

# Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee

10am, Tuesday 8 November 2016

## Sustainable Edinburgh 2020 Annual Report 2015/16

Item number	7.4
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	All

### Executive summary

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Committee is asked to approve this report, which sets out a position statement on Sustainable Edinburgh 2020 (SE2020), notes challenges and opportunities and recommends next steps.

Considerable progress has been made in embedding sustainability throughout the city through the work of the Edinburgh Sustainable Development Partnership and the setting up of a citywide sustainability website called [Sustainable Edinburgh](#).

### Links

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Coalition pledges	P8, P11, P15, P17, P19, P23, P24, P25, P28, P32, P33, P40, P43, P45, P46, P47, P48, P49, P50, P51, P52, P53
Council outcomes	All
Single Outcome Agreement	

## Sustainable Edinburgh 2020 Annual Report 2015/16

### Recommendations

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- 1.1 To note the position statement in Appendix 1 and key actions for 2016/17.
- 1.2 To note the significant progress made by the Edinburgh Sustainable Development Partnership (ESDP) in promoting a partnership approach to achieving the aims of a Sustainable Edinburgh 2020.
- 1.3 To note the establishment of a stand-alone Sustainable Edinburgh website to promote and capture the sustainability work that is being carried out across the city.
- 1.4 To note progress made moving towards integrating Sustainable Edinburgh 2020 into the new Local Outcome Improvement Plan which will be based on the three pillars of sustainability: economy, society and environment.

### Background

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#### **Sustainable Edinburgh 2020**

- 2.1 In 2011 the Council approved 'Sustainable Edinburgh 2020' (SE2020), a strategic framework setting out the aims, objectives and targets for the sustainable development of the Council and the city up to 2020. The first annual report on implementing SE2020 was approved by Committee in April 2013 and focused on Council activities only. In 2013 the Edinburgh Sustainable Development Partnership (ESDP) adopted SE2020 as its strategic sustainable development framework. The second and third annual reports, approved by Committee, reported on Council activity and citywide projects led by the ESDP partners.
- 2.2 Over the past year, the ESDP has been working towards embedding sustainability throughout the city through the establishment of the Sustainable Edinburgh website. In March 2016, the ESDP agreed that the SE2020 Annual report become a 'living report' going forward. The Sustainable Edinburgh website provides the opportunity to showcase best practice through the uploading of public sector, higher and further education sector, business, community and third sector case studies and provides a more holistic approach to representing a whole city approach to sustainability.

## Main report

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- 3.1 This year marks a transition in reporting on progress towards achieving a Sustainable Edinburgh 2020. The establishment of a dedicated Sustainable Edinburgh website means that through the uploading of case studies and sustainability events, progress can be on a continuous basis. This also provides a more holistic approach by highlighting the wide range of sustainability activities and best practice that is happening in the city.
- 3.2 Each case study lists the pillars of sustainability that the project encompasses, that is, economy, environment and/or society, what Aalborg Commitments the project achieves and what locality the project is based in.
- 3.3 The position statement (Appendix 1) sets out where the Council currently is with respect to sustainability. The last six months have seen major change across the organisation with fundamental review of services and new management structures. As result the collation of information for the Council's contribution to the city's SE2020 report has been limited.
- 3.4 However key work areas have continued and despite all the change that has taken place there have been significant achievements.

### **Key city-level sustainable development achievements 2015/16**

- 3.5 These high level achievements over the past year reflect the trend towards addressing complex citywide issues collaboratively, without diminishing the efforts individual organisations across the city are making to improve their own performance. Highlights include:
  - Progress in implementing the [Sustainable Energy Action Plan](#);
  - A successful citywide engagement exercise to develop an adaptation action plan through the [Edinburgh Adapts](#) project which was approved at Transport and Environment Committee (August 2016);
  - Continuing progress in achieving a sustainable food city through the [Edible Edinburgh](#) partnership initiative; and
  - The approval of a new [Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Plan 2016-18](#) for the city.

### **Key Council sustainable development achievements 2015/16**

- 3.6 Highlights include:
  - the Corporate Sustainability Group ("CSG"), has been restructured and is now chaired by the Director of Place,
  - discussions are taking place to merge the SAM (Sustainability, Adaptation, Mitigation) e-tool (to evidence compliance with the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 with an equalities assessment tool;

- SE2020 indicators have been aligned with the Community Plan Performance Framework to increase efficiency by reducing duplication of effort;
- Progress has been made on developing a new [Open Space Strategy 2021](#)

### Challenges for 2016/17

3.7 Key challenges for the Council as an organisation are set out below.

- Leadership and buy-in from Corporate Leadership Team (CLT) and senior managers on the culture change necessary to embed sustainable development in standard business practice to increase efficiency and effectiveness of Council operations.
- Consideration of the Climate Change Public Bodies Duties from the outset and at all subsequent stages of major initiatives including the transformation programme, infrastructure and planning projects (e.g. mainstreaming the use of SAM);
- Establishing a process to collate annual data on energy consumption, carbon emissions and relevant current and future project activity for the Scottish Government of mandatory reporting on the Public Bodies Duties.

