

CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held via Microsoft Teams on 28 April 2021

Chair:

Councillor John Ross

Councillors Present:

Councillor Alex Allison, Councillor John Anderson, Councillor John Bradley, Councillor Robert Brown, Councillor Stephanie Callaghan, Councillor Maureen Chalmers, Councillor Gerry Convery, Councillor Peter Craig, Councillor Maureen Devlin, Councillor Isobel Dorman, Councillor Joe Fagan, Councillor Allan Falconer, Councillor Lynsey Hamilton, Councillor Ian Harrow, Councillor Mark Horsham (*substitute for Councillor Jim McGuigan*), Councillor Richard Lockhart, Councillor Eileen Logan, Councillor Katy Loudon, Councillor Monique McAdams, Councillor Gladys Miller, Councillor Lynne Nailon, Councillor David Shearer, Councillor Jim Wardhaugh, Councillor Jared Wark, Councillor Josh Wilson

Councillors' Apologies:

Councillor Margaret Cooper, Councillor Joe Lowe, Councillor Jim McGuigan

Attending:

Community and Enterprise Resources

M McGlynn, Executive Director; B Byrne, Environmental Health Officer; D Duffy, Divisional Environmental Health Officer; H Gourichon, Policy Development Officer (Food Development); L Hinshelwood, Sustainable Development Officer; A McKinnon, Head of Facilities, Waste and Ground Services; J Richmond, Carbon Management Officer; C Waltho, Project Development Officer

Education Resources

M Wilkie, Development Officer

Finance and Corporate Resources

T Little, Head of Communications and Strategy; P MacRae, Administration Adviser; K McLeod, Administration Assistant

Health and Social Care/Social Work Resources

M Kane, Service Development Manager

Chair's Remarks

The Chair, having intimated that, at 12.00 noon, there would be a minute's silence in commemoration of International Workers' Memorial Day, at the appointed time, all present observed a minute's silence for those who had lost their lives in the course of their work.

1 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee held on 10 February 2021 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

The Committee decided:- that the minutes be approved as a correct record.

3 Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy Action Plan 2021/2022

A report dated 7 April 2021 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy Action Plan for 2021/2022.

The Action Plan set out specific actions to be undertaken to deliver objectives under the following sustainable development themes:-

- ◆ sustainable Council
- ◆ sustainable environment
- ◆ sustainable communities

Each theme included:-

- ◆ performance measures providing information on how the Council was performing against the strategic outcomes in the strategy
- ◆ contextual measures providing a health check against outcomes to which the Council contributed but which were wider than the scope and influence of the Council
- ◆ improvement actions that would be taken during 2021/2022 to respond to the challenges ahead and to contribute to meeting the outcomes in the strategy
- ◆ related sustainable development goals

The actions had been agreed with relevant Services across the Council and had been developed using the sustainable development and climate change framework, attached as Appendix 1 to the report. The Action Plan was attached as Appendix 2 to the report.

Officers responded to members' questions on various aspects of the report.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the 2021/2022 Action Plan for the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy 2017 to 2022 be approved; and
- (2) that it be noted that the progress of the Action Plan would be reported to the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee at Quarter 2 and Quarter 4.

4 Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration

A report dated 6 April 2021 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the "Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration".

The Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration constituted a pledge and call to action by sub-national, local and national governments worldwide to accelerate the development of integrated food policies as a key tool against climate change. The Declaration, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, committed sub-national governments to reduce Green House Gas (GHG) emissions from urban and regional food systems. Launched in December 2020, it was developed in preparation for the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) to be held in Glasgow in November 2021 and it was for this reason that it was called the Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration. Details of the rationale for and benefits of the Declaration were provided in the report.

By signing the Declaration, sub-national governments committed to:-

- ◆ develop and implement integrated food policies and strategies
- ◆ reduce GHG emissions from urban and regional food systems

- ♦ call on national governments to establish supportive enabling policy frameworks together with multi-level and multi-actor governance mechanisms

The Council was already working to fulfil commitments 1 and 2. Commitment 3 involved calling for action at a national level and sending a united message to COP26 participants.

Officers responded to members' questions on various aspects of the report and undertook to investigate points raised in relation to:-

- ♦ the accuracy of international information in relation to agricultural practices in Scotland
- ♦ the potential to use surplus food, particularly from educational establishments, in the wider community

The Committee decided: that the "Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration" be signed on behalf of the Council.

5 Edinburgh Declaration

A report dated 7 April 2021 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the Edinburgh Declaration.

The Declaration called on national governments, as parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), to adopt an ambitious post 2020 global diversity framework, in which sub-national governments would be included, at the COP15 global summit for diversity. The Declaration, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, had been drafted by the Scottish Government on behalf of regional and local authorities and their representative organisations active at international level and was the result of online consultation, the Edinburgh Process, formally mandated by the CBD to collate sub-national views. It represented a way in which local government could be formally represented in the international process and show political support for global action.

The Declaration:-

- ♦ expressed concern for global biodiversity loss
- ♦ aimed to encourage agencies at all levels, along with stakeholders, to work together to address the matter
- ♦ welcomed the post 2020 global diversity framework, draft 2030 mission and 2050 targets
- ♦ stressed the role of sub-national governments in implementation, mainstreaming and finance

Details were given on the rationale for and benefits of the Declaration.

