

Minutes

Policy and Sustainability Committee

2:00pm, Friday 25 October 2019

Present

Councillors McVey (Convener), Day (Vice-Convener), Aldridge, Burgess (substituting for Councillor Staniforth), Jim Campbell, Kate Campbell, Child (substituting for Councillor Wilson), Gordon (substituting for Councillor Gardiner), Gloyer, Hutchison, Macinnes, Main, McLellan, Perry, Rankin, Webber and Whyte.

1. Achieving Net Zero in the City of Edinburgh

a) Deputation – Transition Edinburgh, Scottish Youth Climate Strike and Extinction Rebellion Edinburgh

The deputation welcomed the plans to hold a Climate Conference in December to launch the Edinburgh Climate Commission, although they expressed concern about the length of time which had elapsed since the announcement of the Climate Emergency. There was still no action plan in place to address this and there was uncertainty around what the 2030 net zero emissions target actually meant for the City, for example if it included flights coming into the city or goods and services produced outside the city.

The deputation was encouraged that the City were working with expert partners but felt that a Commission alone was not enough. Further action was required and invitation to participate to involve the whole City from the grassroots up.

The deputation called for the Council to establish a Citizens' Assembly to include people from all walks of life to make decisions and briefed by experts.

b) Joint Report by the Chief Executive and the Executive Director of Place

The Committee had previously agreed a three-phase plan for delivering an ambitious approach to sustainability and climate change. This included working with Edinburgh and Leeds Universities as part of their Place-based Climate Action Network (P-CAN) project.

A draft summary was submitted of the research being carried out by the Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation (ECCI), using expertise from Leeds and Edinburgh Universities as part of the P-CAN project.

The research was part of a wider programme of work centred around achieving an ambitious target of Edinburgh becoming carbon neutral by 2030 and would help support further research and collaboration with city partners on the options available for reducing the city's emissions.

Motion

- 1) To note the update provided on the Place-Based Climate Action Network (P-CAN) research project.
 - 2) To note the draft summary research report and that a full report would be published to align with the launch of the Climate Commission.
 - 3) To agree that officers would continue to work with P-CAN and Climate KIC to bring back analysis on the strategic and viable next actions for the Council to Committee in February 2020.
- moved by Councillor McVey, seconded by Councillor Day

Amendment 1

- 1) Agrees the recommendations from the Chief Executive
- 2) Notes that the report highlights that the “maximum Technical – Potential measures” will only see a two-thirds reduction in Edinburgh's emissions by 2030 and will not achieve a carbon neutral Edinburgh by the next target date of 2037 and will cost £8 billion.
- 3) Further notes that this is at odds with the public statement by the Council Leader on 2030 target that “work to date has shown that this is achievable”.
- 4) Notes the Conservative Amendment on the sustainability audit at Committee on the 26th February 2019 called for the scoping work detailed in this report to be undertaken prior to setting “ambitious targets”, especially given the Council's cuts and strained financial resources constrained project capacity and failure to deliver core services.
- 5) Agrees that the Chief Executive brings Council a project plan with SMART targets based on the final report and an analysis of the outputs of the Short Window Improvement Plan, this agreed plan to have suitable review points to assess the impact of national changes or new technological innovations and factor these in as time progresses.

- 6) The Chief Executive's report should also outline a realistic strategy to fund, or part fund, the investment required for the three different scenarios in the report.

- moved by Councillor Whyte, seconded by Councillor Webber

Amendment 2

- 1) To note the update provided on the Place-Based Climate Action Network (P-CAN) research project.
- 2) To note the draft summary research report and that a full report would be published to align with the launch of the Climate Commission.
- 3) To agree that officers would continue to work with P-CAN and Climate KIC to bring back analysis on the strategic and viable next actions for the Council to Committee in February 2020.
- 4) To recognise that this report provides a high-level assessment of the potential for city-wide emissions reduction showing that very significant reductions are achievable even within existing conditions and that achieving net-zero by 2030 will also require shifts in national policy and investment.
- 5) To recognise that there is an outstanding requirement for a detailed plan that sets out how to achieve net zero by 2030.
- 6) To note that this assessment does not include 'non-territorial' emissions occurring outside the city boundary from activities within the city boundary such as consumption of goods and services and flying. And therefore to reach actual net-zero emissions attributable to the City that these sources should also be included.
- 7) To welcome that this report highlights the significant win-win potential of reducing carbon emissions whilst at the same time achieving social, environmental and economic benefits to the city, including generation of employment.

