

Report

Report to: **Executive Committee**
Date of Meeting: **23 June 2021**
Report by: **Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)**

Subject: **Glasgow City Region Climate Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan**

1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ♦ seek the Council's endorsement for the adoption of the Glasgow City Region Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan, and
- ♦ agree to extend the funding commitment for Climate Ready Clyde to 2025/26.

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) South Lanarkshire Council endorses the Climate Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan, following approval at the City Region Cabinet meeting on 1 June 2021.
- (2) Extension of the funding commitment to Climate Ready Clyde for the next five years to support delivery of the Strategy and Action Plan is approved.

3. Background

- 3.1. The Council is a member of Climate Ready Clyde (CRC) which is a cross-sector initiative funded by fifteen member organisations, and supported by the Scottish Government, to create a shared vision, strategy and action plan to adapt to the impacts of climate change and build a climate-resilient Glasgow City Region.
- 3.2. The difference between climate mitigation strategies and climate adaptation strategies is that mitigation is aimed at tackling the causes – reducing greenhouse gas emissions - and minimising the possible impacts of climate change. Whereas adaptation seeks to reduce the negative effects it has on people, the economy and our natural environment and explore how to take advantage of any opportunities that arise.
- 3.3. Building resilience to the impacts of climate change is a key priority as the City Region seeks a green recovery. Achieving net zero is urgent and extreme weather events are already impacting Glasgow City Region. Some future climate impacts are now unavoidable, with impacts and costs increasing in the years ahead. Within that context

it is important that Council's and other stakeholders (e.g. Scottish Government, SEPA, Scottish Water) set out how we will collectively seek to adapt to these impacts and in essence this is what this adaptation strategy seeks to put in place.

- 3.4. Members may recall that a public consultation was undertaken on the draft adaptation strategy at the end of 2020 and the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee approved the Council's response to the consultation on 10 February 2021.
- 3.5. Following the consultation, the draft strategy was updated to take into account the consultation responses and was presented to the City Region Cabinet on 1 June 2021 for approval. The strategy was approved on the 1 June by the City Region Cabinet and then to be submitted for endorsement from partners at their respective committees/boards prior to the launch on the strategy planned for 29 June 2021. This matter would have naturally been reported back to the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee (CCSC) for consideration, however, the next meeting of the CCSC is not until 21 August 2021 which is after the launch. Therefore, due to the timing of the launch of the strategy, it was considered important that this matter was reported to Committee prior to the launch and it is on that basis that the Executive Committee is asked to endorse the strategy.
- 3.6. South Lanarkshire Council is a core partner of Climate Ready Clyde and has been since its inception. The Council has been fully involved in the development process of the strategy and action plan and all partners recognise the importance of a collaborative approach in adapting to the effects of climate change and have agreed to contribute to the delivery of the strategy and action plan.

4. Glasgow City Region Adaptation Strategy

- 4.1. The Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan for Glasgow City Region is designed to stimulate the region's adaptation action; it adopts a systemic approach and sets out initial actions which support the City Region's ambitions to flourish in a future climate. The Strategy's objectives are to:
 - ◆ Build the region's social, economic and environmental resilience to climate change
 - ◆ Outline the processes and early interventions needed to manage climate risks and realise opportunities in line with Climate Ready Clyde's vision and Theory of Change.
 - ◆ Provide a strategic framework for adaptation in and by the Glasgow City Region that fits alongside and supports key plans, policies, and activities to enable delivery.
 - ◆ Set out how Climate Ready Clyde, as an initiative, will deepen and expand collaboration and collective impact by working together and engaging, equipping, and enabling citizens and organisations to play their role in realising the vision.
 - ◆ Set out how progress in increasing climate resilience will be monitored, evaluated, and learnt from to improve policies, strategies, programmes, and projects.
- 4.2. The Strategy runs to 2030 and sets out 11 interventions – or aims – which provide comprehensive coverage of the entire range of sectors and risks across the city region. Each intervention contains a package of proposed activities designed to meet its aim.

