

# CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held via Microsoft Teams on 26 May 2021

## **Chair:**

Councillor John Ross

## **Councillors Present:**

Councillor Alex Allison, Councillor John Anderson, Councillor John Bradley, Councillor Robert Brown, Councillor Maureen Chalmers, Councillor Gerry Convery, Councillor Margaret Cooper, Councillor Peter Craig, Councillor Isobel Dorman, Councillor Joe Fagan, Councillor Allan Falconer, Councillor Lynsey Hamilton, Councillor Ian Harrow, Councillor Richard Lockhart, Councillor Eileen Logan, Councillor Katy Loudon, Councillor Monique McAdams, Councillor Hugh Macdonald (*substitute for Councillor Jim McGuigan*), Councillor Gladys Miller, Councillor Lynne Nailon, Councillor David Shearer, Councillor Jim Wardhaugh, Councillor Jared Wark, Councillor Josh Wilson

## **Councillors' Apologies:**

Councillor Stephanie Callaghan, Councillor Maureen Devlin, Councillor Joe Lowe, Councillor Jim McGuigan

## **Attending:**

### **Community and Enterprise Resources**

M McGlynn, Executive Director; L Carr, Amenity Services Manager; D Gibson, Fleet Manager, Land and Fleet Services; A McKinnon, Head of Facilities, Waste and Ground Services; J Richmond, Carbon Management Officer; C Waltho, Project Development 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

### **Housing and Technical Resources**

D Lowe, Executive Director; J Read, Strategy Co-ordinator

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## **1 Declaration of Interests**

No interests were declared.

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## **2 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee held on 28 April 2021 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

Councillor McAdams referred to Item 7 of the minute in relation to Air Quality in South Lanarkshire and requested clarification of the Council's position on replicating, throughout the South Lanarkshire area, a project undertaken by the local community group Grow 73, which piloted the use of pollution fighting plants. Officers undertook to investigate the matter and, where appropriate, to report back to a future meeting of the Committee

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

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## **3 Food Growing Annual Report 2020/2021**

A report dated 10 May 2021 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the Food Growing Annual Report 2020/2021.

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, as follows:-

- ◆ the location and size of each allotment site and the number of plotholders
- ◆ details of leased sites, including the duration of the lease and the rent payable
- ◆ the rent payable for each allotment in the authority area and the way in which fair rents were calculated
- ◆ waiting list numbers, including how many applicants had been on the list for over 5 years
- ◆ steps taken to comply with the duty imposed and reasons for failure to comply
- ◆ disability access and details of adjustments requested
- ◆ income and expenditure

The Annual Report for 2020/2021, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, was the first produced by the Council and detailed food growing activity and related financial information for the period April 2020 to March 2021.

Details were given on the key points covered in the 2020/2021 Annual Report.

The Annual Report would be published electronically as part of the food growing storyboard and an overview of the legislative requirements and the mandatory information required to comply with Scottish Government guidance would also be provided.

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

**The Committee decided:**

- (1) that the report be noted;
- (2) that the Food Growing Annual Report 2020/2021 be approved and published in accordance with the Scottish Government's legislative requirements.

*[Reference: Minutes of 4 November 2020 (Paragraph 5)]*

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## **4 Strategic Energy Review Update**

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A joint report dated 7 May 2021 by the Executive Directors (Housing and Technical Resources) and (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted providing an update on progress in relation to the Strategic Energy Review.

In July 2015, a Council wide Strategic Energy Review was commissioned to further enhance the Council's commitment to sustainability. The scope of the review was to consider the range of low and zero carbon (LZC) technologies available that would benefit the Council, both in relation to energy or carbon output reduction and associated savings. The review focused on the following LZC technology options:-

- ◆ district heating networks for high rise domestic dwellings
- ◆ solar PV
- ◆ wind turbine generators across the vacant and derelict land portfolio

At its meeting on 4 November 2020, the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee agreed that a further phase of the Strategic Energy Review be undertaken. A specialist consultant, Changeworks, was appointed to assist in the review. In addition to the workstreams set out in the report to the 4 November 2020 Committee meeting, the terms of reference for the review had subsequently been refined to include commentary on and analysis of the Council's existing plans and strategies relating to improving energy efficiency and the decarbonisation of its estate and assets. This included the:-

- ◆ Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy
- ◆ Carbon Management Plan
- ◆ Local Housing Strategy

Changeworks would consult with representatives of each Resource to provide comment and advice on actions currently being taken together with recommendations on areas where additional actions should be considered.

The initial and final reports on the review were anticipated in early July and 6 August 2021 respectively, following which a report would be submitted to the Committee.

