

# Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee

10am, Tuesday, 4 December 2018

## Sustainability Audit

Item number	7.5
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	
Council Commitments	

### Executive Summary

---

The report provides a brief overview of the key messages and recommendations from the independent audit of council activity on sustainability and climate change.

Professor Andy Kerr from the Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation (ECCI) was invited to conduct the Audit following a report to Council in June.

Professor Kerr will present his findings at Committee and a further report will be tabled at the next Corporate Policy and Strategy meeting proposing how the council will respond to his recommendations for elected member consideration.

## Sustainability Audit

### 1. Recommendations

---

- 1.1 To consider and note the content of the ECCI Sustainability Audit.
- 1.2 To extend the Council's thanks to ECCI and Professor Kerr for their time and contribution
- 1.3 To note that a proposed response to the findings will be put to the next Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee.

### 2. Background

---

- 2.1 The report to full council on 28 June detailed the breadth of activity being undertaken by this council on sustainability and climate change. These ranged from, fleet management; waste and recycling; planning; housing, transport; energy; sustainable food; climate change; sustainable development; procurement and property and facilities management.
- 2.2 The report also recognised that the council could potentially be making a greater impact given the breadth and scale of this activity. The council invited Professor Kerr from the Edinburgh's Centre for Carbon Innovation to conduct an independent audit of council activity on sustainability and climate change and to make recommendations as to how the council might improve its impact.
- 2.3 The council also noted that Edinburgh has a vibrant environmental sector – particularly in respect of the third sector - and asked that the audit also consider how the council better delivers its objectives by working with our environmental partners across the city.
- 2.4 Amongst other things, ECCI hosts the Centre of Expertise on Climate Change - which supports Scottish Government with their climate change analysis and evidence; hosts the Scottish Sustainability Network, which supports public bodies across Scotland to report their climate actions; co-hosts staff working on Adaptation Scotland activities. The ECCI also has the largest low carbon business innovation incubator in Scotland.
- 2.5 This report details the key messages from the audit and the key recommendations. The full audit is attached for consideration in annex 1.

### 3. Main report

---

#### Key Messages from the report

- 3.1 The City of Edinburgh Council has an unprecedented opportunity to set Edinburgh on a course that will deliver rapid improvements in social and economic wellbeing for its citizens, as well as meeting stretching climate and environmental targets. This would put Edinburgh at the forefront of global cities.
- 3.2 The sustainability audit identified multiple strategies and statutory duties within the Council, but limited coherence in delivering the cross-cutting social, economic and environmental benefits that arise from meeting sustainability outcomes. The report was clear that the Council faces a choice about whether it wants incremental improvements in outcomes, which build on existing resources, good practice and more joined up internal efforts across service areas, or whether it wants to drive an ambitious agenda that capitalises on the opportunity for enhancing social, economic and environmental wellbeing in the city.
- 3.3 The latter option requires, as a minimum, iconic targets, third party investment and radical new partnerships with external partners to support delivery. To deliver this more ambitious sustainability agenda, my recommendations are that the Council needs to (a) recognise and embed the social, economic, environmental opportunity that exists from setting and delivering challenging sustainability goals, and (b) address five broad areas:
  - 3.3.1 **Vision and Strategy:** Develop a clear over-arching vision and strategy for sustainable development, with iconic goals for the city and clear staging points in 2030 and 2040 towards the 2050 City Vision.
  - 3.3.2 **Leadership and Governance:** Political and corporate leadership is paramount, recognising the opportunities that can be realised for the city and Council. New and more effective governance and strategic coordination of sustainability is required in the Council, with senior management held to account for delivery.
  - 3.3.3 **Internal Resources, Capacity and Skills:** Properly resourced strategic coordination of sustainability is required, along with a need to refresh skillsets and mechanisms by which the city accesses external finance and develops projects needed to deliver City ambitions.
  - 3.3.4 **Finance and Investment:** Third party finance will be required to unlock opportunities. There is a need to refresh delivery mechanisms (such as the Edinburgh EScCo.). Whilst there are excellent inhouse skills and experience in legal, financial and technical areas, the council needs to improve its capacity to develop, deliver and scale investable projects which deliver multiple social, economic and environmental benefits to the city.

- 3.3.5 **Partnerships:** Building radical new innovation partnerships with local social enterprises, businesses, entrepreneurs, agencies, Universities and civic groups is crucial to help shared learning and development of potential solutions to embedded challenges in the city.

