

Report

Report to:	Climate Change and Sustainability Committee
Date of Meeting:	10 February 2021
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	Climate Ready Clyde: Adaptation Strategy Consultation Response
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ Update the Committee on the Council's response to the consultation on Climate Ready Clyde's Adaptation Strategy.

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- 1) that the response to the consultation on Climate Ready Clyde's Adaptation Strategy for Glasgow City Region, attached as Appendix 2 to the report, be approved

3. Background

- 3.1. The Council is a member of Climate Ready Clyde (CRC) which is a cross-sector initiative funded by fifteen member organisations – Glasgow City Council, East Dunbartonshire Council, East Renfrewshire Council, Inverclyde Council, North Lanarkshire Council, Renfrewshire Council, South Lanarkshire Council, West Dunbartonshire Council, University of Strathclyde, University of Glasgow, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, SGN, SEPA, SPT and Transport Scotland - and supported by the Scottish Government, to create a shared vision, strategy and action plan for a climate-resilient Glasgow City Region.
- 3.2. There are eight municipalities within the Glasgow City Region (GCR), as outlined in appendix 1, with a diverse mix of rural and urban land. 1.8 million people live, work, and play in GCR and it has a large number of businesses and organisations with £40bn of GVA – a third of Scotland's population and wealth. Increasingly, they are impacted by the effects of climate change both directly in the city region and from changes happening around the world.

3.3. Adapting to climate change will be necessary regardless of how much we manage to cut our carbon emissions. This is because historic emissions have already changed our climate and will continue to do so in the decades to come. As our climate changes we need to make adjustments that could include making changes to our buildings to keep them cool during hotter summers or are less at risk of being flooded or making changes to the crops we grow or trees we plant in our forests and woodlands so that they are less vulnerable to new pests and diseases or to storms or wildfires.

3.4 The Council is represented by officers on the board on CRC and has been involved in the development of the strategy to date. This work has included the publication of a [climate risk and opportunity assessment](#) for the City Region and the development of a [Theory of Change](#); both providing the foundation for the strategy:-

- [The climate risk and opportunity assessment](#) identifies 70 climate risks and opportunities (or benefits) for the city region that are split across six themes: - infrastructure, built environment, society and health, natural environment, economy business and industry, and international risk and cross-cutting and adaptive capacity. The assessment found that risks are unevenly distributed across the city region and will disproportionately affect those who are less well off, as such making them more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and have more limited means to respond.
- [The Theory of Change](#) that sets out a long-term vision for a climate ready Glasgow City Region, necessary elements required to achieve it and some guiding principles for how they should be achieved.

3.5. CRC's vision is '*A Glasgow city region that flourishes in a future climate*'. To help deliver this vision, Climate Ready Clyde has been preparing the region's first Climate Adaptation Strategy. The strategy will provide a guide to enable public and private organisations, businesses, communities, and individuals to work together to build the capacity to adapt to changes, anticipate what might happen next and absorb shocks when they do come along across the City Region. This is otherwise referred to as 'Climate Resilience'.

4. Adaptation Strategy

4.1. The strategy will seek to ensure Glasgow City Region's economy, society and environment is not only prepared for, but continues to flourish in the face of the impacts arising from the climate crisis. In this context, the strategy:

- outlines the processes and early interventions needed to manage climate risks and realise opportunities in line with the Theory of Change.
- provides a strategic framework for adaptation in and by the Glasgow City Region that fits alongside and supports key plans, policies, and activities to enable delivery.
- sets out how to deepen and expand collaboration and collective impact by working together and engaging, equipping, and enabling citizens and organisations to play a role in realising the vision.
- sets out how progress in increasing climate resilience will be monitored, evaluated, and learnt from to improve policies, strategies, programmes, and projects.

A copy of the draft strategy, along with the supporting documents, can be found on CRC's [website](#).

