theme included:

- **Integrated Habitat Network**

  **LIFE+ project application** – The main piece of development work undertaken in 2012 was to begin preparing an innovative, landscape-scale, multi-partner, multi-site LIFE+ submission to improve ecological coherence across the CSGN through habitat creation, restoration, connection and enhancement. The project will focus on creating and improving habitat quality and connectivity of three main habitat types: peatland/blanket bog, wetland, and woodland. There are themes of catchment and natural flood management, balancing competing demands, maximising multiple benefits, maintaining and enhancing carbon-rich soils, as well as improving access and awareness, and getting people out into the outdoors. If successful the project will involve and provide training and experience for numerous volunteers, and directly create five new jobs - a project manager, a financial officer (possibly part-time), and three project officers. Details costings and partner contributions were defined by mid-February, which allowed the bid to be finalised in March and April. Partner signatures will be sought in May in readiness for the June submission.

- **IHN Mapping** – We completed a final piece of mapping work during the year which, by providing Arran data, ensures full coverage for North Ayrshire Council. We also mapped two further habitats; Acid Grassland and Heathland.

- **IHN Promotion** – SNH produced a wider dissemination plan which was consulted on before being brought into action. IHN sessions have been held as part of the national conference for the Institute of Ecologists and Environmental managers (IEEM) and a national CPD day for the Landscape Institute (LI). Six half day sessions on IHN have also been held; two in partnership with IEEM; one in partnership with Institute of Chartered Foresters; and one in partnership with the LI. Approaches have been made to the Royal Town Planning Institute. In addition IHN promotion strategies are agreed with the Green Network partnerships and sessions have been delivered with planners in Ayrshire, Stirling, Falkirk and Clackmannanshire. The first IHN forum was held in March to bring together IHN users from local authorities, agencies, NGOs and consultancies.

- **Habitat and Species Action**

  **Peatland Habitat Action Plan** – Work is underway by SNH to develop a pilot peatland resource plan for the Ayrshires. A draft list of data layers is finalised. This pilot plan has helped inform the development of a peatland action plan for the whole CSGN area. The first stage of this - mapping of the peatland resource - was completed in March and further work to develop the Action Plan will follow in 2013-14.

  **Open Mosaic Habitat Mapping and Analysis** – A specification for Open Mosaic Habitat mapping and functional analysis was agreed with Buglife and work on the project got underway at the end of
January 2013 and is programmed to finish in July 2013. The project will complete the remote assessment of sites on the VDL register for Open Mosaic Habitat (OMH) and will produce guidelines for planners on how best to manage and release the OMH resource in an area over time – it complements previous work on identifying OMH funded through the CSGN Development Fund.

- Landscape Action

**Place Book Scotland** – Good progress has been made with the redevelopment of the Place Book Scotland website, with a launch planned for 2013/2014 to help promote awareness and interest in the landscapes of CSGN. The Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland has been awarded SNH grant to work with 50 communities in the CSGN to help them develop local landscape objectives. Follow-up actions to the CSGN audit have been scoped, with work on peri-urban guidelines, landscape enhancement and wildness planned for 2013-14.

**Key Achievements – Enabling Actions**

**Championing the Vision:**

Progress under this theme included:

- Communications

**Milestones Leaflet** – Our designers developed an A6 leaflet, in the same style as the A6 Vision Leaflet, setting out the milestones to 2015. This was printed in time for the CSGN Forum.

**Annual Review** – We developed a short, illustrated document to record achievements for the financial year 2011-12. Artwork was commissioned and the publication was printed in time to be released at the Parliamentary event in September.

**Concordat Graphics** – Artwork for a framed Local Authority Concordat and supporting leaflets was commissioned and prepared in good time for the autumn signing events.

**Website** – Minor improvements to the website took place during the year. For example, a new section to hold the Forum archive was developed and populated. This can be utilised in future years and will act as a useful archive of these events. Work on a major upgrade got underway towards the end of the reporting period. Improvements should be evident as early as April onwards with major sections coming on stream later in the year as new areas are populated with content.

**E Network News** – Throughout the year, we have prepared and issued a monthly newsletter containing content considered to be relevant to the CSGN and our partners. Special bulletins have also been issued to flag new funding opportunities as they became available. The readership has risen steadily during the year and now sits at close to 550.

