

CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held via Microsoft Teams on 25 August 2021

Chair:

Councillor John Ross (ex officio)

Councillors Present:

Councillor Alex Allison, Councillor John Anderson, Councillor Robert Brown, Councillor Maureen Chalmers (Depute), Councillor Margaret Cooper, Councillor Peter Craig, Councillor Maureen Devlin, Councillor Isobel Dorman, Councillor Joe Fagan, Councillor Allan Falconer, Councillor Lynsey Hamilton, Councillor Mark Horsham, Councillor Richard Lockhart, Councillor Eileen Logan, Councillor Katy Loudon, Councillor Monique McAdams, Councillor Gladys Miller, Councillor David Shearer, Councillor Jim Wardhaugh, Councillor Jared Wark, Councillor Josh Wilson

Councillors' Apologies:

Councillor John Bradley, Councillor Gerry Convery, Councillor Ian Harrow, Councillor Joe Lowe, Councillor Jim McGuigan, Councillor Lynne Nailon

Attending:

Community and Enterprise Resources

M McGlynn, Executive Director; H Gourichon, Policy Development Officer (Food Development); L Hinshelwood, Sustainable Development Officer; L Maddison, Biodiversity Officer; A McKinnon, Head of Facilities, Waste and Ground Services; C Reid, Grounds Adviser; J Richmond, Carbon Management Officer; M Wilkie, Performance and Policy Development Manager

Finance and Corporate Resources

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

1 Declaration of Interests

The following interest was declared:-

Councillor(s)	Item(s)	Nature of Interest(s)
Dorman	COVID-19 Memorial – Tree Planting	Member of Friends of Stonehouse Park

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee held on 26 May 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 Update – Quarter 4 2020/2021

A report dated 4 August 2021 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted providing an update on the Sustainable Development Strategy actions and measures at Quarter 4 of 2020/2021.

The Council's Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy (SDCCS) had been approved by the Executive Committee on 6 December 2017 and covered the period 2017 to 2022. The Strategy set out outcomes and actions organised around the following 3 sustainable development themes:-

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

Delivery of actions within the Strategy provided focus for sustainable development activity and enabled the Council to fulfil its duties under the Local Government (Scotland) Act 2003, the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 and the Council's contribution to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

The Strategy action plan set out specific actions to be undertaken to deliver objectives under each theme. The action plan was monitored using IMPROVe and regular progress reports on the action plan were submitted to this Committee following Quarter 2 and Quarter 4.

The action plan progress report consisted of the following 2 parts:-

- ◆ performance/contextual measures towards the Strategy's outcomes
- ◆ improvement actions for each of the themes within the Strategy

The SDCCS Action Plan for 2020/2021 contained 37 performance measures towards the Strategy's outcomes together with 66 improvement actions. The measures were rated using a traffic light system of green, amber or red, while the improvement actions were rated using green, amber or red as well as blue which indicated that an action had been completed. Of the 37 measures within the SDCCS:-

- ◆ 10 had been achieved or were on course to be achieved (green)
- ◆ 1 had seen some minor slippage against targets (amber)
- ◆ 3 had seen major slippage against targets (red)
- ◆ 23 would be reported later when data was available

The 3 red and 1 amber measures related to household waste and recycling. There had been slippage on those performance measures due to the effects of COVID-19. It was anticipated that the performance measures would improve as COVID-19 restrictions eased.

Of the 66 actions within the SDCCS:-

- ◆ 1 had been completed (blue)
- ◆ 41 had been achieved or were on course to be achieved (green)
- ◆ 10 had seen some minor slippage against targets (amber)
- ◆ 13 had seen major slippage against targets (red)
- ◆ 1 would be reported later when data was available

In the case of all but 3 improvement actions that had minor or major slippage, this was as a result of COVID-19 restrictions or reprioritisation of resources to allow continued service delivery during the pandemic. Details were given on management action in relation to the 3 improvement actions which had recorded slippage which was not COVID related.

Progress on all objectives, actions and measures was detailed in the Quarter 4 performance report for 2020/2021, attached as an appendix to the report.

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

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of the Executive Committee of 6 December 2017 (Paragraph 16)]

4 Good Food Strategy Action Plan Update – Quarter 4 2020/2021

A report dated 6 August 2021 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the status of the actions and measures contained in the Good Food Strategy at Quarter 4 of 2020/2021.