Subject to final endorsement by its leaders, the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA), COSLA would sign the Declaration on behalf of councils and then outline how individual local authorities could sign the document, if deemed appropriate locally.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the Council support the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) in signing the Edinburgh Declaration on behalf of Scottish local authorities; and
- (2) that, following endorsement by COSLA, the Edinburgh Declaration be signed on behalf of the Council, as a standalone Council.

6 Climate Challenge South Lanarkshire Fund

A joint report dated 14 April 2021 by the Executive Directors (Community and Enterprise Resources), (Housing and Technical Resources) and (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the range and scope of the areas to which the £2 million Climate Challenge Fund would be directed.

As part of the 2021/2022 budget, it was agreed that a Climate Change South Lanarkshire Fund of £2 million be established to enable this Committee to prioritise match funding for external funding applications specifically linked to the UK and Scottish Government green economy and green jobs programmes.

Following discussion through the Climate Change Steering Group, it was proposed that the budget be directed to the following thematic areas:-

- ◆ natural environment
- ◆ built environment
- ◆ travel and transport
- ◆ waste and recycling
- ◆ communities
- ◆ economy

It was proposed that those thematic areas and the scope detailed in the report form a basis on which to:-

- ◆ develop detailed projects
- ◆ identify support and resources to implement those projects

The fund had an indicative 3 year timeframe, however, opportunities to accelerate spend would be exploited.

It was proposed that the fund be split into the following broad areas:-

- ◆ staffing
- ◆ project and development funds

In view of the elevated level of importance given to Climate Change and the increased level of work for officers to meet this commitment, it was proposed that 7 officers (6.5 FTE), as detailed in the report, be added to the current staffing establishment. 3 of those officers, who would progress a Strategic Energy Review, would be added to the establishment of Housing and Technical Resources and the remaining 4 would be within the establishment of Community and Enterprise Resources, including a post of Project Support Assistant which was a PhD student placement, partly funded by Glasgow Caledonian University's Centre for Climate Justice

It was also proposed that funding be set aside to maximise benefits and deliver projects over the 3 year timeframe. The funds would be split as follows:-

- ◆ short term – Council projects/pilots and a small grant fund for local groups and schools
- ◆ medium term – match fund to bid for external funding
- ◆ long term – development fund to allow feasibility studies on identified/proposed projects which met the climate change objectives

The fund would be managed through the Climate Change and Sustainability Steering Group with bi-annual update reports submitted to the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee.

Officers responded to members' questions on various aspects of the report.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the range and scope of the areas to which the £2 million Climate Challenge Fund would be directed be noted; and
- (2) that it be noted that detailed proposals would be subject to further reports, for noting, framed around the scope set out in section 3 of the report.

The Committee recommended to the Executive Committee:

- (1) that the proposed establishment of the following 6 posts for a 23 month period, as detailed in the report, be approved:-

Post	Proposed Number of Posts (FTE)	Grade	SCP Range	Annual Salary
Development Officer - (Sustainable Development Support)	1	Grade 3, Level 2 to Level 4	SCP63-74	£32,994 to £38,779
Development Officer - (Sustainable Development Funding)	1	Grade 3, Level 2 to Level 4	SCP63-74	£32,994 to £38,779
Development Officer - (Green Economy)	1	Grade 3, Level 2 to Level 4	SCP63-74	£32,994 to £38,779
Strategy Officer (Built Environment)	2	Grade 3, Level 2 to Level 4	SCP63-74	£32,994 to £38,779
Strategy Team Leader (Built Environment)	1	Grade 3, Level 8	SCP78-80	£41,771 to £42,410

- (2) that the proposed recruitment of a PhD student to the post of Project Support Assistant - Placement (Sustainable Development), Grade 2, Level 1 to Level 2, SCP34-40 (£22,725 to £24,809), for a period of 3 years, jointly funded by Glasgow Caledonian University's Centre for Climate Justice, as detailed in the report, be approved.

[Reference: Minutes of South Lanarkshire Council (Special) of 24 February 2021 (Paragraph 2)]

7 Air Quality in South Lanarkshire

A report dated 8 April 2021 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on air quality within South Lanarkshire.

South Lanarkshire Council had a statutory duty to monitor the quality of air within its area. The Council had formally declared air quality management areas at the following 3 locations:-

- ◆ East Kilbride (Whirlies Roundabout)
- ◆ Rutherglen (Main Street and Farmeloa Road)
- ◆ Lanark (Bannatyne Street)

The Council had adopted an action plan to improve air quality within those key target areas.

An annual Progress Report was submitted to the Scottish Government providing a summary of the previous year's air quality measurements conducted across South Lanarkshire. It also considered any new potential sources of air pollution and if any further action was required to protect or improve air quality within the local authority area. A map showing the locations of the continuous air quality monitors in South Lanarkshire was attached at Appendix 1 to the report. Appendix 2 to the report detailed the trends in monitored data from 2015 to 2019.

Details were given on various grant funds relating to air quality works together with information on the wide and varied package of projects supported by the funding. Those projects had made a positive impact on air quality as well as contributing to the wider climate change agenda.

The Committee decided: that the actions taken, to date, to improve air quality within South Lanarkshire be noted.

8 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.