

# CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held via Confero and in Committee Room 1, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 26 April 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 Elise Frame (*substitute for Councillor Dr Ali Salamati*), Councillor Ross Gowland, Councillor Lynsey Hamilton, Councillor Mark Horsham (*substitute for Councillor Janine Calikes*), Councillor Gavin Keatt, Councillor Ross Lambie, Councillor Katy Loudon, Councillor Julia Marrs, Councillor Lesley McDonald, Councillor Elaine McDougall, Councillor Carol Nugent, Councillor Kirsten Robb (Depute), Councillor John Ross, Councillor Graham Scott

## Councillors' Apologies:

Councillor Janine Calikes, Councillor Joe Fagan (ex officio), Councillor Richard Lockhart, Councillor Monique McAdams, Councillor Mo Razzaq, Councillor Dr Ali Salamati, Councillor Bert Thomson, Councillor Margaret B Walker

## Attending:

### Community and Enterprise Resources

D Booth, Executive Director; K Allan, Sustainable Development Officer; A Brown, Head of Enterprise and Sustainable Development; F Carlin, Head of Planning and Regulatory Services; K Carr, Head of Facilities, Waste and Grounds; D Gibson, Fleet Manager; S Laird, Engineering Manager; C Park, Head of Roads and Transportation Services; J Richmond, Carbon Management Officer; G Simpson, Development Officer

### Housing and Technical Resources

J Forbes, Head of Property Services; S Turner, Section Leader (Legislative)

### Finance and Corporate Resources

T Little, Head of Communications and Strategy; P MacRae, Administration Adviser; K McLeod, Administration Assistant

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## 1 Declaration of Interests

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No interests were declared.

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## 2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

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The minutes of the meeting of the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee held on 8 February 2023 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

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## 3 Climate Change Milestones and Position Statement

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A report dated 6 April 2023 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted providing information on the key national milestones relating to Scotland's climate change and net zero ambitions.

The statutory framework for climate action and reporting was outlined in the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 and the Climate Change (Public Duties) (Scotland) Act. Section 44 of Part 4 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 came into force on 1 January 2011 and stated that a public body must, in exercising its functions, act in a way:-

- ◆ best calculated to contribute to the delivery of Scotland's national emissions reduction targets
- ◆ best calculated to help deliver Scotland's statutory climate change adaptation programme
- ◆ that it considered was most sustainable

All public bodies listed in Schedule 1 of the Climate Change (Duties of Public Bodies: Reporting Requirements) (Scotland) Order 2015, as amended by the Climate Change (Duties of Public Bodies: Reporting Requirements) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2020, were required to report annually on compliance with climate change duties established under Section 44 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 and in accordance with Schedule 2 of the 2015 Order.

The key milestones relating to Scotland's national climate change ambitions were detailed in Appendix 1 to the report. The list, while not exhaustive, detailed key categories which were instrumental to achieving Scotland's climate change ambitions. Those were:-

- ◆ buildings
- ◆ transport
- ◆ waste
- ◆ energy
- ◆ agriculture and land use
- ◆ biodiversity and nature
- ◆ mitigation and adaptation

A high-level position statement outlining the Council's ongoing progress towards Scotland's national climate change milestones was detailed at Appendix 2 to the report. The position statement had been prepared in consultation with Resources within the Council.

An update on progress would be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee and would outline the overall achievability of Scotland's climate change milestones.

There followed a discussion during which officers:-

- ◆ responded to members' questions on various aspects of the report
- ◆ undertook to submit a report to a future meeting of the Committee highlighting the financial implications in working towards and meeting the key national milestones relating to Scotland's climate change and net zero ambitions

**The Committee decided:** that the key climate change milestones and the Council's current position statement be noted.

*Councillor Chalmers joined the meeting during consideration of the above item of business*

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#### **4 Current Energy Efficiency and Sustainability Standards Within New Council Properties**

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A joint report dated 3 April 2023 by the Executive Directors (Community and Enterprise Resources) and (Housing and Technical Resources) was submitted on the current energy efficiency and sustainability standards achieved within the Council's new domestic and non-domestic properties.

At its meeting on 30 November 2022, the Executive Committee approved a new target of 1,300 additional council homes to be delivered by the end of 2027/2028. This target was anticipated to be achieved through a combination of new build properties and the purchase of existing former council properties.

At its meeting on 7 December 2022, South Lanarkshire Council approved a motion requiring consideration of opportunities to improve energy efficiency and sustainability standards within the Council's domestic and non-domestic estate. Opportunities to progress this within existing budgets and resources were currently being considered and a report would be submitted to an early future meeting of the Committee.

A range of key Council strategies and plans highlighted actions and measures to improve the sustainability associated with the Council's domestic and non-domestic estate.

The new council homes built since 2017, and those currently being delivered as part of the new target, generally achieved the 'bronze level of sustainability', with certain aspects achieving the 'silver standard' including those relating to both carbon dioxide emissions and Energy for Space Heating. Details of the standards were provided in Appendix 1 to the report.

The Council did not have a significant new build programme for its non-domestic properties. The last significant programme involving new or replacement non-domestic properties was the Council's primary schools' modernisation programme, implemented between 2004 and 2019. As part of this programme, a range of energy efficiency and sustainability measures were considered and implemented in the 125 buildings that were replaced, details of which were provided in the report.

The Council would continue to maximise opportunities to enhance sustainability within its new domestic and non-domestic properties.

A range of developments were currently being progressed at a national and local level which could result in changes to the statutory and non-statutory requirements or guidance the Council required to adhere to in relation to its new buildings.

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

**The Committee decided:** that the current energy efficiency and sustainability standards achieved within the Council's own new and non-domestic properties be noted.

*[Reference: Minutes of the Executive Committee of 30 November 2022 (Paragraph 6) and Minutes of South Lanarkshire Council of 7 December 2022 (Paragraph 16)]*

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## **5 Urgent Business**

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There were no items of urgent business.