

Minutes

Policy and Sustainability Committee

10.00 am, Friday 24 October 2023

Present

Councillors Day (Convener), Aston, Beal, Bennett, Biagi, Campbell, Dijkstra-Downie, Doggart, Macinnes, Meagher, Miller, Nols-McVey, Osler (substituting for Councillor Lang), Parker, Staniforth (substituting for Councillor Mumford), Watt and Whyte.

1. Business Bulletin

The Policy and Sustainability Committee Business Bulletin for 15 December 2023 was submitted.

Decision

- 1) To note the Business Bulletin.
- 2) To agree that details of the timescale for the development of the Direct Payments Policy would be circulated.
- 3) To note that officers were preparing a briefing note on additional resources and training required in relation to the Biodiversity Strategy and that this would be circulated in the next week.

(Reference – Business Bulletin 15 December 2023, submitted.)

2. Draft Climate Ready Edinburgh Plan for Consultation

The draft Climate Ready Edinburgh (CRE) Plan for 2024-2030 was submitted to committee for approval. Edinburgh's 2030 Climate Strategy placed a renewed focus on adapting the city to the effects of climate change. The Edinburgh Adapts Partnership had led this work on behalf of the city and had developed the CRE plan 2024-2030 for public consultation. If approved by Committee, a 12-week consultation would be held on the plan.

Development of the draft CRE plan was informed by an updated climate change risk assessment, which identified the risks, impacts and potential adaptation options that could be taken to adapt the city.

Motion

- 1) To approve the Draft Climate Ready Edinburgh Plan 2024-2030 which had been informed by the updated citywide climate change risk assessment commissioned by the Council for public consultation.
- 2) To note that this plan had been developed in partnership by the Edinburgh Adapts Group and led by Gordon Reid, General Manager Zero Emissions, Scottish Water.

- 3) To note that, if approved, a 12-week consultation on the draft plan would be held with the aim of bringing the final plan back to the Policy and Sustainability Committee for approval in Spring 2024.
- 4) To note the eight priority areas highlighted in the Draft Climate Ready Edinburgh Plan.
- 5) To request the Planning Committee review the actions noted under the priority heading *Planning and the Built Environment* against current planning policy to ensure climate change adaption is embedded throughout. To request a report back to Policy and Sustainability Committee on this work and any adjustments required.

- moved by Councillor Day, seconded by Councillor Meagher

Amendment 1

- 1) To agree the Draft Climate Ready Edinburgh Plan 2024-2030 can move forward to public consultation.
- 2) To note that this plan had been developed in partnership by the Edinburgh Adapts Group and led by Gordon Reid, General Manager Zero Emissions, Scottish Water.
- 3) To agree that following a 12-week consultation on the draft plan, the final plan back to the Policy and Sustainability Committee for approval in Spring 2024 with the ability to make further changes and improvements at that point.

- moved by Councillor Nols-McVey, seconded by Councillor Macinnes

Amendment 2

- 1) To approve the Draft Climate Ready Edinburgh Plan 2024-2030 which had been informed by the updated citywide climate change risk assessment commissioned by the Council for public consultation.
- 2) To note that this plan had been developed in partnership by the Edinburgh Adapts Group and led by Gordon Reid, General Manager Zero Emissions, Scottish Water.
- 3) To note that, if approved, a 12-week consultation on the draft plan would be held with the aim of bringing the final plan back to the Policy and Sustainability Committee for approval in Spring 2024.
- 4) In recognition of the fact that climate adaptation sits across all areas of the Council, requests a Business Bulletin update to all other Executive Committees as well as Planning committee and Regulatory committee promoting that the Climate Ready Edinburgh plan is out for consultation and highlighting its relevance for each Committee.
- 5) Notes with concern Appendix 4 which outlines a large number of “red” vulnerabilities relating to climate adaptation. Therefore, requests a report to Governance, Risk and Best Value committee after the consultation responses have been reviewed to set out how these vulnerabilities align with the Council’s risk appetite, and to outline a proposal for regular Committee monitoring of how these risks are being managed within all relevant service areas going forward, either as a standalone item or within the Council’s current risk reporting framework.

