

Business bulletin

Policy and Sustainability Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 6 August, 2019

Dean of Guild Courtroom, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh

Policy and Sustainability Committee

Convener:	Members:	Contact:
<p>Councillor Adam McVey</p>  <p>Vice Convener: Councillor Cammy Day</p> 	<p>Councillor Adam McVey (Convener)</p> <p>Councillor Cammy Day (Vice-Convener)</p> <p>Councillor Robert Aldridge</p> <p>Councillor Jim Campbell</p> <p>Councillor Kate Campbell</p> <p>Councillor Neil Gardiner</p> <p>Councillor Gillian Gloyer</p> <p>Councillor Graham Hutchison</p> <p>Councillor Lesley Macinnes</p> <p>Councillor Melanie Main</p> <p>Councillor John McLellan</p> <p>Councillor Ian Perry</p> <p>Councillor Alasdair Rankin</p> <p>Councillor Alex Staniforth</p> <p>Councillor Susan Webber</p> <p>Councillor Donald Wilson</p> <p>Councillor Iain Whyte</p>	<p>Lesley Birrell Committee Officer</p> <p>Louise Williamson, Assistance Assistant Committee Officer</p>

Equalities update

Background

On 23 August 2018, Full Council agreed a motion to support the inclusion and innovation aims of the Council's Economy Strategy; to improve citizens' access to a range of services and opportunities; and to establish a cross-party Elected Member Working Group on Equalities.

Update

The Elected Member Working Group on Equalities held its first meeting on 29th March 2019 and focused on the specific service areas set out in the detail of the motion as follows:

- improve citizens' access to Council services, including services operated on the Council's behalf
- improve citizens' access to events, meetings and visits to Council owned buildings, parks and land; and
- improve citizens' access to employment and training opportunities within the Council

The group focused on the mechanisms required to deliver these improvements and received officer updates from Human Resources and Strategy and Communications. A range of actions to form a workplan for the group were agreed, including:

- Monitoring the delivery of the Council's Equalities, Diversity and Rights Framework 2017-2021 to ensure improvements to access are delivered
- Considering how the Integrated Impact Assessment process is currently being used to ensure the Council meets its public sector equalities duties, particularly in relation to the Council's budget process, and where improvements can be made
- Ensuring the human resources Diversity and Inclusion Strategy gives equal focus to LGBT and transgender groups
- Considering how the Council works with public sector partners in relation to equality, diversity and rights as part of work to establish shared equalities outcomes and deliver a refreshed approach when the current Council framework reaches the end of its lifecycle in 2021

It was agreed the group would meet again after the summer recess and dates are currently being sought.

Edinburgh Poverty Commission

[Edinburgh Poverty Commission](#) was launched in November 2018 and is working throughout this year to define the steps the city needs to make to reduce, mitigate, and prevent poverty in Edinburgh.

The Commission has now completed the first two phases of its inquiry, examining the themes of Pockets and Prospects. Through this inquiry, the project has gathered evidence on the pressures that keep incomes low and living costs high for people in Edinburgh, the impacts of poverty on people's wellbeing and life chances, and the actions we can take to make a difference for people who are struggling to get by in this city.

During the period from November 2018 to July 2019, the Commission has met in full session four times, and conducted 16 visits or evidence gathering sessions with projects, organisations, and groups of citizens across the city. Together with two public calls for evidence published on the [consultation hub](#), the programme of inquiry has so far gathered contributions from more than 40 organisations and groups across Edinburgh.

In parallel with this inquiry, through funding provided by the Scottish Government, the project has commissioned new research to listen to and capture the voices of citizens experiencing poverty across Edinburgh. This research is being carried out by Poverty Alliance on behalf of the Commission and will be augmented by further citizen based research during Autumn 2019.

In May 2019, the Commission [published the findings](#) of its first phase of work for comment and feedback. Following this, interim recommendations on its work to date have now been developed and will be shared with key partners in September 2019. Full findings and recommendations from the work of the commission, including actions and next steps for the Council and other partners will be published following the Commission's Autumn session in November 2019.

Over the next few months the Commission will continue its process of inquiry, the next phase of work aiming to explore the theme of 'Places', considering evidence on the impact of housing, homelessness, transport, and environment on the experience of poverty in Edinburgh.

Sustainability

Background

On 14 May 2019, the Council set a new climate emergency target of Edinburgh becoming carbon neutral by 2030, and agreed to pursue an ambitious approach focused on

developing a city-wide plan and long-term ambition that is co-produced with new and established partners across Edinburgh.

