



NHS FIFE

2030 Greenspace Strategy

VERSION 2: MAY 2023

Contents

How this document works

Our introduction

Our vision

Our current situation

Our principles

Our role

Our key themes

Our projects

Our partners

Our funding

Our delivery

Our learning and sharing

Our next steps



How this document works

This is a live document. It is designed to both explain our strategy and encourage you to dig deeper into key issues and ideas. It will develop and grow as more and more people and organisations engage with our work and join us in making the NHS Fife Greenspace Strategy happen.

Throughout the document you will see text highlighted in orange which will allow you to move around the document with a single click. Where you see text highlighted in green, you can click this to go to a specific website. Where you see a bubble with INSPIRE a click will take you to an interesting document, organisation, webpage or recording. Just try it out and you will soon see how it works.

At the bottom of each page are all the sections of the report. One click will take you to any section you want to explore.

We hope this helps to bring our strategy to life and helps to build a deeper understanding of our ideas, our work and the challenges we face together.

Remember this is a live document. It will be constantly updated and renewed as our work progresses.

We need your input!

How to contribute

We want everyone's comments to constantly help us to develop and improve this strategy.

Please send comments and suggestions to Jimmy Ramsay at Jimmy.Ramsay@nhs.scot



Our introduction

We have the opportunity to deliver a groundbreaking approach to our greenspace estate through our 2030 Greenspace Strategy.

Moving well beyond the health promoting potential of our outdoor estate, we believe we can deliver the commitments around greenspace outlined in the [NHS Scotland](#) Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy 2022-26. We can also deliver and surpass the health benefits set out in [NatureScot's](#) and [Forest Scotland's](#) NHS Greenspace best practice by taking a more holistic approach to our greenspace.

By bringing together our six key themes of Wellbeing, Nature, Food, Skills, Energy and Climate the NHS Fife 2030 Greenspace Strategy 2030 will be the most comprehensive yet produced in Scotland. While our focus will always be the health and wellbeing of our patients, staff and the people of Fife, we want to contribute to positive change by increasing biodiversity, promoting local food, developing local skills, generating renewable energy and adapting to our changing climate.

Each parcel of our outdoor estate will be matched with these key themes attracting external investment, partnership resources, local community involvement and long term management solutions to deliver our 2030 Greenspace Strategy. Acknowledging the collective challenges we all face we will make links to other publicly owned land to create additional benefits, green corridors and greater impact at scale across Fife. At every turn this will be achieved with the active participation of NHS staff, patients and our local communities to maximise benefits for all.

This Greenspace Strategy is one of the enablers identified as a supporting document in the Population Health and Wellbeing Strategy recently published by the board. NHS Fife are committed to its role as an [Anchor Institution](#) and as a large organisation connected to our local area and community, we recognise we can make a positive contribution in this area. As an anchor institution, we can influence the health and wellbeing of people in Fife simply by being there. But by investing in and working with others locally and responsibly, we can have an even greater impact on the wider factors that make us healthy.

By taking this ambitious approach, we can make a positive contribution to the interlinked challenges of the climate, nature and health emergencies.

Carol Potter

NHS Fife Chief Executive

“

We rely too much on medical interventions as a way of increasing life expectancy. People need the opportunity, the possibility, to take control, of their lives - but the conditions need to be right to allow them to do that.

Sir Michael Marmot, WHO

Our vision

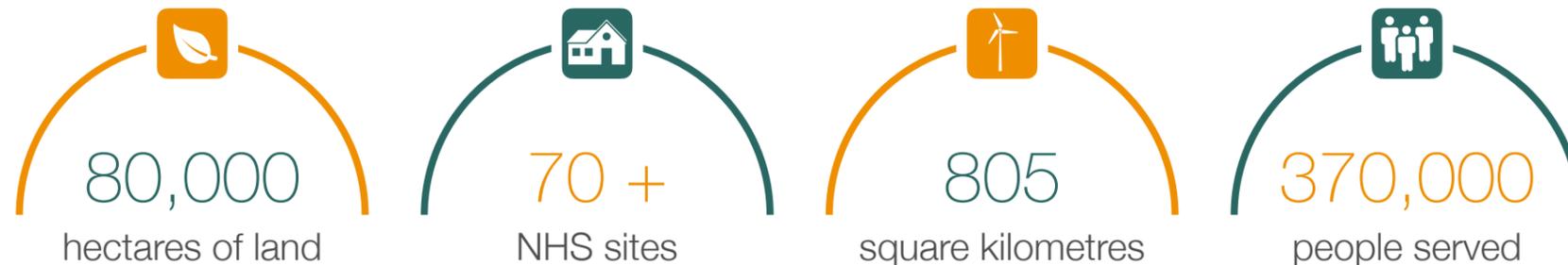
By 2030 we will see every parcel of our greenspace estate delivering on one or more of our key themes below for the benefit of our patients, staff and local communities. We will:

- Retain our focus on the **health and wellbeing** benefits of our greenspace.
- Protect and enhance **nature and biodiversity** across our estate.
- Promote **local food** growing and help to create a sustainable food culture for Fife.
- Develop rural and traditional **skills** through our greenspace projects.
- Generate **renewable energy** to reduce our energy costs, support greenspace projects and build our energy resilience.
- Reduce greenhouse gases, raise awareness and adapt to our **changing climate**.

Our 2030 Greenspace Strategy will be inspirational and ambitious and will show leadership for other areas in Scotland and beyond communities.