- **Events** – We organised four large events during the year:

**2012 CSGN Forum** – Our biggest event of the year was the 2012 CSGN Forum. This was took place on 12 June at the Grand Central Hotel in Glasgow. 200 delegates attended and from the feedback received at the time, the vast majority enjoyed the day. Presentations covered Brownfield Land impacts in Glasgow and New York, The High Line in New York, the concept of the Ecological City and the Olympic Park Green Network Legacy. Speaker presentations have been loaded on the website. Delegates were sent follow up email requests to provide their feedback. A total of 69 people answered the survey, a response rate of over one third of delegates. Other than a few technical issues over the AV in the morning and acoustics in some of the breakout rooms, the overwhelmingly majority of comments were incredibly supportive of the event and CSGN generally. A summary report of responses featured in the July newsletter.
Parliamentary Reception – Following the Board meeting on 13 September, members moved on to the Scottish Parliament to an event called ‘Bringing John Muir Home’. The event was attended by over 150 Ministers, MSPs, guests and staff. It provided an opportunity to launch the John Muir Trail and to promote its opening on John Muir Day in April 2014.

Third National Planning Framework (NPF3) Workshop – The SU arranged at short notice a consultation event in Glasgow in November to gain the views of partners and CSGN stakeholders to inform the submission which was made in December 2012.

IHN Forum – The first IHN forum was held in March in Glasgow to bring together around 40 IHN users from local authorities, agencies, NGOs and consultancies.

There have been CSGN speakers at another 40 events and covering introductory presentations about the CSGN, updates on progress especially with the John Muir Trail, and more specialist presentations focused on rolling out the Integrated Habitat Modeling, community growing and treating VDL. In addition there have been many meetings and events attended to raise awareness of the CSGN.

- Press and PR

Over the year, there have been over 400 positive newspaper articles in the Scottish national and local newspapers as well as entries in online websites and professional journals. The potential readership is estimated at over 6 million people for print coverage. The estimated PR value is £597,860 providing a return on investment of 31:1. Main press content has been around the CSGN Development Fund, Community Projects Fund and Learning Outdoors Fund as well as activity on Community Growing, Volunteering, the John Muir Trail and the Local Authority Concordats.

Establishing a Supportive Environment:

- Policy

Regeneration Strategy – The CSGN Support Unit and FCS were both invited to join the Regeneration Stakeholder Group, formed by the Scottish Government to help guide the implementation of the Regeneration Strategy “Achieving a Sustainable Future”. The first meeting of the group took place on 25th June 2012.

Land Use Strategy – A member of the Board continues to sit on the Community engagement Working Group working group. In addition, we provided information to and met with the consultant leading on the Delivery Research Project.

Scottish Adaptation Programme – We input to two of the programme workshops held at the end of 2012 and start of 2013. These were on Infrastructure and the Built Environment and the Natural Environment Theme.

- CSGN Local Authority Concordats

Good progress was made over the year on the drafting and signing by Local Authorities of concordats which set out their commitment to delivering the CSGN. On 13 September, the City of Edinburgh Council became the first Council to sign their concordat. Clackmannanshire Council became the second Council to sign on 12 October. Falkirk Council signed their concordat on 12th December and on the same day, the three Ayrshire councils also each signed theirs at a meeting of the Ayrshire Economic Forum. There was a handover photo shoot to celebrate the signing of the West Lothian Council concordat on 15 January 2013. At the yearend, Stirling and North Lanarkshire councils were also making good progress.
- Third National Planning Framework Nomination

The Scottish Government began work on a third National Planning Framework (NPF3) in the latter part of 2012. This made it necessary to nominate the CSGN to become a National Development in NPF3 in order that the development can be identified in the Main Issues Report (MIR). Notes from a partner workshop held in November were collated and used by the lead partners to prepare the submission which was made by SNH, on behalf of the Board and FCS, by the deadline of 14 December 2012. As well as our own submission, the CSGN was nominated a further 6 times by other organisations including the Healthy Environment Network.

Thoughts are now turning to how best to respond to the MIR due to be released for consultation in March 2013 and how to make the most of the good will of partners wishing to see the CSGN retained and strengthened in NPF3. This may include hosting another CSGN consultation event following the publication of the MIR, preparing more spatial information to map the CSGN and preparing information on what has been achieved so far.

- Development Planning – We invested considerable effort into securing good coverage of the CSGN in the emerging Strategic and Local Development plans. Progress is as follows:

**Strategic Development Plans (SDPs):**

*Glasgow and Clyde Valley Strategic Development Plan* – green network policy and spatial representation incorporated – includes opportunity mapping approach developed by GCV green network partnership

*South East Scotland SDP (SESplan)* – CSGN is acknowledged in the proposed plan and the draft Action Programme identifies the need to prepare a green network strategy to guide the implementation of the green network and the content of Version 2 of the SDP.