- 4.2. The Adaptation Strategy will also actively seek to create a more fair, just and inclusive region as part of the adaptation process. To do this, a social impact assessment, in parallel to the development of the main strategy is being undertaken. This is a voluntary assessment and is designed to reflect duties under the Equality Act 2010, but also to consider broader social issues associated with climate change in the Glasgow City Region.
- 4.3. The draft strategy and accompanying Strategic Environmental Assessment, were open for public consultation during November and December 2020; the consultation closed on 24 December 2020. A copy of the Council's response to the consultation can be found at Appendix 2. The Council's comments are clearly marked 'SLC response'.
- 4.4. It was noted in our response that approval would be sought by the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee at its meeting on 10 February 2021. In the event of any changes following the Committee's consideration, the final response would be updated accordingly.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1. The strategy will be supported by an Action Plan which will contain detailed actions to be taken in the City Region between 2020 and 2025. The development of the Action Plan is currently underway, and it is hoped it will be available by March 2021. In due course, an updated report will be submitted to the Committee.

6. Employee Implications

- 6.1. The Council will be involved in the development of the Action Plan which will require input from Services across the Council. This will be led by the Climate Change and Sustainability steering group.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. The delivery of actions will require capital investment. One of the interventions in the draft strategy is to increase adaptation finance through leverage and innovation. This will include: Strategic use of public sector funds to attract private sector investment; the development of a regional adaptation finance strategy and action plan; mapping and measuring of regional adaptation finance flows; and piloting of new approaches to transformative adaptation finance.

8. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 8.1. The development of the Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan will be key in shaping the development of the Council's next sustainable development and climate change strategy. Being part of CRC helps the Council fulfil part of the public sector climate change duties.

9. Other Implications

- 9.1. Failure to build resilience against the impacts of a changing climate is included in one of the Council's top risks. The development of the adaptation strategy and action plan is a mitigation measure of this risk.

10. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 10.1. A social impact assessment, in parallel to the development of the main strategy is being undertaken.
- 10.2. As part of the consultation of the draft Adaptation Strategy, the Council jointly hosted an online consultation event, on the 11th of December 2020, with CRC and North Lanarkshire Council for local Lanarkshire stakeholders.

Michael McGlynn

Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

20 January 2021

Link(s) to Council Values/Vision/Objectives

Work with communities and partners to promote high quality, thriving and sustainable communities.

Previous References

- ◆ None

List of Background Papers

- ◆ CRC Climate Risk and Opportunity Assessment
- ◆ CRC Theory of Change
- ◆ CRC Adaptation Strategy Strategic Environmental Assessment
- ◆ Public Sector Climate Change Duties

