

P E R I U R B A N

Component 4: Methodology Testing and Regional Action Plans

Action Plan

according to Component 4 general description

Project Partner	Aberdeen City Council
Intervention Area (e.g. local, regional, specific park area)	Local

PART 1: O V E R V I E W

Contact Details

Name of person responsible for Action	Rachel Sharp
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List of actions detailed below

Please provide the list of the actions described below in bullet points.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - South Aberdeen Coastal Park - Development Framework in Partnership - Climate Change-Ready Park: Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change - Hazlehead Park Demonstration Site
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Potential links to current regional activities

Please provide several essential bullet points

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 - Public Bodies Climate Change Duties - Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan - Scottish Planning Policy



- Potential East of Scotland Green Network (in discussion)
- Community Planning / Local Government in Scotland Act (2003)
- Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004
- Designing Places – A Policy Statement for Scotland
- Biodiversity Action Plan
- North East Scotland River Basin Area Management Plan
- Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003

Actions already undertaken in the thematic field

Please provide several essential bullet points

- Aberdeen's SURF project (InterReg IVB) has developed a Development Framework for the periurban / urban fringe land to the north of the city, along the River Don Corridor. Lessons learned from that exercise and experience gained from the Periurban project will be applied in the development of a similar Framework for the South Aberdeen Coastal Park area.
- A Friends of Hazlehead Park group has been set up and will be a key consultee and driver of the climate change adaptation planning for their park.
- Greenspace Scotland, a social enterprise and independent charitable company, working with local authorities, including Aberdeen City Council, have already prepared a report titled Developing the role of green space in climate change mitigation and adaptation. The findings of this report will be applied to the Hazlehead Park demonstration site.

Action Summary

Please provide a short overview of the actions, their objectives (including budget available) and methods deployed, potential links to current regional activities, actions already undertaken within thematic area as well as the flexibility to allow the integration of Good Practices

1. South Aberdeen Coastal Park - Development Framework in Partnership

The action involves developing a development framework for the green space of the South Aberdeen Coastal Park and coordinating its delivery. This will involve:

- establishing a partnership of local stakeholders (including local residents, businesses, employees and others) to oversee and take some ownership and responsibility for the framework
- establish strong communication, utilizing a range of modes e.g. social networking
- take a strategic approach; making links with relevant local, regional, national and EU policies
- produce a spatial plan, supported with text and GIS database
- initiate early projects to stimulate interest and encourage people to see that their involvement will result in real action (e.g. East Tullos Burn – heavily modified and polluted stream, eco-engineers have been engaged to involve local people in designing a more natural course for the stream and improve the quality



of the greenspace generally. Through a partnership with a local business, the intention is for the bulk of the improvements to be paid for by the private company as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility commitments. Budget €21,900 for Scoping Study and around €188,000 for implementation.

2. Climate Change-Ready Park: Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change - Hazlehead Park Demonstration Site

This action involves developing and then implementing action plans (to fit within a reviewed Management Plan) for Hazlehead Park. The process will include a placemaking exercise that will widely engage local stakeholders and support the new Friends of Hazlehead Park group in coming to an agreement over the vision and priorities for the Park. A Social Return on Investment analysis will be undertaken, in order to identify the social and environmental value, in the form of a ratio, of the investment in the project so far. The action will result in creating and promoting Hazlehead as a demonstration site for mitigating and adapting parks to climate change, to increase awareness and promote similar actions elsewhere.

PART 2: ACTIONS

Action 1

Section 1: Common Methodology

Select the section(s) that are of particular interest for your Action Plan

	<i>Please insert an X if you are interested in the section</i>
Management / Relation to surrounding area	
Policy / Regulatory Aspects	X
Environmental Aspects	X
Economic Aspects	X
Social and Communication Aspects	X
Cultural Aspects	
Infrastructure / Accessibility	

Section 2: Management

Provide details on the entity that will manage the Action. If more than 1 entity will be involved, repeat table for each.

Name of entity expected to manage the action	Aberdeen City Council
Name of department expected to manage action (if already known)	Planning and Sustainable Development will work in collaboration with Environment Services department.