#### **Audit recommendations**

- 3.4 ECCI was asked to provide specific recommendations which can support the Council to make immediate improvements in respect of the above and inform the next iteration of the Edinburgh Council Sustainability Strategy, which is due by 2020.
- 3.5 If the City of Edinburgh Council is to be ambitious and capitalise on the opportunities presented by the sustainability and climate change agenda, the ECCI report recommends that the council:
- 3.5.1 Recognise and embed the social, economic and financial opportunity that will emerge in Edinburgh through the development and delivery of a coherent, overarching sustainability and climate action plan.
- 3.5.2 Address five broad areas: Vision and Strategy; Leadership and Governance; Skills, Resources and Capacity; Finance and Investment; and Partnership and Collaboration.

#### **Vision and Strategy: The Council should**

- 3.5.3 develop and deliver an ambitious long term city strategy and action plan for sustainability that recognises the social, environmental and economic opportunity that this agenda presents for the city and the Council.
- 3.5.4 set iconic targets – for example a mobility strategy that removes the need for petrol/diesel vehicles in the city by 2030; a buildings strategy that ensures local communities are energy positive by 2030 – to place Edinburgh as a leading sustainable city for human wellbeing in the UK and delivers against the longer term City Vision.
- 3.5.5 develop policy priorities which focus on delivering strategic sustainability outcomes, rather than narrowly defined sector targets, while giving due regard to legislative requirements.

#### **Leadership and Governance: The Council should**

- 3.5.6 be clear on its collective political prioritisation which needs to set sustainable outcomes at the heart of its economic and social, as well as environmental goals.
- 3.5.7 improve the clarity and visibility of its corporate leadership and governance of sustainability and climate action.
- 3.5.8 embed sustainability outcomes in the key performance indicators of existing service delivery directors to effectively mainstream responsibilities.

- 3.5.9 situate strategic coordination of sustainable development within corporate services, coupled with clear lines of responsibility to service delivery functions.
- 3.5.10 ensure the “virtuous circle” between reporting outcomes and future action is embedded in sustainability governance.

**Internal Resources, Capacity and Skills: the council should**

- 3.5.11 ensure sufficient resource is available to undertake cross-cutting functions operating between service delivery areas, where many of the social and economic opportunities are to be found (between social care, health, energy, transport, green spaces, food).
- 3.5.12 invest in dedicated resources with the skill sets in particular around commercial expertise to develop, implement and procure projects – i.e. beyond the business case and through procurement to delivery - linked to a refresh of the Council-owned energy service company<sup>1</sup>.

**Finance and Investment: the council should**

- 3.5.13 ensure decisions about investing in city infrastructure (buildings, transport, green spaces) make explicit the life-cycle financial (capital + revenue) and carbon costs of different options, and work on the assumption that Scotland will be expected to be zero carbon before 2050.
- 3.5.14 work with a range of financial institutions to identify how best the council might partner with these organisations to co-invest in and deliver city-scale sustainability projects.
- 3.5.15 examine different contracting models, joint ventures and the risks entailed with these in determining how best to progress some of its projects that involve multiple partners.
- 3.5.16 re-examine the objectives and purpose of Energy for Edinburgh and give that entity sufficient resource to support the delivery of the SEAP.

**Partnership and collaboration: the council should**

- 3.5.17 improve the effectiveness of partnership by moving from its traditional approach to explore and apply different partnership models that address specific sustainability challenges in the city (from local food to clean energy provision and smart cities/districts).
- 3.5.18 work with partners to build local Edinburgh innovation ecosystems with local companies, social enterprises, civic groups, entrepreneurs, Universities and Colleges, and use these partnerships as a broker between the “problem

---

<sup>1</sup> A separate EIT Climate-KIC funded project on “Financing Sustainable Cities” is helping identify barriers to accessing external finance in the city.

holder” - the City Council - and the “problem solver” - social enterprises and local businesses.

### **Next Steps**

- 3.6 Following consideration of the findings by Committee, the Corporate Leadership Team will also consider the report. Officers in discussion with the Leader, Deputy Leader and Sustainability Champion will take any immediate operational decisions that can be progressed and a full proposed response to the audit will be developed and brought back to Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee for wider political consideration at its next meeting.

## **4. Measures of success**

---

- 4.1 The recommendations of the audit are addressed.