The report to the Corporate Strategy and Policy Committee on 14 May 2019 outlined a three-phase delivery plan for the development of this new approach, which includes sourcing the additional capacity required through securing external funding. This comprised:

- Phase 1 – Consolidation (June to August 2019)
- Phase 2 – Improvement and Engagement (September to May 2020)
- Phase 3 – 2030 Plan Publication and Delivery (June 2020 onwards)

It was agreed that regular updates would be provided to the Policy and Sustainability Committee, with reports being brought for decision at appropriate points in the programme.

Phase 1 activity

Phase 1 is designed to ensure the Council consolidates and better coordinates its current activity impacting on sustainability and climate change. It will ensure improved visibility and leadership of this agenda by establishing a single programme plan and monitoring framework, along with dedicated internal governance arrangements.

Phase 1 activity is almost complete. As part of delivering refreshed governance and leadership arrangements, a 'Sustainability and Climate Emergency All-Party Oversight Group' has been established and met on 24 June. Chaired by the Council Leader, the group agreed a sustainability programme plan and monitoring framework which consolidates *current* Council commitments and high-level activities into a single plan with key impact measures. This will be used to support Phase 2 improvement activity by helping to identify gaps and potential areas for stretch and challenge. The group also considered objectives for a Council-led communication and engagement plan, which will be developed to support Phase 2 engagement activity beginning at the end of the summer, and agreed the purpose will be to:

- Educate and inform citizens
- Create common language and key (Council) messages
- Promote and respond to agency and activism amongst individuals and organisations
- Develop ideas and innovation
- Test appetite for radical action that meets the scale of the challenge

- Secure consent for collaboration and city action towards a 2030 target

This will require an ongoing dialogue with citizens and partners, and planned core activities include:

- Partner workshops and bilateral engagement (Aug onwards)
- National Finance conference
- Youth Summit
- City Climate Conference

Alongside this, officers are in discussion with the Scottish Government with a view to collaborate on any aspects of the National Conversation on Climate that happen in Edinburgh.

As part of the refreshed governance and leadership arrangements a Sustainability Board, chaired by the Chief Executive and comprising senior officers across key Council service areas has been established. The Board will function to coordinate actions across the Council; drive programme implementation and improvement activity and support the development of the 2030 Sustainability Strategy and 2050 ambitions. The group's first meeting took place on 26 July.

In tandem with Phase 1 activity, officers are progressing key areas of work which will support later phases of the programme.

Routemap to carbon neutral by 2030

Edinburgh is a member of the Place-based Climate Action Network, which functions to translate climate policy into action on the ground to bring about transformative change. The network brings together the research community and decision-makers in the public, private and third sectors through five innovative platforms: three city-based approaches (in Leeds, Belfast and Edinburgh) and two theme-based platforms on finance and business.

As part of our participation in the network, we are working with Edinburgh and Leeds Universities to carry out a 'mini-Stern' review. Building on previous work, this will project carbon trajectories under various scenarios (population and economic growth; partner action) and present data on cost and carbon impacts of potential actions. This will help set out an evidence-based routemap to 2030 in order to support future political prioritisation. A project team was formed in June, work has begun and is expected to be complete by the end of September / beginning of October.

City Climate Commission

Discussions are underway with the Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation (ECCI), based at Edinburgh University, on bringing key city partners and experts together to

collaborate on action on climate change. As part of work with the P-CAN network, ECCI would convene and support an Edinburgh Climate Commission, with a planned launch date of November 2019. The Commission would function as an independent voice with the expertise to advise and challenge, along with the actors best-placed to forge innovative solutions and deliver real change. ECCI are working with City of Edinburgh Council as a key statutory partner to develop more detailed plans and further updates will be brought ahead of the planned launch in November.

Resources

The facilitation and coordination of this programme of work, and the ambitions with a broader set of city partners and citizens, will require additional resources within the Council. The additional capacity required in this space will include policy development skills, consultation and engagement, communications, project management and performance monitoring. The Council has applied for additional resources through the Climate Knowledge Innovation Community as part of the European-funded 'Healthy, Clean Cities Deep Demonstrator Programme'. We have been successful in stage one of the application process and are now awaiting official confirmation the award. As soon as this is received officers will look to secure the additional capacity required to deliver the remainder of the programme. Officers will also be looking to collaborate with ECCI on a longer term more substantial bid for partnership and resources with Climate KIC thereafter.

Forthcoming activities:
