

CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held via Confero and in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 31 August 2022

Chair:

Councillor Mark McGeever

Councillors Present:

Councillor Alex Allison, Councillor John Anderson, Councillor Ralph Barker, Councillor Walter Brogan (*substitute for Councillor Graham Scott*), Councillor Janine Calikes, Councillor Ross Clark, Councillor Gerry Convery (*substitute for Councillor Monique McAdams*), Councillor Margaret Cooper, Councillor Colin Dewar, Councillor Gladys Ferguson-Miller (*substitute for Councillor John Ross*), Councillor Ross Gowland, Councillor Lynsey Hamilton, Councillor Mark Horsham (*substitute for Councillor Maureen Chalmers*), Councillor Gavin Keatt, Councillor Ross Lambie, Councillor Richard Lockhart, Councillor Julia Marrs, Councillor Lesley McDonald, Councillor Elaine McDougall, Councillor Mo Razzaq, Councillor Kirsten Robb (Depute - after item 2), Councillor Dr Ali Salamati, Councillor Bert Thomson

Councillors' Apologies:

Councillor Maureen Chalmers, Councillor Joe Fagan (ex officio), Councillor Katy Loudon, Councillor Monique McAdams, Councillor Carol Nugent, Councillor John Ross, Councillor Graham Scott, Councillor Margaret B Walker

Attending:

Community and Enterprise Resources

D Booth, Executive Director; E Berry, Policy Officer; K Carr, Head of Facilities, Waste and Grounds; H Gourichon, Policy Development Officer (Food Development); L Hinshelwood, Sustainable Development Officer; J Richmond, Carbon Management Officer; M Wilkie, Performance and Policy Development Manager

Finance and Corporate Resources

P MacRae, Administration Adviser; K McLeod, Administration Assistant

Housing and Technical Resources

S Turner, Section Leader (Legislative)

1 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

2 Appointment of Depute Chair

The Chair asked for nominations for the position of Depute Chair of the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee

Councillor Clark, seconded by Councillor Convery, moved that Councillor Robb be appointed as Depute Chair of the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee.

The Committee decided:

that Councillor Robb be appointed as Depute Chair of the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee.

3 Action Plan for the Third Year of Implementation (2022/2023) of the Good Food Strategy

A report dated 28 July 2022 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the action plan for the third year of implementation (2022/2023) of the Council's Good Food Strategy.

The Council's Good Food Strategy 2020 to 2025 was approved by the Executive Committee at its meeting on 4 December 2019. The Strategy provided a framework for actions to move towards healthier, fairer and more sustainable food systems in the Council area and aimed to ensure that food played a positive role in the lives of South Lanarkshire residents.

The action plan for the third year of implementation of the Good Food Strategy, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, had been developed based on input from a variety of Services across the Council's Resources.

The action plan comprised 2 sections, Performance Indicators and Projects, and each section was divided into the following Good Food themes:-

- ◆ Good Food at Home and in the Community
- ◆ Good Food in Public Places
- ◆ Good Food Economy
- ◆ Good Food Growing
- ◆ Good Food for the Environment
- ◆ Good Food Governance

Measures and actions were reported by outcome as defined in the Good Food Strategy.

In addition to the Good Food Strategy, the Council had a statutory obligation to develop a Food Growing Strategy and provide allotments and other food growing opportunities. Given the relationship between the Food Growing Strategy and the Good Food Strategy and the requirement to report within similar timescales, the Good Food Strategy action plan for 2022/2023 incorporated the main Food Growing Strategy actions, allowing progress on food growing to be reported to the Committee.

A mid term review of the Strategy would be undertaken from mid 2023 and would assess the broader outcomes and overall impacts of the 5 year Strategy.

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

The Committee decided: that the Council's action plan for the third year of implementation (2022/2023) of the Good Food Strategy, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

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

4 Litter Strategy for South Lanarkshire

A report dated 22 August 2022 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the Litter Strategy for South Lanarkshire for the period 2022 to 2027.