The interventions span activities from building capacity and enabling adaptation to deliver physical changes, and are set out below:

Interventions

1. Reform and reshape governance mechanisms so they respond to adaptation needs, nurture new leadership and create expectations in society.
2. Develop the ability of organisations, businesses and communities to adapt.
3. Increase adaptation finance through leverage and innovation.
4. Enable and equip individuals and communities to participate in adaptation, focusing on the most vulnerable.
5. Embed reflection, monitoring, evaluation and learning into adaptation action.
6. Adapt the Clyde corridor for the twenty-second century.
7. Enhance early warning and preparedness for floods and heatwaves.
8. Ensure everyone's homes, offices, buildings and infrastructure are resilient to future climate impacts.
9. Deliver nature-based solutions for resilient, blue-green ecosystems, landscapes and neighbourhoods.
10. Enhance regional decision-making and establish Glasgow City Region as a global research and knowledge hub for adaptation.
11. Begin the transition to an economy resilient to future climate impacts.

- 4.3. The Strategy also outlines five place-based priorities for adaptation. These have been identified based on an assessment of concentrations of hazards, economic assets, and those most vulnerable to climate change:

◆ The Clyde River corridor

A national economic asset, which is also home to a significant number of people who are disproportionately affected by flooding. It is also an area with significant concentration of river, surface water and coastal flood risk, and erosion, and so we must balance the development opportunity being brought forward by Clyde Mission with the need for resilience.

◆ New priority development sites

The wider sites set out in the indicative Regional Spatial Strategy, including the major regeneration of Ravenscraig in North Lanarkshire, Eurocentral / Mossend and the Forth and Clyde Canal.

◆ Strategic Economic Investment Locations (SEILs)

These locations offer potential for a rebalanced low carbon economy, boosting competitiveness and tackling inequality. They also promote the Scottish Government's key economic sectors and Scottish Enterprise's locational priorities. The large scale, long-term investment planned to achieve these outcomes means they have a high potential to lock in future climate risks.

◆ The coast

Erosion, accretion and sea level rise will alter their shape and form significantly in places like Dumbarton, Greenock and Gourock.

◆ Urban and town centres

The centre of Glasgow and town centres are vital to the regional economy, but they are also heat islands. In future, the concentration of urban development is likely to be more affected by rising temperatures and heatwaves. There is also a significant opportunity to weave adaptation and mitigation work together within pre-planned

large scale infrastructure changes, such as in the Innovation Districts or Town Centre Regeneration programmes.

- 4.4. The Strategy has been developed to provide global leadership on adaptation given its prominence in the UN Climate Change Negotiations (COP26) taking place in Glasgow later this year. The Strategy majors on three of the five key themes of COP26 – adaptation and resilience, finance, and nature-based solutions.

5. Strategic Action Plan

- 5.1. Alongside the Strategy, the document includes a Strategic Action Plan which covers the period 2021-2025. A copy of the strategy can be found using the link to the City Regional Cabinet papers. [Glasgow City Region Adaptation Strategy](#).
- 5.2. The Action Plan has 16 Flagship Actions. These are large scale, strategic and high-ambition actions where there is strong consensus on the need for progress, and a recognition of the whole systems approach that is required to address core, underlying challenges. Each Flagship Action helps to deliver multiple interventions in the Strategy.

Flagship Actions

1. Local authorities in the region working together to build capabilities and deliver collaborative adaptation	9. Roadmap to an adaptation forum on infrastructure and utilities
2. Communities shaping climate-ready places	10. Private sector challenge for a climate resilient economy
3. Increasing community agency in adaptation processes through culture and creative practice	11. Clyde Adaptation Mission
4. Clyde Climate Forest	12. Regional investment pipeline and adaptation finance lab
5. A multi-hazard climate warning alert system	13. Independent expert advisory committee on adaptation and climate resilience
6. Climate resilient design principles and guidelines	14. Climate resilience embedded into the Regional Economic Strategy and Regional Spatial Strategy
7. Net-zero, climate resilient housing retrofit	15. Climate resilience integrated into regional supply chains and procurement
8. Regional transport climate resilience group	16. International leadership: Race to Resilience and TCFD supporters' initiative

- 5.3. In addition to the Flagship Actions, partners have identified wider contributions that support and complement these actions, and, to some extent, demonstrate that partners are already putting in place actions/frameworks to address climate change issues. For the Council, these wider contributions are summarised below and have already been approved by the Council and incorporated in existing Council plans and strategies:

