

Transport and Environment Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 13 January 2015

EU Mayors Adapt

Item number	7.14
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	All

Executive summary

Resilient Edinburgh, a Climate Change Adaptation Framework for the city until 2020, was approved by Committee on 28 October. It sets out Edinburgh's strategic approach to building resilience to the impacts of climate change. On 28 October, Committee also agreed to receive a report within one cycle on the potential benefits of signing up to the 'Mayors Adapt' initiative.

Mayors Adapt arises out of the EU Covenant of Mayors initiative. It commits European cities to developing a climate change adaptation strategy and/or fully integrating adaptation into relevant existing plans. As a signatory Edinburgh will not only be able to promote its existing work on climate resilience through a network of Adapt peer cities, but also learn from other European cities which are facing similar challenges.

Mayors Adapt aims to increase support for local activities, provide a platform for greater engagement and networking by cities and raise public awareness about adaptation and the measures needed. As a member of Mayors Adapt, the Council may benefit from improved access to EU-wide resources and EU funding streams.

Links

Coalition pledges	P8 , P15 , P28 , P33 , P40 , P48 , P50
Council outcomes	CO8 , CO10 , CO14 , CO15 , CO16 , CO18 , CO19 , CO20 , CO21 , CO22 , CO23 , CO26
Single Outcome Agreement	SO1 , SO4

EU Mayors Adapt

Recommendations

- 1.1 To agree the Council becomes a signatory to the Covenant of Mayors Initiative on Adaptation to Climate Change, known as EU Mayors Adapt.
- 1.2 To note a climate change adaptation action plan will be developed and presented to Committee for consideration in Winter 2015.

Background

- 2.1 Following Council approval of Resilient Edinburgh - Climate Change Adaptation Framework 2014-2020, there is an opportunity for the Council to take this important agenda forward at a European level. The Covenant of Mayors Initiative on Adaptation to Climate Change, known as EU Mayors Adapt, is a development arising from the Covenant of Mayors Initiative.
- 2.2 The initiative was launched in March 2014 and to date 150 cities have signed up. In Scotland, Glasgow and Stirling councils have recently signed.

Main report

- 3.1 The principal Mayors Adapt commitment is for each member city to develop a comprehensive adaptation strategy, and/or fully integrate adaptation into relevant existing plans. As a signatory Edinburgh will not only be able to promote its existing work on climate resilience through a network of Adapt peer cities, but also learn from other European cities which are facing similar challenges.
- 3.2 Membership of Mayors Adapt requires cities to develop an adaptation strategy over the following two years or, as in Edinburgh's case following approval of its Adaptation Framework, to fully integrate adaptation into council strategies and plans. For Edinburgh, this means:
 - 3.2.1 developing a detailed city-wide adaptation action plan;
 - 3.2.2 fully integrating adaptation principles within city-wide resilience planning; and
 - 3.2.3 the inclusion of adaptation principles across city wide plans such the Local Development Plan.
- 3.3 Following submission of the adaptation strategy or action plan to Mayors Adapt, a progress report on implementation will be expected every two years thereafter. This reporting commitment complements the council's current reporting obligations as part of Sustainable Edinburgh 2020 and as a signatory to Scotland's Climate Change Declaration.

- 3.4 Mayors Adapt compliments both EU and national government policy on adaptation to climate change. Local authorities play a key role in implementing measures to mitigate and adapt to a changing climate. By joining the Mayors Adapt initiative, the City of Edinburgh Council and other participating local authorities from across Europe will benefit from mutual support and shared learning on local activities to tackle climate change, have a platform for cooperation, and be able to raise greater public awareness about adaptation and the measures that need to be taken.
- 3.5 Membership will also help to add weight to any Edinburgh bid for EU funding targeted at adaptation. Potential publicity and reputational benefits will also arise from the city's participation in the Adapt initiative.
- 3.6 Planning for climate change adaptation is a major element of the Council's sustainability agenda and the city's approach to building future resilience to the impacts of a changing climate. It is therefore proposed that the Council formally sign up to the EU Mayors Adapt initiative. The signatory in this case would be the city's Mayor-equivalent, which is the Leader of the Council.
- 3.7 The Leader of the Council would be required to sign a political commitment document. A link to the commitment is [here](#).
- 3.8 Following the approval of Resilient Edinburgh Climate Change Adaptation Framework, work on the development of a comprehensive action plan, in conjunction with city-wide stakeholders, has begun. This will be presented for committee approval towards the end of 2015 and would meet the Council's commitment as a signatory to the EU Mayors Adapt initiative to prepare a comprehensive Climate Change Adaptation Strategy.

Measures of success

- 4.1 Delivery towards statutory requirements, specifically the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, which requires the Council to contribute to national emissions reductions targets, deliver any statutory adaptation programmes and act in a sustainable manner.
- 4.2 Delivery towards the Capital Coalition Pledge commitments and Sustainable Edinburgh 2020 objectives.
- 4.3 Following approval of an Adaptation Framework for the city, delivery of an Adaptation Action Plan for the city, to help Edinburgh adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change in partnership with key stakeholders and local communities.

Financial impact

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

Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 places duties on public bodies in respect of climate change mitigation and adaptation and of sustainable development. Membership of the EU Cities Adapt Initiative helps provide evidence of compliance with these duties.

Equalities impact

- 7.1 There are no direct equalities impacts arising from this report.

Sustainability impact

- 8.1 There are no direct sustainability impacts arising from this report. However, resilience to climate change will be a key component of the future sustainability of Edinburgh.

Consultation and engagement

- 9.1 Internal and external consultation, and collaboration with Adaptation Scotland and other agencies, was carried out for the development of Resilient Edinburgh Climate Change Adaptation Framework. By joining Mayors Adapt, this will increase engagement with European cities.

Background reading/external references

[Sustainable Edinburgh 2020](#)

Resilient Edinburgh: Climate Change Adaptation Framework 2014-2020

Resilient Edinburgh: Evidence Base and Risk Analysis

[Mayors Adapt – the Covenant of Mayors Initiative on Adaptation to Climate Change](#)

[Mayors Adapt – Political Commitment](#)

Alastair Maclean

Director of Corporate Governance

Contact: James Garry, Corporate Policy and Strategy Officer

E-mail: james.garry@edinburgh.gov.uk | Tel: 0131 469 3578

Contact: Fiona Macleod, Corporate Policy and Strategy Officer

E-mail: fiona.macleod@edinburgh.gov.uk | Tel: 0131 469 3513

Links

Coalition pledges	<p>P8, Make sure the city's people are well-housed, including encouraging developers to build residential communities, starting with brownfield sites</p> <p>P15 Work with public organisations, the private sector and social enterprise to promote Edinburgh to investors</p> <p>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</p> <p>P33 Strengthen Neighbourhood Partnerships and further involve local people in decisions on how Council resources are used</p> <p>P40 Work with Edinburgh World Heritage Trust and other stakeholders to conserve the city's built heritage</p> <p>P48 - Use Green Flag and other strategies to preserve our green spaces</p> <p>P50 Investigate the possible introduction of low emission zones</p>
Council outcomes	<u>CO8</u> , <u>CO10</u> , <u>CO14</u> , <u>CO15</u> , <u>CO16</u> , <u>CO18</u> , <u>CO19</u> , <u>CO20</u> , <u>CO21</u> , <u>CO22</u> , <u>CO23</u> , <u>CO26</u>
Single Outcome Agreement	<p>SO1 Edinburgh's Economy Delivers increased investment, jobs and opportunities for all</p> <p>SO4 Edinburgh's communities are safer and have improved physical and social fabric</p>
Appendices	None.