

CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held via Microsoft Teams and in Committee Room 1, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 17 September 2020

Chair:

Councillor John Ross (ex-officio)

Councillors Present:

Councillor Alex Allison, Councillor John Anderson, Councillor Robert Brown, Councillor Maureen Chalmers, Councillor Peter Craig, Councillor Maureen Devlin, Councillor Isobel Dorman, Councillor Joe Fagan, Councillor Allan Falconer, Councillor Ian Harrow, Councillor Eileen Logan, Councillor Katy Loudon, Councillor Monique McAdams, Councillor Catherine McClymont (*substitute for Councillor Gerry Convery*), Councillor Margaret B Walker, Councillor Jared Wark, Councillor Josh Wilson

Councillors' Apologies:

Councillor John Bradley, Councillor Jackie Burns, Councillor Stephanie Callaghan, Councillor Gerry Convery, Councillor Margaret Cooper, Councillor Richard Lockhart, Councillor Joe Lowe, Councillor Jim McGuigan, Councillor Gladys Miller, Councillor Lynne Nailon, Councillor David Shearer

Attending:

Community and Enterprise Resources

M McGlynn, Executive Director; L Hinshelwood, Sustainable Development Officer; A McKinnon, Head of Facilities, Waste and Ground Services; J Richmond, Carbon Management Officer

Finance and Corporate Resources

T Little, Head of Communications and Strategy; S McLeod, Administration Officer; A Norris, Administration Assistant

Social Work Resources

M Kane, Service Development Manager

1 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

2 Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy 2022 to 2027

A report dated 27 August 2020 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the review and development of the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy for 2022 to 2027.

The Council had published its first Sustainable Development Strategy in 2007, in response to sustainability requirements set out by the Local Government (Scotland) Act 2003. The current Strategy, covering the period from 2017 to 2022, had been approved by the Executive Committee on 6 December 2017 and provided a framework for contributing to national outcomes, including Scotland's transition to a low carbon economy and building resilience to climate risks.

Since the development of the current Strategy, there had been a number of external factors that had implications for the Council's strategic approach, including legislative changes, such as the new climate change target of net-zero emissions by 2045, the declaration of a national climate emergency, Brexit and the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic. In recognition of some of those developments, the Council agreed to establish a Climate Change and Sustainability Committee and, at its meeting on 26 February 2020, had agreed a Terms of Reference.

The Strategy for 2022 to 2027 would set out how the Council aimed to develop sustainability and tackle climate change over the 5-year period. The Strategy would also provide a broad strategic direction for longer term planning, beyond the 5-year period, to help deliver on agreed outcomes and contribute to achieving the Council's longer-term vision.

The preparation of the Strategy would:-

- ◆ involve extensive consultation with Council Services and employees and a number of key partners, including relevant stakeholders, the business community, community groups and individuals
- ◆ consist of 3 stages: review, development and implementation, details of which were outlined in the report

A Climate Change and Sustainability Steering Group had been established to support the Committee. The Terms of Reference and Climate Change and Sustainability Governance Structure were attached as Appendices 1 and 2 to the report respectively.

The UK's Committee on Climate Change (CCC), in a letter dated 6 May 2020 to the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform, attached as Appendix 3 to the report, had recommended an integration of climate change policy with post-pandemic social and economic recovery plans and that actions be prioritised according to 6 principles for a resilient recovery. Given that the updated Strategy would not be implemented until April 2022, the Council would, in the meantime, be required to consider the CCC's principles in its decision-making.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the timetable for the review and development of the Council's Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy for 2017 to 2022 be approved; and
- (2) that the establishment of the Climate Change and Sustainability Steering Group and the revised Climate Change and Sustainability Governance Structure be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of South Lanarkshire Council of 26 February 2020 (Paragraph 8) and Minutes of the Executive Committee of 6 December 2017 (Paragraph 16)]

3 Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy Action Plan 2020/2021

A report dated 24 August 2020 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy Action Plan for 2020/2021.

The Executive Committee had approved the Council's Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy for 2017 to 2022 at its meeting on 6 December 2017. Delivery of actions within the Strategy provided the main 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 to contribute to the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals.