At its meeting on 10 February 2020, the Committee agreed to the development of a Council-wide Litter Strategy to cover a five year period from 2022 to 2027. The development of the Strategy had involved a wide range of consultation, engagement and communication across the Council and with partners and communities to identify opportunities and shared objectives.

The overall vision of the Council's Litter Strategy was to provide a cleaner place to live, work and visit, free of litter, fly tipping and dog waste.

The Strategy would be underpinned by:-

- ◆ encouraging awareness, behaviour change and personal responsibility
- ◆ working in partnership with different communities and community groups
- ◆ meeting legislative requirements on the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (Scotland) 2018

The objectives of the Strategy fell within the 3 key themes of Education, Engagement and Enforcement and actions in relation to each of those themes were detailed in the report. If approved, the Strategy would go through a design process to ensure that it was user friendly. Progress on the implementation of the Strategy would be reported to the Committee on an annual basis.

In September 2021, a pre-screening exercise was undertaken to assess whether a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was required. A Pre-Screen Exemption Statement was submitted in November 2021 stating that the Litter Strategy did not seek to change or amend policies contained in the Community Plan or the Council Plan, both of which had been subject to SEA. No concerns were raised, or further assessment requested by the Consultation Authorities within the statutory timeframe. It was concluded that no further SEA work was required for the Litter Strategy.

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

The Committee decided: that the Litter Strategy for South Lanarkshire for the period 2022 to 2027 be approved.

[Reference: Minutes of 10 February 2020 (Paragraph 6) and 3 November 2021 (Paragraph 6)]

In terms of Standing Order No 14, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 11.40am for a 10 minute period. The meeting reconvened at 11.50am without the attendance of Councillors Allison and Calikes

5 Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy Update – Quarter 4 2021/2022

A report dated 22 August 2022 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 4 of 2021/2022.

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 2021/2022 contained 36 performance measures towards the Strategy's outcomes together with 74 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 36 measures within the SDCCS:-

- ◆ 20 had seen the timescale or target met according to expectations(green)
- ◆ 0 had minor slippage against timescale or minor shortfall against target (amber)

- ◆ 2 had seen major slippage against timescale or major shortfall against target (red)
- ◆ 9 would be reported later when data was available
- ◆ 5 were contextual and provided a health check for South Lanarkshire

Of the 74 improvement actions within the SDCCS:-

- ◆ 15 actions had been completed (blue)
- ◆ 40 had seen the timescale or target met according to expectations (green)
- ◆ 14 had seen some minor slippage against targets (amber)
- ◆ 2 had seen major slippage against targets (red)
- ◆ 3 would be reported later when data was available

The 2 red improvement actions related to household waste and recycling issues and were as a result of the Covid pandemic and the consequent high staff absence levels in the Service. There were also 14 amber improvement measures that had seen minor slippage. 7 of those were as a result of Covid-19 restrictions or reprioritisation of resources to continue service delivery during the pandemic. Details were provided on management actions taken to ensure there was no further slippage in respect of the 7 amber improvement measures that had seen minor slippage which was not related to Covid.

Progress on all objectives, actions and measures was detailed in the Quarter 4 performance report for 2021/2022, attached as an appendix to the report.

There followed a 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 2 February 2022 (Paragraph3)]

6 Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy 2017 to 2022 Achievements Report

A report dated 22 August 2022 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on key achievements of the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy 2017 to 2022.

