

CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held via Confero and in Committee Room 1, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 20 September 2023

Chair:

Councillor Mark McGeever

Councillors Present:

Councillor Alex Allison, Councillor John Anderson, Councillor Ralph Barker, Councillor Maureen Chalmers, Councillor Ross Clark, Councillor Margaret Cooper, Councillor Colin Dewar, Councillor Ross Gowland, Councillor Mark Horsham, Councillor Gavin Keatt, Councillor Ross Lambie, Councillor Richard Lockhart, Councillor Katy Loudon, Councillor Julia Marrs, Councillor Lesley McDonald, Councillor Elaine McDougall, Councillor Carol Nugent, Councillor Mo Razzaq, Councillor Kirsten Robb (Depute), Councillor John Ross, Councillor Graham Scott, Councillor Bert Thomson, Councillor Helen Toner

Councillors' Apologies:

Councillor Joe Fagan (ex officio), Councillor Lynsey Hamilton, Councillor Monique McAdams, Councillor Margaret B Walker

Attending:

Community and Enterprise Resources

D Booth, Executive Director; K Allan, Sustainable Development Officer; E Berry, Environmental Initiatives Officer; A Brown, Head of Enterprise and Sustainable Development; K Carr, Head of Facilities, Waste and Grounds; H Gourichon, Policy Development Officer (Food Development); K McCafferty, Sustainable Development Officer (Funding); C Park, Head of Roads, Transportation and Fleet Services; C Reid, Grounds Manager

Finance and Corporate Resources

C Fergusson, Head of Finance (Transactions); J Taylor, Head of Finance (Strategy); K McLeod, Administration Assistant; S Somerville, Administration Manager

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 14 June 2023 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

3 Sustainability Impact Assessments of Capital Project Submissions and Revenue Budget Proposals

A joint report dated 31 August 2023 by the Executive Directors (Finance and Corporate Resources) and (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the proposed Sustainability Impact Assessment process to be used during future capital and revenue budget processes.

The Council had a statutory duty, under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, to:-

- ◆ reduce carbon emissions from its activities and influence the reduction of carbon emissions in the wider community
- ◆ take action to adapt to the impacts caused by the effects of climate change
- ◆ act sustainably in all areas of service

This legislation required the Council to take account of the above points within its decision-making processes. The Council's capital and revenue budget process was one of those decision-making processes and the proposed sustainability impact assessment process aimed to ensure that the Council continued to take account of factors related to carbon reduction, climate change adaptation and the wider principles of sustainable development within those budget processes.

At its meeting on 23 August 2023, the Council agreed that officers provide high level guidance for political groups to complete a sustainability impact assessment of their proposed budgets in the run up to the Council's budget setting process in February. It was highlighted that, while members were encouraged to complete the assessments for any proposed budget motion, Standing Orders had not been changed, therefore, this was not mandatory.

The proposed Sustainability Impact Assessment process, attached as appendices to the report, would allow officers and elected members to complete a more detailed assessment of the sustainability impacts resulting from either budget or project proposals which could aid their decision-making.

Following discussion, the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) confirmed that officers would be made available to assist elected members with the process, which would be reviewed and refined in future years, as appropriate.

The Committee decided: that the attached Sustainability Impact Assessments be endorsed for use in future capital and revenue budget processes.

[Reference: Minutes of South Lanarkshire Council of 23 August 2023 (Paragraph 12)]

Councillors Razzaq and Toner joined the meeting during this item of business

4 2023/2024 Action Plan of the Good Food Strategy

A report dated 31 August 2023 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the action plan for the fourth year of implementation (2023/2024) of the Council's Good Food Strategy.

The Council's Good Food Strategy 2020 to 2025 was approved by the Executive Committee at its meeting on 4 December 2019. The Strategy provided a framework for actions to move towards healthier, fairer and more sustainable food systems in the Council area and aimed to ensure that food played a positive role in the lives of South Lanarkshire residents.

The action plan for the fourth year of implementation of the Good Food Strategy, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, had been developed based on input from a variety of Services across the Council's Resources.

The action plan comprised 2 sections, Performance Indicators and Projects, and each section was divided into the following Good Food themes:-

- ◆ Good Food at Home and in the Community
- ◆ Good Food in the Public Sector
- ◆ Good Food Economy
- ◆ Good Food Growing
- ◆ Good Food for the Environment
- ◆ Good Food Governance

Measures and actions were reported by outcome as defined in the Good Food Strategy.

In addition to the Good Food Strategy, the Council had a statutory obligation to develop a Food Growing Strategy and provide allotments and other food growing opportunities. Given the relationship between the Food Growing Strategy and the Good Food Strategy and the requirement to report within similar timescales, the Good Food Strategy action plan for 2023/2024 incorporated the main Food Growing Strategy actions, allowing progress on food growing to be reported to the Committee.

A mid-term review of the Strategy, to assess the broader outcome and overall impacts, was currently underway and would be published towards the end of 2023.

Following discussion, officers responded to members' questions on various aspects of the report and the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) gave an undertaking to look at linkages between this and other strategies, such as tackling poverty, as well as the potential to capture the informal work going on within communities that was not necessarily recorded.