- 6) Notes from the report that “[a]dapting the city will require the Council to ensure it uses our existing funds effectively” and that “[the Council] will also have to look at using funds differently”. Therefore, requests a briefing session is arranged with Party finance leads, the Chief Financial Officer and other relevant officers to discuss how adaptation planning is adequately profiled in the Medium-Term Financial Plan and future Council Budget setting processes.
- 7) Notes with concern the significant risks to public health from climate change, and the alarming lack of detail in the draft plan around how this is being addressed within health and social care strategy. Therefore, requests a briefing session is arranged, inviting Party Health & Social Care spokespeople, Public Health, the Chief Officer of the EIJB, relevant officers in the Edinburgh Health & Social Care Partnership and NHS Lothian to discuss how adaptation planning will factor into Edinburgh’s health and social care strategy going forward.
- 8) Requests specific engagement with Edinburgh’s Community Climate Action Network and the Community Climate Hub as part of the 12-week consultation.

- moved by Councillor Parker, seconded by Councillor Miller

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), Amendment 1 was adjusted and accepted as an amendment to the Motion, and Amendment 2 was accepted as an addendum to the Motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Day:

- 1) To agree the Draft Climate Ready Edinburgh Plan 2024-2030 could move forward to public consultation.
- 2) To note that this plan had been developed in partnership by the Edinburgh Adapts Group and led by Gordon Reid, General Manager Zero Emissions, Scottish Water.
- 3) To agree that following a 12-week consultation on the draft plan, the final plan would come back to the Policy and Sustainability Committee for approval in Spring 2024 with the ability to make further changes and improvements at that point, post-consultation.
- 4) In recognition of the fact that climate adaptation sat across all areas of the Council, to request a Business Bulletin update to all other Executive Committees as well as Planning committee and Regulatory committee promoting that the Climate Ready Edinburgh plan was out for consultation and highlighting its relevance for each Committee.
- 5) To note with concern Appendix 4 of the report by the Executive Director of Place which outlined a large number of “red” vulnerabilities relating to climate adaptation. Therefore, to request a report to Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee after the consultation responses had been reviewed to set out how these vulnerabilities aligned with the Council’s risk appetite, and to outline a proposal for regular Committee monitoring of how these risks were being managed within all relevant service areas going forward, either as a standalone item or within the Council’s current risk reporting framework.
- 6) To note from the report that “[a]dapting the city will require the Council to ensure it uses our existing funds effectively” and that “[the Council] will also have to look at using funds differently”. Therefore, to request a briefing session be arranged

with Party finance leads, the Chief Financial Officer and other relevant officers to discuss how adaptation planning was adequately profiled in the Medium-Term Financial Plan and future Council Budget setting processes.

- 7) To note with concern the significant risks to public health from climate change, and the alarming lack of detail in the draft plan around how this was being addressed within health and social care strategy. Therefore, to request a briefing session be arranged, inviting Party Health & Social Care spokespeople, Public Health, the Chief Officer of the EIJB, relevant officers in the Edinburgh Health & Social Care Partnership and NHS Lothian to discuss how adaptation planning would factor into Edinburgh's health and social care strategy going forward.
- 8) To request specific engagement with Edinburgh's Community Climate Action Network and the Community Climate Hub as part of the 12-week consultation.

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

3. Edinburgh Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy and Delivery Plan

The Edinburgh Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES) and the associated Delivery Plan were submitted for approval. The Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies (Scotland) Order 2022 required all Scottish local authorities to publish a LHEES, along with a Delivery Plan, by the end of 2023. An LHEES was a long-term plan for decarbonising heat in buildings and improving energy efficiency across a local authority. The central aim of an LHEES was to improve the energy efficiency and decarbonise the heat supply of buildings and to eliminate poor energy efficiency as a driver for fuel poverty.

Motion

- 1) To approve the Edinburgh Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES), attached as Appendix 1 of the report by the Executive Director of Place.
- 2) To approve the Delivery Plan, attached as Appendix 2 of the report by the Executive Director of Place.
- 3) To approve the formation of a LHEES Office, as set out in the Delivery Plan.
- 4) To agree that the LHEES Office would lead on work to develop heat networks in Edinburgh on behalf of the Council.
- 5) To agree that a further phase of public consultation would be carried out on the Edinburgh LHEES and Delivery Plan.
- 6) To note that resource limitations would constrain the Council's ability to fully deliver the Edinburgh LHEES and Delivery Plan.

- moved by Councillor Day, seconded by Councillor Meagher

Amendment 1

- 1) Approves the Edinburgh Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES), attached as Appendix 1 with the changes below.
- 2) Approves the Delivery Plan, attached as Appendix 2 taking account of the changes in the following points.
- 3) Approves the formation of a LHEES Office, as set out in the Delivery Plan to develop and present to delivery options to Councillors.

