

CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held via Microsoft Teams on 4 November 2020

Chair:

Councillor John Ross (ex-officio)

Councillors Present:

Councillor Alex Allison, Councillor John Anderson, Councillor John Bradley, Councillor Robert Brown, Councillor Jackie Burns, 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 Ian Harrow, Councillor Richard Lockhart, Councillor Eileen Logan, Councillor Katy Loudon, Councillor Monique McAdams, Councillor Jim McGuigan, Councillor Gladys Miller, Councillor Lynne Nailon, Councillor David Shearer, Councillor Jared Wark, Councillor Josh Wilson

Councillors' Apologies:

Councillor Allan Falconer, Councillor Joe Lowe, Councillor Margaret B Walker

Attending:

Community and Enterprise Resources

M McGlynn, Executive Director; L Burnett, Support Manager; L Carr, Amenity Services Manager; 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; J Richmond, Carbon Management Officer

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

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 17 September 2020 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

3 Statutory Climate Change Duties Report 2019/2020

A report dated 19 October 2020 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the Council's Statutory Climate Change Duties report for 2019/2020.

The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 committed the Government to reduce Scotland's greenhouse gas emissions by 42% by 2020 and by 80% by 2050, compared to 1990 levels. It also required the development of long-term measures to adapt to changes in the climate.

A new Climate Change Bill, with more challenging carbon reduction targets, was passed by the Scottish Parliament on 25 September 2019. The Bill committed Scotland to meeting or exceeding a net-zero greenhouse gas emissions target by 2045, with interim targets of a 75% reduction by 2030 and 90% by 2040 based on the levels recorded in 1990.

While the Bill replaced the emissions targets set in the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, nevertheless, the provisions of the Act continued, placing duties on all public bodies in Scotland to:-

- ◆ reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- ◆ adapt to a changing climate
- ◆ act sustainably
- ◆ produce an annual report on their compliance with climate change duties

The Climate Change Duties Report, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, comprised the following 6 parts:-

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| ◆ organisational profile | ◆ adaptation |
| ◆ governance and management | ◆ procurement |
| ◆ corporate emissions | ◆ validation |

Highlights of the information contained in the statutory report were outlined in the Executive Director's report.

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

The Committee decided: that the Council's statutory Climate Change Duties Report for 2019/2020 be approved for submission to the Scottish Government.

4 Biodiversity Duty Report 2018 to 2020

A report dated 20 October 2020 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the Council's Biodiversity Duty Report for 2018 to 2020.

The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 placed a duty on public bodies in Scotland to further the conservation of biodiversity. The Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011 required every public body in Scotland to produce a publicly available report on compliance with the Biodiversity Duty. The reporting schedule was on a 3 yearly basis, covering activities in the preceding 3 years. The Council's next report, which was due on 1 January 2021, covered activities completed in the calendar years 2018 to 2020 inclusive.

The Council was a key member of the South Lanarkshire Biodiversity Partnership and had produced a Biodiversity Strategy 2018 to 2022 and a Biodiversity Duty Implementation Plan to set out the objectives and outcomes for biodiversity in South Lanarkshire as well as a framework for furthering the conservation of biodiversity in South Lanarkshire. Those documents provided the basis for biodiversity conservation in the Council area.

The Biodiversity Duty Report 2018 to 2020, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, comprised the following 6 parts:-

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| ◆ introduction | ◆ partnership working |
| ◆ mainstreaming biodiversity | ◆ communication |
| ◆ biodiversity action | ◆ Biodiversity highlights and challenges |

If approved, the report would be submitted to the Scottish Government by the statutory deadline of 1 January 2021 and published on the Council's website.

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

The Committee decided: that the Council's statutory Biodiversity Duty Report for 2018 to 2020 be approved for submission to the Scottish Government.

[Reference: Minutes of Community and Enterprise Resources Committee of 22 May 2018 (Paragraph 6)]

5 Food Growing Strategy 2020 to 2025

A report dated 21 October 2020 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the Council's Food Growing Strategy 2020 to 2025 and year 1 action plan.

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 brought new rights, duties and responsibilities regarding the provision of allotments and food growing opportunities. Part 9 of the Act, governing the provision of allotments and food growing, was enabled on 1 April 2018 and councils were given 2 years to publish a food growing strategy that would outline how they would work towards meeting the legislative obligations set out in the Act.