The Committee decided: that the Council's action plan for the fourth year of implementation (2023/2024) of the Good Food Strategy, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

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

Councillor Lambie joined the meeting during this item of business

5 Good Food Strategy Update – Quarter 4 2022/2023

A report dated 1 September 2023 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the Good Food Strategy actions and measures at Quarter 4 of 2022/2023.

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 22 performance measures towards the Strategy's outcomes together with 20 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 22 measures within the Strategy:-

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

Of the 20 actions within the Strategy:-

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

Further information on the performance measures and improvement actions categorised as red was provided in the report.

Progress on all objectives, actions and measures was detailed in the Quarter 4 performance report for 2022/2023, 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 31 August 2022 (Paragraph 9) and Minutes of the Executive Committee of 4 December 2019 (Paragraph 9)]

Councillor Thomson left the meeting following this item of business

6 Sustainable Procurement Duty and Climate Sustainability

A report dated 31 August 2023 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted providing an update on the Council's approach to embedding the Sustainable Procurement Duty in contracts, with specific focus on climate sustainability.

The Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 required councils to consider how they could improve the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the authority's area through the Sustainable Procurement Duty, with a particular focus on reducing inequality and contributing to the sustainable development goals.

The Council's Procurement Strategy 2023 to 2028 had 'Sustainable and Ethical', 'Fair Work' and 'Community Wealth Building' as 3 of the 7 key procurement objectives. The Council's progress on the Sustainable Procurement Duty was monitored through the Scottish Procurement Sustainable Toolkit and was reported annually.

The Scottish Government had developed the following online Sustainable Procurement Tools, details of which were provided in Section 4 of the report, to support the implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Procurement Duty:-

- ◆ flexible framework
- ◆ prioritisation tool
- ◆ sustainability test

In March 2023, the Council's approach to sustainability weighting in contracts had been increased from 20% to 30% of the technical envelope and introduced a specific score for climate sustainability. The sustainability weighting could be varied between Fair Work First, Climate and Community Benefits depending on the works, goods or services being procured.

Some case studies, providing context on the approach to sustainable procurement in tenders, were detailed in Section 7 of the report.

In responding to a member's question, the Head of Finance (Transactions) advised that, in relation to the performance levels of the flexible framework, the Council expected to achieve level 3 by the end of the financial year.

The Committee decided: that the Council's approach to embedding the Sustainable Procurement Duty in contracts be noted.

7 Food Procurement Findings of the Market Capacity Assessment and Next Steps

A report dated 31 August 2023 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the findings and recommendations from the Market Capacity Assessment on food procurement.

The Council aimed to provide suppliers with opportunities to increase the provision of local food and drink as set out in its various strategies. A project review group on Sustainable Food Procurement had been established in 2021 to identify options to progress this objective. In particular, a decision was taken to source funding to undertake research into the food and drink market in South Lanarkshire with a view to identifying actions to increase local spend and overcome potential barriers.

Following a successful application to the Council's Food Strategy Fund for funding to recruit a consultant to undertake Market Capacity Assessment, a contract was awarded to Fare Consulting Limited.

A summary of the consultant's findings was provided at Section 6 of the report, including an overview of:-

- ◆ Council buyers
- ◆ food purchased
- ◆ the local food and drink market and engagement with businesses including current suppliers
- ◆ practices developed by other local authorities in Scotland

The key findings were:-

- ◆ supplier engagement had been challenging and the level of interaction with local food and drink businesses was not as high as anticipated, with only 22 businesses responding
- ◆ all 22 businesses identified indicated a desire to engage further with the Council on local procurement

- ◆ that further engagement with businesses would be required for a better understanding of their ability to supply food to the Council as the following constraints were identified:-
 - ◆ many of the products sold by businesses did not match the demand from Facilities Services but could match the demand of other buyers, such as South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture
 - ◆ none of the businesses could fulfil the scale of current requirements for schools
 - ◆ accreditations held by businesses were very variable depending on businesses and might not match the requirements of the Council buyers
- ◆ the analysis of practices implemented in local authorities which were further ahead in their journey did not give a fully relevant assessment of opportunities given the different scale on which they operated
- ◆ some of the food currently purchased by the Council came from local suppliers as they supplied Tier 1 contractors
- ◆ there was a national interest towards local food in the public sector

The challenges and opportunities were outlined at paragraph 6.6 of the report.

An action plan had been developed, as set out at Section 8, and an update on the implementation of this action plan would be provided as part of the Quarter 2 and Quarter 4 updates of the food action plan submitted to this Committee.

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

The Committee decided: that the findings and recommendations from the Market Capacity Assessment on food procurement together with the next steps, as detailed in the action plan, be noted.

8 Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy Action Plan: Quarter 4 Progress Report 2022/2023

A report dated 31 August 2023 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the status of the actions and measures contained in the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy (SDCCS) at Quarter 4 of 2022/2023.