INSPIRE

Our green estate can make a big impact



Our current situation

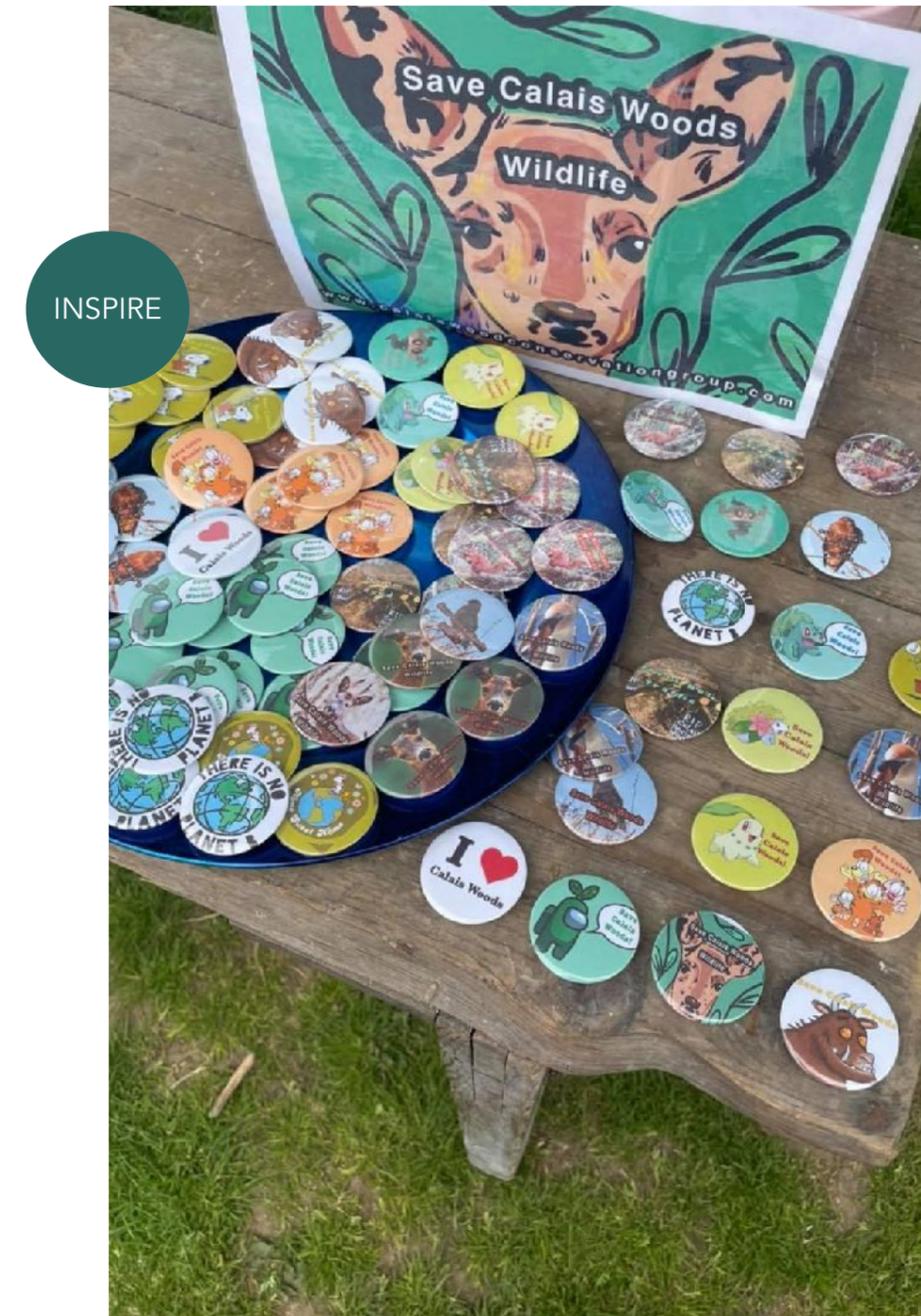
We have made important strides with the current use of our greenspace across Fife and have created a [story map](#) to show how our these are currently used. This is a good foundation for the work ahead.

Our 2030 Greenspace Strategy acknowledges that we need to do more to deliver practical and beneficial change with the speed and impact that the climate, nature and health emergencies require. 2030 is not far away!

We do so from a position of strength having the plans, policies, guidance and tools already in place to make good progress as follows:

- [NHS Scotland Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy 2022-2026](#): sets out plans for NHS Scotland to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions and impact on the environment, adapt to climate change and to better contribute to the United Nation sustainable development goals.
- [NHS Scotland Sustainability Assessment Tool](#). We use this to enable our board to assess our overall sustainability performance and to guide all of our greenspace work.
- Natural Capital Assets. Valuing the health and wellbeing benefits of the NHS outdoor estate requires all Health Boards to undertake a natural capital assessment of their land (notification Dec 2022).
- We have a Biodiversity Action Plan covering the whole of our estate, with named responsible leads.
- We have an appointed Green Champion on our Executive Board to send a strong signal (externally and internally) about the importance of our sustainability agenda.
- We have assessed the extent and quality of our greenspace resource across the whole of our estate including the potential to expand current provision. This includes data on the quality and quantity of greenspace in our annual Property and Asset Management Strategy and Annual Reports.
- We already provide for a wide range of nature based health promotion initiatives and interventions across our estate.
- We encourage local community groups and third sector organisations to access and use our built assets and greenspace estate.

Crucially for the preparation, delivery and monitoring of our 2030 Greenspace Strategy, we have in place a detailed GIS mapping of our estate which can be viewed [here](#).



Our principles

- We will go further and faster on delivering positive change across our greenspace recognising the urgency of the climate, nature and health emergencies.
- We will focus on practical delivery acknowledging that we have policies, plans, guidance and assessment tools already in place.
- We will think strategically and involve other public and private landowners to increase the impact of our greenspace strategy.
- We will work closely with our patients, staff, partners and local communities.
- We will align with Fife Council wide strategies and statutory plans.
- We will learn from the experience of others across Scotland and further afield.
- We will ensure that our greenspace projects will deliver equal access across our communities.
- We will offer our staff training and continued professional development opportunities to build our shared knowledge and capabilities to deliver our strategy.



Our role

We are a major, anchor organisation for Fife. As a large, public sector organisation with a significant landholding and stake in our area we have a mission to advance the welfare of the communities we serve. We recognise that we have a powerful voice in where and how resources are spent locally and we want to lead by example.

Our priorities will always be to improve the health and wellbeing of local populations and we strive to deliver our services and invest our resources in the most effective ways we can. We want to embrace our role as an anchor institution to maximise the social, economic and environmental value we bring to our local communities.

Through our 2030 Greenspace Strategy we recognise that we need to think differently to meet the challenges facing our communities. We see our greenspace as a route to not only improved health and wellbeing but to addressing the climate and nature emergencies while improving local skills and supporting a local food culture across Fife. This will involve forging new partnerships and making new alliances.

We want to engage our local communities and recognise that, in some situations, it may be helpful to explore asset transfers of land to suitably constituted community companies and charities. This may help empower our community and access funds that are not available to a major public sector organisation such as ours. This will support the [Plan4Fife](#) community wealth building agenda.

Our greenspace estate across Fife covers over 800 sq km, nearly 80,000 hectares. This is a significant resource for our communities. By thinking differently, and working with the urgency the current situation requires, we aim to make a real and positive difference across Fife.

We will:

- Lead our 2030 Greenspace strategy and embrace partnership working with other public organisations, third sector organisations, local landowners and our local communities
- Deliver our strategy by carefully assessing the opportunities across our greenspace and implementing the best solutions for each parcel of land.
- Measure our progress and record this through our comprehensive GIS mapping programme.
- Learn from and share the results of our work as we proceed.

