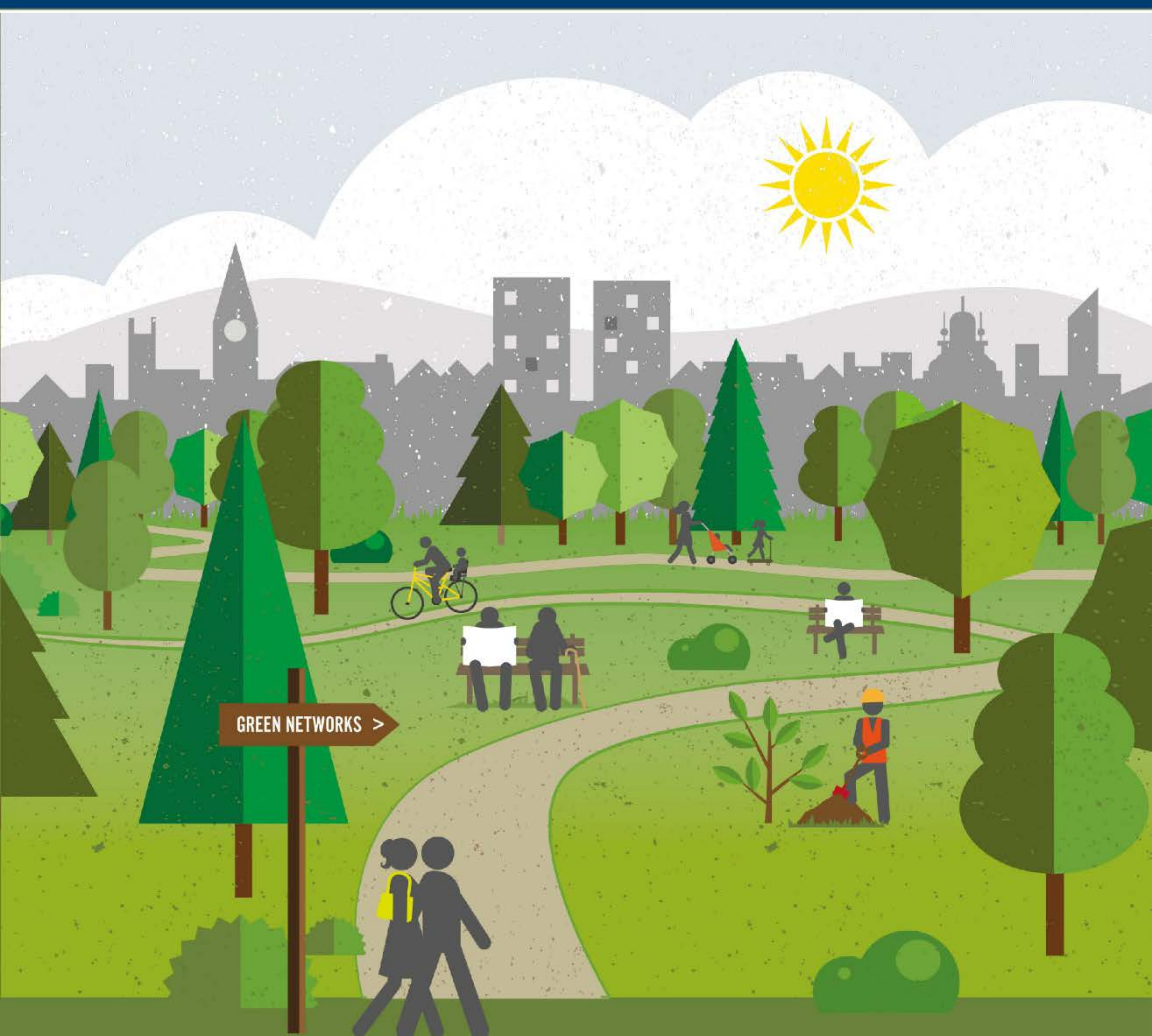




A Strategic Framework

Woods In and Around Towns (WIAT) Programme
2015 – 2020: Phase 4 sustaining delivery

A DELIVERY FRAMEWORK

What are WIAT woods?

WIAT woods are those within 1km of settlements with a population of over 2,000 people. WIAT aims to provide good quality and accessible woodlands close to where people live and work. The focus for this phase of WIAT will be in or around areas of high social deprivation.

How are WIAT woods connected to people?

As the key urban forestry programme for Forestry Commission Scotland, WIAT focuses on the physical elements of these woodlands i.e. their location, accessibility and management, aiming to provide attractive and accessible woodlands close to where people live and work. Activity and engagement with WIAT-related communities will be supported by other social forestry policies and programmes such as: Woods for Health; Woods for Learning; and Central Scotland Engagement Strategy. These programmes will help address the real and perceived barriers preventing some people and groups visiting woods on a regular basis.

How will WIAT be delivered?

There are several delivery components. Critical is the continued commitment of a range of organisations such as local authorities, Scottish Natural Heritage and NGOs including Central Scotland Green Network Trust. The full range of delivery approaches includes:

Advocacy: working with partners to promote the benefits of WIAT woods.

Supporting good practice: including better public engagement, WIAT management plans, monitoring and evaluation etc.

Strengthening the evidence base: through commissioning relevant research.

Demonstrating delivery: taking forward the 2014 Commonwealth Games Community Woodlands Legacy Project. Empowering local people to get involved and enjoy key sites including Castlemilk and Drumchapel woods, Cuningar Loop and Forth Valley Hospital.

Promoting quality standards: promoting the adoption of urban woodland / greenspace standards for WIAT woods.

Partnership working: collaborating with partners to support and deliver regional green network partnerships' objectives e.g. Central Scotland Green Network; and work with partners to promote opportunities for training and employment in urban woods.

Forestry grant funding: promote and manage SRDP Forestry Grant measures that directly support the delivery of the WIAT programme and continue offering partnership funding for initiatives promoting and developing urban woodland.

How will WIAT woods be managed?

Active sustainable forest management will be at the centre of the continued success of the WIAT programme. Long term maintenance and management will be key in ensuring that the ongoing benefits of WIAT woodlands can be fully realised.



WIAT directly supports key Scottish Government Policies and Strategies such as:



Land Use Strategy



National Planning Framework 3



Good Places Better Health



Forestry Commission Scotland
Coimisean na Coilltearachd Alba

Sustaining WIAT delivery

Aim

To support the creation and management of woods to improve the quality of life for people living and working in Scotland's towns and cities.

Objectives

Bringing Urban Woodlands into active management to benefit communities



Creating new urban woodlands to benefit communities



Supporting programmes and activities that help people use and enjoy their woods



WIAT underpins Scottish Government outcomes

Priorities

Delivering a legacy – continue to deliver benefits from the network of key sites already supported



Developing green networks – ensure WIAT woods are integrated within national, regional and local green network priorities to form part of their delivery, particularly in relation to the Central Scotland Green Network



Demonstrating good practice – showcase examples of sustainable urban forest management



Targeting areas of deprivation – new activity in areas of greatest social need and areas with poor woodland supervision



We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society



We have strong resilient communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others

Outcomes

More people feel a greater level of satisfaction with the quality of their local woodland or greenspace



Improvements in the environmental quality of urban areas



Fairer distribution of high quality green infrastructure



Management of woodland is secured in the long term



Greater area of urban woodland delivering environmental services



We live in well-designed sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need



We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect and enhance it for future generations



Forestry Commission Scotland serves as part of the Scottish Government's Environment and Forestry Directorate and is responsible to Scottish Ministers.

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