

Policy and Sustainability Committee

10:00am, Thursday 9 July 2020

Edinburgh Climate Commission

Executive/routine
Wards
Council Commitments

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 The Committee is recommended to:
 - 1.1.1 Note the presentation to Committee by the Chair of the Edinburgh Climate Commission on its recommendations for a green economic recovery in Edinburgh.
 - 1.1.2 Agree that the Commission's report will be submitted to the Adaptation and Renewal All Party Oversight Group (APOG), and that an initial response from the Council will be brought to Committee on the 23 July.
 - 1.1.3 Note that the Chair of the Commission has offered to attend future political group meetings as appropriate, to discuss the recommendations in more depth.

Andrew Kerr

Chief Executive

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Edinburgh Climate Commission

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report informs the Committee about the publication of the Edinburgh Climate Commission's recommendations for a green economic recovery on the 9 July 2020. This work by the Commission has been brought forward early in light of the Coronavirus crisis in order to make timely recommendations for the city in support of a green economic recovery.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Policy and Sustainability Committee agreed on 25 October to co-sponsor an independent Edinburgh Climate Commission with the Edinburgh Centre for Climate Innovation.
- 3.2 Edinburgh Climate Commission was established in February 2020 and is funded through the Place-based Climate Action Network (P-CAN), which also supports Climate Commissions in other parts of the UK including Leeds and Belfast. The Commission was due to meet for the first time the week the city went into lockdown, meaning its first meeting could not take place as planned. The Commission has therefore met virtually and through a series of on-line working group meetings.
- 3.3 The Commission brings together key organisations and actors from across the city and from the private, public and third sectors. The Chair of the Commission is Dr Sam Gardner, Head of Climate Change & Sustainability at Scottish Power. Leader of the Council, Councillor Adam McVey, was appointed as Vice-Chair.
- 3.4 The aim of the Commission is to accelerate action and impact on climate change in the city. It seeks to do this by providing independent, expert and authoritative advice to enable and promote city action on climate change. Further details on the remit of the Commission are available in the [Terms of Reference](#).
- 3.5 Members of the Climate Commission represent a range of sectors and interests that will be essential in helping the city achieve its Net Zero target. Further details on the members are available from the [Edinburgh Climate Commission Members page](#).
- 3.6 The Commission has agreed its workplan for 2020 with a focus on engaging key actors to build consensus, developing a long-term action framework, and catalysing solutions to support recovery from Covid-19 and accelerate the transition to net zero.

4. Main report

- 4.1 The COVID-19 global pandemic and the ongoing work in response has made substantial changes to everyday life for Edinburgh's residents, businesses and city partners. It has also fundamentally changed how the Council operates, with crisis response and recovery activity taking place within very short timelines. In light of this, the Edinburgh Climate Commission took the decision to prepare an initial report setting out recommendations for the city to help secure a green economic recovery. This is intended to help ensure the city's economic response to COVID-19 is consistent with and supports the target to be Net Zero by 2030.
- 4.2 The Commission's report will be published shortly before the Committee meets, but not in time for Committee papers being issued. The Commission Chair will therefore present the report to the Committee on the 9 July 2020, followed by an opportunity for questions and discussion to support members' consideration of the report's recommendations.
- 4.3 In recognition that the Commission's report would not be available at the time of Committee papers being issued, the Chair of the Commission met with elected members from all the political groups in recent weeks to discuss the focus of the work. The Chair of the Commission has also made himself available for future political group meetings to discuss the recommendations in more depth.
- 4.4 Following the Committee's discussion of the Commission's recommendations, the Commission's report will be taken to the Adaptation and Renewal All Party Oversight Group (APOG) to support discussion of how these recommendations can be addressed through the Council's Adaptation and Renewal Programme. It is proposed that a report will be brought back to committee on 23 July with an initial Council response to the Commission's recommendations.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 Edinburgh Climate Commission will publish its report on Recommendations for a Green Economic Recovery in Edinburgh on 9 July 2020.
- 5.2 A report detailing the Council's initial response to the Commission's recommendations will be brought back to the Policy and Sustainability Committee on the 23 July.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 There is no financial impact for the Council in respect of this report. Financial impact arising from any future action in response to the Commission recommendations will be given due consideration within individual reports as appropriate.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 The Council will ensure that opportunities to advance equality, diversity and rights, and to tackle inequalities and the impacts of climate change, are considered in any strategic responses to the Commission's recommendations through the Council's Adaptation and Renewal Programme.
- 7.2 In addition, the Council is working with Edinburgh Climate Commission to ensure the Commission has access to intelligence gathered through Council insight and engagement activity in relation to climate change, including engaging seldom-heard groups and groups with protected characteristics.

8. Background reading/external references

- 8.1 [Achieving Net-Zero in the City of Edinburgh](#) to Policy and Sustainability Committee on 25 October 2019.
- 8.2 [Climate Commission](#) to Policy and Sustainability Committee on 25 October 2019.

9. Appendices

None.