INSPIRE



Photo: Martin Willcocks

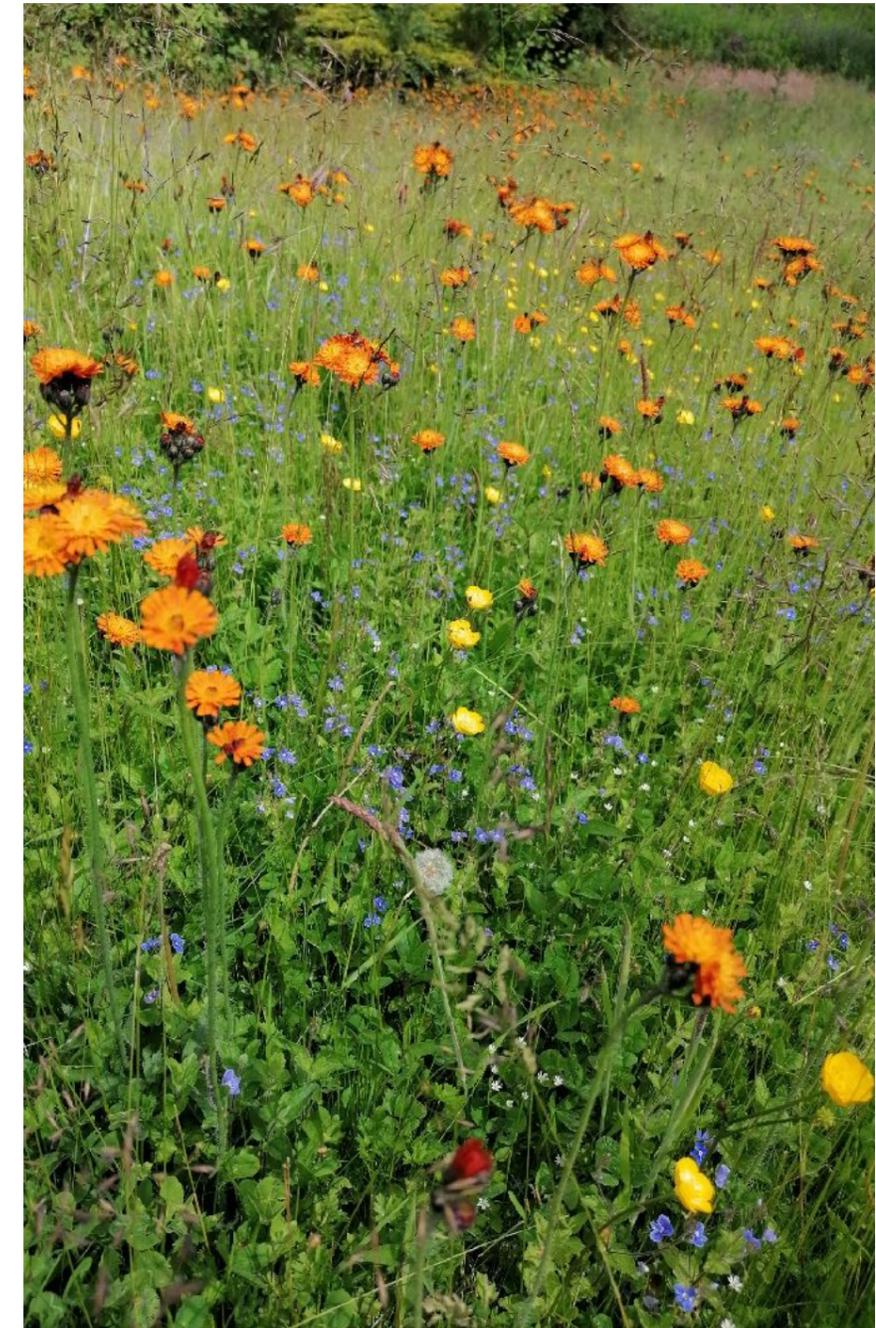
Our key themes

Our 2030 Greenspace Strategy is built around six key themes to maximise the benefits to our patients, staff and local communities. While we will retain a focus on Health and Wellbeing, we believe that our greenspace estate has so much more to offer for people and the planet. Crucially, this will allow us to collaborate with a **broader range of partners** who share our vision and to connect us more directly with our local communities. Click on the wheel below to go directly to individual themes.



“ We are already working with NHS Fife to develop and manage land and the 2030 Greenspace Strategy could help make a big impact across Fife.

Fife Coast and Countryside Trust



We will use NHS Land to improve the health and wellbeing of patients, staff and local residents. The health benefits of easy access to beautiful greenspace areas is well known. From pocket parks to woodland walks, active travel routes, outdoor children's nurseries, allotments and contemplative gardens, this will be a key part of our 2030 Strategy.

There is now a huge body of evidence to suggest that people who live in greener environments tend to be healthier and that access to green space can reduce the impact of income related health inequalities. This access is equally important to staff and patients using NHS facilities. Having a green space for staff to relax in during down time is as important as the stress relieving qualities for patients with mental health related conditions.

In assessing each site for the most appropriate use of the green space, we will prioritise these needs. Studies have shown that the most common way in which staff spent time in green space during their working day was simply to walk at the site during their break. Given the current stress levels recorded across the NHS, creating such spaces and 'green corridors' will be a priority.

We will develop strong partnerships with [NatureScot](#), [Greenspace Scotland](#) and [Paths for All](#) to tap into funding and learning opportunities to deliver our strategy. We will watch the development of the four pilot [Green Health Partnerships](#).



Forth Valley Woodlands

NHS Forth Valley has worked in partnership to develop a programme of activities using hospital grounds for physical and mental health activities.

NHS Forth Valley developed the Royal Hospital's local woodlands into greenspace recreational facilities for staff, patients, visitors, local schools and the community. The project involved engaging people in physical activity courses (bushcraft, walks and tai chi) as well as encouraging hospital staff and visitors to use the grounds for therapy and relaxation.

Forestry Commission Scotland's Woods in and Around Towns programme provided funding, matched by NHS Forth Valley, to upgrade the woodlands. The University of Highlands and Islands engaged with the hospital and in the community, helping to raise awareness of the hospital grounds and their potential for recreational use and also led the walking programme.

The outcomes of the project have been evaluated through feedback from patients, staff and schoolchildren. This highlighted that the new environment provided relaxation, recreation, mental health benefits, conservation of local greenspace.

We will use NHS land to help Fife to restore nature and biodiversity. From new native woodlands to the creation of biodiverse habitats, we will create invaluable connections between people and nature that has too often been broken by urban and digital lifestyles. Our green spaces will help ‘cool’ the built environments on the NHS Estate for the benefit of patients and staff as temperatures rise.