- moved by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Main

In accordance with Standing Order 21(11), amendment 2 was adjusted and accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the Motion (as adjusted)	-	10 votes
For Amendment 1	-	7 votes

(For the Motion (as adjusted): Councillors Burgess, Kate Campbell, Child, Day, Gordon, Macinnes, Main, McVey, Perry and Rankin.

For Amendment 1: Councillors Aldridge, Jim Campbell, Gloyer, Hutchison, McLellan, Webber and Whyte.)

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor McVey:

- 1) To note the update provided on the Place-Based Climate Action Network (P-CAN) research project.
- 2) To note the draft summary research report and that a full report would be published to align with the launch of the Climate Commission.
- 3) To agree that officers would continue to work with P-CAN and Climate KIC to bring back analysis on the strategic and viable next actions for the Council to Committee in February 2020.
- 4) To recognise that this report provides a high-level assessment of the potential for city-wide emissions reduction showing that very significant reductions are achievable even within existing conditions and that achieving net-zero by 2030 will also require shifts in national policy and investment.
- 5) To recognise that there is an outstanding requirement for a detailed plan that sets out how to achieve net zero by 2030.
- 6) To note that this assessment does not include 'non-territorial' emissions occurring outside the city boundary from activities within the city boundary such as consumption of goods and services and flying.
- 7) To welcome that this report highlights the significant win-win potential of reducing carbon emissions whilst at the same time achieving social, environmental and economic benefits to the city, including generation of employment.

(References – Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee 14 May 2019 (item 1); joint report by the Chief Executive and the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

2. Climate Commission

On 30 May 2019, the Council agreed a motion to examine options for establishing a citywide partnership to progress climate action.

The Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation (ECCI), as part of the University of Edinburgh, had been funded through their Place Based Climate Action Network (P-CAN) project to convene and support a Climate Commission for Edinburgh.

It was proposed that the Council and ECCI jointly sponsor the establishment of the Commission.

Decision

- 1) To note the Council motion on 30 May on City of Edinburgh Climate Emergency Partnership.
- 2) To agree to co-sponsor a Climate Commission for Edinburgh with Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation.
- 3) To agree the broad scope of the Commission and that its work was tied to the Council commitment to be a Carbon Neutral city by 2030.
- 4) To delegate the identification of an appropriate independent chair to the Sustainability and Climate Emergency APOG.
- 5) To agree that the terms of reference would be brought back to the Policy and Sustainability Committee for consideration in November.
- 6) To recommend to the Chair that the sectors to be represented, as far as possible, in the membership and that an appropriate balance across sectors is achieved.
- 7) To agree that the Council Leader would act as Vice-Chair to the Commission with the Chief Executive attending as Chair of the CEC Sustainability Programme Board.
- 8) To note and, as appropriate, endorse key operating principles of the Commission identified in the report.
- 9) To agree to hear evidence and receive reports from the Commission at the appropriate times.

(References – Act of Council No.1 of 30 May 2019; joint report by the Chief Executive and the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

3. Update on Short Window Improvement Plan

An update was provided on progress being made within the Council Sustainability Programme in response to the global climate emergency and the specific recommendations of the Kerr Sustainability Audit.

Phase 1 commitments had been delivered and Phase 2 was underway and on track. The short window improvement plan was detailed with all timescales expected to be delivered as planned by December 2019.

Motion

- 1) To note the update provided and the resourcing arrangements going forward.