- 4) Agrees that the LHEES Office will lead on work to develop heat networks in Edinburgh on behalf of the Council, each heat network must have a publicly-owned or part publicly-owned option presented to Councillors to assess against private-owned alternatives of delivery of projects. This will ensure Councillors can make an informed choice about which option derives the greatest public benefit.
- 5) Agrees that a further phase of public consultation will be carried out on the Edinburgh LHEES and Delivery Plan including the need to derive public benefit through public-ownership or part public-ownership.
- 6) Notes delivery models of heat projects will rely on strong business cases to borrow for projects which create a payback and therefore avoiding strain on the public purse and create public benefit.

- moved by Councillor Nols-McVey, seconded by Councillor Macinnes

Amendment 2

- 1) To approve the Edinburgh Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES), attached as Appendix 1 of the report by the Executive Director of Place.
- 2) To approve the Delivery Plan, attached as Appendix 2 of the report by the Executive Director of Place.
- 3) To approve the formation of a LHEES Office, as set out in the Delivery Plan.
- 4) To agree that the LHEES Office would lead on work to develop heat networks in Edinburgh on behalf of the Council.
- 5) To agree that a further phase of public consultation would be carried out on the Edinburgh LHEES and Delivery Plan.
- 6) To notes that resource limitations would constrain the Council's ability to fully deliver the Edinburgh LHEES and Delivery Plan.

Budget

- 7) Welcomes the LHEES and the opportunities it offers to the city, recognising the strategic importance of decarbonising heat and improving energy efficiency for delivering the aims of the Business Plan to end poverty and tackle the climate emergency; therefore, notes with concern that there is no dedicated budget for its delivery beyond that set out in 5.1 of the officer report.
- 8) Requests a briefing note setting out possible costs for expansion of the proposed LHEES office beyond the resourcing of one Council Energy Officer and £75k of annual Scottish Government funding.
- 9) Requests a briefing note on the findings of the Green Heat Finance Taskforce once they are published.

Energy Efficiency

- 10) Requests a report in 3 cycles to Policy & Sustainability committee to set out how the Council could work with partners to deliver small grants and support for installing low-cost energy efficiency measures (such as draught excluders, curtains, rugs and carpets) within the private rented sector as a programme of work within the LHEES office in line with Action 76) in the Delivery Plan, including information about how this could dovetail with other anti-poverty initiatives in the Council.

- 11) Also requests a briefing note to explore if there might be a role for the Council's Shared Repairs Service to support private homeowners to complete community-led retrofitting work, or whether the Council can gain learning from that service to develop a Shared / Community Retrofitting and Energy Efficiency service within the LHEES office.

Heat networks

- 12) Welcomes Action 41) in the Delivery Plan about co-ordinating excavation works for heat networks with other infrastructure works and requests a Business Bulletin update at Policy & Sustainability committee in 3 cycles to outline how soon this might be practicable as part of routine asset management works in the Council, and what steps are needed to make this so.
- 13) Reaffirms that there is a clear role for Energy for Edinburgh in delivery of heat network projects at all stages of the LHEES once approved, and that this should be built on co-operative and community wealth building principles.
- 14) Recognises the challenge around workforce development and planning in order to deliver the LHEES and therefore requests the next stage of consultation includes a roundtable event with Trade Unions, employability / training services and other relevant organisations to gather views and identify outstanding concerns or questions that these groups may have on deliverability of the LHEES in the context of workforce planning, with a view to developing a joined-up action plan / partnership approach to heat network delivery across the city.

Community Engagement

- 15) Notes that this is a complex and technical document which is not easily accessible to members of the public who may be interested in understanding the benefits / impact of the LHEES. Therefore, welcomes Actions 11) and 12) in the Delivery Plan around stakeholder engagement and requests that the draft engagement plan cited is discussed at the Sustainability and Climate and Nature Emergencies APOG before publication, and is developed in consultation with the Edinburgh Community Climate Action Network / "Community Climate Hub".

Governance

- 16) Requests that a dashboard update monitoring the 76 actions under the LHEES Delivery Plan is reported to Committee on an annual basis.
- 17) Notes a number of outstanding questions for the Scottish Government highlighted at 4.4.10 of the LHEES and requests that the Council Leader writes to the Minister for Zero Carbon Buildings, Active Travel and Tenants Rights to seek answers to these questions.
- 18) Agrees to refer this report to Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work committee and Planning committee.