It is not possible to tackle the climate emergency without addressing the nature emergency and the alarming loss of biodiversity. At every opportunity we will look to transform courtyards, rooftops, verges and lawns to support ecosystems and wildlife habitats. We will look to work with maintenance staff across each site to create ‘sustainability management plans’ to enhance biodiversity and encourage staff and patients to get involved in this work. We are keen to learn from the growing number of projects from herb gardens to wildflower meadows and sensory gardens to match innovative solutions to green spaces small and large across the NHS estate.

We will develop close working relationships with the [Fife Coast and Countryside Trust](#) who are keen to help provide direct maintenance contracts and advice across the larger NHS sites. We will also envisage a major partnership with [Climate Action Fife](#) (see the Climate theme below)



Royal Alexandra Hospital Pond & Beyond Project

The RAH pond at the rear of the hospital is a greenspace area with huge potential, however, there is currently little to no access for staff, patients and visitors. Started in January 2021 improvements include:

- Management and enhancements to the pond, its existing wetland and aquatic habitats.
- A jetty to act as a viewing area, with appropriate safeguarding/railing.
- New boardwalk and trails over wetland area to allow walking and wheelchair access around the pond.
- Creation of outdoor teaching area using natural landscape on south bank of the pond.
- Biodiversity enhancement - habitat and connectivity for a range of species.

Phases 2 and 3 will introduce new wildflower areas, an outdoor eating area, growing beds and an outdoor gym. Additionally, landmark way finding, including artwork elements at key intersections, viewpoints, and site-specific interpretation works. This project allows NHS GGC to exceed, and provide best practice examples for, biodiversity and sustainability.

We will use NHS land to help grow food and create a sustainable food culture for a healthy Fife. From allotments to orchards and polytunnels to urban gardens, the NHS outdoor estate can help connect patients, staff and the local community, promote the growing of healthy food and keep more people active.

Food is essential to all our lives. not only does it fuel and sustain us, it also plays a crucial role in bringing people together and keeping us all well and healthy. Our work will help to deliver [The Food4Fife Strategy](#) that sets ambitious and critical targets to tackle food insecurity and food poverty.

Demand for allotments is at an all time high with would-be gardeners keen to reap the benefits of outdoor exercise, cheap, organic produce and the chance to reconnect to the land. Fruit trees and bushes can be an integral part of all projects and, as the case study shows, can add value to the tightest of spaces.

On larger areas we can explore the use of polytunnels to maximise food production all year round. Using food grown on-site in canteens and cafes offers additional benefits to patients, staff and the local community. We are keen to explore the opportunities to use small scale renewables (e.g. solar and ground source heat) to help on site food production where possible.

We envisage a strong partnership with [Food4Fife](#) to develop, fund and promote this theme. We will look to join the [NHS Forest network](#) to learn from others and promote our work.



Southmead Hospital Bristol

At [Southmead Hospital](#) Bristol, their Nature Recovery Ranger has been leading lunchtime Grow Your Own Sessions for staff and visitors on the site's polytunnels and vegetable beds. They've learned about composting and made a scarecrow, and planted their own vegetables. High above, the roof terrace leading out from the staff cafe has been turned into a thriving herb garden, within easy reach of the hospital chefs. See their video [here](#).

Growing food site can be part of a broader sustainability strategy. [PHE's Offices in Colindale](#), North London have allotment sites for staff who don't have space to grow their own organic produce. The Agency composts all its food waste, which is then used to fertilise the allotment crops, and rainwater butts provide water for the site.

In South London, [Lambeth GP Food Co-op](#) makes the most of the tiniest of spaces, installing raised beds and fruit bushes in alleyways. These mini allotments are a haven for people living with chronic health conditions including diabetes, arthritis, anxiety and depression, giving them space to socialise, learn, harvest food and develop a sense of purpose.

We will use NHS land to help develop rural and traditional skills that will become ever more important to our collective health and tackling the climate and nature emergencies. Involving staff, patients and the local community in creating our new green spaces is as important as the end result itself.

From tree planting to habitat creation and renewable energy installation, matching the training and employment needs of the local community and businesses will be a priority. Food growing skills are in particularly high demand just now and we can link [Fife College](#) courses to our sites. [Skills Development Scotland](#) and [Community Energy Scotland](#) are also keen to promote local skills and employment opportunities to all forms of energy generation.

This theme has a wealth of expertise, helpful resources, funding and delivery organisations to help us deliver our strategy. [Rural Skills Scotland](#) are keen to work alongside the NHS to help create new green spaces and bring direct training opportunities to local young people and those seeking new employment opportunities. [Fife College](#) can offer direct links to educational resources.

[Climate Action Fife](#) have an exciting [training programme on behaviour change](#). We will offer this training to all staff across NHS Fife with an initial focus on those actively involved in the 2030 Greenspace Strategy.



London Green Space Skills Hub

The [Hub](#) has a focus on the skills needed to meet the landscape challenges of climate change adaptation and mitigation, and attracting and supporting new people into this changing growing workforce.

As well as a focus on traditional parks and formal spaces, the hub uses the land from public bodies such as the NHS and on housing estates, verges, green roofs and informal spaces. Increasing skills to improve and create these spaces can transform the city, responding to the climate and nature emergencies and providing healthy, social spaces.

The Hub will work with the greenspace sector and agencies involved in water, health, housing, highways and construction to tackle issues around:

- People – Recruitment, diversity and inclusion
- Training gaps - employer needs, curriculum design
- Apprenticeships – SMEs, programme design
- Careers and CPD – Upskilling the workforce, outreach to other sectors
- Climate and Future Skills

The Hub uses a number of NHS sites across London for a full range of training, employability and skills development.

We will utilise NHS land to deliver renewable energy opportunities for the benefit of NHS buildings and the local community. The skills and resources of [Community Energy Scotland](#) can help us match the most suitable energy source to each site. From [Aviva's](#) example at their headquarters in Perth to micro renewables linked to food growing projects, NHS Fife could reduce their energy bills and play an important part in our transition from fossil fuels.

This is a particularly exciting theme in our strategy. Solar is now one of the cheapest forms of energy and with battery technology is becoming a popular solution for small scale private energy grids. The need to decarbonise heat and energy for buildings is at the forefront of Scotland's climate agenda we will look to utilise available green space for heat pump technology. The larger NHS sites may have the potential to utilise the full range of renewable generation technologies and electric vehicle charging points.

This theme will have greater technical demands to fully assess the potential of sites and match them to the most appropriate technology. We envisage a strong partnership with [Community Energy Scotland](#) in this aspect of our work.



