

# Report

Report to:	<b>South Lanarkshire Council</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>23 June 2021</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)</b>

Subject:	<b>Climate Change and Sustainability Committee - Proposed Amendment to Terms of Reference</b>
----------	---

## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ♦ seek approval for a proposed amendment to the Terms of Reference of the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee

## 2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Council is to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the proposed amendment to the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee's Terms of Reference, as detailed at Section 4, be approved.

## 3. Background

3.1. Following endorsement by the Standards and Procedures Advisory Forum, the Terms of Reference for the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee were approved by the Council at its meeting held on 26 February 2020.

3.2. At its special meeting held on 24 February 2021, the Council agreed, as part of the budget setting process, to establish a fund that would enable the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee to prioritise match funding for external funding applications specifically linked to the UK and Scottish Governments' green economy and green jobs programmes. This was linked to the Council's ambition to become a net zero carbon authority and for South Lanarkshire to be an exemplar area where renewable technologies, industries and ultimately jobs were delivered.

## 4. Proposed Amendment

4.1. The current Terms of Reference for the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee does not permit the committee to take decisions in terms of investment and resources, however, it can endorse and make recommendations to the Executive Committee. Following discussions at the Executive Committee held on 26 May 2021, it was proposed that, in order to expedite the decision-making process, paragraph 1.12 of the existing Terms of Reference of the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee be amended to permit decisions to be taken on resources, only to the extent of that within the financial package which had previously been agreed by either the Executive Committee or the Council and through prior consultation with the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources). A revised Terms of Reference, highlighting the specific changes, is attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

## **5. Employee Implications**

- 5.1. There are no employee implications in terms of this report.

## **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1. There are no financial implications in terms of this report.

## **7. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications**

- 7.1. The proposals will be beneficial in ensuring matters in relation to climate change, sustainability and the environment are dealt with expeditiously.

## **7. Other Implications**

- 7.1. There are no implications in terms of risk.

## **8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

- 8.1. There was no requirement to carry out an Equality Impact Assessment or formal consultation process.

**Paul Manning**

**Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)**

27 May 2021

## **Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives**

- ♦ Accountable, effective, efficient and transparent

## **Previous References**

- ♦ Executive Committee of 26 May 2021
- ♦ South Lanarkshire Council of 24 February 2021 and 26 February 2020

## **List of Background Papers**

- ♦ None

## **Contact for Further Information**

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

Susan Somerville, Administration Manager

Ext: 4197 (Tel: 01698 454197)

E-mail: [susan.somerville@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:susan.somerville@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)

## Climate Change and Sustainability Committee

### Purpose

The purpose of the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee is to provide leadership, governance and scrutiny that will drive collaborative action across the Council in order to achieve the vision and outcomes set out in the climate change and sustainable development strategy and in becoming a net-zero Council.

### 1 Powers and Responsibilities

- 1.1. To approve actions, measures and timescales in the sustainable development and climate change strategy's annual action plan review and ensure these are implemented.
- 1.2. To provide a forum for reporting progress and scrutiny on the climate change and sustainable development strategy's action plan.
- 1.3. To ensure the Council complies with the Public Sector Climate Change duties and the Biodiversity Duty. This includes the Council meeting statutory reporting requirements on climate change and biodiversity.
- 1.4. To ensure the Council contributes to Scotland's commitment of embracing the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals.
- 1.5. To approve the Council's carbon reduction targets in line with national targets and provide a scrutiny function on meeting these targets.
- 1.6. To support the Council's membership of the Climate Ready Clyde partnership and the development and implementation of the City Region's first Climate Change and Adaptation Strategy and associated action plan.
- 1.7. To ensure that the principles of sustainable development and tackling climate change are embedded in Council plans, policies, strategies, programmes of work, service delivery and reviews.
- 1.8. To encourage innovative carbon reduction and climate change adaptation projects.
- 1.9. To be an advocate for sustainability and climate change across the Council, its committees and in the wider community.
- 1.10 To promote a place-based, collaborative approach to tackling climate change and sustainability issues which includes working with partners, the business community, third sector, trades unions, local citizens and other interested stakeholders.
- 1.11 To ensure the implementation of Strategic Environmental Assessments across the Council.
- ~~1.12 To make recommendations to the Executive Committee on the Council's climate change and sustainability activity, including investment, such as resources for research and development in the transition to net zero, and action to tackle the effects of climate change.~~
- 1.12 To approve, within the financial package as previously agreed by either the Executive Committee or Council and through prior consultation with the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources), the Council's climate change and sustainability activity, including investment, such as resources for research and development in the transition to net zero, and action to tackle the effects of climate change.
- 1.13 To make recommendations to the Executive Committee on climate change and sustainability policy issues.

## **2 Membership**

- 2.1 28 members, 2 of whom will be the Leader of the Council and Depute Leader of the Council. Appointments will be on the following basis: 1 Leader (ex officio); 11 SNP; 7 Labour; 5 Con; 3 Ind Group; 1 Lib Dem.
- 2.2 There will be provision for individual groups to substitute up to a maximum of 4 members
- 2.3 The committee will be chaired by the Leader of the Council.
- 2.4 The Depute Chair will be the Depute Leader of the Council.
- 2.4 Quorum – 7

## **3 Meeting Arrangements and Practice**

- 3.1 The Climate Change and Sustainability Committee will be held 4 times each financial year, immediately following the Executive Committee on the dates when there is no Council meeting scheduled.
- 3.2 Minutes of the meetings will be submitted to the next appropriate meeting of the Committee for approval as a correct record.