## **5. Financial impact**

---

- 5.1 Any financial impact will be addressed as part of the council response to be considered at the next Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee.

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

---

- 6.1 These will be addressed as part of the council response.

## **7. Equalities impact**

---

- 7.1 These will be considered as part of the council response.

## **8. Sustainability impact**

---

- 8.1 These will be assessed as part of the council response but are expected to be positive.

## **9. Consultation and engagement**

---

- 9.1 The Audit was conducted through desk research and interviews with officers and elected members across the work of the council.

## **10. Background reading/external references**

---

- 10.1 28 June Council report on Sustainability ([item 8.4 sustainability](#))

**Andrew Kerr**

Chief Executive

Contact: Paula McLeay, Senior Manager Policy and Insight

E-mail: paula.mcleay@edinburgh.gov.uk

## **11. Appendices**

---

Audit of sustainability 2018

**CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL  
AUDIT OF SUSTAINABILITY 2018**

**Prof Andy Kerr  
ECCL, University of Edinburgh**

**Key Messages**

- The City of Edinburgh Council has an unprecedented opportunity to set Edinburgh on a course that will deliver rapid improvements in social and economic wellbeing for its citizens, as well as meeting stretching climate and environmental targets. This would put Edinburgh at the forefront of global cities.
- We are in the midst of rapid, often disruptive, changes in social practices (for example around local food provision), in the use of energy, data and materials technologies, in regulatory frameworks and in global markets. With leadership, clear objectives and effective strategy, underpinned by investable projects, the City of Edinburgh Council can harness these changes to set and deliver against challenging sustainability goals for improving overall wellbeing in the city.
- In particular, the development of city-wide smart, local generation of renewable energy by communities and businesses will generate income and reduce costs of power and mobility, and help the Council to offset its diminishing central budgets. Co-benefits of this strategy would include reduced health care costs from air pollution, community-directed income and local jobs.
- The sustainability audit identified multiple strategies and statutory duties within the Council, but limited coherence in delivering the cross-cutting social, economic and environmental benefits that arise from meeting sustainability outcomes. The Council faces a choice about whether it wants incremental improvements in outcomes, which build on existing resources, good practice and more joined up internal efforts across service areas, or whether it wants to drive an ambitious agenda that capitalises on the opportunity for enhancing social, economic and environmental wellbeing in the city. This latter option requires, as a minimum, iconic targets, third party investment and radical new partnerships with external partners to support delivery.
- To deliver this more ambitious sustainability agenda, my recommendations are that the Council needs to (a) recognise and embed the social, economic, environmental opportunity that exists from setting and delivering challenging sustainability goals, and (b) address five broad areas:
  - **Vision and Strategy:** Develop a clear over-arching vision and strategy for sustainable development, with iconic goals for the city and clear staging points in 2030 and 2040 towards the 2050 City Vision.
  - **Leadership and Governance:** Political and corporate leadership is paramount, recognising the opportunities that can be realised for the city and Council. New and more effective governance and strategic coordination of sustainability is required in the Council, with senior management held to account for delivery.
  - **Internal Resources, Capacity and Skills:** Properly resourced strategic coordination of sustainability is required, along with a need to refresh skillsets and mechanisms by which the city accesses external finance and develops projects needed to deliver City ambitions.
  - **Finance and Investment:** Third party finance will be required to unlock opportunities. There is a need to refresh delivery mechanisms (such as the Edinburgh ESCo.). Whilst there are excellent inhouse skills and experience in legal, financial and technical areas, the council needs to improve its capacity to develop, deliver and scale investable projects which deliver multiple social, economic and environmental benefits to the city.
  - **Partnerships:** Building radical new innovation partnerships with local social enterprises, businesses, entrepreneurs, agencies, Universities and civic groups is crucial to help shared learning and development of potential solutions to embedded challenges in the city.



## Scope of Audit

At their 28 June 2018 meeting, the City of Edinburgh Council asked its external partner, ECCI, “to provide an independent audit of council activity and recommendations as to how the Council might continue to improve the cumulative impact it has on sustainability”.

The audit took the form of semi-structured interviews with key officers and councillors, and review of documents associated with sustainability and climate change strategy and action plans.

## What do we mean by “sustainability”

“Sustainability” has many definitions, starting from that of the original Bruntland Commission of the United Nations in 1987: “sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the needs of future generations to meet their own needs.” The notion of “sustainability” is commonly used in the context of trying to maintain *environmental resources and limits*.

