

CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held via Microsoft Teams on 10 February 2021

Chair:

Councillor John Ross (ex-officio)

Councillors Present:

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

Councillor's Apology:

Councillor Jared Wark

Attending:

Community and Enterprise Resources

M McGlynn, Executive Director; E Berry, Policy Officer; L Carr, Amenity Services Manager; H Gourichon, Policy Development Officer (Food Development); I Guild, Grounds Manager; L Hinshelwood, Sustainable Development Officer; A McKinnon, Head of Facilities, Waste and Ground Services; J Richmond, Carbon Management Officer

Education Resources

L Sherry, Head of Education (Support Services)

Finance and Corporate Resources

J Burke, Administration Assistant; T Little, Head of Communications and Strategy; P MacRae, Administration Adviser

Housing and Technical Resources

D Lowe, Executive Director

Health and Social Care/Social Work Resources

M Kane, Service Development 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 4 November 2020 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

3 Food Growing Strategy Update – Quarter 2 Progress Report

A report dated 21 January 2021 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the status of the Food Growing Strategy actions and measures at Quarter 2 of 2020/2021.

The Food Growing Strategy 2020 to 2025 had been approved by the Executive Committee on 16 December 2020. It set out outcomes and actions organised around 5 key objectives as follows:-

- ◆ increased provision of high-quality food growing opportunities
- ◆ promotion of other forms of food growing
- ◆ ensuring good administration and sustainable partnership working
- ◆ development and promotion of environmentally sustainable food growing opportunities
- ◆ identifying and, where possible, securing resources

The Food Growing Strategy contained an action plan which set out specific actions to progress the objectives in the Strategy. It contained 31 performance measures towards the Strategy's outcomes. The measures were rated using a traffic light system of green, amber or red, with a further colour of blue where the action had been completed. Of the 31 measures within the Strategy:-

- ◆ 7 had been completed.
- ◆ 14 were on course to be achieved
- ◆ 1 had seen major slippage against timescale or major shortfall against target
- ◆ 9 measures would be reported later when data was available

The action plan was attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

It was proposed that, in future, reporting on the Strategy be merged with the reporting on the Good Food Strategy given they shared a reporting period and there was overlap in terms of the Strategies.

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

The Committee decided: that the 2020 to 2021 Quarter 2 position in respect of actions and measures within the Food Growing Strategy be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of the Executive Committee of 16 December 2020 (Paragraph 9)]

4 Good Food Strategy and the Food Growing Strategy: Action Plan for the Second Year of Implementation 2021/2022

A report dated 21 January 2021 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the action plan for the second year of implementation of the Good Food Strategy which also incorporated the main actions for the Food Growing Strategy.

The Good Food Strategy 2020 to 2025 had been approved by the Executive Committee on 4 December 2019. Subsequently, the Food Growing Strategy 2020 to 2025 and associated action plan had been approved by the Executive Committee on 16 December 2020.

The objectives and actions of the Food Growing Strategy were encompassed within the Good Food Strategy and its action plan. Those actions would be reported jointly in future.

The action plan for the second year of implementation of the Good Food Strategy was set out in Appendix 1 to the report and included performance indicators and projects in line with the structure of the following main themes contained in the Strategy:-

- ◆ 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

COVID-19 had impacted on the implementation of the year 1 action plan and this was reflected in the action plan for year 2. Details of those impacts were provided in the report.

Community organisations had played a key role in the implementation of activities to tackle food insecurity in year 1 of the plan and the Council would continue to support those organisations in year 2.

Officers responded to members' questions on various aspects of the report and, in response to a member's request, the Executive Director undertook to provide a briefing note to members on the new regulation for nutritional requirements in schools.

The Committee decided: that the action plan for the second year of implementation of the Good Food Strategy, incorporating the main actions for the Food Growing Strategy, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

[Reference: Minutes of the Executive Committee of 4 December 2019 (Paragraph 9) and 16 December 2020 (Paragraph 9)]

5 Pesticide Free Council Update

A report dated 20 January 2021 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted providing an update on issues relating to the Council's use of pesticides and herbicides.

At its meeting on 16 December 2020, the Council considered a motion proposing that it become a pesticide free Council. As a result, the Council agreed that a report be submitted to the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee to:-

- ◆ identify and audit the extent of the Council's spending on pesticides and herbicides
- ◆ explain the current pesticide and herbicide policy stating, for public information, the uses made of pesticides and herbicides by the Council and where they were currently used
- ◆ consider both the costs and efficacy of alternative weed control methods and to consider the use of pesticide and herbicide along with the feasibility of free zones in partnership with local groups, where appropriate
- ◆ consider the implications of being a pesticide free Council and whether to set a timetable for the phased elimination of pesticide and herbicide use by Council resources and their contractors

In response to those tasks, information was provided in the report on:-

- ◆ weed control
- ◆ the use of glyphosate
- ◆ alternative methods
- ◆ next steps

It was proposed that, given the lack of viable and affordable alternatives, the Council would continue to use glyphosate based products to deal with weed growth. However, it was further proposed that the Council's Grounds Services would:-

- ◆ continue to pilot and assess other alternative weed control methods in conjunction with partners in the APSE Grounds and Streets Advisory Group, whilst looking at any options to further reduce the level of use
- ◆ review the findings of the Scottish Government's weed control survey and consider any recommendations
- ◆ actively participate in the Amenity Forum as well as considering any examples of best practice in relation to future weed control operations

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

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the report be noted;
- (2) that the next steps outlined in the report be approved; and
- (3) that, within 6 months, a report be submitted to the Committee on the outcome of further investigations in relation to the use of pesticides and herbicides

[Reference: Minutes of South Lanarkshire Council of 16 December 2020 (Paragraph 7)]

6 Development of a Litter Strategy

A report dated 25 January 2021 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on a proposed plan for the development of a Litter Strategy covering the period 2022 to 2027.