### Opportunities for 2016/17

3.8 At a time of transition in the organisation opportunities present that will help the Council work on its sustainable development challenges:

- Sustainability is included as a key programme in the Transformation Team's work plan going forward

### Priorities for 2016/17

3.9 Six actions to progress the city's sustainable development over the coming year are proposed in the SE2020 Annual Report, with an outline Work Programme listing key tasks for ESDP partners. The implications for the City of Edinburgh Council as a partner are as follows.

SE2020 Action	Role of the City of Edinburgh Council
ESDP Work Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the ESDP providing the Secretariat function;</li> </ul>
Carbon Metrics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participate in sub-group to deliver this action</li> <li>• Ensure alignment with the SEAP, the Council's CMP and the Council's mandatory report on its compliance with the Climate Change Act</li> </ul>
Adaptation Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participate in sub-group to deliver this action</li> <li>• Ensure alignment with the Council's adaptation actions,</li> </ul>

	including the Asset Management Strategy and Asset Transfer Policy
Internal Engagement on Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Align Council's Business Plan with the Sustainable Development Goals;</li> <li>The establish of the Strategy And Insight function will ensure a robust approach to sustainability in all Council activities and specifically this will be led by the Transformation and Business Change team.</li> </ul>
City-wide Engagement on Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share good practice examples with and learn from partner organisations</li> <li>Support engagement activity on the development of a new City Vision that has sustainability at its core</li> </ul>
Community Plan 2018/21 Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborate with the CP Secretariat and EP Board to embed the principles of sustainable development into the early stages of development of the next CP</li> </ul>

## Measures of success

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- 4.1 Council's delivery against the Capital Coalition pledge commitments and SE2020 objectives, specifically to reduce citywide carbon emissions by 42% by the end of 2019/20.
- 4.2 Council's ability to meet national mandatory Public Bodies Duties reporting requirements annually.
- 4.3 City's reputation as a thriving, successful and sustainable capital city.

## Financial impact

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- 5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

## Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

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- 6.1 By implementing the recommendations in this report the Council is mitigating the risks associated with non-compliance with statutory requirements, specifically the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.
- 6.2 In addition, the Council is ensuring that it is taking appropriate action to deliver adopted strategies and policies.

## Equalities impact

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- 7.1 Equality and rights are a key component of the SE2020 Strategy and the recommendations proposed in this report will improve the Council's ability to deliver the public sector equality duty.

## Sustainability impact

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- 8.1 The impacts of this report in relation to the three elements of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 Public Bodies Duties have been considered. In summary, the proposals in this report will help achieve a sustainable Edinburgh because they improve governance of Council action to reduce carbon emissions, increase the city's resilience to climate change impacts and improve social justice, economic wellbeing and environmental good stewardship.

## Consultation and engagement

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- 9.1 Due to resource and time constraints extensive engagement and consultation across the organisation has not taken place to collate Council projects delivering sustainability outcomes.

## Background reading/external references

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[Sustainable Edinburgh](#)

[Sustainable Edinburgh 2020](#)

[Sustainable Edinburgh 2020 Annual Report 2012-13](#)

[Sustainable Edinburgh 2020 Annual Report 2013-14](#)

[Resilient Edinburgh](#)

[Sustainable Energy Action Plan](#)

[Edinburgh Sustainable Development Partnership](#)

[Edible Edinburgh: A Sustainable Food City Action – Progress Report](#)

[Sustainable Edinburgh 2020: Action Plan, Policy and Strategy Committee, 27 March 2012](#)

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### Coalition pledges

P8 - Make sure the city's people are well-housed, including encouraging developers to build residential communities, starting with brown-field sites.

P11 - Encourage the development of co-operative housing arrangements.

P15 - Work with public organisations, the private sector and social enterprise to promote Edinburgh to investors.

P17 - Continue efforts to develop the city's gap sites and encourage regeneration.

P19 - Keep Lothian Buses in public hands and encourage the improvement of routes and times

P23 - Identify unused Council premises to offer on short low-cost lets to small businesses, community groups and other interested parties.

P24 - Maintain and embrace support for our world-famous festivals and events.