The Park Power Project

[The Park Power Project](#) is exploring the potential for parks to provide green energy services. This can help develop new income streams for parks and greenspaces. Using data sources, such as Ordnance Survey Greenspace and Scotland's Heat Map, the project is developing a Scotland-wide approach to identify parks that could provide green energy services.

[Greenspace Scotland](#) are leading the project working closely with Ramboll, who have expertise in engineering projects like district heat networks. Scottish Councils are involved through the Park Managers Forum, with two pilot authorities - Fife and Falkirk Councils - to develop and test the methodology. Other partners and councils include are also contributing their expertise.

Park Power is aiming to identify both long-term, strategic opportunities together with those that are viable in the short-term. The key is to understand the opportunities and challenges for greenspaces in enabling an energy transformation over the next 30 years.

We will use NHS Land to help raise awareness and tackle the climate emergency at a local level. We will have a strong partnership with [Climate Action Fife](#) who have a major nature restoration programme with all funding and resources in place for tree planting at scale. They also have a funded [behaviour change programme](#) they are keen to role out to patients and staff across Fife.

We will focus on a mapping exercise to identify suitable sites across Fife to contribute to Climate Action Fife's tree planting programme funded through the National Lottery focused on climate adaptation. We will highlight opportunities for eventual community ownership of new woodland areas. This large, scale, funded project offers real potential for training and skills development working closely with [Rural Skills Scotland](#) and [Fife Coast and Countryside Trust](#) who have a recently appointed Tree Planting Officer.

While the major tree planting programme will be a focus of our work, we are conscious that practical action under each one of our themes can contribute to tackling the climate emergency and building community resilience as we adapt to the consequences of our warming climate.

With the significant potential for community engagement and ownership we will look to well established, Fife based, organisations already active in tackling the climate emergency. Examples include [Transition St Andrews](#), [Greener Kirkcaldy](#) and [CLEAR Buckhaven and Muthill](#)



The Clyde Climate Forest

The [Clyde Climate Forest](#) will see 18 million trees planted in both urban and rural parts of Glasgow City Region over the next decade. Trees, woodlands and forests are recognised as essential if we are to address the climate crisis and assist in a recovery for nature.

The Clyde Climate Forest builds on the current enthusiasm for tree planting by supporting well-considered tree planting projects that deliver a broad range of climate and ecological benefits to Glasgow City Region. The project was born out of the Green Network Blueprint and is part of the Strategic Habitat Network.

New native woodlands will be planted in places which connect existing woodland networks and provide a migration route for woodland wildlife as the climate changes. 101 native woodlands will be planted where they will deliver: good rates of carbon sequestration; help reduce downstream flooding; and provide for nature. The aim is to create 1,000 hectares a year of new forests and woodlands across the city region.

Watch the video [here](#).

Our projects

The table below shows each of our key greenspaces listed in three groups to show their potential to deliver for our 2030 Greenspace Strategy. Each greenspace entry shows which of the six key themes has most relevance for this site.

You can view each of our greenspaces on google earth by clicking the name of the site in the first column.

You can search each site on our GIS mapping system on [main map](#) or [Land use](#) view only map (just enter the name of the site here on the bottom right of the map

Key sites



Greatest Potential to deliver strategy

	Wellbeing	Nature	Food	Skills	Energy	Climate
Cameron Hospital	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■
Lynebank Hospital	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■
Queen Margaret Hospital	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■
Glenrothes Hospital	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■
Stratheden Hospital	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■
Whytemans Brae Hospital and Kirkcaldy Health Centre	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■
Skeith Anstruther Medical Practice	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■	■ ■	■ ■	■
Randolph Wemyss Memorial Hospital	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■		■	■
Victoria Hospital	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■		■		■
Fife College of Nursing & Midwifery	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■		■		■

Key sites

Good Potential to deliver strategy

	Wellbeing	Nature	Food	Skills	Energy	Climate
<u>St Andrews Community Hospital</u>	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	■		■	■
<u>Ladybank Clinic</u>	■ ■	■ ■	■		■	■
<u>Leslie Dental Access Centre & Leslie Medical Centre</u>	■ ■	■ ■	■		■	■
<u>Linburn Road Dental Access Centre and Health Centre</u>	■ ■	■ ■	■		■	■
<u>Matthew Street, 26 Kirkcaldy</u>	■ ■	■ ■	■		■	■
<u>Oakley Health Centre/Dental Practice</u>	■ ■	■ ■	■		■	■
<u>Pitteuchar Rothes Practice</u>	■ ■	■ ■	■		■	■
<u>Rosewell Clinic</u>	■ ■	■ ■	■		■	■
<u>Strathmiglo Auchtermuchty Practice</u>	■ ■	■ ■	■		■	■
<u>Valleyfield Health Centre</u>	■ ■	■ ■	■		■	■
<u>Adamson Hospital</u>	■ ■	■ ■	■		■	

Limited Potential to deliver strategy

<u>Glenwood Dental Access Centre and Health Centre</u>	■ ■	■ ■			■	
<u>Kirkland Dental Access Centre</u>					■ ■ ■	
<u>Leuchars Pitcairn Practice</u>					■ ■ ■	
<u>Leven Health Centre</u>					■ ■ ■	
<u>Lochgelly Health Centre</u>					■ ■ ■	
<u>Masterton Health Centre</u>					■ ■ ■	
<u>Newport Tayview Medical Practice</u>					■ ■ ■	
<u>Rosyth Health Centre</u>	■	■				■ ■
<u>Tayport Tayview Medical Practice</u>					■ ■ ■	
<u>Weston Day Hospital</u>					■ ■ ■	

Our partners

Core Partners

Greenspace Exercise Partnerships: between Scottish Forestry, NatureScot, NHS National Services Scotland and Public Health Scotland. This co-ordinates the NHS Greenspace Demonstration Project. The aims of this are twofold. Firstly, to improve the quality and accessibility of greenspace on large demonstration sites. Secondly, to encourage more use of greenspace by patients, staff, visitors and members of the local community.