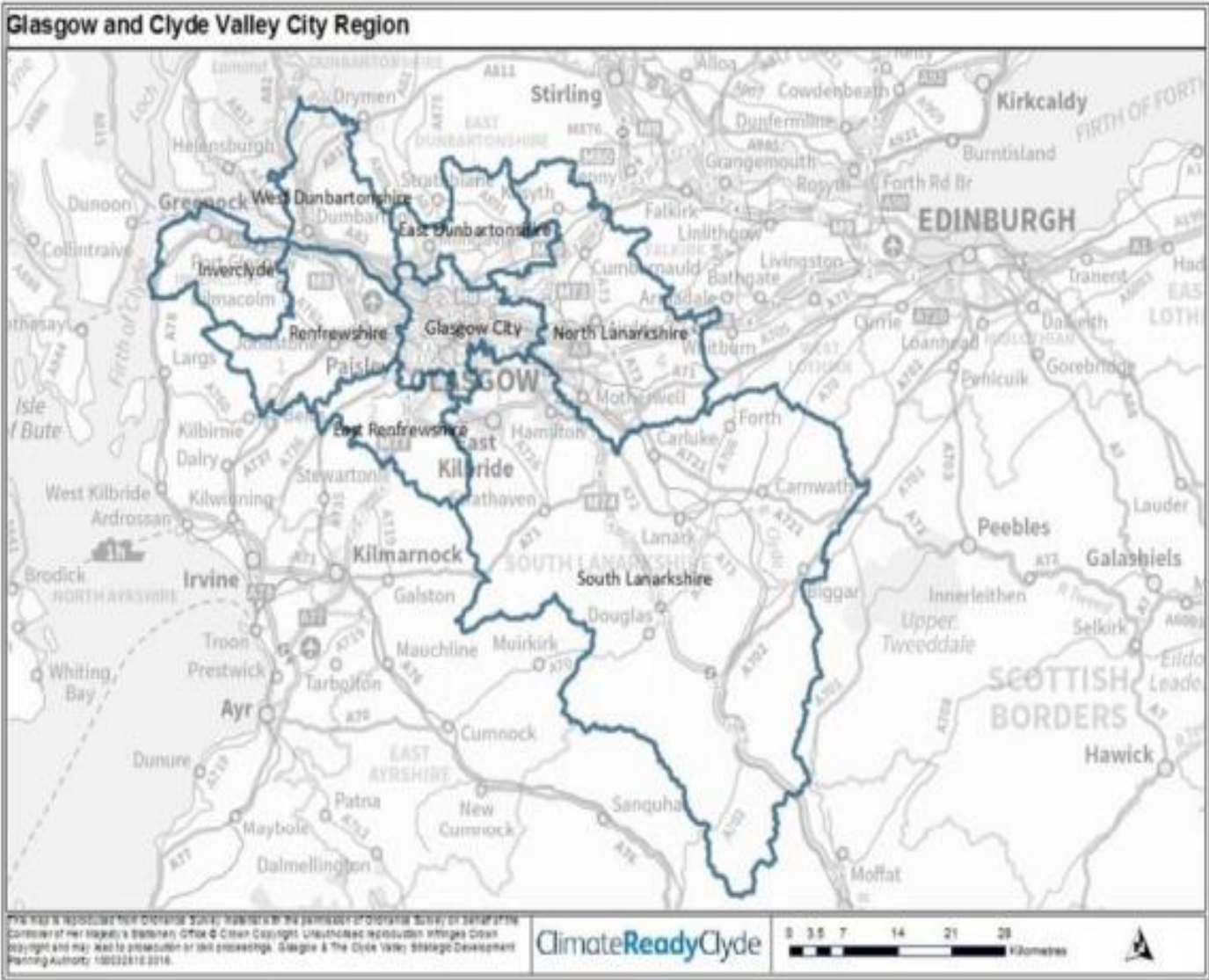
Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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Draft consultation response to Climate Ready Clyde's Adaptation Strategy

Vision

Q1. Climate Ready Clyde has worked with a wide range of groups to develop a compelling vision:

'A City Region that flourishes in a future climate'.

- a. **Describe in 3 words what 'a city region that flourishes in a future climate' means to you?**

SLC response: It is difficult to describe in 3 words what 'a city region that flourishes in a future climate' would look like; the question oversimplifies the matter. The best we could do is to describe in three short bullets what the vision means to us.

- Sustainable, fair and inclusive economy
- Resilient communities and environment
- Climate change at centre of decision making

- b. We believe the following conditions will help drive the changes needed to achieve the vision:

- People shape their lives and places, so they are climate ready.
- People, communities and organisations working collectively create the right conditions for Glasgow City Region to become climate ready.
- Glasgow City Region is made climate-ready by the way resources, services and assets are directed and used.

Do you think the vision will be achieved if the conditions described above are met?

SLC response: YES – People, our systems and a collaborative approach are the main elements for change. The longer and shorter-term outcomes set a clear pathway to meeting the conditions and contributing towards the vision. One of the key elements of the systems condition is the underpinning principle of the requirement for a revolution in planning.

The planning system should be at the centre of the strategy as it is only by managing how we use land and space that the challenges they we face can be met. On a positive note, the position statement recently published by the Government on the direction of National Planning Framework 4 states at the outset that our places will look and feel different in the future and that a 'significant shift is required to achieve net-zero emissions by 2045'. Climate change is identified as a guiding principle for all plans and decisions.