Wider contributions

- ◆ Support the delivery the Clyde and Loch Lomond (CaLL) Local Flood Risk Management Plan (LFRMP)
- ◆ Integrate climate mitigation and adaptation in South Lanarkshire's Open Space Strategy
- ◆ Climate mitigation and adaptation will be further integrated in South Lanarkshire's spatial planning
- ◆ Implementation of South Lanarkshire's Biodiversity Strategy
- ◆ Adaptation research on our natural environment through Strathclyde University
- ◆ Further integrate climate mitigation and adaptation in procurement processes
- ◆ Enhance food-system resilience from the impacts of climate change
- ◆ Further enhance the energy efficiency and climate resilience of the Council's building stock
- ◆ Integrate climate adaptation and resilience into Council decision-making processes
- ◆ Raise awareness, communicate and showcase climate mitigation and adaptation across South Lanarkshire and help people to engage
- ◆ Development and implementation of the Council's next sustainable development and climate change strategy 2022-2027

6 Summary and Next Steps

6.1. The purpose, objectives and aims of the Glasgow City Region Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan are consistent with the Council's consideration and ambitions to contribute to addressing climate change impacts. Whilst the strategy, by its nature, is a high-level plan, it does provide the necessary framework for all partners to work collectively and, from this, provide a basis to bring forward project interventions. On this basis, it is considered that it is appropriate for the Committee to endorse the strategy and action plan.

6.2. In terms of next steps the following points are highlighted:-

- ◆ The strategy and action plan is being prepared for publication at a launch event on 29 June 2021
- ◆ The objectives of the strategy are mainstreamed across the Council's decision making and service delivery and that climate adaptation will be pursued in parallel and with the same importance as the Council's commitment to climate mitigation.
- ◆ The flagship actions and wider contribution to the strategy will inform the Council's Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy that is currently being updated.

7. Employee Implications

7.1. Contribution to the delivery of the flagship actions and wider contributions will be from existing resources, however work is underway to recruit additional posts to assist with the Council's commitments to addressing climate change. These additional posts were approved by the Executive Committee on 26 May 2021.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1. Delivering the Strategy and Action Plan will require increased public funding in the years ahead. It is important to note that these costs, whilst significant, will, in all likelihood, be significantly less than the costs of climate impacts.
- 8.2. No detailed costs have been produced for each of the interventions, or flagship actions, since their precise scale, scope, and the parties working on them have yet to be agreed. Instead, partners will need to individually and collectively develop business cases and allocate their resources accordingly. Capital budgets will need to factor in both climate mitigation and adaptation costs.
- 8.3. The Council is also being asked to continue its financial support to the partnership, through to 2025/26, this will allow for the secretariat support in the implementation, monitoring and reporting of the strategy. The current partnership contribution is £9,500 per annum, therefore, the approximate cost over the next 5 years will be £47,500 which will be met from existing budgets

9. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 9.1. The development of the Adaption Strategy and Action Plan will be key in shaping the development of the Council's next sustainable development and climate change strategy. Being part of CRC helps the Council fulfil part of the public sector climate change duties.

10. Other Implications

- 10.1. Failure to build resilience against the impacts of a changing climate is included in one of the Council's top risks. The development of the adaptation strategy and action plan is a mitigation measures of this risk.

11. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 11.1. As part of the consultation of the draft Adaptation Strategy, the Council jointly hosted an online consultation event, on 11 December 2020, with CRC and North Lanarkshire Council for local Lanarkshire stakeholders.

Michael McGlynn

Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

15 June 2021

Link(s) to Council Objectives and Values

Work with communities and partners to promote high quality, thriving and sustainable communities.

Previous References

- ◆ Report to the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee on 10th February 2021 – Climate Ready Clyde draft adaptation strategy consultation response
- ◆ Report to the City Region Cabinet on Glasgow City Region's Climate Adaptation Strategy on the 1 June
- ◆ Report to the Executive Committee approving additional staffing from the Climate Change South Lanarkshire Fund on the 26 May 2021

List of Background Papers

- ◆ Public Sector Climate Change Duties

Contact for Further Information

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

Lesley Hinshelwood, Sustainable Development Officer

Ext: 4610 (Tel: 01698 454610)

E-mail: lesley.hinshelwood@southlanarkshire.gov.uk