On 27 February 2019, the Council agreed that additional investment of £100,000 be provided to support environmental initiatives. Part of that budget was set aside to fund a post of Policy Officer (Environmental Initiatives) with a remit to focus on preventative measures through the development of a range of new plans, actions, education, community involvement and engagement.

A key role for the post was to produce, implement and review a Litter Strategy that encompassed a range of thematic actions, including:-

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| ◆ litter prevention | ◆ litter bins |
| ◆ fly tipping | ◆ enforcement |
| ◆ dog fouling | ◆ household waste |
| ◆ graffiti | ◆ communications |

The Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (COPLAR), approved by the Scottish Government, placed 2 duties on certain organisations and bodies, a full list of which was provided as Appendix 1 to the report. Those duties were to ensure that:-

- ◆ their land, or land under their control, was kept clear of litter and refuse
- ◆ public roads for which the body was responsible were kept clean

COPLAR had been updated and aligned with the National Litter Strategy and the following 3 main changes had been made:-

- ◆ an emphasis on the role of prevention, particularly in the case of Duty 1
- ◆ revised grades and response times for both duties
- ◆ greater clarity about where litter/refuse should be removed from

The Litter Strategy 2022 to 2027 proposed a vision for the development of a range of plans, policies and environmental initiatives that drove the Council's commitment to preventing litter related issues and set out the objectives, outputs, activities and expected outcomes for the Council and its partners.

Consultation with internal and key external stakeholders and educational institutions would be built into the strategy and each Council Resource would be required to contribute to the Strategy through the creation of a Litter Prevention Action Plan that outlined the role they could play in preventing littering on land holdings where they had a role.

A timeline for the development of the Strategy was detailed in the report, with a target for approval of March 2022.

Despite the delays due to COVID-19, a range of actions had already taken place and those were outlined in the report.

There followed a full discussion during which officers responded to members' questions on various aspects of the report. In response to a request for information in relation to fly tipping, the Executive Director undertook to circulate this information to members.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the proposed plan for the development of a Litter Strategy 2022 to 2027 be approved; and
- (2) that the proposed Litter Strategy be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee for approval, in line with the timescales set out in the report.

[Reference: Minutes of South Lanarkshire Council of 27 February 2019 (Paragraph 2)]

7 Climate Ready Clyde Adaptation Strategy Consultation Response

A report dated 20 January 2021 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the Council's response to the consultation on Climate Ready Clyde's Adaptation Strategy.

The Council was a member of Climate Ready Clyde (CRC), which was a cross-sector initiative funded by its 15 member organisations and supported by the Scottish Government to create a shared vision, strategy and action plan for a climate-resilient Glasgow City Region (GCR).

Adapting to climate change would be necessary regardless of cuts to emissions, as historical emissions had already changed the climate and would continue to do so. As that change took place, it was important to make adjustments to buildings and infrastructure to mitigate risks and ensure that the 1.8 million people who lived and worked in GCR could rely on robust organisations that could continue to operate despite the challenges of a changing climate.

The CRC Adaptation Strategy was being developed to ensure that the GCR economy, society and environment were prepared for and could continue to flourish in the face of the impacts arising from the climate crisis. The Strategy:-

- ◆ outlined the processes and early interventions needed to manage climate risks and realise opportunities in line with the “theory of change”
- ◆ provided a strategic framework for adaptation in and by the GCR, that linked with and supported key plans, policies and activities to enable delivery
- ◆ set 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
- ◆ set out how progress in increasing climate resilience would be monitored, evaluated and learnt from to improve policies, strategies, programmes and projects

A copy of the draft Strategy was available on the CRC website and a link to the document was provided in the report.

The draft Strategy and accompanying Strategic Environmental Assessment had been the subject of public consultation during November and December 2020. A copy of the Council’s draft response to the consultation was attached as Appendix 2 to the report.

It had been noted in the Council’s response that approval would be sought from the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee and that any changes following the Committee’s consideration would be added to the final response accordingly. Following discussion and having heard Councillor McAdams, it was proposed that the ranking of interventions 2, 4 and 5 contained in Question 3 of the draft consultation response be amended from “Important” to “Extremely Important”.

The Committee decided:	that the response to the consultation on Climate Ready Clyde’s Adaptation Strategy for the Glasgow City Region, attached as Appendix 2 to the report, as amended, be approved.
-------------------------------	--

8 Education Resources’ Sustainability Activity

A report dated 5 January 2021 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on current and future sustainability activity within Education Resources.

Education establishments were involved in a wide range of activities to engage the active learning of children and young people and to promote and develop Learning for Sustainability. A number of specific initiatives and projects were detailed in the report, including:-

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| ◆ eco schools | ◆ walk to school week |
| ◆ school eco communities | ◆ air quality workshops |
| ◆ reduction of single use plastics | ◆ tree planting/gardens |
| ◆ energy audits | ◆ the Food Growing Strategy |
| ◆ “Beat the Street” | ◆ “Eat Them to Defeat Them” Initiative |

Under the climate change duties, local authorities were key to driving forward behavioural change to reduce carbon emissions within Scotland to meet national targets. Education Resources recognised the significant part they played in the education of the issues around the climate crisis. Details were provided on a range of proposed future actions and initiatives, including:-

- ◆ curriculum improvement
- ◆ development of the remit of the new post of STEM and Sustainability Officer
- ◆ shared practice across schools
- ◆ carbon footprint calculator
- ◆ Education Scotland's "How Good is Our School"
- ◆ links to West Partnership to help benchmark and share best practice
- ◆ young people engaged in planning and decision making

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

9 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.