

CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held via Confero and in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 8 February 2023

Chair:

Councillor Mark McGeever

Councillors Present:

Councillor Alex Allison, Councillor John Anderson, Councillor Ralph Barker, Councillor Maureen Chalmers, Councillor Ross Clark, Councillor Gerry Convery (*substitute for Councillor Lynsey Hamilton*), Councillor Colin Dewar, Councillor Elise Frame (*substitute for Councillor John Ross*), Councillor Ross Gowland, Councillor Mark Horsham (*substitute for Councillor Janine Calikes*), Councillor Gavin Keatt, Councillor Ross Lambie, Councillor Katy Loudon, Councillor Julia Marrs, Councillor Elaine McDougall, Councillor Carol Nugent, Councillor Mo Razzaq, Councillor Kirsten Robb (Depute), Councillor Dr Ali Salamati, Councillor Graham Scott, Councillor Margaret B Walker

Councillors' Apologies:

Councillor Janine Calikes, Councillor Margaret Cooper, Councillor Joe Fagan (ex officio), Councillor Lynsey Hamilton, Councillor Richard Lockhart, Councillor Monique McAdams, Councillor Lesley McDonald, Councillor John Ross, Councillor Bert Thomson

Attending:

Community and Enterprise Resources

D Booth, Executive Director; K Allan, Sustainable Development Officer; A Brown, Head of Enterprise and Sustainable Development; K Carr, Head of Facilities, Waste and Grounds; C Reid, Grounds Manager; G Simpson, Development Officer; J Richmond, Carbon Management Officer

Finance and Corporate Resources

P MacRae, Administration Adviser; K McLeod, Administration Assistant

Chair's Opening Remarks

The Chair congratulated Alison Brown on her recent appointment to the post of Head of Enterprise and Sustainable Development and welcomed her to her first meeting of the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee.

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 9 November 2022 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

3 Pesticide Free Council Motion - Update

A report dated 25 January 2023 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the trials undertaken with regard to alternative weed control methods.

At its meeting on 16 December 2020, the Council considered a motion proposing that it become a pesticide free Council. Reports had been submitted to the Committee at its meetings on 10 February and 25 August 2021 and 2 February 2022 which provided updates on the trials undertaken in relation to weed control and it had been agreed that a further report would be provided in early 2023.

While undertaking the series of trials, Grounds Services had continued to use glyphosate-based herbicide applications on a range of surfaces in the absence of a reliable and affordable alternative. Reasons for using herbicide were outlined in Appendix 1 to the report. The Service had, however, reduced the application on certain areas such as grass verges and had amended the time for application in school grounds to coincide with the school holidays. There had been a 30% reduction in usage of glyphosate since December 2020 as a result of the work undertaken to reduce usage in specific areas and trials of appropriate alternatives. Details of the trials undertaken by the Service were provided in Appendix 2 to the report. As a result of the trials on the respective products or methods, the following action was proposed:-

- ◆ glyphosate – continue and review locations to further reduce usage
- ◆ hot foam – continue and expand usage
- ◆ hot steam – discontinue usage
- ◆ manual – continue in small areas
- ◆ mankar lances – continue and increase usage
- ◆ new way spray – discontinue usage
- ◆ pedestrian brushing – continue in small areas
- ◆ mechanical brushing – continue and expand into areas with slabbed paths
- ◆ mechanical thermal – discontinue usage

Officers responded to members' questions on various aspects of the report and confirmed that a further progress report on the matter would be submitted to the Committee in 2024.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the report be noted, and
- (2) that the recommendations in relation to the various methods of weed control, as outlined in sections 4.4 and 4.6 of the report, be approved.

[Reference: Minutes of 2 February 2022 (Paragraph 6)]

4 Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy 2022 to 2027 Action Plan

A report dated 24 January 2023 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the Council's Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy (SDCCS) 2022 to 2027 5-year action plan, and the associated improvement actions for 2023/2024.

At its meeting on 15 June 2022, the Council approved the final draft of the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy (SDCCS) together with the proposed vision, themes and priorities.