The Council's Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy (SDCCS) had been approved by the Executive Committee on 6 December 2017 and covered the period 2017 to 2022. The Strategy set out outcomes and actions organised around the following 3 sustainable development themes:-

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

The Strategy had been successful in embedding climate change action and sustainability into all Resources' and Services' delivery. Its 5-year term had now ended, and a new Strategy, covering the period 2022 to 2027, had been approved at the full Council meeting on 15 June 2022. The new Strategy would build on the success and key achievements from the previous Strategy. Details of the key achievements of the Strategy over the 5 year period 2017 to 2022 were provided in the report.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of the Executive Committee of 6 December 2017 (Paragraph 2) and Minutes of South Lanarkshire Council of 15 June 2022 (Paragraph 6)]

7 Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy 2022 to 2027

A report dated 1 August 2022 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the development of the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy (SDCCS) 2022 to 2027.

In September 2020, the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee approved the development of the next SDCCS for the period 2022 to 2027. It was agreed that the Strategy should set out how the Council aimed to develop sustainably and tackle climate change over that period as well as providing a broad strategic direction for longer term planning to help to deliver on agreed outcomes and contribute to achieving the longer-term vision.

An internal workshop, 9 online community engagement focus groups and responses to an online survey helped shape the vision and themes of the Strategy. The Strategic Environment Assessment was finalised in January 2021 and, along with the draft SDCCS, was the subject of public consultation from 1 February to 15 March 2022.

All of the comments from the public consultation had been reviewed and, where appropriate, incorporated into the final draft, which was attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

Based on the significant engagement and consultation, as well as legislative requirements and national/local policy, a vision and mission statement, 4 themes and 13 priority/focus areas had been developed and those were detailed in the report. The themes had been aligned with the themes of the Council Plan.

The new Strategy would be web-based and published on the Council website. The content of the web-based pages would be reviewed every 6 months to ensure that it was as up-to-date and relevant as possible. Work would continue across the Council to develop the accompanying action plan which would be reviewed annually and reported to the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee on a 6-monthly basis.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 17 September 2020 (Paragraph 2) and Minutes of South Lanarkshire Council of 15 June 2022 (Paragraph 6)]

8 Carbon Emissions - Non-Domestic Buildings

A report dated 23 August 2022 by the Executive Director (Housing and Technical Resources) was submitted on:-

- ◆ the baseline carbon emissions for the Council's non-domestic operational property portfolio
- ◆ progress in the reduction of carbon emissions from non-domestic properties to date and actions required to achieve the Scottish Government target for public sector buildings to be "zero emissions" by 2038

It was considered that investment to meet the target requiring public sector non-domestic buildings to reduce emissions from heating to zero would be significant in terms of both capital and revenue. As fossil fuels were replaced by electrically powered solutions, the demand on the electricity grid would increase significantly which would have implications in terms of stability of supply.

In terms of the Council's carbon emissions baseline from non-domestic buildings, details were given on:-

- ◆ carbon emissions by building category
- ◆ carbon emissions from electricity and gas consumption respectively
- ◆ carbon emissions from changes in the Council's non-domestic portfolio
- ◆ other factors affecting carbon emissions

Due to the scale of investment required, a thorough assessment of service requirements would have to be undertaken to identify properties likely to be needed in the future and what carbon reductions could be achieved through repurposing, demolition or disposal.

Actions towards an investment plan would involve:-

2022/2023

- ◆ realigning existing programmes to fabric first
- ◆ undertaking 3 feasibility studies and reporting on recommendations
- ◆ commencing an area based asset review
- ◆ identifying a funding stream for options appraisals to be carried out on a building by building basis
- ◆ assessing the skills and resources required to deliver and implement the investment plan

2023/2024

- ◆ completing the area based asset review
- ◆ developing the first 3 year programme
- ◆ developing Local Heat and Energy Strategies (LHEES) and implementation plan

In response to a member's question, the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) advised that a report on the incorporation of sustainability into new build property would be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

9 Good Food Strategy Update – Quarter 4 2021/2022

A report dated 23 August 2022 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the Good Food Strategy actions and measures at Quarter 4 of 2021/2022.