There is an opportunity to provide feedback on the position statement early next year and the Council will be highlighting its support for the approach to net-zero and climate resilience. A draft NPF4 is timetabled to be laid before the Scottish Parliament in September 2021 followed by public consultation. The approved document will provide the detail behind the guiding principles and themes and will form part of the development plan to be used in making planning decisions. It is therefore imperative that those organisations including the Council who have a role in shaping future land use policy seek to ensure the central objective of the

document is not weakened and that clear and robust measures are incorporated into it that support the climate change agenda and the vision set out in the adaptation strategy in particular.

Key elements from a planning perspective that can help deliver the strategy include:

- Creating 20-minute neighbourhoods
- Prioritising the redevelopment of brownfield sites
- Re-imagining town centres – identified as a high source of heat generation.
- Embedding the requirement for low and zero carbon design and energy efficiency
- Securing low carbon heating solutions
- Woodland creation and expansion (NB a City Region wide Forestry and Woodland Strategy was recently approved)
- Use of open spaces, green infrastructure and biodiversity to make places more resilient to climate change (NB the council is preparing an open space strategy while supporting the strategic green network through membership of the GCV Green Network Partnership)
- The protection of peatland and carbon rich soils

Strategy and interventions

Q2. What is your opinion on the following statement?

The proposed strategy will help Glasgow City Region adapt to the impacts of climate change.

(select one below)

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Agree (SLC response)
- Strongly agree

Q3. The strategy sets out 11 interventions that work together to achieve the vision. In your opinion how important do you feel each of the strategy's interventions is to the successful adaptation of the Glasgow City Region? **Please rank each intervention separately (Extremely unimportant, Unimportant, Neutral, Important, Extremely important)**

1. Reform and reshape governance mechanisms so they respond to adaptation needs, nurture new leadership and create expectations in society - **Extremely Important (SLC response)**
2. Develop the ability of organisations, businesses and communities to adapt – **Important (SLC response)**
3. Increase adaptation finance through leverage and innovation – **Extremely Important (SLC response)**
4. Enable and equip communities to participate in adaptation – **Important (SLC response)**
5. Embed reflection, monitoring, evaluation, and learning into adaptation action – **Important (SLC response)**
6. Adapt the Clyde Corridor for the 22nd Century – **Extremely Important (SLC response)**
7. Enhance early warning and preparedness for floods and heatwaves – **Extremely Important (SLC response)**
8. Ensure our homes, offices, buildings and infrastructure are climate resilient – **Extremely Important (SLC response)**

9. Deliver nature-based solutions for resilient, blue-green landscapes and neighbourhoods – [Extremely Important \(SLC response\)](#)
10. Establish Glasgow City Region as a global research and knowledge hub for adaptation – [Neutral \(SLC response\)](#)
11. Begin the transition to a climate-resilient economy – [Extremely Important \(SLC response\)](#)

SLC Additional comments

Intervention 1

This is probably one of the key interventions for us as without the mechanisms changing nothing will change.

Intervention 6

The emphasis here is on the Clyde corridor and in particular the area covered by Mission Clyde. This is understandable as there is a significant amount of activity taking place in this location and large-scale redevelopment opportunities that will bring a wide range of benefits to the GCR. However, this approach fails to recognise the large geographical areas out with this boundary for example large parts of the built-up area beyond the 500m zone either side of the Clyde, the upper reaches of the Clyde (i.e. beyond Clyde Gateway) and the many tributaries that feed into the Clyde. There is a danger that a focus on this area will dilute the key message that climate changes affects all locations and concentrate attention for funding etc on the Mission Clyde boundary.

In the '*where we are now*' section (page 49), there is reference to the local flood risk plans, however it states that they don't consider the whole system of the river. The Council's Flood Risk Management team-leader has pointed out that this is not correct and that these plans do consider the whole river and its catchment, and through the identification of Potentially Vulnerable Areas and then setting Objectives and Actions within these areas, the Local Flood Risk Management Plans provide an implementation plan for various schemes, works and studies throughout the Clyde catchment.

Intervention 7

In the '*where are we now*' section there is no reference to the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 or to the Clyde and Loch Lomond Local Plan District, within which this region is situated, or the Local Flood Risk Management Plan which has been prepared.