The Good Food Strategy had been approved by the Executive Committee on 4 December 2019 and covered a 5 year period from 2020 to 2025. It set out outcomes and actions organised around 6 key themes as follows:-

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| ◆ good food at home and in the community | ◆ good food growing |
| ◆ good food in the public sector | ◆ good food for the environment |
| ◆ good food economy | ◆ good food governance |

The Good Food Strategy contained an action plan which set out specific actions to progress the objectives in the Strategy. It contained 51 performance measures towards the Strategy's outcomes together with 41 improvement actions. The measures were rated using a traffic light system of green, amber or red while the improvement actions were rated using green, amber or red as well as blue which indicated that an action had been completed. Of the 51 measures within the Strategy:-

- ◆ 9 had been achieved or were on course to be achieved (green)
- ◆ 1 had seen some minor slippage against targets (amber)
- ◆ 14 had seen major slippage against timescale or major shortfall against targets (red)
- ◆ 27 would be reported later when data was available

Of the 41 actions within the Strategy:-

- ◆ 0 had been completed (blue)
- ◆ 19 had been achieved or were on course to be achieved (green)
- ◆ 4 had seen some minor slippage against targets (amber)
- ◆ 18 had seen major slippage against timescale or major shortfall against targets (red)
- ◆ 0 would be reported later when data was available

Progress on the implementation of the Strategy action plan had been disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic as the Council had to reduce or suspend a number of services following government advice. This was reflected in the number of actions and measures showing a red, amber or to be reported later status.

An update on the impact of COVID-19 on food related activities was provided in the report, together with actions and initiatives, not included in the plan, to tackle food access challenges arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Progress on all objectives, actions and measures was detailed in the Quarter 4 performance report for 2020/2021, attached as an appendix to the report.

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

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of the Executive Committee of 4 December 2019 (Paragraph 9)]

5 Revising the Biodiversity Strategy and Biodiversity Duty Implementation Plan 2018 to 2022

A report dated 2 August 2021 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the Council's Biodiversity Strategy and Biodiversity Duty Implementation Plan.

Council delivery of its biodiversity duty was managed and monitored through the Biodiversity Implementation Plan. The Council had also produced a Biodiversity Strategy which set an agreed framework for furthering the conservation of biodiversity across South Lanarkshire. The Strategy focused on key ecosystems and set out objectives and actions for delivery by various partners.

Both biodiversity documents covered the 5 year period 2018 to 2022 and, under normal circumstances, the preparation of new documents for the period 2023 to 2028 would be under way. However, the Scottish Government had committed to publishing a new, policy focused Scottish Diversity Strategy by October 2022 which would replace existing plans and reflect international goals. It was proposed that, to allow the Council to ensure that its objectives contributed to national and international targets, revision of the Council's Biodiversity Strategy and Biodiversity Duty Implementation Plan be postponed to 2023 and that the revised documents cover the period 2024 to 2029. It was also proposed that a 1 year Biodiversity Duty Implementation Plan be developed for 2022/2023 encompassing outstanding actions from the 2 existing documents together with potential new projects which tied in with existing themes.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the revised timeframe for completing the development of the Council's Biodiversity Strategy and Biodiversity Duty Implementation Plan, as outlined on section 3.10 of the report, be approved; and
- (2) that the proposal to prepare a 1-year Biodiversity Duty Implementation Plan for 2022/2023 be approved.

6 COVID-19 Memorial – Tree Planting

A report dated 4 August 2021 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on a proposal to plant fruit trees in 13 locations across South Lanarkshire as a memorial to those who had passed away due to COVID-19.

As part of the 2021/2022 Revenue Budget, £300,000 had been allocated to promote alternative food growing in the Council area. It was proposed that £15,000 of that fund be allocated to support the planting of fruit trees to promote alternative food growing while providing a memorial to recognise those who had passed away due to COVID-19.

In addition to recognising, on a local basis, those who had passed away as a result of COVID-19, the proposal would:-

- ◆ highlight the importance of tree planting for the environment and future generations
- ◆ increase the level of tree canopy cover in South Lanarkshire as well as the overall environmental, social and economic benefits of tree planting

- ◆ complement the work of the Council's biodiversity actions
- ◆ link directly with the aims of the Food Growing Strategy and action plan

It was proposed to plant 798 fruit trees, representing the number of registered COVID-19 deaths in South Lanarkshire at 19 July 2021, the date on which the area moved to Level Zero. To provide a degree of scale and presence, befitting a memorial, it was proposed to plant around 62 trees in each of the 11 district parks and 2 County Parks detailed in Appendix 1 to the report. The trees would not be dedicated to individual residents but would form a place of remembrance, across a range of locations, where relatives and friends could go to reflect. No memorials would be allowed in the planted areas to ensure that they were accessible to all and complemented activities already available in the parks.

