

# Finance and Resources Committee

10.00am, Thursday, 3 March 2022

## Partnership with Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust

Executive/routine Wards Council Commitments	Executive All <a href="#">43, 44</a>
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### 1. Recommendations

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- 1.1 It is recommended that Finance and Resources Committee:
- 1.1.1 Approves the establishment of a Framework Agreement with Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust (ELGT), to place contracts to deliver green space projects, with no guarantee of volume, for a period of four years from 3 March 2022 to 31 March 2026;
  - 1.1.2 Notes that under this Agreement, ELGT will continue to provide specialist services to the Council which are in the best interests of the Council, with a signed off financial ceiling by the Council of £3,000,000 over the four-year period; and
  - 1.1.3 Notes that ELGT will continue to undertake projects with an expectation that, on average, the Council receives £2.50 benefit for each £1 of investment.

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## Partnership with Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust

### 2. Executive Summary

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- 2.1 This report establishes a new framework agreement with Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust (ELGT) to replace the current framework that has reached its end date. This will enable the Council to continue to deliver green space, environmental and community projects with the Trust. Grant contributions are secured by ELGT over and above Council funding, enabling a greater volume, scope and quality of improvement initiatives than could be accomplished by Council funding in isolation.

### 3. Background

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- 3.1 The Council is one of ELGT's founding partners, and the two organisations have a long history of working together to achieve charitable aims and environmental projects. ELGT is a charity and a company limited by guarantee overseen by a Board of Directors.
- 3.2 ELGT is the main delivery organisation for the Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN) for the East of Scotland. The CSGN is a development within the National Planning Framework 4, which aims to make 'a significant contribution to Scotland's sustainable economic development'. CSGN plays a key role in tackling the challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss by building and strengthening nature networks. A greener approach to development improves placemaking, will contribute to the roll-out of 20-minute neighbourhoods and will benefit biodiversity connectivity.
- 3.3 Over the past 30 years ELGT has delivered hundreds of projects across Edinburgh and the surrounding area.
- 3.4 The increase in value of individual projects reflect the success of the existing partnership process, which delivered a host of new green space and green infrastructure projects; particularly those that relate directly to active travel, climate change and biodiversity improvements. For example, within the development of Little France Park, ELGT secured £1.25m of external funding in addition to the initial contribution from the Council of £0.41m. As a result of the works delivered, Little

France Park has been designated a Local Nature Reserve and is often used as a green infrastructure exemplar by funders.

- 3.5 ELGT has secured over £500,000 from Sustrans towards the further upgrading of the Water of Leith National Cycle Route, to be delivered in 2022/23.
- 3.6 ELGT has a unique role in that it acts as applicant and recipient of grant aid funds that are not available to the Council. The funds raised are then used to enhance the value of works delivered. ELGT runs its own tendering process to award work, and it is not in direct competition with landscaping or other companies. It should also be noted that some funding received from the Council is secured initially by ELGT (e.g. Scottish Forestry grants and Landfill Tax Funding) but is paid directly to the landowner and then passed to ELGT as part of the overall project cost.
- 3.7 There is no other organisation as capable as ELGT in adding value to Place-led projects in the form of grants and community facilitation. It has the considerable advantage in having Council Officers at its board meetings, providing oversight of all ELGT activities. Furthermore, ELGT is intrinsically linked to the Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN), to which the Council is a signatory, and is the lead charitable body for delivery of CSGN objectives in the Edinburgh area.

## 4. Main report

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- 4.1 To continue to deliver green space, environmental and community projects, the Council is required to put in place a formal contractual arrangement with ELGT.
- 4.2 ELGT is a charity and a company limited by guarantee, created by the Council and neighbouring authorities to deliver green space initiatives. ELGT supports the provision of fundraising, community development and consultation work, and the delivery of environmental projects on the Council's behalf.
- 4.3 ELGT is the only organisation operating within the city that has a dedicated greenspace remit and a commitment to the whole of Edinburgh. While there are charities and consultants that cover some aspects of what ELGT provides, their remit is narrow. Similarly, there are many direct landscaping organisations, but they do not provide a management, community engagement and external fundraising service.
- 4.4 It is therefore recommended that the Finance and Resources Committee approves the establishment of a Framework Agreement with ELGT, with no guarantee of volume, for a period of four years.
- 4.5 This agreement will replace the framework agreement previously agreed by the Council's Finance and Resources Committee in March 2018. The agreement is in recognition of the organisation's unique characteristics and its ability to secure third party funding.
- 4.6 This agreement will allow contracts to be competitively tendered and placed to deliver many green space, environmental and community projects.