- moved by Councillor Parker, seconded by Councillor Staniforth

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), Amendment 1 was adjusted and accepted as an amendment to the Motion and Amendment 2 was adjusted and accepted as an addendum to the Motion.

At this point in the meeting the following Amendment 3 was proposed:

Amendment 3

To agree the original motion as proposed by Councillor Day.

- moved by Councillor Whyte, seconded by Councillor Doggart

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the Motion (as adjusted) - 15 votes

For Amendment 3 - 2 votes

(For the Motion (as adjusted): Councillors Aston, Beal, Bennett, Biagi, Campbell, Day, Dijkstra-Downie, Macinnes, Meagher, Miller, Nols-McVey, Osler, Parker, Staniforth and Watt.

For Amendment 2: Councillors Doggart and Whyte.)

Decision

- 1) To approve the Edinburgh Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES), attached as Appendix 1 of the report by the Executive Director of Place with the changes below.
- 2) To approve the Delivery Plan, attached as Appendix 2 of the report by the Executive Director of Place taking account of the changes in the following points.
- 3) To approve the formation of an LHEES Office, as set out in the Delivery Plan to develop and present to delivery options to Councillors.
- 4) To agree that that officers would explore a role for Energy for Edinburgh in delivery of heat network projects at all stages of the LHEES once approved, and that this should be built on co-operative and community wealth building principles. This should be presented to committee as an integral part of business cases.
- 5) To agree that a further phase of public consultation would be carried out on the Edinburgh LHEES and Delivery Plan including the need to derive public benefit through public-ownership or part public-ownership.
- 6) To note delivery models of heat projects would rely on strong business cases to borrow for projects which create a payback and therefore avoiding strain on the public purse and create public benefit.

Budget

- 7) To welcome the LHEES and the opportunities it offered to the city, recognising the strategic importance of decarbonising heat and improving energy efficiency for delivering the aims of the Business Plan to end poverty and tackle the climate emergency; therefore, to note with concern that there was no dedicated budget for its delivery beyond that set out in 5.1 of the report by the Executive Director of Place.
- 8) To request a briefing note setting out possible costs for expansion of the proposed LHEES office beyond the resourcing of one Council Energy Officer and £75k of annual Scottish Government funding.
- 9) To request a briefing note on the findings of the Green Heat Finance Taskforce once they were published.

Energy Efficiency

- 10) To request a report in 3 cycles to Policy & Sustainability Committee to set out how the Council could work with partners to deliver small grants and support for

installing low-cost energy efficiency measures (such as draught excluders, curtains, rugs and carpets) within the private rented sector as a programme of work within the LHEES office in line with Action 76) in the Delivery Plan, including information about how this could dovetail with other anti-poverty initiatives in the Council.

- 11) To also request a briefing note to explore if there might be a role for the Council's Shared Repairs Service to support private homeowners to complete community-led retrofitting work, or whether the Council could gain learning from that service to develop a Shared / Community Retrofitting and Energy Efficiency service within the LHEES office.
- 12) To Welcome Action 41) in the Delivery Plan about co-ordinating excavation works for heat networks with other infrastructure works and request a Business Bulletin update at Policy & Sustainability Committee in 3 cycles to outline how soon this might be practicable as part of routine asset management works in the Council, and what steps were needed to make this so.
- 13) To recognise the challenge around workforce development and planning in order to deliver the LHEES and therefore request the next stage of consultation included a roundtable event with Trade Unions, employability / training services and other relevant organisations to gather views and identify outstanding concerns or questions that these groups may have had on deliverability of the LHEES in the context of workforce planning, with a view to developing a joined-up action plan / partnership approach to heat network delivery across the city.

Community Engagement

- 14) To note that this was a complex and technical document which is not easily accessible to members of the public who may be interested in understanding the benefits / impact of the LHEES. Therefore, to welcome Actions 11) and 12) in the Delivery Plan around stakeholder engagement and request that the draft engagement plan cited was discussed at the Sustainability and Climate and Nature Emergencies APOG before publication, and was developed in consultation to include the Edinburgh Community Climate Action Network / "Community Climate Hub".

Governance

- 15) To request that a dashboard update monitoring the 76 actions under the LHEES Delivery Plan be reported to Committee on an annual basis.
- 16) To note a number of outstanding questions for the Scottish Government highlighted at 4.4.10 of the LHEES and request that the Council Leader write to the Minister for Zero Carbon Buildings, Active Travel and Tenants Rights to seek answers to these questions.
- 17) To agree to refer this report to Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee and Planning Committee.

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