The term "Flood Risk Management schemes" should refer to Flood Protection Schemes or Flood Protection Works to align with the phrasing used in FRM legislation and other publications.

From a Flood Risk Management perspective, the action to undertake a Property Level Protection programme is not the panacea for resolving flooding issues. There are concerns over the standard of flood protection provided by available products, the quality of material used, the quality of installation, the reliance on flood warnings, the design life of the product and the reliance on householders to implement measures upon receiving flood warning. There is also some concern that by installing property level protection in the proposed manner, that the potential reduction of damages may impact the Local Authorities' ability to implement a more comprehensive flood protection scheme in the future. If flood damages are reduced using PLP, then the Cost/Benefit ratio for the larger scheme will drop which will reduce any potential scheme's standing in the priority for Capital Grant funding.

The action within 7.3 will be conserved as part of a range of options to reduce flood risk within the Objectives and Actions being progressed under the LFRMPs.

Intervention 8

Retrofit of existing buildings is a key element in this intervention. Policy alone will not be enough to achieve this objective and consideration has to be given to financial help.

Intervention 9

There is reference to the rural area in paragraph 2 but not paragraph 3 (pages 43/44). More consideration should be given to the potential for changes to rural/upstream land management to contribute to the wider Clyde risk, e.g., land use/agricultural/forestry/woodland/peatland systems.

9.2 should relate to 'ancient and native' woodland. There is capacity for improvements to many woodlands, not just ancient ones, and these are key to the habitat network.

9.6 should include the wider rural area, potentially as part of landscape scale impact to river/upstream corridor/ecosystems.

Nature based solutions should also be identified as a central element of new developments. Significant work is being carried out on this, through the GCVGN and planning, and the adaptation strategy could be used as a testing ground.

Q4. Are there other interventions that we should be including in the strategy, and if so, why? (Please state) (Up to 2500 characters) [None \(SLC response\)](#)

Q5. What is your opinion on the statements below?

a. The proposed strategy will deliver a fair, just and inclusive approach to climate change adaptation.

Strongly disagree Disagree Neither Agree nor Disagree [Agree \(SLC response\)](#)
Strongly Agree

b. The proposed strategy will adequately address the issues for this and future generations.

Strongly disagree Disagree Neither Agree nor Disagree [Agree \(SLC response\)](#)
Strongly Agree

Q6. Please use the box to explain your opinions on the statements in Question 5a and b. (Up to 2500 characters)

SLC response:- It must be noted that the success of each of the interventions, in order to ultimately achieve the vision of the strategy, is reliant on many external factors including stakeholder support, funding, current legislation, community uptake, climate projections, economic changes following impact of COVID-19 etc., therefore these factors need to align accordingly towards achieving the vision.

Other feedback

- The format of the strategy is good, and it takes you through the logic to the interventions, however it is not very accessible in terms of language and the technical references. Going forward one of the key themes is ensuring that people and communities buy in to the climate change agenda. Therefore, how this is communicated as this process evolves should be borne in mind.

- Some of the text is Glasgow (urban) focussed e.g., the foreword. Therefore, the strategy should be more inclusive of the entire area.
- The emphasis is on the Glasgow City Region which the layperson would interpret as either Glasgow alone or the lower Clyde (the Mission Clyde 'boundary'). The strategy also covers the upper Clyde and the tributaries. There are many examples of flooding issues that could be given from South Lanarkshire that involves the upper Clyde and affects communities the same as in the City.
- Similarly, in terms of dealing with heat, the strategy must encompass both urban and rural situations and different size of settlements. The risks associated with climate change are also unevenly distributed with those in more disadvantaged areas often more susceptible. At the same time other demands on their lives perhaps diminish the importance of climate change to them. It is important to make sure everyone has an opportunity to shape their places.
- The Strategy does not mention in any detail the impact of rural land uses such as agriculture, wind farm construction, forestry planting and management techniques etc. in term of climate risk and resilience.