**The Committee decided:** that the report be noted.

*[Reference: Minutes of 4 November 2020 (Paragraph 9)]*

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## **5 Scottish Government Energy Efficiency and Decarbonisation Consultations**

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A joint report dated 30 April 2021 by the Executive Directors (Housing and Technical Resources) and (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the Council's consultation responses to the Scottish Government on the:-

- ◆ New Build Heat Standard
- ◆ Draft Heat in Buildings Strategy
- ◆ Net Zero Nation: Draft Public Engagement Strategy

As part of the Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019, the Scottish Government had set a target to reduce the country's emissions of all greenhouse gases to net zero by 2045, with interim targets requiring a 75% reduction by 2030 and 90% by 2040.

Since that target had been set, the Scottish Government had consulted on a number of new plans, standards and strategies which aimed to guide the national approach to achieving the target up to 2045.

Details were given on the consultation response summaries in relation to:-

- ◆ the proposed introduction of a New Build Heat Standard which would require all new buildings, both domestic and non-domestic, to have zero direct emission heating systems from 2024 onwards
- ◆ proposals for a draft Heat in Buildings Strategy which would outline the key steps that Scotland would take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from domestic buildings
- ◆ proposals for a Draft Public Engagement Strategy for engaging the people of Scotland in the transition to a net zero and climate ready nation

There followed a full discussion during which officers responded to members' questions on various aspects of the report. In response to an issue raised regarding the involvement of elected members in the consultation process, officers undertook, where possible, to circulate consultation documents to members to allow them to feed back their views prior to submission of responses to the relevant bodies.

**The Committee decided:** that the report be noted.

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## **6 Fleet Decarbonisation Report**

A report dated 7 May 2021 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the Fleet Decarbonisation report produced by the Energy Saving Trust for South Lanarkshire Council.

The Scottish Government's Programme for Government 2019/2020 stated the need to phase out petrol and diesel cars from the public sector fleet and phase out the need for any new petrol and diesel light commercial vehicles by 2025.

The Fleet Strategy, approved by the Executive Committee at its meeting on 24 June 2020, set out the way in which the Council aimed to embrace new technology within its fleet, support changes to working practices across the operational services and, through the replacement programme, work towards carbon reduction targets for the Council.

As part of the Switched-on-Fleets programme, the Energy Saving Trust produced a Fleet Decarbonisation Strategy for the Council based on key data on the existing fleet and the way in which services operated. The Executive Summary, Summary of Recommendations and terms and conditions were attached as an appendix to the Executive Director's report.

The Trust's recommended actions to the Council to further decarbonise its fleet included:-

- ◆ installing telematics in all vehicles to gather good quality data on vehicle use
- ◆ implementing a robust travel hierarchy which would reduce unnecessary journeys and encourage active travel, thereby encouraging people to avoid making journeys or to choose the mode of transport with the lowest CO2 emissions
- ◆ replacing all internal combustion engine (ICE) cars with zero emission vehicle (ZEV) alternatives at the next replacement cycle
- ◆ replacing all ICE light commercial vehicles (LCVs) with ZEV alternatives at the next replacement cycle
- ◆ downsizing fleet vehicles, where possible
- ◆ developing the financial plan for replacing all vehicles with ZEVs

Those actions were consistent with and supported the Fleet Strategy.

**The Committee decided:** that the report be noted.

*[Reference: Minutes of the Executive Committee of 24 June 2020 (Paragraph 11)]*

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## **7 Green Heat in Greenspaces Study**

A report dated 11 May 2021 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the findings of the Green Heat in Greenspaces study.

The Green Heat in Greenspaces (GHiGS) project was established by Greenspace Scotland, together with ParkPower, a Scotland wide programme exploring the contribution of urban green and blue (waterway) spaces to support Scotland's ambitions to decarbonise its energy system, and Ramboll, a multidisciplinary engineering, design and consultancy company. The research aimed specifically to identify the potential to use ground source heat pump and water source heat pump technology to provide heating for local public buildings and to contribute to district heat networks.

The research was conducted over a 7 month period from August 2020 to March 2021 and aimed to supply data and custom reports to Core Partners, including South Lanarkshire Council, as detailed in the appendix to the report, as well as conducting a high level analysis of results for Scotland as a whole.

The potential of urban green and blue spaces was a key component in the Council's Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES). The assessment of green and blue spaces across the council area showed the most promising urban greenspace sites for closed loop ground source heat pumps and settlements which were likely to offer significant potential for water source heat pumps.

In terms of the most promising opportunities:-

- ◆ of the top 20 greenspace sites capable of delivering short term emissions savings, 9 were in Hamilton, 5 in Cambuslang/Rutherglen, 2 in East Kilbride, 1 in Lesmahagow and 1 in Biggar
- ◆ of the top 20 greenspace sites capable of delivering long term emissions savings, 8 were in Hamilton. 8 in East Kilbride, 3 in Cambuslang/Rutherglen and 1 in Lanark
- ◆ a ranking of settlements according to their suitability for river water source heat pump projects showed that Hamilton, Kirkfieldbank, Crossford and Lanark were principal settlements

The findings and prioritised sites would inform the Council's LHEES and the Open Space Strategy.

**The Committee decided:** that the report be noted.

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## **8 Urgent Business**

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There were no items of urgent business.