At its meeting on 15 June 2022, the Council approved the Council's SDCCS which covered a 5-year period from 2022 to 2027. Delivery of actions within the Strategy provided the main focus for sustainable development activity over the period and enabled the Council to fulfil its duties under the Local Government (Scotland) Act 2003, the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

The SDCCS Action Plan for 2022/2023 contained 28 performance measures towards the Strategy's outcomes together with 47 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 28 measures within the SDCCS:-

- ◆ 8 had seen the timescale or target met according to expectations (green)
- ◆ 2 had minor slippage against timescale or minor shortfall against target (amber)
- ◆ 2 had seen major slippage against timescale or major shortfall against target (red)
- ◆ 6 would be reported later when data was available
- ◆ 10 were contextual and provided a health check for South Lanarkshire

The 2 red measures related to fire tolerable standards and fixed electrical testing, and household waste and recycling issues. The actions to address those improvement actions were detailed in the report. There were also 9 amber improvement measures that had seen minor slippage. Details were provided in Appendix 1 to the report.

Progress on all objectives, actions and measures was detailed in the Quarter 4 performance report for 2022/2023, attached as an appendix to the report, with key highlights outlined in paragraph 4.6 of the report.

There followed a discussion during which officers responded to members' questions on various aspects of the report. The Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) also gave an undertaking to raise issues with colleagues in Housing and Technical Resources in relation to the anticipated timescale for the Council to be in a position to set out its plans to achieve net zero for its buildings by 2038 and whether there were any legal implications in terms of failing to meet the requirement for fixed electrical testing systems.

The Committee decided: that the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy Action Plan Quarter 4 Progress Report 2022/2023 be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of South Lanarkshire Council of 15 June 2022 (Paragraph 6)]

9 Litter Strategy - Update

A report dated 31 August 2023 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted providing an update on the work undertaken to date in relation to the Litter Strategy 2022 to 2027.

At its meeting on 31 August 2022, the Committee agreed the Council-wide Litter Strategy to cover a 5 year period from 2022 to 2027. The Strategy outlined a clear vision of how the Council would develop plans and initiatives to prevent and address litter, dog fouling and fly tipping. It built on existing initiatives and complemented national campaigns.

Over the past year, there had been positive engagement with diverse community groups and individuals. Through the Community Clean Up webform, the Council had supported groups and residents in conducting litter picks and clean-ups. Active engagement with the Climate Change and Sustainability Youth Forum had taken place by attending meetings, providing information, and assisting with initiatives run in schools.

The litter bin mapping and inventory undertaken had been invaluable for understanding the current locations and capacities of infrastructure to help inform decisions in terms of requests for new bins. The Litter Bin Map was now publicly available to access. Going forward, litter bins with hoods were being prioritised to prevent litter escape.

In 2022, Chewing Gum Task Force grant funding was secured which allowed effective cleaning of gum staining in Hamilton and Strathaven. Year 2 funding of £24,641 has also been secured and this would enable tackling gum issues in other areas.

The Scottish Government had introduced the Circular Economy Bill which included specific provisions regarding litter and fly tipping. It introduced a new penalty system for littering from vehicles, powers to seize vehicles involved in specified waste crimes, and strengthened household duty of care responsibilities around household waste to help prevent fly tipping. The Bill was currently at Stage 1 and it was expected to receive Crown Consent at Stage 3.

The Scottish Government published the National Litter and Fly Tipping Strategy on 28 June 2023. The Strategy set out how national and local governments, businesses, third sector, communities and individuals could collaborate to support behaviour change, improve infrastructure, and strengthen enforcement. The vision encapsulated the following 3 core concepts:-

- ◆ urgent large-scale action was required across Scotland
- ◆ effective action necessitated integrated and co-ordinated efforts to address various drivers
- ◆ tackling litter and fly tipping could contribute to addressing Scotland's throwaway culture and retaining products and materials in the economy

The Litter Strategy Steering Group had been invaluable for discussing current practices and encouraging innovative corporate collaboration across all Council Resources. It had highlighted areas for future development, initiated pilot projects and created the Litter Strategy Action Plan. The Action Plan, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, had 19 actions and covered the main themes of Education, Engagement and Enforcement. Updates were provided against each action.

Highlights of the Litter Strategy Action Plan and baseline data were detailed in the report.

As part of the implementation of the Strategy, the Steering Group agreed to establish 3 pilot initiatives that would require collaborative working to target areas of concern. The pilots were:-

- ◆ Town Centres (Cambuslang)
- ◆ Housing
- ◆ Industrial Estates

An update on progress with the 3 pilot initiatives was provided.

It was recognised that effective communications were an important part of the Litter Strategy to encourage public understanding and support and to bring key messages to specific audiences. An overarching and long-term identity was being developed for the Strategy as part of this approach. Work was ongoing with Communications and Strategy to promote all significant developments and actions currently being undertaken as part of the Strategy.

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

The Chair advised that some suggestions in terms of tackling dog fouling would be discussed with Communications and Strategy.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the progress and updates on the Litter Strategy Action Plan be noted; and
- (2) that the update on the 3 pilot projects be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 31 August 2022 (Paragraph 4)]

10 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.