**Local Development Plans (LDPs):**

*East Ayrshire* – MIR, spatial representation of green network

*North Ayrshire* – revised proposed Plan, possible Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) on green networks

*South Ayrshire* – proposed Plan, CSGN policy and possible SPG

*East Dunbartonshire* – awaiting MIR

*East Renfrewshire* – proposed Plan, spatial representation, policy and SPG, included an action programme

*Glasgow City* – MIR, spatial representation, policy support

*Inverclyde* – proposed Plan, spatial representation, policy support, SPG

*North Lanarkshire* – awaiting MIR

*Renfrewshire* – proposed Plan, spatial representation, policy, and SPG

*West Dunbartonshire* – MIR, possible SPG and policy

*South Lanarkshire* – MIR, green network policy and spatial representation and SPG
Clackmannanshire – MIR, green network embedded throughout plan, green network policy. Discussions on-going around proposed plan - SPG and spatial strategy are likely within the proposed plan.

Falkirk – MIR, green network policy, spatial representation and SPG

Stirling – Proposed plan, policies and SPG on Green Infrastructure, Green Networks and Open Space and spatial representation of green network.

City of Edinburgh – MIR, non statutory guidance on green networks and clear reference to open space strategy. Green network opportunities shown on major development sites

East Lothian Council – awaiting MIR

Fife – MIR, policies and SPGs on Green Infrastructure and also Green Networks. Spatial representation in plan at a settlement level - an analysis of areas to safeguard and opportunities for enhancement.

Midlothian – awaiting MIR

West Lothian – awaiting MIR

SNH continues to monitor good practice in planning for green networks as part of its development planning evaluation toolkit. A paper was provided to the CSGN Board in August 2012 which detailed progress.

- Single Outcome Agreements (SOAs) – The new set of SOAs is being drafted by councils in light of the recent Government guidance on SOAs and CPPs. This guidance provides a sharper focus on economic and health priorities. Draft SOAs will be submitted to Government by the end of March so we will be able to judge then the success of our promotion of the role of green networks in delivery of these priorities.

- GN Regional Advisory Forum – The CSGN Regional Advisory Forum met regularly during the year. Minutes of meetings can be found on the CSGN website.

Identifying and seeking ways to remove barriers:

- Scottish Rural Development Programme – The Rural Payments Inspectorate Division (RPID) has established a number of working groups to develop the future Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP2), including membership from SNH and FCS. The need for measures to support green network objectives, and to remove some of the barriers which have limited action during SRDP1, is being fed into those discussions.

- Improved Woodland Planting Grants in the CSGN Area – Since 2011, new woodland creation in the CSGN has been stimulated by the introduction of a new SRDP planting model for the area, however, uptake is still low in comparison with Scotland as a whole. Competing land use demands and high land values continue to present barriers to new woodland creation as do cultural differences between various land managing sectors such as farming and forestry.

- 2011–12 CSGN Development Fund – 31 of the 32 projects awarded funding in 2011 were completed in whole or in part enabling £1.08M of grant funding to be claimed. Projects were supported in 18 of the CSGN local authorities and across all 5 of the CSGN themes.

Display boards highlighting the 2011-12 projects were developed for the 2012 CSGN Forum, and eight of the projects were also showcased at the event and captured as case studies for the website.
• **2012-14 CSGN Development Fund** – FCS coordinated a third round of funding during the year. 112 applications were submitted by the closing date at the end of January 2012. Applications were then assessed competitively against the scheme criteria and the successful projects were announced at the start of May 2012. Criteria used in the assessment of applications included: likely impact of the project; need for the project and fit with local plans and strategies; and value for money. In total, 38 projects were offered funding totaling £2.2M over three years. Projects are now being monitored and, assuming all complete over the three financial years, match funding and in kind contributions could total £3.6M – giving a gearing ratio of almost 1:2 from Development Fund investment. The successful projects cover 17 of the CSGN local authorities and all 5 of the CSGN themes.

• **2013-14 CSGN Development Fund** – The fourth round of the fund was launched on 4 December 2012, following a brief period of informal promotion, and closed on 25 January 2013. Given the amount already committed in 2012 to multi-year projects, funding available to new projects is around £270,000. Assessment by FCS and SNH staff began immediately on the 30 eligible applications received. Successful projects are expected to be notified by the end of March 2013.

• **2012-13 Community Project Fund** – The fund, which was again supported by FCS, was launched on 28 September and closed on 2 November 2012. Schemes were vetted prior to being judged by a panel comprising FCS staff and regional partners on 14 November. 24 schemes were approved on the day, with a further 11 requiring dialogue with the applicants. Since then 10 of these schemes have also been confirmed, meaning that 34 community projects have each been awarded up to £2000 of funding.