- 4.7 The estimated total value of contracts to be awarded under this framework agreement is expected to be up to £5,000,000, with the Council's financial contribution limited to £3,000,000; the remainder to be sourced from third party funding.
- 4.8 The actual value of contracts awarded will depend on the volume of projects identified, scoped and agreed by Council Officers throughout the period on an individual basis. It is noted that ELGT's operational costs run at an average of 13% of total project value.
- 4.9 The primary tasks undertaken by ELGT are the sourcing of third-party funding, facilitation of project delivery, community consultation, procurement and project management.
- 4.10 ELGT is a unique organisation insofar that it:
- 4.10.1 Is a charity committed to achieving aims consistent with the Council's values and objectives;
  - 4.10.2 Was created by the Council in partnership with others to achieve these aims because there is no other similar body in existence;
  - 4.10.3 Is the lead charity body for delivery of Central Scotland Green Network objectives in the Edinburgh Area;
  - 4.10.4 Acts as applicant and recipient of grant aid funds that are not available to the Council, thereby adding value;
  - 4.10.5 Is already intimately involved in delivery of Council led priority projects, e.g. as a project bid partner of the Heritage Lottery Fund/National Trust funded City of Edinburgh's Thriving Green Space Project, the creation of Little France Park and other large multi-functional greenspace and blue projects and contributing towards the delivery of the Council's Play Area Action Plan; and
  - 4.10.6 Is significantly contributing towards the delivery of the Million Tree City initiative with ELGT's Tree Time Project and as the regional delivery partner with NatureScot and Earthwatch for Wee Forests.
- 4.11 The scale of works and added value is considerable. Since its inception, over the past 30 years, ELGT has delivered over 850 projects across Edinburgh and the surrounding area. In the past 15 years, ELGT has delivered over 300 projects in Edinburgh at a total value of approximately £8,600,000, with the Council contributing £3,630,000, whilst ELGT has raised an additional £4,970,000 from a wide range of other sources.
- 4.12 Over the previous three financial years, the Council has contributed £750,936 through the framework agreement for a total project value of £3,122,050 with the remainder income secured by ELGT. Net of other Council grants received this equates to £2.69 worth of benefit per £1 spent.
- 4.13 A further £1,063,531 of project work has been programmed for 2021/22 of which the Council will contribute £222,779 through the framework agreement. The total

value of projects delivered and planned from 2018/19 to current is presented in Appendix 1. It is therefore considered in the best interest of the Council to continue to take advantage of the additional funding streams which ELGT has access.

- 4.14 The specialist services which ELGT provides to the Council are:
  - 4.14.1 Attracting grant aid for Council projects;
  - 4.14.2 Carrying out community engagement work covering green spaces;
  - 4.14.3 Tendering and managing the delivery of green space enhancement projects; and
  - 4.14.4 Providing a mechanism to create and strengthen new community partnerships.

## **5. Next Steps**

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- 5.1 If Committee approves the recommendations in this report the key measures of success for projects undertaken by ELGT will be:
  - 5.1.1 The delivery of green space projects;
  - 5.1.2 Grant and external funding contributions secured by ELGT over and above the Council's funding enabling a greater volume, quality and scope of improvement initiatives than could be accomplished by Council's funding in isolation;
  - 5.1.3 Delivery of high-quality projects on time and to budget; and
  - 5.1.4 Active and continuing community involvement in projects.

## **6. Financial impact**

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- 6.1 The Council's financial contribution will be limited to £3,000,000. The actual value of contracts awarded will depend on the volume of projects identified by Council officers on an individual need basis throughout the framework period.
- 6.2 It should be noted that Planning also have a contractual arrangement with ELGT for £25,833 per year to provide support with the City Plan, strategic environmental planning and environmental community engagement.
- 6.3 Works will only be placed by the Council when they are in line with approved budgets and project priorities. Entering into such an agreement, in which there would be no guarantee of volume, formalises the Council's contractual agreements with ELGT.
- 6.4 It is expected that, on average, the Council will receive £2.50 benefit for each £1 of investment.
- 6.5 It is noted that ELGT's operational costs run at an average of thirteen percent of total contract values.

