

CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held via Microsoft Teams on 3 November 2021

Chair:

Councillor John Ross (ex officio)

Councillors Present:

Councillor Alex Allison, Councillor John Anderson, Councillor John Bradley, Councillor Maureen Chalmers (Depute), Councillor Gerry Convery, Councillor Peter Craig, Councillor Maureen Devlin, Councillor Isobel Dorman, Councillor Joe Fagan, Councillor Lynsey Hamilton, Councillor Ian Harrow, Councillor Mark Horsham, Councillor Richard Lockhart, Councillor Eileen Logan, Councillor Katy Loudon, Councillor Monique McAdams, Councillor Mark McGeever (*substitute for Councillor Robert Brown*), Councillor Lynne Nailon, Councillor David Shearer, Councillor Josh Wilson

Councillors' Apologies:

Councillor Robert Brown, Councillor Margaret Cooper, Councillor Allan Falconer, Councillor Joe Lowe, Councillor Jim McGuigan, Councillor Gladys Miller, Councillor Jared Wark

Attending:

Community and Enterprise Resources

M McGlynn, Executive Director; E Berry, Policy Officer; L Hinshelwood, Sustainable Development Officer; L Maddison, Biodiversity Officer; A McAuley, Team Leader, Planning and Building Standards Services; A McKinnon, Head of Facilities, Waste and Ground Services; C Park, Head of Roads and Transportation Services; J Richmond, Carbon Management Officer; M Wilkie, Performance and Policy Development Manager

Finance and Corporate Resources

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

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 25 August 2021 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 2020/2021

A report dated 13 October 2021 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the Council's Climate Change Duties 2020/2021, as legally required under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.

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.

The Bill replaced the emissions targets set in the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, however, 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.

The Committee decided: that the Council's statutory Climate Change Duties report for 2020/2021 be approved for submission to the Scottish Government.

4 Scottish Government Consultation on Scottish Building Regulations: Proposed Changes to Energy Standards and Associated Topics, Including Ventilation, Overheating and Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure

A report dated 13 October 2021 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the Scottish Government's consultation on proposed changes to energy standards and associated topics, including ventilation, overheating and Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure.

In July 2021, the Scottish Government published a consultation:-

- ◆ setting out proposals to support the transition to low and zero emissions heat solutions
- ◆ seeking views on separate proposals for electric vehicle charging provision in new buildings and those subject to major renovation
- ◆ addressing changes to ventilation provision arising from improved energy standards
- ◆ setting out plans for assessment and mitigation of overheating risks in new houses and residential buildings and improving compliance with energy standards

The consultation paper posed questions on the following topics:-

- ◆ energy (new buildings) - 19 questions covering an uplift in standards for new buildings, amendments to calculation methodology and enhancements to the requirements for airtightness testing
- ◆ energy (all buildings) - 12 questions covering requirements related to work on existing buildings
- ◆ ventilation - 9 questions to provide greater clarity on the appropriateness of certain ventilation systems and improvements to the requirements for background ventilation
- ◆ overheating risk in new houses and other residential buildings - 6 questions on the proposed assessment of overheating risks in new buildings
- ◆ improving and demonstrating compliance – 4 questions seeking feedback on how to improve compliance of new building work

- ♦ electric vehicle infrastructure – 6 questions on proposals for the introduction of electric vehicle charging infrastructure related to new and existing buildings

Proposals for electric vehicle charging points were detailed in the report. The Council's proposed response to the consultation was attached as Appendix 1 to the report. Generally, the Council was supportive of the proposals contained in each section of the consultation.