**Supporting and Sharing Good Practice:**

• **Sharing Good Practice Events** – SNH hosted two sharing good practice events during the year: Community Growing - making local food work, in May 2012; and Using Environmental Data in SOA profiles, in March 2013

• **Landscape Institute Event** – We helped the Landscape Institute in setting up a study day in North Lanarkshire on 27 March. This provided an opportunity for members to hear presentations on the CSGN, the work of GCVGNP and on the Green Link, an NLC/CSFT greenspace project.

• **CSGN Case studies**

Case studies featured in the e Network News this year have been:

Royal Edinburgh Community Gardens - Edinburgh Cyrenians  
Green Flag usage by City of Edinburgh Council  
Barrhead Masterplan - East Renfrewshire Council  
Community Land Advisory Service  
Prioritising Action to Achieve Multiple Benefits in Wetlands in the Forth River sub-basin  
Innertubemap - The Bike Station/Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust  
Kelvin Valley Honey Social Enterprise - Kelvin Valley Honey  
Natural Play - Grounds for Learning  
Communities Along The Carron - Communities Along The Carron Association  
Mapping Ayrshire’s Green Infrastructure – Ayrshire Joint Planning Unit

In addition eight case studies were developed for the Forum to support the case study speakers:

Stalled Spaces Initiative - Glasgow City Council  
Green & Growing Project - Raploch Allotments  
Forth Valley Orchards’ Initiative - Forth Environment Link  
Landscape Master Plan - David Livingstone Centre  
Inverclyde Green Network - Lower Clyde Greenspace
Fife Plans to Green Vacant and Derelict Sites - Fife Council
Lesmahagow Paths to Progress – The Wise Group
Improving Habitats - East Ayshire Coalfield Environment Initiative

All case studies are downloadable from the CSGN website.  
http://www.centralscotlandgreennetwork.org/Projects/

- **Scotland's Finest Woodlands 2012** – FCS sponsored a Community Woodlands Award for the CSGN area, and the first prize of £2,000 was won by Central Scotland Forest Trust and West Lothian Council for their work at Polbeth and Parkhead woodlands in West Lothian. The Runner-up prize of £1,000 was won by the Friends of Plean Country Park, near Stirling.

- **Native Woodland Survey of Scotland** – The survey has now been completed and the data made available via the FCS website for the whole of the CSGN area. Reports for all 19 CSGN local authorities will be published by April 2013.

**Monitoring and Evaluation:**

- **NPF2 Reporting** – We continued to provide updates on progress with the CSGN to the Scottish Government Directorate for the Built Environment for inclusion in its reporting on progress with the implementation of NPF2. The NPF2 Monitoring Report was published in March 2012 and an announcement about the preparation of NPF3 was made in September. This included an SEA scoping report that also reflected on progress with delivery of NPF2.

**Key Achievements – Organisational**

Progress has been made in the following areas:

- **CSGN Chair** – Main activities for the Chair during the year have been meetings with Ministers, MSPs and local councillors, meetings with 18 of the 19 local authorities, as well as meetings with other organisations such as the John Muir Trust, Communities along the Carron Association, Homes for Scotland, Saltire Society and the wider partnership; actively recruiting members to the Board; actively seeking out and participating in Scottish National media opportunities; representing CSGN at conferences, parliamentary reception events and national events (e.g. COSLA Annual Conference, Homes for Scotland Awards, Year of Natural Scotland Conference, Orchards for the 21st Century, Scottish Cities Group/Town Centres Review); chairing the CSGN 2012 Forum; meeting regularly with the lead partners and with the Head of the Support Unit; meeting regularly with the media consultants and journalists; and supporting the communications work generally and particularly in respect of the John Muir Trail.

- **CSGN Partnership Board** – The Board currently comprises:

  National Agencies:

  Derek McCrindle – Scottish Enterprise  
  David Howat – Forestry Commission Scotland  
  Andrew Bachell – Scottish Natural Heritage

  Representing Local Authorities:

  John Bury – City of Edinburgh Council  
  Cllr John McDowall – South Ayrshire Council  
  Stuart Tait – Glasgow & the Clyde Valley Strategic Development Planning Authority  
  Vacant

  Representing thematic interests:

  Sheila Beck – NHS  
  Andrew Mickel – Mactaggart & Mickel
Retirals from the Board during 2012/13:

Cllr Eddie Philips – East Renfrewshire Council
Cllr Peter Convery – South Ayrshire Council
Rebecca Maxwell – Stirling Council

The Board met 5 times during the year (20 June 2012, and 13 September 2012, 15 November 2011, 24 January 2013 and 21 March 2013). Agendas, papers and minutes of meetings are available on the CSGN website.
If you wish to follow up anything in the work plan or the report for last year please contact: sue.evans@centralscotlandgreennetwork.org