The Action Plan for 2020/2021, attached as Appendix 2 to the report, had been developed in consultation with the relevant Council Services using the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Framework, attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

The Action Plan included performance and contextual measures, improvement actions and related sustainable development goals in relation to the following 3 sustainable development themes contained in the Strategy:-

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

Due to COVID-19 lockdown restrictions, there had been a delay in submitting the Action Plan for 2020/2021 to Committee which was now recommended to this Committee for approval.

The Action Plan would be monitored using the Council's IMPROVe system and progress reports at Quarter 2 and Quarter 4 would be submitted to future meetings of this Committee.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy Action Plan for 2020/2021, attached as Appendix 2 to the report, be approved; and
- (2) that arrangements to submit Action Plan Quarter 2 and Quarter 4 progress reports to this Committee be noted.

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

4 Action Plan for the First Year of Implementation of the Good Food Strategy

A report dated 24 August 2020 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted requesting approval of the South Lanarkshire Good Food Strategy Action Plan for 2020/2021.

The Executive Committee, on 4 December 2019, approved the Council's Good Food Strategy which included a vision for a sustainable food system for the Council, its partners and its communities. To achieve this vision, 12 objectives had been identified.

The Good Food Strategy Action Plan for 2021/2022, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, had been developed in consultation with the relevant Council Services and consisted of 58 actions.

The Action Plan would be monitored using the Council's IMPROVe system and progress reports at Quarter 2 and Quarter 4 would be submitted to future meetings of this Committee.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the South Lanarkshire Good Food Strategy Action Plan for 2020/2021, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, be approved; and
- (2) that arrangements to submit the Good Food Strategy Action Plan Quarter 2 and Quarter 4 progress reports to this Committee be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of the Executive Committee of 4 December 2019 (Paragraph 9) and Note of Community and Enterprise Resources Committee of 31 March 2020 (Paragraph 7)]

5 Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy Update – Quarter 4 2019/2020

A report dated 27 August 2020 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the status of the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy (SDCCS) actions and measures as at 31 March 2020, Quarter 4 of 2019/2020.

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 2019/2020 contained 39 actions which were sub-divided into 68 defined measures that provided the current status for each action. Those measures were rated using a traffic light system of green, amber or red. Of the 68 measures within the SDCCS:-

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

Details of the measure rated as red, the resultant management action taken and a number of highlights from 2019/2020 were provided in the report.

Progress on all objectives, actions and measures were contained in the performance report for 2019/2020, attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of the Executive Committee of 26 February 2020 (Paragraph 12)]

6 Carbon Management Update 2019/2020

A report dated 1 September 2020 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted providing an update on the final carbon management position for 2019/2020.

The Council's carbon footprint had been reported in the same way, since the baseline year of 2005/2006, using carbon conversion factors that had been set at that time and had remained the same up to 2018/2019. The annual climate change report submitted to the Scottish Government used updated carbon conversion factors each year which ensured a more accurate and up-to-date carbon position was calculated. The Council's carbon footprint would now be reported using the same method to ensure it was in line with national reporting and other public sector organisations.

The Council's carbon management position was monitored in the following areas:-

- ◆ energy use in buildings
- ◆ waste
- ◆ fleet and employee travel
- ◆ street lighting

The report provided detailed information on the following areas:-

- ◆ delay in the publication of the Scottish Government's Climate Change Plan due to the COVID-19 pandemic and, as a consequence, the delay to the publication of the Council's Carbon Management Plan until the Climate Change Plan was published and new public sector carbon reduction targets were known
- ◆ the Council's final carbon emission position for 2019/2020 which showed a reduction of overall carbon emissions by over 56% compared to the baseline year 2005/2006
- ◆ comparison against the 2018/2019 carbon emission position using the updated carbon conversion factors which showed an overall reduction of more than 25%
- ◆ the Scottish Government's plans to amend the Climate Change Bill to include a legally binding target of reaching net zero carbon emissions, by 2045 at the latest, and the clarification required on what this meant in the context of the differing approaches across the public sector in terms of what fell within a carbon footprint
- ◆ the Council's progress in relation to the old and new national targets which demonstrated that progress of 71.9% had been achieved since 2005/2006
- ◆ new carbon reduction targets to be set from 2021/2022 within the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy Action Plan for 2020/2021 to be determined by this Committee by March 2021

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the Council's final carbon emission position for 2019/2020 be noted;
- (2) that the review of carbon reduction targets in line with new national targets be noted; and
- (3) that the delayed publication of the Council's Carbon Management Plan be noted.