There followed a full discussion on the report during which:-

- ♦ officers responded to members' questions
- ♦ officers undertook to amend the consultation response to reflect members' comments regarding:-
 - ♦ support for provision of electric vehicle charging infrastructure at the point of construction
 - ♦ upgrade of infrastructure to ensure that power was available to meet the increasing demand for charging of electric vehicles
 - ♦ equitable accessibility to vehicle charging points to reduce instances where a charging point might be in use for longer than was necessary to charge a single vehicle
- ♦ Councillor McAdams expressed concern that no consultation had been undertaken with house builders in the area in formulating the consultation response. In response, officers advised that it was open to the development sector to make its own submission to the consultation

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the overview of the consultation on proposed changes to Energy Standards and associated topics be noted; and
- (2) that the proposed Council response, incorporating the suggested amendments, be approved for submission to the Scottish Government by 26 November 2021.

Councillor Dorman entered the meeting during consideration of this item of business

5 Active Travel – Feasibility of Bike Hire Scheme, Community Engagement and Provision of eBike Infrastructure

A report dated 12 October 2021 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on active travel projects, the introduction of a bike hire scheme, community engagement and the provision of eBike (electric bikes) infrastructure.

At its meeting on 10 March 2021, the Council agreed that a report be submitted to this Committee on:-

- ♦ work which had already been undertaken on active travel and ongoing cycling infrastructure projects
- ♦ the status of the Glasgow "Next Bike" contract and the feasibility of joining
- ♦ suggestions on how community consultation work on the future of cycling in South Lanarkshire could be taken forward
- ♦ how availability and use of electric bikes might be significantly expanded

Details were given on:-

- ◆ existing active travel infrastructure projects
- ◆ recent and ongoing active travel infrastructure projects including:-
 - ◆ construction of an integrated cycle network in East Kilbride
 - ◆ purchase of cycle monitoring equipment
 - ◆ identifying cycle parking provision in town centres
 - ◆ provision of cycle/scooter parking at schools
 - ◆ preliminary design of cycle routes at a number of locations within South Lanarkshire
 - ◆ implementation of car free zones at 2 primary schools
 - ◆ action to address “pinch points” on proposed routes emerging from the East Kilbride Active Travel Study
 - ◆ provision of additional space for those walking, cycling and wheeling to school
- ◆ the position regarding the bike hire scheme and the proposal to give consideration to commissioning an external consultant to review a previous study to:-
 - ◆ consider whether a bike hire scheme would be successful across South Lanarkshire
 - ◆ assess potential demand
 - ◆ consider whether joining with a neighbouring authority such as Glasgow City Council would be a preferred route for such an initiative
- ◆ community engagement and consultation proposed or undertaken
- ◆ the increasing use of ebikes and the provision of facilities for their use

Currently, no funding had been identified for the review of the bike hire scheme study.

Funding for projects in 2021/2022, as outlined in the appendix to the report, might require to be revised as projects were completed or refined.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that existing and recent/ongoing active travel and cycling infrastructure projects be noted;
- (2) that the status of Glasgow City Council bike hire scheme and potential for extension into South Lanarkshire be noted;
- (3) that, subject to funding being identified, arrangements be made to update the previous study into a potential Bike Hire Scheme in Rutherglen, Cambuslang and East Kilbride areas to cover all areas in South Lanarkshire;
- (4) that the previous, ongoing, and proposed community engagement in relation to active travel/cycling projects be noted; and
- (5) that the eBike (electric bikes) infrastructure and expansion be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of South Lanarkshire Council of 10 March 2021 (Paragraph 9)]

Councillor Dorman left the meeting following consideration of this item of business

6 Development of a Litter Strategy - Update

A report dated 13 October 2021 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted providing an update on the preparation of the Litter Strategy covering the period 2022 to 2027.

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
- ◆ encourage awareness, behaviour change and personal responsibility
- ◆ work in partnership with different communities and community groups
- ◆ meet 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. The next steps in the preparation of the Strategy, together with an updated timetable for implementation, were also detailed in the report.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the progress on the proposed plan for the development of the Litter Strategy 2022 to 2027 be noted; and
- (2) that the revised timescales for the development of the Litter Strategy 2022 to 2027 be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 10 February 2021 (Paragraph 6)]

7 Nature Restoration Fund

A report dated 13 October 2021 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the Nature Restoration Fund.

