

# Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee

10.00 am, Tuesday, 24 January 2017

## Strategy & Insight: Sustainability Policies – Assurance Statement

Item number 7.2  
Report number  
Executive/routine  
Wards

### Executive Summary

Council policies are key governance tools. They help realise the Council's vision, values and outcomes and are critical to the Council's operations, ensuring that statutory and regulatory obligations are met in an efficient and accountable manner.

To strengthen governance arrangements in this area, a policy framework is in place to ensure that all current policies are easily accessible and created, revised and renewed in a consistent manner and to an agreed standard.

To ensure that Council policies remain current and relevant, all directorates/divisions are required to review these policies on an annual basis. This report sets out the main results of the review for policies falling within the Strategy and Insight division's remit. Other Council policies (see Appendix 1) relevant to carbon, climate and sustainability will be reviewed through the Policy Register assurance process by the appropriate services across the Council.

### Links

[Coalition Pledges](#)

[Council Priorities](#)

[Single Outcome Agreement](#)

## Strategy & Insight: Sustainability Policies - Assurance Statement

### 1. Recommendations

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- 1.1 To note that the seven policies detailed in this report have been reviewed and five are considered as being current, relevant and fit for purpose; and
- 1.2 To agree that the Fair Trade Policy and the Resource Use Policy will be reviewed in light of new legislation and Council structures and reported to committee for approval within 12 months.

### 2. Background

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- 2.1 Council policies are key governance tools. They help realise the Council's vision, values and outcomes and are critical to the Council's operations, ensuring that statutory and regulatory obligations are met in an efficient and accountable manner.
- 2.2 To strengthen governance arrangements in this area, a policy framework has been developed to ensure that all current Council policies are easily accessible and created, revised and renewed in a consistent manner and to an agreed standard. These arrangements include the development of a comprehensive register of Council policies and introduction of a policy template to provide the Council with a standardised format in terms of content and style.

### 3. Main report

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- 3.1 A critical element of the policy framework is to ensure that all policies are fit for purpose. This requires each directorate/division to review, on an annual basis, all policies relating to its services and to provide the necessary level of assurance that these policies remain current and relevant.
- 3.2 The Council has a range of policies relating to carbon, climate change and sustainable development and these are reviewed by the most appropriate team through the rolling programme of assurance reporting.

This report outlines consideration of seven policies relating to carbon, climate change and sustainable development that have been reviewed by Strategy & Insight. A short update on review activity on each is set out below.

### **Sustainable Edinburgh 2020 (SE2020)**

- 3.3 This policy framework guides the decisions made by the City of Edinburgh Council and its officers so as to optimise the sustainable development of the city. [SE2020](#) captures the Council's obligations as a signatory of the Aalborg Charter of European Cities towards sustainability' as well as supporting compliance with the [Public Bodies Duties](#) set by the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.
- 3.4 SE2020 was designed to set the direction of travel from 2011 – 2020 and this policy is fit for purpose

### **Resilient Edinburgh 2015 – 2020**

- 3.5 [Resilient Edinburgh](#) is the council's framework for action to adapt to the know impacts of climate change. An action plan 'Edinburgh Adapts' has been developed by partners and contains high level actions to address the most significant risks.
- 3.6 The policy was developed in line with the statutory duties in the Climate Change Act and is fit for purpose.

### **Carbon Management Plan 2015/16 to 2020/21 (CMP)**

- 3.7 The Council's [Carbon Management Plan](#) frames action to comply with the Public Bodies Duties by reducing carbon emissions and reporting on actions taken to comply with these duties.
- 3.8 This policy is an important component of the council's overall approach to climate change helping to meet city-wide targets outlined in SE2020 and contributing to mandatory Public Bodies Climate Change Duties reporting requirements.
- 3.9 This policy is fit for purpose.

### **Energy Policy for Council Buildings.**

- 3.10 The Council's [Energy Policy for Council Buildings](#) has targets to reduce energy consumption by 20% by 2020. The policy and its supporting procedures cover energy efficiency for Council buildings, street and stair lighting.
- 3.11 Responsibility for assurance for this policy going forward will sit with Corporate Property in the Resources Directorate. The Energy Policy is fit for purpose.