Description of entity and of specific role in the management	Planning and Sustainable Development will facilitate the strategic aspects of the project and lead the East Tullos Burn actions. Environment Services will lead the ongoing management and maintenance of the park.
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Section 3: Policy

Provide details of the policy (local, regional and or national) that this action concerns and that may be impacted / improved by the action

Add one box for each policy

Name of policy	Urban Green Space, Green Space Network
Level	Local Development Plan and potentially the Strategic (Regional) Development Plan
Description of policy and how it might be changed	Urban Green Space is a policy that protects land zoned on the Local Development Plan's spatial plan. It currently applies to urban green space only, not peri-urban green space. The Green Space Network policy protects and seeks enhancement of land zoned on the Local Development Plan's spatial plan. The action could encourage the extension of these policies to include a requirement for development frameworks or management plans for sites with this zoning, so as to encourage strategic and well-planned development and management. There may be an opportunity to add a Green Space Network policy to the regional Strategic Development Plan, to add weight to this theme.

Section 4: Overview of the Action proposed

Provide a brief description of the Action being proposed

<p>The action involves developing a development framework for the green space of the South Aberdeen Coastal Park and coordinating its delivery. This will involve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - establishing a partnership of local stakeholders (including local residents, businesses, employees and others) to oversee and take some ownership and responsibility for the framework - establish strong communication, utilizing a range of modes e.g. social networking - take a strategic approach; making links with relevant local, regional, national and EU policies - produce a spatial plan, supported with text and GIS database - initiate early priority projects to stimulate interest and encourage people to see that their involvement will result in real action (e.g. East Tullos Burn – heavily modified and polluted stream, eco-engineers have been engaged to involve local people in designing a more natural course for the stream and improve the quality of the green space generally. Through a partnership with a local business, the intention is for the bulk of the improvements to be paid for by the private company as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility commitments. Budget €21,900 for Scoping Study and around €188,000 for implementation.
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Provide an overview of the series of specific activities required in order to implement this Action

Repeat for each activity

Activity 1.1



Title	Partnership / Steering Group
Description	Bring together key stakeholders and facilitate strong communication over the development and management of the area.
Target result / output	Well-informed, committed group of interested local people, businesses and employees.

Activity 1.2	
Title	Strategic plan / Development Framework
Description	Development of a strategic framework, including spatial plan for the area.
Target result / output	Approval and acceptance of the plan.

Activity 1.3	
Title	Naturalised East Tullos Burn
Description	Implementing a Scoping Study that is being carried out during the Periurban Project, investigating opportunities for enhancing the environment of the East Tullos Burn and its surrounding greenspace, with engagement of local people. Implementation of the Study through works on the ground, paid for by private business.
Target result / output	Well-informed, committed group of interested local people, businesses and employees.

Section 5: Stakeholder involvement

Provide an overview of all stakeholders that will be involved and the means of involving them

Please include political involvement (e.g. regional and or national administration, Managing authority) and Territorial Involvement (e.g. service providers and others involved in the practical creation and management of the park)

Name of stakeholder	Activities designed to involve stakeholder
Local Community Councils	Initiation meeting and ongoing communication
Other local groups	Ongoing communication, including invitation to public meetings
Local Councillors (Elected Members)	Ongoing email updates, public meeting invitations, report consultation
Convenor & Vice-Convenor of relevant Committees (Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure and Housing and Environment)	Ongoing email updates, public meeting invitations, report consultation
Local businesses	Initiation meeting and ongoing communication, including invitation to public meetings
Scottish Natural Heritage	Ongoing email updates, public meeting invitations, report consultation, ongoing communication
Scottish Environmental Protection Agency	Ongoing email updates, public meeting invitations,



	report consultation, ongoing communication
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Section 6: Cooperation

Provide details of any further cooperation / exchange with PERIURBAN partners that will be necessary

Name of partner	Description of objective / form of cooperation
Region of Lombardy	Environment / landscape regeneration and recovery
Lille Metropolitan Natural Space	Partnership working in joint strategic planning and coordination of management
Seine-Saint-Denis	Green infrastructure

Section 7: Risk Management

Where possible, provide details of any potential risks to the implementation of the Action and relative contingency plans identified (for instance difficulties in obtaining necessary permissions or any legacies required e.g. for the extension of a park area).

Potential risk	Contingency plan
Staff capacity to lead the strategic planning process	Promotion of importance of action
Disagreement over priorities or specific tasks	Joint working and agreement of project plan from early stage
Wider economic issues affecting ability of private businesses to fund material improvements	Good communication, exploring alternative funding streams.

Section 8: Funding

Where possible, provide an estimate of the expected costs for each specific activity and the possible sources of funding.