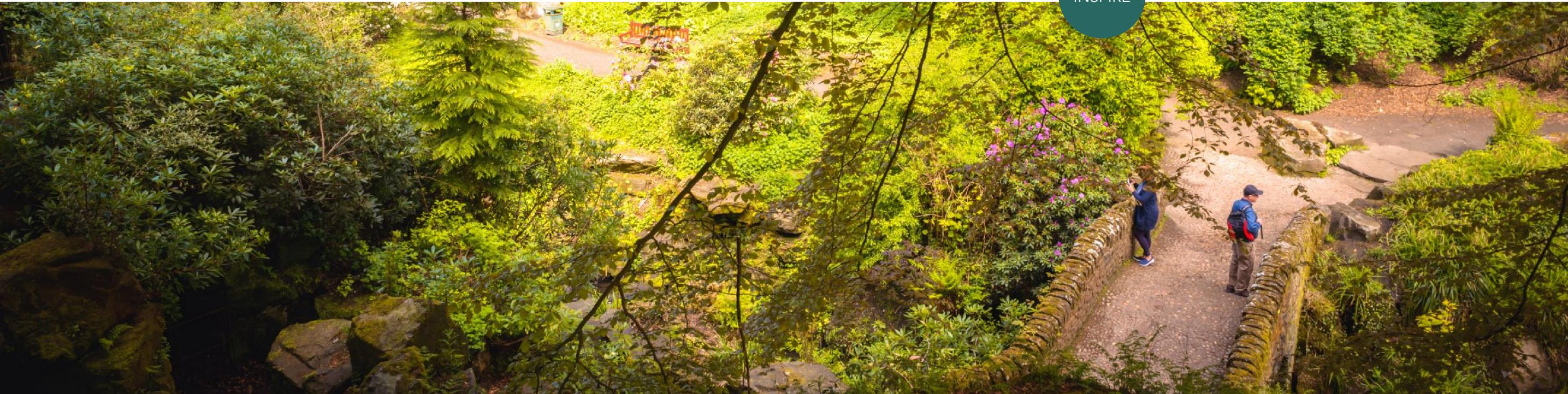
NatureScot and **Scottish Forestry:** are already deeply embedded in the NHS greenspace improvements for health and wellbeing (see Greenspace Exercise Partnerships above). They are keen to expand this involvement to support the nature, climate and biodiversity themes of our strategy and have a wealth of experience, advice and resources to assist.

Scottish Government: With responsibilities for Capital Planning and NHS Facilities, early discussions should be held over the comprehensive approach to our 2030 Greenspace strategy and its impact on existing and planned health facilities.



Green spaces provide valuable cooling effects for buildings and people

INSPIRE



Operational Partners

Climate Action Fife brings together individuals, communities, local government and businesses to tackle the climate emergency and make Fife a greener and fairer place to live. We will have a strong partnership with Climate Action Fife who have a major nature restoration programme with all funding and resources in place for tree planting at scale. They also have a funded **behaviour change programme** they are keen to role out to patients and staff across Fife.

Fife Coast and Countryside Trust will be a key partner and are keen to provide direct maintenance and advice across the larger NHS sites. They have the experience and knowledge to help deliver the 2030 Greenspace Strategy.

Food4Fife Partnership: we believe this Partnership and the recently launched Food4Fife strategy will be central to the delivery of the food theme in our 2030 Greenspace Strategy. NHS Fife staff are already deeply embedded in this Partnership and currently holds the chair. This excellent **promotional film** gives an introduction.

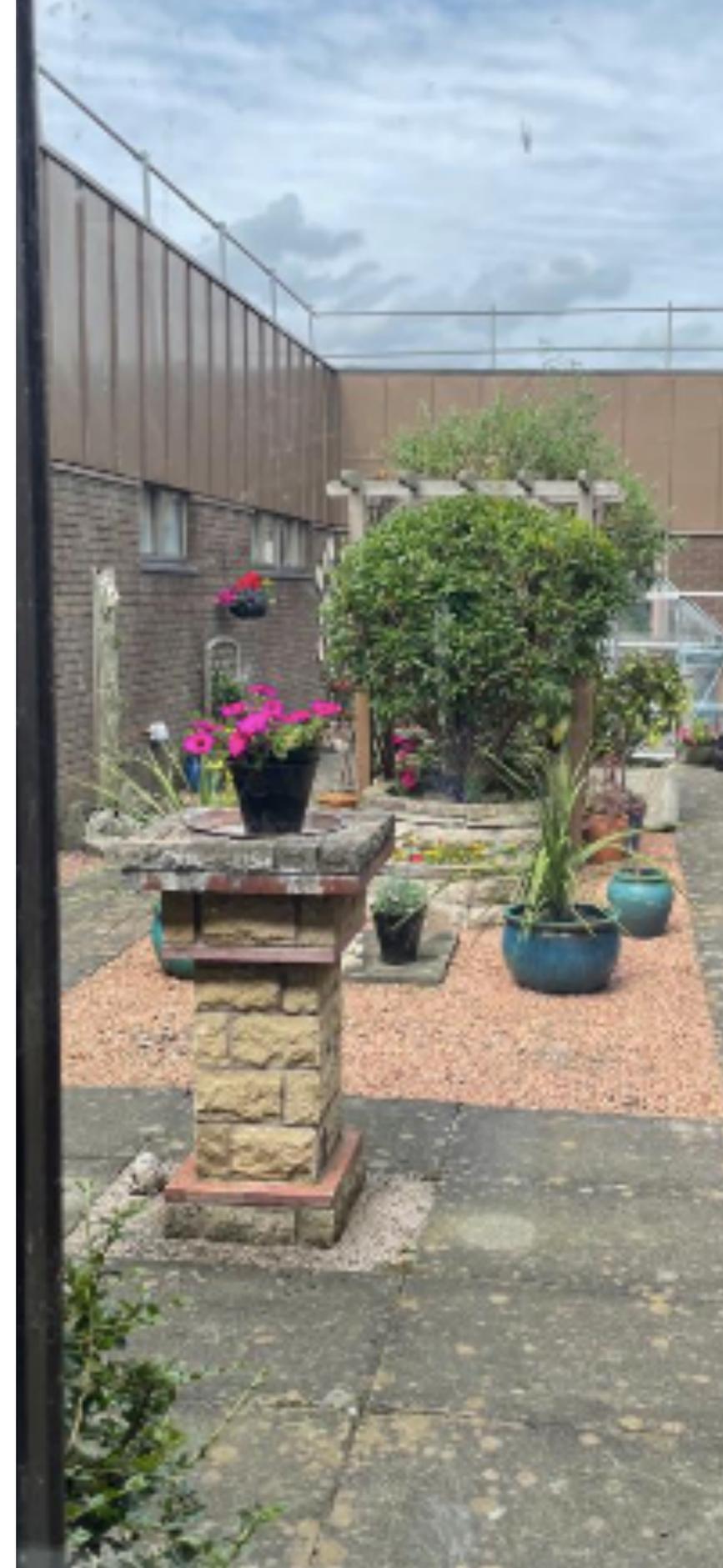
Rural Skills Scotland: we believe a partnership with this organisation is important as we up skill our staff, patients and community to deliver our 2030 greenspace strategy. From bringing additional contractor help on bigger projects to training volunteers and creating apprenticeship programmes we see them as a key, operational partner.