- 6.6 Agreement provides a measure of stability for ELGT in whose financial viability the Council has a continuing interest.

## **7. Stakeholder/Community Impact**

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- 7.1 Consultation and engagement with stakeholders at the appropriate level will be planned as part of each individual project.

## **8. Background reading/external references**

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- 8.1 [Partnership and Procurement Arrangements with Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust](#) - Finance and Resources, 31 October 2013.
- 8.2 [Partnership and Procurement Arrangements with Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust](#) - Finance and Resources, 28 November 2013.
- 8.3 [Partnership and Procurement Arrangements with Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust](#) - Finance and Resources, 27 March 2018

## **9. Appendices**

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- 9.1 Appendix 1 – ELGT Edinburgh Project Work Programme 2018 onwards.

**Appendix 1 - ELGT Edinburgh Project Work Programme 2018 onwards**

Project Number	Project	Project Total
<b>PROJECTS 18/19</b>		
667	Balbirnie (Dunedin Canmore)	£10,000
715	Branching Out 18-19	£10,000
582	CEC Woodland Creation Saughton	£6,000
706	Craigmillar Caravan Obscura	£4,780
710	Harrison Park community events 18-19	£1,000
699	Heritage Crafts – Braidburn Valley Park	£4,900
712	HISG South Edinburgh Healthy Lifestyles and Community Gardening 18-19	£67,308
714	HQP community engagement 18-19	£10,000
700	Innertube Map Development	£6,815
677	Little France Park Active Travel Phase II	£790,456
609	Little France Park Woodland Creation	£32,000
704	Mavisbank WIAT application	£2,500
618	Pilrig Park Clydesdale Fund	£4,708
697	Pilrig Park conservation and woodland trail	£5,350
691	Pilrig Park Playpark	£59,837
681a	Scottish Biodiversity Strategy - Learning in Local Greenspace Project	£4,000
713	South Edinburgh Health & Social Care 18-19	£59,994
705	Tescos Woodland Activities Midlothian	£4,500
743	Tree Planting in Braidburn Valley Park	£4,300
708	Tree Planting Campaign	£5,550
742	Tree Planting in Princes Street Gardens	£5,843
735	Hailes Quarry Park Active Travel	£3,800
720	Burdiehouse Burn Active Travel	£3,000
725	Pentland to Portobello Route Study	£33,076
721	Woodland Activities	£2,439
723	West Pilton Park	£10,000
728	Lochend Park Development	£9,000
729	Davidson Mains Park	£3,650
731	North Edinburgh Community Engagement	£4,250
748	Little France Community Engagement	£9,808
997	Craigmillar Woodland Engagement	£54,653
701	West Pilton Park Activation	£5,000
718	Oxgangs Health Improvement	£5,000
719a	NW & SW Health Improvement	£40,150
996b	Active & Green Public Social Partnership	£10,000
726	Choose Youth Woodland Activities	£2,534
733	Forest School Taster in Pilton	£3,950
736	Outdoor Learning sessions	£295
		<b>£1,300,446</b>
<b>PROJECTS 19/20</b>		
716	Leith Links Play Park	£284,856
707	Craigmillar Castle Park WIAT	£52,208
734	Greener Leith- Coallie Park	£5,179
739	West Pilton Park Play area and outdoor gym	£117,000
752	Henderson Gardens	£70,786
761	Little France Park Biodiversity	£96,901
765	Campbell Park Orchard	£2,500
768	T Woods Management Plan	£450
770	Dalmeny Estate Tree Planting	£5,000
775	Huntershall Park Active Route Design	£35,850
777	Hailes Quarry Park Active Travel	£3,885
779	Little France Park Tree Planting	£9,026
784	Bonaly Country Park Tree Planting	£900
738	Out & About Healthy Lifestyles	£129,559
749	Branching Out Programme	£9,893