- 2) To agree the proposed short-window improvement priorities presented would be progressed within the timescales indicated.
 - 3) To note the series of events and agree to progress with a city conversation in November.
 - 4) To agree that a strategic communications plan would be developed as part of the Deep Demonstrator work once resources were in place and brought back to the Policy and Sustainability Committee for approval.
 - 5) To agree officers would continue to work with Scottish Government and COSLA to seek specific collaboration on challenges requiring additional resources and/or greater freedoms and flexibilities.
 - 6) To note that the Council response to the Scottish Government Consultation on the role of public bodies in tackling climate change would be brought back to the November Committee.
- moved by Councillor McVey, seconded by Councillor Day

Amendment 1

- 1) To note the update provided and the resourcing arrangements going forward.
- 2) To agree the proposed short-window improvement priorities presented would be progressed within the timescales indicated.
- 3) To note the series of events and agree to progress with a city conversation in November.
- 4) To agree that a strategic communications plan would be developed as part of the Deep Demonstrator work once resources were in place and brought back to the Policy and Sustainability Committee for approval.
- 5) To agree officers would continue to work with Scottish Government and COSLA to seek specific collaboration on challenges requiring additional resources and/or greater freedoms and flexibilities.
- 6) To note that the Council response to the Scottish Government Consultation on the role of public bodies in tackling climate change would be brought back to the November Committee.
- 7) To welcome the Council's current activity and the proposed short-window improvement priorities towards reducing the Council's carbon emissions.
- 8) To note, however, that there was as yet no accurate overall assessment as to whether these measures would achieve the Council's 2030 net-zero target and therefore that there was still a need for a plan that quantified how 2030 net-zero would be achieved.

- 9) To note that the latest Scottish Government programme included a focus on climate action and agree that this Council should pursue opportunities for Edinburgh's Climate Emergency programme with the Scottish Government including through the proposed Green New Deal.

- moved by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Main

Amendment 2

- 1) To note the update provided and the resourcing arrangements going forward.
- 2) To agree the proposed short-window improvement priorities presented would be progressed within the timescales indicated.
- 3) To note the series of events and agree to progress with a city conversation in November.
- 4) To agree that a strategic communications plan would be developed as part of the Deep Demonstrator work once resources were in place and brought back to the Policy and Sustainability Committee for approval.
- 5) To agree officers would continue to work with Scottish Government and COSLA to seek specific collaboration on challenges requiring additional resources and/or greater freedoms and flexibilities.
- 6) To note that the Council response to the Scottish Government Consultation on the role of public bodies in tackling climate change would be brought back to the November Committee.
- 7) To agree that the Council explore the implications of rapidly changing all appropriate standards and planning requirements to ensure as close as possible, future house-building is to Passivhaus standard in order that City population and housing growth did not add to City emissions and in line with the commitments given on Corporate Property.
- 8) To note that Conservatives had previously called for the Annual HRA accounts to include a financial model of achieving carbon neutrality in HRA housing stock by 2030, 2037 and 2050.
- 9) In light of this report, to recommend that the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee look at this issue again, in such a way that such a modelling could still be incorporated in the HRA accounts from next year.

- moved by Councillor Whyte, seconded by Councillor Jim Campbell

In accordance with Standing Order 21(11), amendment 1 was accepted as an addendum to the motion, and amendment 2 was adjusted and accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Decision

- 1) To note the update provided and the resourcing arrangements going forward.
- 2) To agree the proposed short-window improvement priorities presented would be progressed within the timescales indicated.
- 3) To note the series of events and agree to progress with a city conversation in November.
- 4) To agree that a strategic communications plan would be developed as part of the Deep Demonstrator work once resources were in place and brought back to the Policy and Sustainability Committee for approval.
- 5) To agree that officers would continue to work with the Scottish Government and COSLA to seek specific collaboration on challenges requiring additional resources and/or greater freedoms and flexibilities.
- 6) To note that the Council response to the Scottish Government consultation on the role of public bodies in tackling climate change would be brought back to the November Committee.
- 7) To welcome the Council's current activity and the proposed short window improvement priorities towards reducing the Council's carbon emissions.
- 8) To note that there was, as yet, no accurate overall assessment as to whether these measures would achieve the Council's 2030 net zero target and therefore that there was still a need for a plan that quantified how 2030 net zero would be achieved.
- 9) To note that the latest Scottish Government programme included a focus on climate action and to agree that this Council should pursue opportunities for Edinburgh's Climate Emergency Programme with the Scottish Government including through the proposed Green New Deal.
- 10) To agree that the Council explore the implications of changing, as soon as possible, all appropriate standards and planning requirements to ensure as close as possible future house building is to Passivhaus standard in order that City population and housing growth does not add to City emissions and in line with the commitments given on corporate property.
- 11) To note the existing work being undertaken by the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee and that a workshop was scheduled to take place in November 2019.
- 12) To note that the report on housing sustainability scheduled to be reported to the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee in January 2020 would thereafter be referred to the Policy and Sustainability Committee.