Community Energy Scotland and **Local Energy Scotland:** these organisations have the skills and resources to help us match the most suitable energy source to the right sites and help us to access the necessary funding and investment.

Fife Council Departments: some Council departments will be important, operational partners. They include:

- Economy Planning and Employability Services - Locality Response Team is keen to explore how the Council's intermediary employment priorities can align with Rural Skills Scotland and the work of the new organisation in offering a route to employment through greenspace.
- Climate Change and Zero Waste Team would welcome the opportunity to identify other publicly owned land, help co-ordinate action on the ground and share thoughts on monitoring and evaluation.
- Communities and Neighbourhoods - Allotments are a key resource for the food growing theme of our strategy and this department are keen to work together.
- Housing Services is interested in developing a close working relationship to encourage the use of green spaces within housing estates close to NHS estates that are managed by the Council.
- Local Development Team would welcome early contact from our new organisation about the strategy.
- Safer communities Team are open and willing to aligning the role of their wardens to practical projects in areas close to NHS greenspace.

Local Landowners. We recognise the importance of open dialogue with local farmers and landowners to avoid any conflict on greenspace projects and encourage collaborative working. Those already involved in the Food4Fife Partnership may be particularly open to collaborative working.



Advisory Partners

Community Land Scotland: can help with guidance, resources and access to funding for the ownership of community land and buildings. This will greatly help in the situations where asset transfer of land and buildings may be an appropriate solution to implement our greenspace strategy.

Development Trust Association Scotland: DTA Scotland is an independent, member-led organisation which aims to promote, support and represent development trusts in Scotland. Alongside Community land Scotland they will be an early port of call to explore community asset transfer and to locate community companies already operating across Fife.

Greenspace Scotland: This is an excellent source for all things 'greenspace' and in particular helpful funding, resources and case study examples.

Greener Kirkcaldy: We are fortunate enough to have one of Scotland's most impressive community companies on our doorstep. We recognise that Greener Kirkcaldy has a wealth of experience and practical advice to offer on all aspects of our work. Other excellent examples of similar community anchor organisations are **Transition St Andrews** and **CLEAR Buchhaven and Muthill**

Skills Development Scotland will be keen to bring direct training opportunities to local young people, those seeking new employment opportunities and those wanting to equip themselves with a new set of life skills. **Fife College** can also offer direct links to other helpful educational resources.

Fife Environment Trust ensures locally generated landfill tax monies can be made available to local projects.

“

For every £ we spend on greenspace we are realising over £4 of social and economic benefits from the wider sustainability gains



Our funding

The funding mix to support all six of the key themes in our 2030 Greenspace Strategy will combine a number of sources.

NHS/Public Sector Funding: this funding will:

- Retain our focus on the **health and wellbeing** benefits of our greenspace.
- Protect and enhance **nature and biodiversity** across our estate.

And will include:

- Core funding for the NHS Fife 2030 Greenspace Partnership: for existing staff within the NHS Fife Team (detail to be agreed by NHS Senior Management).
- Project funding for major greenspace projects can be applied for via the Head of Capital Planning and NHS Facilities at the Scottish Government and through the dedicated funds made available via the Greenspace Exercise Partnership. In its first year of operation the 2030 Greenspace Partnership will prepare a major bid to both of these sources to support the delivery of our 2030 Greenspace Strategy.
- Project Funding from Forestry Scotland and NatureScot through their main stream programmes in addition to the Green Exercise Partnership
- Future Funding from the recently announced **Nature Restoration Fund**. One to watch for future years.

External Funding to:

- Add value to the internal funds for **health and wellbeing** benefits of our greenspace.
- Add value to the internal funds protect and enhance **nature and biodiversity** across our estate.
- Attract significant external funding to promote **local food** growing and help to create a sustainable food culture for Fife.
- Develop rural and traditional **skills** through our greenspace projects.
- Generate **renewable energy** to reduce our energy costs, support greenspace projects and build our energy resilience.
- Reduce greenhouse gases, raise awareness and adapt to our **changing climate**.

“

We are already working to find some start up funding to help develop our initial ideas.

INSPIRE



Many of these funds will require the applicant to be a local or third sector organisations. By matching the NHS land resources with the energy and skills of these local partners significant funding can be unlocked to support the delivery of the greenspace strategy. Examples include:

Climate Action Fife: have received £2,102,234 of National Lottery funding to continue its work with local communities on the climate change agenda. This can include a major tree planting programme.

Food4Fife Partnership: by aligning the work of the two partnerships this will help us to identify additional funding sources, tap into existing funding programmes and add value to strategic, Fife wide bids. An early example of the funding sources that will open up around this agenda is the new fund through Innovate UK and promoted by the UK Government called **'Better Food for All:** innovation for improved nutrition, early stage'.

Local Energy Scotland: operates a number of funding programmes for renewable energy projects led by community organisations.

Fife Environment Trust: is one of the key funding bodies in Fife awarding grants for community, environmental and heritage projects across Scotland to benefit the lives of those living in the vicinity of landfill sites and/or waste transfer stations

National Lottery Community Fund: this fund is an excellent source of early stage and more strategic funding bids for community organisations to support all aspects of our Strategy.

Paths for All: supports walking for health and all forms of active travel that will be a key ingredient in delivering our greenspace strategy.

Income generation

Investment in renewable energy generation across our greenspace (and built estate) can generate income and reduce our carbon footprint. On larger sites investment in solar, geothermal and wind generation can increase energy resilience, power EV charging and create private energy grids. We will carry out a major feasibility study of this potential across our greenspace estate in the first year of our 2030 Greenspace Partnership.

“ There is a reduced risk of mental health problems for those who exercise in Green Space, compared to Gym or Street



INSPIRE



Year 1

Organisational Development

- Agree core team from NHS Fife to lead the early development and delivery of the 2030 Greenspace Strategy. This team should have board level representation through the Green Champion.
- This core team should review the full range of **existing and priority projects** to ensure that existing proposals cover the full range of uses proposed under our **key themes**
- Discuss and establish a partnership group of **key organisations** to help implement the greenspace strategy taking inspiration from the Food4Fife Partnership. Note action under 'Communication' below.
- Agree how the core team/partnership will be resourced.
- Hold briefing sessions with **our core partners** to promote our new greenspace strategy and advocate for support and involvement.