The Strategy set out outcomes and actions organised around the following 4 key themes which aligned with the Council Plan:-

- ◆ People
- ◆ Place and Communities

- ◆ The Natural Environment (Planet)
- ◆ A Green Economy (Planet)

Delivery of actions within the Strategy provided the main focus for the Council's sustainable development activity and the fulfilment of its duties in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 2003, the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, the Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019 and the Council's contribution to the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals.

The Strategy Action Plan set out specific actions to be undertaken to deliver objectives under each of the 4 themes. The action plan was monitored using IMPROVe and would be reported to future meetings of the Committee at Quarter 2 and Quarter 4 each year.

Details of the longer term improvement actions for the term of the Strategy were provided in Appendix 1 to the report. The action plan was produced following extensive consultation with all Council Resources and key Services throughout the Council.

The proposed 5-year action plan, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, had been split into the 13 main priorities agreed as part of the development of the SDCCS. Each action had also been mapped to the 4 main themes of the SDCCS. Each theme included:-

- ◆ performance measures - providing information on how well the Council was performing against the strategic outcomes in the Strategy
- ◆ contextual measures - providing a health check against outcomes
- ◆ improvement actions - that would be taken during the term of the action plan to respond to the challenges ahead and contribute to meeting the outcomes in the Strategy

Whilst each action had been allocated to one heading, many actions contributed to more than one priority.

Details of the shorter term improvement actions for 2023/2024 were provided in Appendix 2 to the report. A one year action plan had been produced and agreed with key Services throughout the Council. For each action, the Plan included details of:-

- ◆ steps to be taken
- ◆ the Lead Council Service
- ◆ expected outcomes

If approved, progress updates would be reported to future meetings of the Committee at Quarter 2 and Quarter 4 using the Council's corporate reporting system, IMPROVe.

There followed a full discussion during which officers:-

- ◆ responded to members' questions on various aspects of the report
- ◆ undertook to provide reports on the following to future meetings of the Committee:-
 - ◆ update on the pilot project in relation to food waste, following the evaluation process
 - ◆ progress on an area wide route map to reduce emissions
- ◆ confirmed that the word "local" would be added after "sustainable" at the third action in Priority 1 of Appendix 1

The Chair reminded Members of the opportunity to attend Climate Emergency training.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the 5 year (2022 to 2027) Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy Action Plan, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report, as amended, be approved; and

- (2) that the one year 2023/2024 Action Plan, containing shorter term improvement actions, as detailed at Appendix 2 of the report, be approved.

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

5 Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy Action Plan - Quarter 2 Progress Report 2022/2023

A report dated 24 January 2023 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy (SDCCS) Quarter 2 Progress Report 2022/2023, for the period 1 April to 30 September 2022.

The Council's SDCCS 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 Council's contribution to the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals.

The SDCCS Action Plan for 2022/2023, which was an interim plan to allow work to continue with Services and Resources across the Council to develop the longer term actions covering the 5-year period of the Strategy, 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, at the end of Quarter 2, the position was as follows:-

- ◆ 5 had been achieved or were on course to be achieved (green)
- ◆ 1 had minor slippage against timescale or minor shortfall against target (amber)
- ◆ 1 had seen major slippage against timescale or against target (red)
- ◆ 11 would be reported later when data was available
- ◆ 10 were contextual and provided a health check for South Lanarkshire

The measure which had been classified as red related to the percentage of household waste which was recycled and details of the reasons for slippage, together with management action being taken, were provided in the report. The amber performance measure related to household waste recycled at the Council's Household Waste Recycling Centres. The year to date figure at Quarter 2 was 57.7%, which was below the target of 64.5%. Factors such as the large amount of non-recyclable waste being brought into the sites by members of the public had contributed to the lower recycling performance.

Of the 47 improvement actions within the SDCCS, at the end of Quarter 2:-

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

There were no actions which had been categorised as red. For the 6 amber improvement measures that had minor slippage, details were provided on management action being taken to ensure no further slippage.

Progress on all objectives, actions and measures were contained in the Quarter 2 performance report for 2022/2023, attached as an appendix to the report, and key achievements for the first 6 months of 2022/2023 were highlighted in the report.

Officers responded to a member's question on the progress of recruitment to various posts.

The Committee decided:

that the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy Action Plan Quarter 2 Progress Report 2022/2023 be noted.

6 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.