### **Water Management Policy**

- 3.12 The purpose of this policy is to increase efficiency and reduce the Council's consumption of water, since this constitutes a significant amount of our utilities expenditure.
- 3.13 Responsibility for assurance for this policy going forward will sit with Corporate Property in the Resources Directorate. The [Water Policy](#) is fit for purpose.

### **Fair Trade Policy**

- 3.14 Edinburgh was awarded Fairtrade City status in 2004 by the Fairtrade Foundation and the Council's Fair Trade Policy was adopted the following year to help meet the obligations of the award. The Scottish Government introduced the Procurement

Reform Act in 2014 and published guidance on its implementation in April 2016. The Council's Fair Trade policy requires updating to reflect this guidance. Due to the scale of the changes in the Council as part of the restructuring process the review and update of the Council's policy in light of the new Act has been delayed. The policy content will be reviewed jointly by Strategy & Insight and Commercial and Procurement Services and the updated policy presented to Committee for approval within 12 months.

### **Resource Use Policy**

- 3.15 The Council's Resource Use Policy was approved in 2000. The policy has been revised and requires updating to take account of recent structural changes within the organisation. Strategy & Insight will work jointly with Facilities Management to update the policy and present the policy to committee for approval.

## **4. Measures of success**

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- 4.1 Access to up-to-date and relevant Council policies, for internal and external stakeholders, which are quality assured and reviewed on an annual basis.

## **5. Financial impact**

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- 5.1 There are no direct financial impacts as a result of this report although implementation and promotion of policies can incur cost.

## **6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact**

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- 6.1 Increased accountability, transparency and efficiencies concerning Council actions and operations.

## **7. Equalities impact**

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- 7.1 There are no direct equalities impacts as a result of this report, although the individual policies mentioned above all take equalities impacts into account.

## **8. Sustainability impact**

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- 8.1 All corporate strategies and policies instigated, co-produced and mainstreamed by Strategy and Insight are designed to achieve a sustainable Edinburgh and are in accordance with the Climate change (Scotland) Act 2009 Public Bodies Duties. This is because, collectively, they improve governance of council action to reduce carbon emissions, to increase the city's resilience to climate change impacts and to improve social justice, economic wellbeing and environmental good stewardship.

## 9. Consultation and engagement

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- 9.1 Consultation was undertaken with directorates and service areas as part of the development of a policy framework for the Council.
- 9.2 All corporate strategies and policies instigated by Strategy & Business Planning are formulated on a consultative basis. Such consultation involves not only Council staff but also, where appropriate, external partner organisations and citizens.

## 10. Background reading/external references

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- 10.1 Relevant links to the policies mentioned are included within the main report.

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## 11. Links

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### Coalition Pledges

**Council Priorities** CO25 The Council has efficient and effective services that deliver on objectives

### Single Outcome Agreement

**Appendices** Appendix 1: Key Council Policies and Strategies relating to sustainability

## KEY COUNCIL POLICIES AND STRATEGIES RELATING TO SUSTAINABILITY

[Active Travel Plan](#)

[Allotment Strategy](#)

[Carbon Management Plan](#)

[City Housing Strategy](#)

[Corporate Asset Strategy](#)

[Edinburgh Natural Heritage Strategy](#)

[Edinburgh Open Space Strategy](#)

[Edinburgh & Lothian Forestry & Woodlands Strategy](#)

[Energy Policy](#)

[Fair Trade Policy](#)

[Local Development Plan](#)

[Resilient Edinburgh Climate Change Adaptation Framework](#)

[Sustainable Edinburgh 2020](#)

[Sustainable Energy Action Plan](#)

[Sustainable Lighting Strategy](#)

[Sustainable Procurement Policy and Revised Sustainable Timber Policy](#)

[Local Transport Strategy 2014 - 2019](#)

[Water Policy](#)

## Links

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**Coalition Pledges**

**Council Priorities**

**Single Outcome Agreement**