Projects

- Continue to develop and the existing proposals (and management arrangements) for these six priority sites (already under consideration by NHS Fife and partners) to ensure continuity and early wins for our greenspace strategy. Each of these sites requires a brief detailing the proposed work alongside an indicative costing and delivery timescale.
 - **Queen Margaret Hospital** (currently progressing through feasibility with the Green Partnership Fund)
 - **Stratheden Hospital**
 - **Victoria and Whyteman's Brae Hospital**
 - **Lynebank Hospital**
 - **Cameron Hospital**
 - **Adamson Hospital**

Communication

- Publish and promote the new 2030 Greenspace Strategy extensively throughout Fife and nationally to build support and understanding.
- Hold briefing sessions for **operational partners** to explore their enthusiasm for and involvement in the strategy.
- Prepare regular press and social media content.

Learning and Sharing

- The core team and those involved from the emerging partnership should enrol for Climate Action Fife's **behaviour change programme**. NHS staff and patients should also be encouraged to take part.

Feasibility and Research

- To engage the local community the core team/partnership should work with the **Food4Fife** Partnership to identify local food/allotment groups who may have an immediate interest in developing projects on NHS sites. The food theme is a particularly powerful way to engage local people and NHS Fife already has a positive role in chairing this partnership.
- The core team /partnership should commission a detailed feasibility study of renewable energy potential for all greenspace sites identified **in the summary table**. The planning and funding of this should be discussed with **Community Energy Scotland**.
- Research and publish the next phase of priority projects for years 2 to 4.
- Develop monitoring and evaluation proposal for our strategy. Note all the existing resources and tools currently available through the Green Delivery Partnership.
- Design a clear and simple system to monitor and evaluate our progress to 2030.

Funding

- Prepare a major, co-ordinated bid to the Head of Capital Planning and NHS Facilities at the Scottish Government and through the dedicated funds made available via the Greenspace Exercise Partnership.
- Prepare a bid to the second year of **Better Food for All**: innovation for improved nutrition, early stage’.
- Align the external funding opportunities with the above bid to add value and demonstrate partnership working.



Years 2 - 4

Organisational Development

- Regular meetings of the NHS 2030 Greenspace Partnership leading the delivery of our strategy.
- Continue to develop core team in response to the success of the strategy.

Projects

- Deliver the priority projects for years 2 to 4 as identified by the research and progress in year 1.
- Advance the community driven food projects identified through the first year feasibility work.
- Advance the main sites identified in the feasibility study around renewable energy projects

Communication

- Publish and promote the continuing progress to deliver our 2030 Greenspace Strategy.
- Prepare case study examples across our key themes to promote our work.
- Prepare regular press and social media content.
- Promote the GIS mapping as a Fife wide resource and national exemplar

Learning and Sharing

- Promote Climate Action Fife's [behaviour change programme](#) for NHS staff, patients, partners and the community.
- Promote theme based training/good practice events across Fife from the successes (and failures) of our strategy.

Feasibility and Research

- The core team/partnership should expand the GIS mapping system to include other public sector sites with greenspace potential to increase the impact of the greenspace strategy.
- Research and publish the next phase of priority projects - up to 2030
- Publish an annual report and monitoring and evaluation report each year.

Funding

- Secure continued funding through the Head of Capital Planning and NHS Facilities at the Scottish Government and through the dedicated funds made available via the Greenspace Exercise Partnership.
- Align the external funding opportunities with the above bid to add value and demonstrate partnership working.



Years 5 - 7

Organisational Development

- Regular meetings of the NHS 2030 Greenspace Partnership leading the delivery of our strategy.
- Develop the Greenspace Partnership in response to successes and failures of the strategy.

Projects

- Deliver the priority projects for years 4 to 2030 as identified by the research and progress in years 2-4.

Communication

- Publish and promote the continuing progress to deliver our 2030 Greenspace Strategy.
- Prepare case study examples across our key themes to promote our work.
- Prepare regular press and social media content.

Learning and Sharing

- Continue to promote Climate Action Fife's behaviour change programme for NHS staff, patients, partners and the wider community (and/or other courses as appropriate).
- Promote theme based training/good practice events across Fife from the successes (and failures) of our strategy.

Feasibility and Research

- Continued feasibility and research work in response to progress and priorities.
- Prepare annual reviews of our Strategy
- Prepare closing review of strategy to publish in 2030

Funding

- Secure continued funding through the Head of Capital Planning and NHS Facilities at the Scottish Government and through the dedicated funds made available via the Greenspace Exercise Partnership.
- Seek external funding opportunities linked to the above bid to add value and demonstrate partnership working.



Our learning and sharing

For our strategy to be successful we must engage directly with our staff, patients and local communities. We must be quick to learn lessons about what works (and doesn't) and to communicate well and effectively.

We will build an understanding of why this work is of such importance. The climate, nature and health challenges that we all face are clear and urgent. They can also be overwhelming. Our greenspace strategy will help to deliver real, practical change that can improve lives. From local food growing to learning new skills, generating clean energy, creating new woodlands to relax in and helping nature thrive. As a foundation for this work we will encourage everyone inspired by this strategy to engage with Climate Action Fife's [behaviour change programme](#).

As an anchor organisation we understand our duties and responsibilities to monitor and evaluate our work. This will recognise national requirements such as [NHS Scotland Sustainability Assessment Tool](#) and the recently announced requirement for all Health Boards to undertake a natural capital assessment of their land (notification Dec 2022). We will also develop a clear and simple system to evaluate our progress against our 6 key themes.

We will share our progress through all the formal and informal channels that our NHS 2030 Greenspace Partnership will open up to us. For example, Climate Action Fife are already connected to most communities across Fife. The Food4Fife Partnership has engaged a network of local businesses and landowners. Fife Council departments have a presence in every part of Fife community life.

Most importantly, we will build staff and patient involvement in every aspect of the strategy. From helping to design the strategy, developing the ideas for the sites that are close to their hearts and encouraging volunteering to making them actually happen. We will embrace all of these opportunities to learn and share as our work progresses.



“

Across Scotland we have wonderful NHS estates that sit right in the heart of communities.

Our next steps

We have the opportunity to deliver a groundbreaking approach to our greenspace estate through this 2030 Greenspace Strategy. We want to be ambitious and show leadership for other areas in Scotland and beyond.

On publishing this draft strategy we will take five steps:

Step 1: Open the draft to comment, constructive criticism and improvement from our staff, patients, partners and local communities. For our work to succeed we must have the buy-in from everyone involved and co-produce our strategy.

Step 2: Undertake an extensive survey for our staff and patients to gauge their reaction to the strategy, our suggestions for each site and how they would like to be involved in this work.

Step 3: Hold an online event to showcase the strategy and give everyone the opportunity to discuss and improve the strategy, the options for each site and how to deepen our partnership approach.

Step 4: Convene the first meeting of our NHS Fife 2030 Greenspace Partnership to review the draft.

Step 5: Publish our 2030 Greenspace Strategy.