For this report, a more useful approach to sustainability is to draw on the wider set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals agreed by the UN General Assembly in 2015. These reflect not just environmental goals, but also social and economic goals for human wellbeing.

In Scotland, the 2007 National Performance Framework created an outcomes approach to wellbeing and provided a means of measuring wellbeing beyond GDP. The recent major 2018 revision of the National Performance Framework, with the national outcomes approach being placed in statute through the Community Empowerment Scotland (2015) Act, links Scotland’s performance directly to the UN goals and international measures of human wellbeing. This outcomes-based approach for sustainability actions – ranging from having thriving and innovative businesses to valuing and enjoying our environment - informs this report.

See <http://nationalperformance.gov.scot/> for more details.



## Key Audit Findings

### **Council strategic and specific objectives on sustainability and climate change:**

- The Council has a plethora of statutory and non-statutory obligations<sup>1</sup> around different aspects of sustainability and climate change, including a sustainability framework; action plans for biodiversity, air quality, climate adaptation, carbon management, flood risk management, active travel, public and accessible travel, waste and recycling and sustainable food; coupled with statutory climate change reporting to Scottish Government through its Public Bodies Duties [from the Climate Change (Scotland) Act, 2009].

### **Council activity aimed at delivering those ambitions and the specific obligations placed on it by the Climate Change (Scotland) Act, its mandatory reporting obligations under the Act (Public Bodies Duties), and Community Empowerment Act:**

- Current activity on this plethora of internal commitments and statutory obligations, such as Public Bodies Duties reporting, appears to have become embedded in institutional silos in the Council. The audit feedback suggests that these obligations have become a hindrance rather than an enabler: for example, Public Bodies Duties reporting does not appear to be used to inform and drive strategic climate action in the city. This is exacerbated by the lack of joined up and clear political and operational leadership about the medium-term outcomes we seek as a city. To that end, the renewed focus on “place” and place-making for wellbeing – for example, proposals around the City Centre Transformation linking with the Low Emission Zone and City Mobility Plan – is welcome.
- The City Council has significant levels of activity and associated reporting concerned with sustainability and climate change, working across a breadth of directorates. Multiple members of staff, from planning, housing and property to green spaces directorates and corporate services, are closely involved in sustainability and climate change activities. Council staff capacity should not be seen as limited to the small number of people with “sustainability” in their title. But a common challenge for realising the full benefit of this staff resource, identified throughout the audit from Councillors and officers alike, was the lack of joined up and clear vision, strategic objectives and plan for sustainability, and an investable action plan underpinning that council wide vision.

### **City approach to and delivery of its Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) :**

- Through the audit feedback, there is much evidence of success at delivering individual projects and programmes, such as smart lighting, estate management, enhanced recycling, etc. These are contributing effectively towards the stretching targets of the city-wide Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) and Carbon Management Plan. However, there was limited evidence of a more coordinated and coherent strategy for delivery of SEAP energy and carbon goals across all city-region activities and plans. This might reflect the lack of priority and importance being afforded to carbon and sustainable energy goals. It also implies that existing and future city-region plans – on transport, housing, inclusive growth – are missing the wider health, economic and social opportunities that arise from capitalising on sustainability.

### **Effectiveness of Council governance and internal strategic coordination of activity**

- Audit responses recognised the need for putting sustainability and climate action above institutional silos within the Council, with effective resourcing. However, there appeared to be limited Council-wide recognition of the social or economic benefits (health, jobs, well-being of citizens) or the financial income generation opportunity for the Council or the wider city of delivering cross-cutting sustainability outcomes. For example, the recent completion of a public building which encumbers the Council with long-term (25 year+) energy cost and carbon liabilities that are higher than the building it replaced, is profoundly short-sighted.

---

<sup>1</sup> See Annex 1 for full details...

- The audit suggests that both the governance – the process of decision making and by which decisions are implemented – and internal strategic coordination of activity for delivering the wider, emerging social and economic benefits of delivering sustainability goals in Edinburgh needs to be substantially improved.