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 21 performance measures towards the Strategy's outcomes together with 36 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 21 measures within the Strategy:-

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

Of the 36 actions within the Strategy:-

- ◆ 7 had been completed (blue)
- ◆ 26 had been achieved or were on course to be achieved (green)
- ◆ 0 had seen some minor slippage against targets (amber)
- ◆ 3 had seen major slippage against timescale or major shortfall against targets (red)
- ◆ 0 would be reported later when data was available

Further information on the performance measures and improvement actions categorised as red was provided in the report.

An update on other food related actions which had been developed but not included in the IMPROVe report, as the decision to implement them had been taken after approval of the 2021/2022 action plan, was provided and included:-

- ◆ the expansion of the Universal Free School Meals to primary 4 children
- ◆ the development of the Scottish Milk and Healthy Snack Scheme in nurseries
- ◆ summer session hubs which ran within 14 locations across South Lanarkshire for a period of 6 weeks, serving breakfast and lunch each day

Progress on all objectives, actions and measures was detailed in the Quarter 4 performance report for 2021/2022, attached as an appendix to the report.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 2 February 2022 (Paragraph 4)]

10 Food Growing Annual Report 2021/2022

A report dated 10 August 2022 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the Food Growing Annual Report 2021/2022 which had been published on the Council's website.

In accordance with legislative requirements, the Council had produced a Food Growing Strategy covering the period 2020 to 2025. The Council was required to publish its Food Growing Annual Report as soon as reasonably practical after the end of each reporting year. The Annual Report required to incorporate mandatory information, outlined by the Scottish Government, in relation to food growing.

The Annual Report for 2021/2022, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, detailed food growing activity and related financial information for the period April 2021 to March 2022.

Progress had been disrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic as the Council had been required to reduce and suspend a number of services following Government advice, however, work had continued where possible.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 26 May 2021 (Paragraph 3)]

11 Food Growing Sites – Hamilton Area

A report dated 10 August 2022 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on proposals for developing food growing sites in the Hamilton area.

Following the introduction of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, the Council's Food Growing Strategy was implemented in 2020. The Council was legislatively required to increase food growing to meet waiting list demands and currently provided 6 Council managed sites.

As a result of higher demand in East Kilbride and Cambuslang and Rutherglen, efforts to provide food growing sites had concentrated primarily in those areas. There was now, however, a reasonable level of demand in the Hamilton area and, due to the size and spread of the area, it was anticipated that 2 sites would be required, one to cover Hamilton, Blantyre and the surrounding area and the other to cover Hamilton, Larkhall and the surrounding area.

Sites had been identified as follows:-

- ◆ Chatelherault Country Park (former garden centre) which would accommodate around 60 to 90 plot holders
- ◆ land adjacent to Springwells Hall, Blantyre which would accommodate up to 70 plot holders

A sum of £200,000 had been ringfenced as part of the Food Strategy Fund and it was anticipated that this would be used for at least one of the sites identified in the Hamilton area. The development of a second site in the area would be dependent on additional funding being identified.

It was proposed that a formal planning application be submitted for each of the sites to establish whether additional conditions would be applied which could materially affect the cost of each development. This could potentially assist in determining which site was progressed first.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

12 Single Use Item Reductions

A report dated 22 August 2022 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted providing an update on efforts to reduce the procurement of single use items across the Council.

In addition to work undertaken from 2018 onwards to reduce or design out the use of single use items, the Council, in line with the Single-use Plastic Products (Scotland) Regulations 2021 which came into effect on 1 June 2022, had been actively replacing any single use plastic products affected by the legislation, such as food takeaway boxes, with products made from more sustainable materials.

Details were given on the reduction in use of targeted single use items, using 2017/2018 as a baseline year for most items, with some items using a 2018/2019 baseline. The outcome had been positive, however, some of the reductions were directly related to the suspension of some related Council services during the pandemic. In line with national trends, the use of single use PPE, as a result of Covid, had increased.

Work would continue to raise awareness of the need to reduce reliance on single use items and to ensure that they were disposed of properly.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

13 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.