Repeat for each activity

Activity 1			
Type of cost	Estimated Amount	Potential source of funding	Action needed to access funding
Strategic Plan	€20,000	Aberdeen City Council (staff time)	Prioritisation against other work streams
East Tullos Burn	€200,000 (Implementation)	Periurban Private business	Claims Promotion, good communication
Path and access improvements	€188,000	Part committed already by Regional Transport Partnership, Nestrans, remainder possible local businesses	Claims, promotion and good communication
Total	€408,000		

Section 9: Expected impact

Please describe the expected results of the Action at regional or local level



The development and approval of a strategic plan or development framework for the area, if successful will have built a strong shared commitment to the future of the area and agreement over its protection and priorities for its improvement.

The action will also result in a tried and tested procedure for strategic and management planning of periurban areas, which can be repeated for other parks, and supported or required by amended or new policy.

The East Tullos Burn project and path improvements will have generated interest of local people in the area, showing them that something is happening and encouraging them to get involved and take care of their greenspace. It will also have a clear positive impact on the environmental quality and biodiversity of the area.

Please state if any monitoring actions are already in place for measuring impact or if existing monitoring initiatives could be adapted to this purpose

Monitoring of numbers of people involved and monitoring of costs and financial inputs.

PART 2 (continued): A C T I O N S

Action 2

Section 1: Common Methodology

Select the section(s) that are of particular interest for your Action Plan

	<i>Please insert an X if you are interested in the section</i>
Management / Relation to surrounding area	X
Policy / Regulatory Aspects	X
Environmental Aspects	X
Economic Aspects	X
Social and Communication Aspects	X
Cultural Aspects	
Infrastructure / Accessibility	

Section 2: Management



Provide details on the entity that will manage the Action. If more than 1 entity will be involved, repeat table for each.

Name of entity expected to manage the action	Aberdeen City Council
Name of department expected to manage action (if already known)	Environment Services will work in collaboration with the Planning and Sustainable Development department.
Description of entity and of specific role in the management	Council services will help to facilitate the action, although external experts, Greenspace Scotland will lead much of the work. Environment Services will lead the ongoing management and maintenance of the park, but the project will encourage empowerment of the Friends of Hazlehead Park group to take a greater responsibility for this too.

Section 3: Policy

Provide details of the policy (local, regional and or national) that this action concerns and that may be impacted / improved by the action

Add one box for each policy

Name of policy	Urban Green Space, Green Space Network
Level	Local Development Plan and potentially the Strategic (Regional) Development Plan
Description of policy and how it might be changed	Urban Green Space is a policy that protects land zoned on the Local Development Plan's spatial plan. It currently applies to urban greenspace only, not peri-urban greenspace. The Green Space Network policy protects and seeks enhancement of land zoned on the Local Development Plan's spatial plan. The action could encourage the extension of these policies to include a requirement for development frameworks or management plans for sites with this zoning, so as to encourage strategic and well-planned development and management. There may be an opportunity to add a Green Space Network policy to the regional Strategic Development Plan, to add weight to this theme. There may also be the possibility of adding specific reference to climate change mitigation and adaptation to these policies, or to support and extend the ecosystem services approach encouraged by the Green Space Network policy.

Section 4: Overview of the Action proposed

Provide a brief description of the Action being proposed



The action is to develop a ‘pioneer climate-ready park’ at Hazlehead Park. It follows on from a research report produced by independent charitable company, Greenspace Scotland, which demonstrated how greenspace can contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation in and around urban areas. The report highlighted challenges and barriers to developing ‘climate change greenspaces’. These included the need for guidance on how different types of greenspace can support mitigation and adaptation, as well as the need for Scottish exemplars and case studies.

By working with the local community, through the new Friends Of Hazlehead Park group, and with other stakeholders, ‘climate-ready’ action plans for Hazlehead are in development. A placemaking exercise will focus on “what would make this park a great place – now and in the future?” A technical exercise in identifying and prioritising climate-ready actions will follow, then a Social Return on Investment analysis will establish the financial value of the social and environmental benefits of the project. The development of the action plans will take place alongside the review of a wider Management Plan for the park. This supporting strategic information will assist in the next stages of applying for funds to take forward the actions. Beyond the Periurban project, these action plans will be implemented so as to offer a climate-ready park demonstration site, and Hazlehead Park, one of Aberdeen’s biggest parks, will play a strong role in mitigating climate change and adapting to its effects.