#### **Effectiveness of current partnership working and how the council could better deliver its objectives by working with our environmental partners across the city**

- Audit feedback suggests that current partnership working is effective in some cases. For example, the rising numbers of Edinburgh park friend groups, the sustainability partnership and the increasingly collaborative activities with Universities as part of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal. Generally, however, the audit suggests that city partnerships are focused on engagement, rather than delivery of outcomes. As a result, they are not delivering the benefits they could, given the dynamism and knowledge of individuals, civic organisations and businesses across the city. For example, Edinburgh hosts some of the country's most innovative social and commercial enterprises in energy and housing (e.g. OurPower, ChangeWorks, Flextricity, Solar Coop); some of the leading Universities; vibrant business incubators and strong community groups. Yet the city is not at the leading edge of the energy transformation taking place in other cities. This challenge is exacerbated by the traditional, passive nature of many of the partnerships in Edinburgh, with participants expecting the Council to lead on funding and coordination.

In summary, the audit tells a story which is increasingly clear: the economic and social benefits – and associated income generating opportunities – of delivering overarching sustainability goals are not currently being realised by the Council or the city. The Council's approach to sustainability and climate change needs collective political direction and more strategic leadership, coordination and effective delivery to meet the council's wider ambitions around the Edinburgh 2050 Vision and to develop citizens' wellbeing over the coming decade.

#### **Recommendations**

ECCI was asked to provide **specific recommendations which can support the council to make immediate improvements in respect of the above and inform the next iteration of the Edinburgh Council Sustainability Strategy, which is due by 2020.**

If the City of Edinburgh Council is to be ambitious and capitalise on the opportunities presented by the sustainability and climate change agenda, it needs to:

1. **Recognise and embed the social, economic and financial opportunity** that will emerge in Edinburgh through the development and delivery of a coherent, overarching sustainability and climate action plan.
2. Address five broad areas: **Vision and Strategy; Leadership and Governance; Skills, Resources and Capacity; Finance and Investment; and Partnership and Collaboration.**

#### **Vision and Strategy: The Council should**

- develop and deliver an ambitious long term city strategy and action plan for sustainability that recognises the social, environmental and economic opportunity that this agenda presents for the city and the Council
- set iconic targets – for example a mobility strategy that removes the need for petrol/diesel vehicles in the city by 2030; a buildings strategy that ensures local communities are energy positive by 2030 – to place Edinburgh as a leading sustainable city for human wellbeing in the UK and delivers against the longer term City Vision
- develop policy priorities which focus on delivering strategic sustainability outcomes, rather than narrowly defined sector targets, while giving due regard to legislative requirements.

### **Leadership and Governance: The Council should**

- be clear on its collective political prioritisation which needs to set sustainable outcomes at the heart of its economic and social, as well as environmental goals
- improve the clarity and visibility of its corporate leadership and governance of sustainability and climate action
- embed sustainability outcomes in the key performance indicators of existing service delivery directors to effectively mainstream responsibilities
- situate strategic coordination of sustainable development within corporate services, coupled with clear lines of responsibility to service delivery functions
- ensure the “virtuous circle” between reporting outcomes and future action is embedded in sustainability governance.

### **Internal Resources, Capacity and Skills: the council should**

- ensure sufficient resource is available to undertake cross-cutting functions operating between service delivery areas, where many of the social and economic opportunities are to be found (between social care, health, energy, transport, green spaces, food)
- invest in dedicated resources with the skill sets in particular around commercial expertise to develop, implement and procure projects – i.e. beyond the business case and through procurement to delivery - linked to a refresh of the Council-owned energy service company<sup>2</sup>

### **Finance and Investment: the council should**

- ensure decisions about investing in city infrastructure (buildings, transport, green spaces) make explicit the life-cycle financial (capital + revenue) and carbon costs of different options, and work on the assumption that Scotland will be expected to be zero carbon before 2050
- work with a range of financial institutions to identify how best the council might partner with these organisations to co-invest in and deliver city-scale sustainability projects
- examine different contracting models, joint ventures and the risks entailed with these in determining how best to progress some of its projects that involve multiple partners.
- re-examine the objectives and purpose of Energy for Edinburgh and give that entity sufficient resource to support the delivery of the SEAP.

### **Partnership and collaboration: the council should**

- improve the effectiveness of partnership by moving from its traditional approach to explore and apply *different partnership models* that address specific sustainability challenges in the city (from local food to clean energy provision and smart cities/districts)
- work with partners to build local Edinburgh innovation ecosystems with local companies, social enterprises, civic groups, entrepreneurs, Universities and Colleges, and use these partnerships as a broker between the “problem holder” - the City Council - and the “problem solver” - social enterprises and local businesses

## **The Opportunity for Edinburgh**

We are in the midst of rapid, often disruptive, global changes in technologies, social practices, and markets. In Edinburgh and its city region, we are facing particular challenges of inclusive growth, with regional disparities in jobs density; affordable homes and transport connectivity; skills inequality and polarization, and gender and age inequalities.