If the proposal was approved, next steps would include:-

- ◆ site investigation and sourcing of trees
- ◆ promotion of a press campaign
- ◆ consultation with local groups and organisations regarding proposed locations
- ◆ consideration of ways in which groups, schools and social work clients could be involved in the planting and harvesting processes

There followed a discussion during which officers responded to members' questions on various aspects of the report.

The Committee decided: that the proposal to plant fruit trees at 13 locations across South Lanarkshire as a memorial to those who had passed away due to COVID-19, funded from the Food Strategy Fund, be approved.

Councillor Dorman, having declared an interest in this item of business, left the meeting during its consideration

7 Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy 2022 to 2027 - Update

A report dated 4 August 2021 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the preparation of the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy (SDCCS) 2022 to 2027.

At its meeting on 17 September 2020, the Committee had approved the development of the SDCCS 2022 to 2027 and noted the stages involved in the preparation of the Strategy, namely review, development and implementation, together with an indicative timescale for each stage.

The Strategy would set out the way in which the Council aimed to develop sustainability and tackle climate change over a 5 year period from April 2022 to March 2027 and would also provide a broad strategic direction for longer term planning beyond the 5 year period.

The review stage of the Strategy preparation was now complete and the development stage was in progress. This development stage involved:-

- ◆ holding an internal workshop with officers across the Council to identify future challenges and opportunities
- ◆ holding a series of engagement sessions and focus groups with a wide range of stakeholders
- ◆ meeting with Resource Management Teams to discuss required actions and interventions to meet key milestones and targets

- ♦ work to progress the Strategic Environmental Assessment and the Equalities Impact Assessment

Initial findings from the engagement sessions had identified the emergence of the following 4 key themes:-

- ♦ people
- ♦ community and place
- ♦ green economy
- ♦ the natural environment

It was proposed to hold an engagement session for members and arrangements for this were currently being finalised and would be circulated to members in due course.

There had been a degree of slippage in the original timeframe and a revised timetable for the preparation of the Strategy was outlined in the report. The Strategy was still on track to be launched in April 2022.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the progress on the preparation of the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy 2022 to 2027 be noted; and
- (2) that the revised timeframe for completing the development of the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy 2022 to 2027 be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 17 September 2020 (Paragraph 2)]

8 Pesticide Free Council Motion - Update

A report dated 4 August 2021 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted providing an update on the trials in relation to alternative weed control methods carried out to date.

Details were given on the following 4 main alternatives trialled to date:-

- ♦ hot foam
- ♦ hot steam
- ♦ New Way Spray, a form of non-selective herbicide promoted as an alternative to glyphosate
- ♦ Mankar Ultra Low Volume Lance – glyphosate applied through a low volume lance similar to a controlled droplet applicator

While alternative methods continued to be reviewed, to date, they had not been found to be more effective and resulted in varying degrees of additional costs or pressures on the environment through excess water use or increased carbon emissions.

Officers would continue to source and trial alternative weed control methods. Following completion of trials, a report on the outcome would be submitted to the Committee towards the end of 2021.

There followed a full discussion during which officers:-

- ♦ responded to members' questions

- ♦ undertook to provide further, more detailed information in future reports including quantities of substances used and other comparators as well as information on Co2 emissions

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the report be noted; and
- (2) that it be noted that a further report would be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

[Reference: Minutes of South Lanarkshire Council of 16 December 2020 (Paragraph 7) and Minutes of 10 February 2021 (Paragraph 5)]

9 Launch of Climate Change Action Logo

A report dated 23 July 2021 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on a new logo, which had been developed to promote the Council's work to recognise and tackle the climate emergency and to encourage appropriate actions by residents and others.

The development of the logo had been undertaken in-house and the concept had been devised using behaviour change research that showed many people felt that the climate emergency was too large in scale for them to make a difference.

The logo comprised an hour glass, the content of which was the earth, dripping down into the vacuum below. Beside this was the message "Time is running out!" This represented the urgency of the climate change emergency and the need to address it. It was considered that the design would lend itself to a range of materials and would work well online and in animation form.

The Committee decided: that the logo, attached to the report at Appendix 1, and its use on Council materials, be noted.

10 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.