7 The Transition to Decarbonised Fleet Electric Vehicles

A report dated 30 July 2020 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted providing an update on the position regarding electric vehicles within the Council's fleet.

The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 outlined the expectation that the Council would provide a leadership function in its approach to climate change. This included taking a lead on the decarbonisation of road transport by adopting low or zero emission vehicles and promoting the use of such vehicles throughout South Lanarkshire.

The Scottish Government's Programme for Government 2019/2020 stated that petrol and diesel cars should be phased out from the public sector fleet and the need for any new petrol and diesel light commercial vehicles should be phased out by 2025. Accordingly, the Council had utilised the Switched on Fleets (SoF) grant funding for a number of years to lease small electric cars and vans within the Council's fleet. The current fleet consisted of 1,415 vehicles and plant, of which 598 were cars and small vans. Prior to the 2019/2020 grant, the Council had operated 37 electric vehicles, amounting to approximately 6% of the small fleet, with most of those vehicles funded by SoF grants.

During 2019/2020, grant funding in excess of £1million had been secured from the Switched on Fleets Fund to replace all the Council's pool cars and this would be used to lease 141 electric cars for a period of 3 years, resulting in the percentage of electric vehicles within small fleet increasing from 6% to approximately 28%.

Grant funding of £282,000 had also been secured from the Switched on Fleets Heavy Goods Fund for 2019/2020 to purchase an electric light sweeper and an 11 seater minibus, both of which had now been delivered.

In addition, further grant funding of £337,000 had been secured from the Switched on Fleets Fund for 2020/2021. For the first time, funding had been split to include £90,000 for charging infrastructure which was anticipated would provide an additional 9 sites to charge and operate vehicles from. The remaining £247,000 would be used to lease between 30 to 35 small electric vans which would result in a further increase in the percentage of electric vehicles within small fleet to approximately 34%.

As part of the grant funding agreement for 2020/2021, the Energy Savings Trust would carry out an analysis of the Council's fleet and provide a bespoke fleet decarbonisation strategy.

Artwork and branding to promote the use of electric vehicles, as detailed in appendices 1 and 2 to the report, had or would be applied to the vehicles.

The Committee decided: that the progress made in increasing the number of electric vehicles within the Council's fleet be noted.

8 Council Fairtrade Zone Status Renewed

A report dated 28 August 2020 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the successful renewal of the Council's Fairtrade Zone status.

Fairtrade was an alternative approach to conventional trade between developing and developed countries to promote responsible trade. The principles of Fairtrade included:-

- ◆ payment of a fair price to producers as well as a premium to improve their social, economic and environmental conditions
- ◆ transparent commercial relationships
- ◆ good working conditions
- ◆ no child labour, no forced labour and no discrimination, including gender equity
- ◆ conservation and preservation of the environment

The Council had continued to demonstrate its commitment to Fairtrade by using Fairtrade products in many of its catering outlets and school catering facilities and by supporting other towns to achieve Fairtrade status. However, the Council's Fairtrade Zone status had expired and the Community and Enterprise Resources Committee, on 22 January 2019, had agreed to progress towards achieving the 5 goals required to renew the status, details of which were provided in the report.

Following completion of the 5 goals, the Council had submitted an application to the Fairtrade Foundation in December 2019 and the Foundation certified that South Lanarkshire was a Fairtrade Zone on 6 February 2020.

The Committee decided: that it be noted that the Council's Fairtrade Zone status had been renewed on 6 February 2020.

[Reference: Minutes of the Community and Enterprise Resources Committee of 22 January 2019 (Paragraph 10)]

9 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.