The Scottish Government's newly established Nature Restoration Fund (NRF) provided £5 million of capital funding to local authorities to support new, or to enhance existing, approaches to restoring biodiversity. The Council's allocation of this funding amounted to £0.264 million which required to be spent in 2021/2022. The approaches required to adhere to the following criteria:-

- ◆ deliver positive effects for biodiversity and enhance local ecosystems
- ◆ address the climate emergency and its impacts through mitigation and adaptation and by promoting nature based solutions
- ◆ promote the health and wellbeing of local communities and reduce inequalities

The following 6 main themes had been identified for project delivery which aligned to actions and objectives within the Biodiversity Plan:-

- ◆ peatland and wetland management and development
- ◆ local nature reserve management and development
- ◆ enhanced canopy cover
- ◆ outdoor education
- ◆ development of management plans and feasibility studies
- ◆ planting for pollinators

Details were given on:-

- ◆ broad areas of spend for the fund
- ◆ types of work being considered
- ◆ sites for which plans were being developed

In addition to the £0.264 million allocated by the Scottish Government, the Climate Change and Sustainability Steering Group had agreed to allocate a further £0.146 million from the Climate Change Challenge Fund. Given the nature of the works and the timescale in which to achieve spend, it was considered appropriate to keep the works in house and, as a result, 40 seasonal staff had been retained for a 10 week period to undertake the agreed works.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

8 Community Grants - Climate Emergency Fund and Food Strategy Support Fund

A report dated 13 October 2021 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the Council's plans for the launch of the Climate Emergency Fund and Food Strategy Support Fund community grants schemes.

The 2021/2022 Revenue Budget, approved at the Council meeting held on 24 February 2021, included a package of investments totalling £10.054 million, of which £2 million was allocated for a Climate Emergency Fund and £0.300 million for a Food Strategy Support Fund. It was proposed that £0.150 million of the Climate Emergency Fund and £0.020 million of the Food Strategy Support Fund be set aside to allow community groups to submit bids to develop projects and initiatives aligned to those funding streams.

It was proposed that:-

- ◆ £0.075 million from the Climate Emergency Fund and £0.010 million from the Food Strategy Support Fund be allocated in 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 for project bids
- ◆ the formal bidding process commence in January each year
- ◆ groups would be able to apply for funding of up to £2,500 and £1,000 respectively
- ◆ maximum bid values be reviewed in 2022/2023 to ensure that they were reflective of potential bids for 2023/2024

The scheme would be promoted through social media, emails to community groups, community councils and with the help of partners.

Details were given on the application and assessment process. The Development Officer (Sustainable Development Funding) would:-

- ◆ be responsible for administering the fund
- ◆ work with the Corporate Communications Team to develop promotional material in advance of the launch date in January 2022
- ◆ assess, in the first year of the fund, whether a cut off period was required in terms of bid submissions

Applications for funding would be referred to the Climate Change and Sustainability Steering Group for approval.

The Committee decided: that the launch of the community grants schemes, as detailed in the report, be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of South Lanarkshire Council of 24 February 2021 (Paragraph 2)]

9 Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy 2022 to 2027 – Update

A report dated 13 October 2021 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the development of the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy and public consultation on the proposed vision, themes, and priorities.

As part of the development of the Strategy, community engagement and public consultation took place involving:-

- ◆ focus groups
- ◆ a survey to South Lanarkshire residents
- ◆ development workshops

As a result, a proposed vision, themes and priority/focus areas had been defined and those were detailed in the report. Appendices 1 and 2 to the report respectively, provided a more detailed explanation of the themes and priority/focus areas. It was proposed to undertake public consultation, in the form of an online survey, on the vision, themes and priority/focus areas of the Strategy which would be accompanied by consultation on the Strategic Environmental Assessment as, legally, consultation was required on both together. It was proposed that consultation take place from the end of November to the end of December 2021.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 25 August 2021 (Paragraph 3)]

10 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.