

This proposal is exempt from SEA.

IMPACT AND VALUE ASSESSMENT

Report Title: Nature Restoration Fund 2026-2027

Where the Impact & Value Assessment has identified a likely impact in relation to the committee proposal, detailed evidence is provided below.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Corporate Plan

Working in partnership with communities? - YES.

Tackling poverty? - NO.

Tackling climate change and supporting sustainable places? - YES.

Developing as resilient, stronger and greener local economy? - YES.

Enabling our children & young people to achieve their full potential? - NO.

Protecting and caring for our most vulnerable people? - NO.

Supporting and promoting physical and mental wellbeing? - YES.

Legal and Governance

Legal implications identified? - NO.

Governance implications identified? - NO.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Finance

Financial implications identified? - YES.

The financial benefit arises from ensuring that, should funding be confirmed, the Council is able to maximise the use of this external resource and deliver high-value biodiversity improvements at no additional cost to the Council.

Workforce

Workforce implications identified? - NO.

Asset Management

Asset Management implications identified? - NO.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Consultation

Internal or external consultation? - NO.

Communications

Communications plan? - YES.

If an NRF allocation is confirmed by the Scottish Government, a coordinated communications plan will be implemented to promote the fund and support project delivery. Key elements include: -Public announcement of funding availability through the Council website, social media channels, and press releases. -Direct communication with previous applicants, community groups, landowners, environmental organisations, and internal Council services to inform them of the revised funding structure and application process. -Targeted engagement with farmers, schools, community groups and other potential applicants to raise awareness of opportunities such as small-scale woodland grants and wider biodiversity funding. -Updated guidance materials, including simplified application forms and information sheets, published online and circulated to stakeholders. -Follow-up communication during the assessment and delivery phases, providing updates on timelines, project approvals, and reporting requirements.

POLICY CHECKLIST

This report has been classified as being an operational report with new or additional strategic and resource implications.

Corporate Risk Assessment

Corporate risk implications identified? - NO.

Equality & Fairness Impact Assessment (EFIA)

Protected equality characteristics impact? - NO.

Human Rights impact? - No impact.

Inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage impact? - No impact.

Inequalities of outcome in relation to Communities of Place or Communities of Interest impact? - No impact.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

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Climate Change Impact Assessment

Business, Industry & Supply Chain impact? - NO.

Energy Consumption impact? - NO.

Buildings & Infrastructure impact? - NO.

Land Use & Land-Use Change impact? - YES.

The proposed woodland creation and woodland restoration pots will increase tree cover, carbon sequestration and long-term carbon storage in soils and biomass. Habitat enhancements such as meadows, wetlands, riparian buffers and pollinator corridors contribute to improved ecosystem resilience, soil health, and climate-adapted land management. INNS removal reduces competitive pressures on native habitats, supporting healthier, more climate-resilient ecosystems. All three proposed pots are designed to enhance biodiversity, restore degraded habitats, improve ecological connectivity and protect priority species. Activities such as woodland restoration, veteran tree management, orchard protection, habitat connectivity and wetland creation directly support the delivery of the Tayside Local Biodiversity Action Plan and the Nature Networks agenda. Measures such as chemical-free bracken

control, INNS removal and natural regeneration minimise environmental harm and promote sustainable, low-impact land management. All proposed works focus on restoration, enhancement and nature-based solutions, which inherently support climate mitigation and adaptation.

Transport & Connectivity impact? - NO.

Waste & the Circular Economy impact? - NO.

Climate Resilience & Engagement impact? - YES.

The NRF application and delivery process involves direct engagement with communities, landowners, schools and voluntary groups, helping build understanding of nature-based solutions and local climate impacts. Community-led projects such as meadow creation, SuDS pond enhancements and habitat restoration help demonstrate practical, place-based climate adaptation measures. Although NRF does not fund health services directly, the creation of new woodlands, wetlands and greenspaces contributes to cooler local environments, improved air quality, and reduced flooding, supporting wider health resilience. The NRF supports local environmental contractors, nurseries, ecological surveyors, and land management businesses, helping to strengthen the nature-based economy in Perth & Kinross. Investment in habitat restoration enhances ecosystem services, such as natural flood management, pollination and soil stabilisation, which supports climate-resilient farming and land-use practices. Woodland creation, woodland restoration, meadow creation, INNS removal and wetland enhancements all contribute to stronger, more climate-resilient ecosystems. Nature Networks and stepping-stone plantings improve species movement and landscape connectivity, helping wildlife adapt to shifting climate conditions. Actions such as protecting veteran trees, restoring juniper populations, improving riparian buffers and reinstating wetlands enhance ecosystem stability, water regulation, and carbon storage.

Child Rights & Wellbeing Impact Assessment

Impact based on the GIRFEC wellbeing indicators? - YES.

Projects focused on creating and maintaining greenspaces, such as parks and recreational areas, provide safe environments for children to play and explore. Providing access to well-maintained greenspaces encourages physical activity, contributing to better physical health and mental well-being for children. Projects involving schools in environmental education and hands-on learning experiences support children's educational achievements by integrating practical skills and knowledge about biodiversity and sustainability. Projects that involve children and young people in planning and decision-making processes ensure their voices are heard and respected, fostering a sense of inclusion and empowerment.

Sustainable Procurement & Supply Impact Assessment

Resource use and consumption impact? - NO.

Social wellbeing impact? - YES.

Create opportunities to generate employment, training and skills development in habitat restoration.

Environmental wellbeing impact? - YES.

Prioritise the procurement of goods and materials from sustainable sources that do not harm vulnerable ecosystems. Non-recyclable tree tubes are not allowed, only biodegradable ones. Support projects that create or restore habitats, such as wildflower meadows, wetlands, and riparian woodlands, enhancing local biodiversity. Contact naturescot/SEPA where proposals are affecting Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Ramsar Sites, National Nature Reserves, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and Local Nature Reserves. Plan projects to avoid sensitive areas and implement buffer zones to protect nearby ecosystems. Support restoration projects that enhance and preserve Scotland's natural heritage, such as restoring historic landscapes, gardens, and habitats within protected areas. The movement of goods and services could inadvertently introduce invasive species, posing a threat to local biodiversity. Mitigation through ensuring all applicants are aware of practicing good biosecurity. Procured goods, such as plants, seeds, may carry pests or INNS that pose a threat to native ecosystems, agriculture, and biodiversity. Failure to implement biosecurity protocols throughout the supply chain could inadvertently introduce pests, diseases, or invasive species into new environments, causing ecological

disruptions and economic losses. Including biosecurity requirements and standards ensures that suppliers adhere to protocols for preventing the introduction and spread of pests, diseases, and invasive species

Economic wellbeing impact? - YES.

Environmental projects will create employment opportunities in land management, benefiting local economies. Seeds and trees of local provenance are strongly encouraged, boosting business locally

Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)

Impact related to personal data/information? - YES.

A DPIA is required and will be undertaken before the report is implemented.