Project Number	Project	Project Total
727	Little France Activation	£5,000
753	Greenspace & Health Framework	£35,000
769	Walking for Health	£5,333
776	Dumbiedykes Healthy Lifestyles	£10,000
996	Active & Green Public Social Partnership	£10,000
741	Outdoor Learning	£13,361
744	Hailes Quarry Park	£10,000
745	Clermiston Park	£7,259
751	West Pilton Park	£10,000
755	Lochend/Leith	£10,000
759	Tree Time Campaign	£20,000
762	Harrison Park Community Events	£2,087
766	Woodland Activities with Families	£2,282
767	Woodland Conservation Activities	£2,525
771	Colinton Mains Park Improvements	£4,750
997d	Craigmillar Woodland Engagement	£54,653
		<b>£1,026,243</b>

<b>PROJECTS 20/21</b>		
722	Little France Park Phase III	£182,955
761	Little France Park Biodiversity	£85,537
772	Flotterstone - Mystery Glen	£11,857
773	West Pilton Park Teen Play Area	£54,814
774	SE Green Infrastructure Development	£3,716
778	Little France Active Travel	£11,984
782	Pentland Community Play Park	£104,934
785	Leith Links Arboretum	£10,156
788	West Pilton Park Enhancement	£24,820
792	Huntershall Park Tree Planting	£10,778
796	Cammo Estate Enhancement	£5,000
798	Clermiston Park Path	£3,964
799	Coalie Park Enhancement	£5,000
801	Sandy Outdoor Pods	£9,927
810	Swanston Tree Planting	£8,100
813	Campbell Park Orchard Phase II	£1,000
769	Walking for Health	£2,667
781	Out & About Healthy Lifestyles	£112,157
783	Branching Out Programme	£7,736
794	Supporting Older People	£5,000
800	Spaces for People	£10,000
803	Dumbiedykes Healthy Lifestyle	£5,000
812	Outdoor Art Therapy Space	£917
747	Westburn Woods	£15,075
789	Burnshot Bridge Events	£3,405
790	Dumbiedykes Community Support	£5,900
791	Craigmillar & Moredun Online Activities	£20,409
793	Craigmillar Young People Activities	£7,602
795	Dumbiedykes Woodland Activities	£5,000
797	Woodland Activities	£3,194
807	Sandys Young People Activities	£6,964
808	Goodtrees Outdoor Improvements	£500
816	PHRP Visitor Management Plan	£13,500
993	Tree Time	£1,500
997e	Craigmillar Woodland Engagement	£34,293
		<b>£795,361</b>

<b>PROJECTS 21/22</b>		
814	Branching Out 21/22	£4,000



Project Number	Project	Project Total
837	Burdiehouse - Niddrie Burn Improvements	£50,000
988	Community Mental Health Fund- South East	£12,748
804a	Dreghorn Nursery Outdoor Activities	£14,840
805	Little France improvements	£79,500
722a	Little France Active Travel Phase III	£265
802	River Almond Feasibility Study	£35,000
806	Figgate Playpark	£215,044
807	Sandys Community Centre Woodland Activities	£2,321
809a	Greening Pentlands to Portobello	£833
811	Woodland Upskilling project	£11,900
817	Dumbiedykes greenspace activities	£14,801
818	Out & About Healthy Lifestyle Project	£120,425
824	Gilmerton community garden	£4,932
825	Wee Forest Pilot project	£140,000
826	Braidburn Valley Park Cherry Foil Improvements	£5,000
828	Goodtrees Summer Programme	£5,001
829	Victoria Park Allotment	£1,695
830	Pentland Hills Sustainable Access Project	£42,613
832	Outdoor Activities in Oxfords	£1,000
833	Swanston Burn Path Improvements	£1,500
834	Edinburgh Nature Restoration	£118,863
835	Healthy Lifestyle activities SE Edinburgh	£5,000
836	Queens Green Canopy	£15,000
838	West Pilton Park Masterplan	£22,036
839	Million Tree City	£7,295
747	Westburn Woods Improvement Project	£17,736
840	Huntershall Tree Planting	£890
989b	Thrive Project	£80,000
997	Craigmillar Woodland Engagement	£33,293
		<b>£1,063,531</b>