The Food Growing Strategy, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, covered the period from 2020 to 2025 and included the following sections:-

- ◆ introduction
- ◆ South Lanarkshire Council provision
- ◆ developing food growing in South Lanarkshire
- ◆ key objectives
- ◆ monitoring and review

In accordance with Scottish Government legislation, the Strategy would be reviewed every 5 years. The associated action plan, attached as Appendix 2 to the report, would be updated annually.

The Committee recommended to the Executive Committee: that the Food Growing Strategy 2020 to 2025 and year 1 action plan be approved and the Strategy published to meet the legislative requirements of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

[Reference: Minutes of Community and Enterprise Resources Committee of 12 November 2019 (Paragraph 7)]

6 Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy Update – Quarter 2 2020/2021

A report dated 20 October 2020 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 2 of 2020/2021.

The Council's SDCCS covered a 5-year period from 2017 to 2022. 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 other associated environmental legislation.

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:-

- ◆ 11 had been achieved or were on course to be achieved (green)
- ◆ 26 would be reported later when data was available

Of the 66 actions within the SDCCS:-

- ◆ 40 had been achieved or were on course to be achieved (green)
- ◆ 6 had seen some minor slippage against targets (amber)
- ◆ 20 would be reported later when data was available

Progress on all objectives, actions and measures were contained in the Quarter 2 performance report for 2020/2021, attached as an appendix to the report.

There followed a full discussion during which 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)]

Councillor Nailon left the meeting during consideration of this item of business

7 Good Food Strategy Update – Quarter 2, 2020/2021

A report dated 12 October 2020 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 2 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 42 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:-

- ◆ 10 had been achieved or were on course to be achieved (green)

- ◆ 15 had seen some minor slippage against targets (amber)
- ◆ 4 had seen major slippage against timescale or major shortfall against target (red)
- ◆ 22 would be reported later when data was available

Of the 42 actions within the Strategy:-

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

An update on the impact of COVID-19 on food related activities was provided in the report, together with specific actions that would be taken in response to the crisis.

Progress on all objectives, actions and measures were contained in the Quarter 2 performance report for 2020/2021, attached as an appendix to the report.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 17 September 2020 (Paragraph 4)]

8 Central Energy Efficiency Fund

A report dated 20 October 2020 by the Executive Director (Housing and Technical Resources) was submitted providing an update on the work carried out through the Central Energy Efficiency Fund (CEEF)

CEEF was launched in 2004 by the Scottish Government to support the delivery of energy efficiency and renewable energy measures to reduce carbon emissions in the Scottish Public Sector. A bid for funding had been submitted to the Scottish Executive by Property Services in 2004/2005 and £862,574 had been received to establish the Fund. This was augmented by £731,000 from the Council's Capital Programme, giving a total fund of £1,593,574.

Since the start of the CEEF, the revolving fund had been responsible for investment of £4.875 million, up to and including 2019/2020, delivering 359 energy efficiency projects. Those works had achieved total savings of £7.469 million, with a lifetime savings figure of approximately £19.5 million.

Details on the technologies and works offered through CEEF were provided in the report.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

9 Strategic Energy Review

A report dated 23 October 2020 by the Executive Director (Housing and Technical Resources) was submitted on the Strategic Energy Review.

In July 2015, a Strategic Energy Review was commissioned to further enhance the Council's commitment to developing sustainability through both the Council and its communities, as described in various publications including the Corporate Asset Management Plan, the Sustainable Development Strategy and the Carbon Management Plan.

The Review focused on the introduction of the following low and zero carbon technology options:-

- ◆ district heating for high rise domestic dwellings
- ◆ solar photovoltaics
- ◆ wind turbine generators across the vacant and derelict portfolio

Those technologies were considered to offer the Council an opportunity to make significant and sustainable cost savings to the energy cost base which was likely to rise in the immediate years ahead.

Details were provided on the progress in upgrading the Council's buildings with those technologies. A further phase of the Review was in development to build upon that work, with the following workstreams being considered:-

- ◆ engagement with an energy generator to meet the Council's energy needs while reducing carbon outputs and energy costs
- ◆ review of the Council's fleet
- ◆ consideration of options for investing in energy production and supply as a means of income generation

Updates on the progress of those workstreams would be provided to the Committee as appropriate.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

10 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.