With leadership, clear objectives and effective strategy, and new partnerships underpinning investable projects, ***these disruptive global changes open up an unprecedented opportunity for Edinburgh to deliver***

---

<sup>2</sup> A separate EIT Climate-KIC funded project on “Financing Sustainable Cities” is helping identify barriers to accessing external finance in the city.

**both climate change emission reduction goals and support wider city sustainability goals being articulated through, for example, the 2050 City Vision.** These reflect a desire for a socially, culturally and economically vibrant, clean, green place to live and visit, with access to affordable homes and an effective transport system.

In the context of squeezed public-sector budgets, these disruptive changes are creating major income generating opportunities for the city council and its communities, in partnership with local businesses, which can help support skilled jobs, provide affordable housing and tackle some of the inequality that hinders the city of Edinburgh.

At the heart of this opportunity is the ongoing revolution in **energy provision, data analytics and material science, coupled with our increasing social understanding of what works** for communities to thrive, to feel secure and to be resilient.

For example - with **energy** - electricity generated for self-use ('behind the meter') locally by onshore wind and solar-PV in and around Edinburgh is already cheaper – without government subsidy - than purchasing electricity from the national grid. The determinant for delivering this opportunity is access to land or buildings, of which the council is a major owner or controller, and access to cheap investment capital.

Scotland's goal is to have "no need for the sale of petrol or diesel vehicles by 2032"<sup>3</sup>, implying rapid growth in electric or hydrogen vehicles and associated charging infrastructure. It is possible for Edinburgh in 2030 to be locally generating and supplying electricity to replace much of the £300m/yr costs of imported petrol/diesel. The removal of petrol/diesel vehicles in the city has the co-benefit of reducing health impacts from air pollution, which has a tangible impact on citizens and visitors.

With **data**, Edinburgh (and Scotland more widely) is already using improved data analytics and data innovation to support the quality of public services. The City Region Deal has led to major - £200million+ - investment in data driven innovation in Edinburgh Universities by the UK Government. With this expertise, we can develop and tailor information about citizens preferences and the city's public spaces – for example to support the City Centre Transformation plans - to improve the quality of life for citizens and visitors alike.

With **materials**, we are beginning to recognise the role and importance of using materials and designing products that minimise waste and can be re-used. This "circular economy" approach both reduces long term social, economic and environmental costs, but also provides a means of generating new economic value from existing resources. For example, the city is exploring the multiple benefits of using passivHaus standards for buildings to reduce operational costs while also delivering improved living conditions for building users and households. The City is also working with Scotland's national agency, Zero Waste Scotland, and Chambers of Commerce to develop circular economy models for the city.

On **social understanding**, we are better at comprehending the important links between social, economic and environmental outcomes. In other words, that human wellbeing can be best supported if we focus on social, economic and environmental goals, rather than focusing only on one or other independently. As one example shows: "There is significant and growing evidence on the **health benefits of access** to good quality **green spaces**. The **benefits** include better self-rated **health**; lower body mass index, overweight and obesity levels; improved mental **health** and wellbeing; increased longevity..."<sup>4</sup>

---

<sup>3</sup> Scottish Government Energy Strategy (2017)

<sup>4</sup> Public Health England, 2014: "Local action on health inequalities: Improving access to green spaces"  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/355792/Briefing\\_8\\_Green\\_spaces\\_health\\_inequalities.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/355792/Briefing_8_Green_spaces_health_inequalities.pdf)

## ANNEX 1: REPORT CONTEXT

The City Of Edinburgh, and the City of Edinburgh Council, has an important role to play in Edinburgh and Scotland's commitment to be sustainable and to address climate change.

In June 2018, the City Council asked ECCI, University of Edinburgh, to provide an independent audit and evaluation of the council's work on and approach to sustainability and climate change. The specific purpose is to ensure the council is able to improve the cumulative impact it has on sustainability and climate change.