(References – Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee 14 May 2019 (item 1); joint report by the Chief Executive and the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

4. City Strategic Investment Fund

Proposals for the future use of the City Strategic Investment Fund (CSIF) were presented.

The proposals included revised investment criteria and due diligence measures and set out initial proposals for how the reserves of the Fund could be used to make a meaningful contribution to the scale of investment required in Edinburgh, delivery of the Council's Economy Strategy and other strategic regeneration and development priorities.

Consideration was also given to how the Fund could be grown over time to increase its effectiveness and its ability to address funding gaps in larger and more strategically important projects.

Motion

- 1) To note that the current available balance of the City Strategic Investment Fund stood at £3,552,084.
 - 2) To agree the principle that £2,150,000 of the current available balance should be set aside to support delivery of the Council's strategic regeneration priorities.
 - 3) To agree in principle to ring fence up to £500,000 of the current available balance to provide match funding for agreed projects.
 - 4) To note that this would leave the available fund balance at £902,084 and proposals for the utilisation of this amount would be brought back to Committee.
 - 5) To agree the refreshed investment criteria for debt and equity investments.
 - 6) To agree the principle that revenue from future equity investments made by the fund would continue to accrue to the fund until it disposed of the investment in question and that other options for growing reserves would be identified and reported to Committee.
 - 7) To note that regular reports on the impacts of the funds would be presented to Committee in due course.
 - 8) To refer the report to Council for approval.
- moved by Councillor McVey, seconded by Councillor Day

Amendment

- 1) To note the proposals in the recommendations and to agree to continue a decision on these until the report detailed at recommendation 1.1.7 in the report is provided.

- 2) To agree that the report at 1.1.7 should detail the opportunity costs of using the Fund within the council's mainstream capital programme.
- moved by Councillor Whyte, seconded by Councillor Hutchison

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion	-	11 votes
For the amendment	-	5 votes

(For the motion: Councillors Aldridge, Burgess, Kate Campbell, Day, Gloyer, Gordon, Macinnes, Main, McVey, Perry and Rankin.

For the amendment: Councillors Jim Campbell, Hutchison, McLellan, Webber and Whyte.)

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor McVey.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

5. Tourism Strategy Development Update

An update was provided on the development of the new Tourism Strategy “Edinburgh 2030” together with partners from a range of organisations in the city including national bodies and the tourism sector.

A Strategy Implementation Group (SIG), chaired by the Council's Chief Executive, had been established to oversee the development supported by the Edinburgh Tourism Action Group (ETAG).

Decision

- 1) To note a new tourism strategy for Edinburgh was being developed in partnership with national bodies and the tourism sector.
- 2) To note the process to date to develop the strategy and the input from Elected Members to date.
- 3) To note that a meeting of the Tourism and Communities Working Group was planned for 28 October 2019 to consider the draft strategy in advance of consultation.
- 4) To recommend that the Culture and Communities Committee reviews the remit of the Tourism and Communities Working Group once the policy was approved.

- 5) To note that consultation on the draft strategy would begin on 4 November 2019 and would be open for six weeks.
- 6) To note that the consultation document would be presented to Committee on 26 November 2019.
- 7) To agree to schedule an additional meeting of the Policy and Sustainability Committee in January 2020 to consider the final strategy.
- 8) To express regret that no note of the elected member briefing on 15 April 2019 had been produced given the considerable feedback provided across the political spectrum at that meeting and detailed notes provided from other meetings.
- 9) To agree to circulate to Committee members the output of the meeting and to instruct the Executive Director of Place to report to Committee, alongside the draft Strategy on 26 November 2019, detailing how this and other consultation information had been assessed and incorporated in the draft Strategy or, if rejected, why.

(References – Policy and Sustainability Committee, 1 October 2019 (item 8); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)