P28 - Further strengthen our links with the business community by developing and implementing strategies to promote and protect the economic well being of the city.

P32 - Develop and strengthen local community links with the police.

P33 - Strengthen Neighbourhood Partnerships and further involve local people in decisions on how Council resources are used

P40 - Work with Edinburgh World Heritage Trust and other stakeholders to conserve the city's built heritage.

P43 - Invest in healthy living and fitness advice for those most in need.

P45 - Spend 5% of the transport budget on provision for cyclists.

P46 - Consult with a view to extending the current 20mph traffic zones

P47 - Set up a city-wide Transport Forum of experts and citizens to consider our modern transport needs.

P48 - Use Green Flag and other strategies to preserve our green spaces.

P49 - Continue to increase recycling levels across the city and reducing the proportion of waste going to landfill.

P50 - Meet greenhouse gas targets, including the national target of 42% by 2020.

P51 - Investigate the possible introduction of low emission zones.

P52 - Oppose industrial biomass incineration in Edinburgh.

P53 - Encourage the development of Community Energy Cooperatives.

### Council outcomes

All

### Single Outcome Agreement

### Appendices

Appendix 1 – Sustainable Edinburgh 2020 – Position Statement

## **SUSTAINABLE EDINBURGH 2020 - Position Statement**

### **Background**

In 2011, the Council approved “Sustainable Edinburgh 2020” (SE2020), a strategic framework setting out the aims, objectives and targets for the sustainable development of the Council and the city to 2020.

The Vision for Sustainable Edinburgh 2020 is that:

"Edinburgh in 2020 will be a low carbon, resource efficient city, delivering a resilient local economy and vibrant flourishing communities in a rich natural setting."

An initial two year action plan was approved in by Council Committee in March 2012. It identified priority Council programmes to implement the Framework. A first annual report on progress was approved by Committee in April 2013, and focused on Council activities only. The Edinburgh Sustainable Development Partnership (ESDP) was formed in December 2013 and adopted SE2020 as its strategic sustainable development framework. Subsequent reports reflected this change by reporting on both Council and citywide activity and projects.

### **Current position**

SE2020 is based on the ten Aalborg Commitments, which set out ten key areas for action on sustainable development. In July 2015, the First Minister announced that the Scottish Government would adopt the UN's new [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDG), which came into force on 1 January 2016. The SDGs are an inter-governmentally agreed set of global high level targets (17) that aim to tackle key systematic barriers to sustainable development. They cover social, economic and environmental aspects of sustainability.

A new reporting duty was introduced from 2016 onwards under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009. The City of Edinburgh Council is a ‘Major Player’ under the terms of the Act and as such, has a statutory duty to report annually on progress towards meeting its Climate Change duties under the Public Bodies Duties section of the Act. Many members of the ESDP are also Major Players and will similarly be required to report their progress.

Over the past year, the ESDP has been working towards embedding sustainability throughout the city through the establishment of the Sustainable Edinburgh website. In March 2016, the ESDP agreed that the SE2020 Annual Report become a ‘living report’ going forward. The Sustainable Edinburgh website provides the opportunity to showcase best practice through the uploading of public sector, higher and further education sector, business, community and third sector case studies and reports. This provides a more holistic approach to representing a whole city approach to sustainability.

The launch of the ‘2050 Edinburgh City Vision’ aims to encompass the diverse needs of the city, ensuring it continues to thrive as a great place to live, work and visit. The

citywide engagement exercise will run until December. This provides an ideal opportunity to ensure the future direction of the city chimes with Sustainable Edinburgh 2020's vision of "a low carbon, resource efficient city, delivering a resilient local economy and vibrant flourishing communities in a rich natural setting."

### **Next Steps**

The Edinburgh Sustainable Development Partnership has gained momentum over the last 12 months with an increased number of organisations attending meetings and participating in the partnership. The Edinburgh Partnership's new Community Plan 2018-2021 (Locality Outcome Improvement Plan) is to be structured around the three pillars of sustainability (economic, society and environment).

Initiatives such as Edinburgh Adapts, a sub group of the ESDP, which took a partnership and extensive engagement approach to developing a climate change adaptation action plan for the city, shows that joint working is the way forward to achieving the sustainable development of the city.

The reorganisation of the Council provides the ideal opportunity to embed sustainability into community planning and localities working, the Council's governance structures and business plan to ensure that all Council functions are based on the three pillars of sustainability. It is the intention to align the Council's Business Plan with the Sustainable Development Goals. To ensure that this work is corporately taken forward sustainability will be a key programme in the Transformation Team's work programme going forward.