*Provide an overview of the series of specific activities required in order to implement this Action
Repeat for each activity*

Activity 1.1	
Title	Climate Change Park Scoping and Analysis and Adoption of Action Plans
Description	Identifying and analysing the features of the park and the possible impacts on, and of, climate change. Development of Action Plans and their approval by local community, stakeholders and by the Council.
Target result / output	Clear idea of possibilities for actions to adapt to and mitigate climate change at Hazlehead Park. Adopted action plans

Activity 1.2	
Title	Delivery of actions
Description	Preparing funding applications, project management, changing management practices
Target result / output	Funding secured and actions delivered

Activity 1.3	
Title	Climate-Ready Hazlehead Park Demonstration Site and strong Friends of Park group
Description	The promotion of the park as a demonstration site for mitigating and adapting to climate change and of local involvement in management and improvement of park.
Target result / output	Publicity and requests from interested parties to visit and learn from the park. Reduced negative impacts of climate change and reduced carbon emissions in the park and potentially increased carbon sequestration. Empowered, committed, active local park group.



Section 5: Stakeholder involvement

Name of stakeholder	Activities designed to involve stakeholder
Local Community Councils	Initiation meeting and ongoing communication
Friends of Hazlehead Park Group	Ongoing communication, including invitation to public meetings and expectation of their assistance in taking some responsibilities for activities.
Other local groups	Ongoing communication, including invitation to public meetings
Local Councillors (Elected Members)	Ongoing email updates, public meeting invitations, report consultation
Convenor & Vice-Convenor of relevant Committees (Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure and Housing and Environment)	Ongoing email updates, public meeting invitations, report consultation
Local businesses	Ongoing communication, including invitation to public meetings
Scottish Natural Heritage	Ongoing email updates, public meeting invitations, report consultation, ongoing communication
Scottish Environmental Protection Agency	Ongoing email updates, public meeting invitations, report consultation, ongoing communication
Other potential funding bodies	Ongoing communication, including invitation to public meetings

Section 6: Cooperation

Name of partner	Description of objective / form of cooperation
Seine-Saint-Denis	Long term strategies, planning future development
Region of Lombardy, North Milan Park	Active involvement in park activities to reduce anti-social behaviour and improve awareness

Section 7: Risk Management

Potential risk	Contingency plan
Change of funding or priorities of Greenspace Scotland (external expert)	Frequent communication
Disagreement over priorities between stakeholders	Good quality public engagement and improved understanding / team working
Lack of funding to take forward action plans	Flexibility in approach, good communication throughout
Loss of interest or loss of key enthusiastic leaders of Friends of group.	Good communication and understanding of needs.



Section 8: Funding

Activity 1			
Type of cost	Estimated Amount	Potential source of funding	Action needed to access funding
External experts – Scoping study and analysis	€18,000	Periurban Parks	Claim
Adoption of Action Plans	€2,000	Aberdeen City Council	Staff time
Delivery of actions	? €600,000	Private businesses, government grants, others.	Preparation of funding bids, communication with local businesses
Promotion of demonstration site, strong, active park group	€10,000	Aberdeen City Council, Greenspace Scotland, other partner organisations	Staff time devoted to publicising and promoting the park and supporting the Friends of Park group.
Total	€630,000		

Section 9: Expected impact

Please describe the expected results of the Action at regional or local level

Risks posed by climate change to the Park's facilities and features should be reduced as a result of this action. There should be greater awareness and understanding of Climate Change issues as a result of the exercise and ongoing promotion of the park as a demonstration site. It is hoped that this project will also mean that climate change will be a stronger feature in future management plans and action plans for other parks. This could perhaps be supported by amended or new policy.

Please state if any monitoring actions are already in place for measuring impact or if existing monitoring initiatives could be adapted to this purpose

The Social Return on Investment Analysis will establish the projected financial value of the social and environmental benefits of the project. The condition of the facilities and features within the park are monitored. The Council's carbon emissions by its assets are also monitored through the Carbon Management Plan. This could be extended to include monitoring the impacts of this action.



PART 3: T I M E T A B L E

2013 (initial Actions after project end)	
Action	Estimated timing
Completion of improvements to Coastal Path	March 2013
Completion of improvements to East Tullos Burn	September 2013
Adoption of Strategic Plan / Development Framework	December 2013
Monitoring of activities	December 2013
Adoption of Hazlehead Climate Change Action Plans and reviewed Management Plan	March 2013
Preparation and approval of funding bids	September 2013
2014	
Action	Estimated timing
Completion of other improvements identified through Strategic Plan	December 2014
Monitoring of activities	December 2014
Delivery of Climate Change actions at Hazlehead	December 2014
Promotion of Hazlehead as demonstration site	September 2014