The council is particularly concerned to ensure that it is supported to make practical change and real progress with a degree of pace. Specifically, the council is keen to ensure policies and an operating environment which can deliver:

- Progress on reducing carbon emissions from council estate
- Progress on future proofing the city for a low carbon future
- Progress on a sustainable fleet and wider sustainable city transport
- Progress against low carbon energy generation and security of supply
- Progress against food sustainability

Recommendations from this audit will be shared with Corporate Policy and Strategy (CP&S) and, subject to political agreement, taken forward by the Council. Dependent on the results, these findings will also form the basis for developing a new Edinburgh Council Sustainability Strategy, which is due by 2020.

ECCI was asked to provide independent analysis of:

- Council strategic and specific objectives in respect of sustainability and climate change.
- Council activity aimed at delivering those ambitions and the specific obligations placed on it by the Climate Change (Scotland) Act, its mandatory reporting obligations under the Act (Public Bodies Duties) and the Community Empowerment Act.
- Council approach to and delivery of SEAP.
- The effectiveness of our governance and internal strategic coordination of council activity.
- The effectiveness of current partnership working and how the council could better deliver its objectives by working with our environmental partners across the city.
- Provide specific recommendations which can support the council to make immediate improvements in respect of the above and inform the next iteration of the Edinburgh Council Sustainability Strategy, which is due by 2020.

This work has been supported by ECCI and funding from EIT Climate-KIC.



**ANNEX 2: Statutory and Non-Statutory Obligations of the City Council**

Topic Area	Name of Document	Time Period
Sustainability Framework	<a href="#">Sustainable Edinburgh 2020</a>	2014-2020
City Vision	<a href="#">2050 Edinburgh City Vision</a>	2018-2050
Air Quality	<a href="#">Air Quality Action Plan</a>	Revised 2008
	<a href="#">Developing Low Emission zones in Edinburgh</a>	2018
Biodiversity	<a href="#">Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Plan</a>	2016-18
Climate Change Reporting	<a href="#">Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report</a>	2016-17
Climate Change Adaptation	<a href="#">Resilient Edinburgh Climate Change Adaptation Framework</a>	2014-2020
	<a href="#">Edinburgh Adapts Our Vision 2016-2050</a>	2016-2050
	<a href="#">Edinburgh Adapts Climate Change Action Plan 2016-2020</a>	2016-2020
Climate Change mitigation	<a href="#">Sustainable Energy Action Plan</a>	2015-2020
	<a href="#">City of Edinburgh Council - Carbon Management Plan</a>	2015-16 – 2020-2021
Economy	<a href="#">Edinburgh Economy Strategy</a>	2018-2023
	<a href="#">Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal</a>	2018-2033
	<a href="#">Edinburgh 2020</a>	2014-2020
	<a href="#">Tourism in Edinburgh</a>	2020 -
Energy Efficiency	<a href="#">Council Energy Policy</a>	
Flood Prevention	<a href="#">Local Flood Risk Management Plan – Forth Estuary Local Plan District</a>	2016-2022
Food	<a href="#">Edible Edinburgh: A Sustainable Food City Plan</a>	2014-2020
Fair Trade	<a href="#">City of Edinburgh Council – Fair Trade Policy</a>	2018
Parks and Green spaces	<a href="#">Parks and Greenspace Strategy</a>	
	<a href="#">Trees in the City Action Plan</a>	January 2014
	<a href="#">I-Tree</a>	Survey 2013. Updated 2016
	<a href="#">Edinburgh Living Landscapes</a>	Ongoing
Planning	<a href="#">Edinburgh's Local Development Plan</a>	2016-2021
	<a href="#">Edinburgh Design Guidance</a>	October 2017
	Central Edinburgh Transformation – <a href="#">Scoping Report approved October 2017</a> <a href="#">Progress Report August 2018</a>	In development
	<a href="#">Open Space 2021</a>	2016-2021
Procurement	<a href="#">Sustainable Procurement Policy</a>	2012-
Transport	<a href="#">Local Transport Strategy</a>	2014-2019
	<a href="#">Active Travel Action Plan 2016 Refresh</a>	2016-2020
	<a href="#">Public and Assessable Transport Action Plan</a>	2013-2020
	<a href="#">Workplace Parking Levy</a>	2018
Waste	<a href="#">Waste and Recycling Strategy</a>	2010-25
	<a href="#">Waste Prevention Strategy</a>	Adopted 2005
	<a href="#">Resource Use Policy</a>	Adopted 2000
Water and Sewage	<a href="#">Water Management Policy</a>	Adopted 2006