

# Policy and Sustainability Committee

10am, Thursday 23 July 2020

## Council response to Edinburgh Climate Commission and Sustainability Programme Update

Executive/routine

Wards

Council Commitments

### 1. Recommendations

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- 1.1 The Committee is recommended to welcome the work of the Commission and the publication of their report 'Faster Forward Together' and agree that:
  - 1.1.1 Planning for a green recovery and the Council net zero by 2030 carbon target will be integrated into the Adaptation and Renewal Programme including all future significant operational or financial proposals that will form the basis of a new council business plan. An update on progress will be provided in October.
  - 1.1.2 The principle that public stimulus and investment decisions should positively contribute to the city carbon target
  - 1.1.3 The Council will seek out new and innovative funding models and work to overcome any cultural, operational or procedural barriers that may exist
  - 1.1.4 The Leader of the Council writes to Scottish Government seeking to ensure that our respective green recovery plans are aligned and that mutual opportunities for progress are identified.
- 1.2 The Committee is further recommended to
  - 1.2.1 Note the impact of the pandemic on the risks and opportunities facing the city as it seeks to deliver its carbon ambitions and the work underway to map the city's new risk profile.
  - 1.2.2 Note the seven key areas of Council action which tackle the city's emissions.
  - 1.2.3 Agree the four 'test of change innovations' which will be the initial focus for the sustainability programme.
  - 1.2.4 Note the progress on the Carbon Scenario Tool as a means of informing decisions made by the Council alongside the economic business case

- 1.2.5 Note the resource update and the collaboration between financial experts from the Climate Commission, the Climate KIC programme and Council officers to explore new finance models to support delivery of the Council's ambitious net zero carbon target.
- 1.2.6 Agree that a summary of the sustainability programme activity and progress towards the carbon target will be provided before the start of the new financial year.

**Andrew Kerr**

Chief Executive

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# Report

## Council response to Edinburgh Climate Commission and Sustainability Programme Update

### **2. Executive Summary**

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- 2.1 The Council's recent commitment to achieve net zero carbon by 2030 and declaration of a Climate Emergency has placed sustainability and climate change at the centre of strategic and policy discussions. This has also raised the profile of Edinburgh as one of the most ambitious cities seeking to tackle climate change to deliver a more sustainable and inclusive city. As a result of the pandemic the Council is now planning for its renewal and recovery and must consider how this is achieved while prioritising sustainability and anti-poverty outcomes.
- 2.2 This paper provides an initial response to the Edinburgh Climate Commission's recent publication calling for all city leaders and businesses to commit to a green economic recovery and recommends the Council endorses four of the cross cutting strategic recommendations in the report.
- 2.3 The more detailed recommendations from the Commission will be considered by the Adaptation and Renewal Elected Member Working Group on the 30 July and addressed by the 4 officer working groups. The carbon target and a green recovery will, subject to agreement by committee, thereafter be integrated into all significant operational or financial proposals that will be brought forward over the next 3 months as a result of this work. This will include a refreshed economy strategy and a new council business plan due next year. An update on the outcome of this activity will be provided as part of the Adaptation and Renewal Programme report to committee in October.
- 2.4 In the meantime, the Council continues to take steps to mainstream the carbon target into its activity. This report provides an over view of the significant activity underway across the Council to align strategy, policy and investment decisions to deliver net zero carbon emissions by 2030.
- 2.5 While this activity continues at pace, the pandemic has changed the context, risks and opportunities for taking forward the Council commitment to be net zero by 2030. Work is underway to understand this in more detail.
- 2.6 The corporate sustainability programme has also continued to make progress during this time and is on track with its European funding deliverables, however, the priorities of the programme and some key deliverables moving forward have had to

be adjusted to take account of impact of the pandemic on the city. The report provides an update on progress and seeks agreement to the four areas of innovation and development proposed.

- 2.7 Finally, the report updates on activity to improve the underlying evidence base, data monitoring and economic profile of the Council's climate actions and updates members on the resource and financial issues relevant to the programme.

### **3. Background**

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- 3.1 On 14 May 2019, the Council's Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee approved the Council's approach to sustainability including working towards a net zero carbon by 2030.
- 3.2 On 16 January 2020, the Transport and Environment Committee of the Council approved consultation on a new city mobility plan. The plan aims to decarbonise the transport system by 2030. The results of that consultation and the revised mobility strategy will be brought forward to committee by the end of the year.
- 3.3 On 20 January 2020 the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee approved the approach to achieving zero carbon by 2030 in Council housing. On 20 February 2020, Council approved the largest ever capital investment programme. The HRA Budget Strategy set out an ambitious £2.5 billion investment programme over ten years in building and improving Council homes to deliver Council commitments on affordable housing and net zero carbon.
- 3.4 On 22 January 2020 the Planning Committee of the Council approved Choices, the main issues report for the new City Plan, for publication and consultation. The consultation includes the proposal that all new development should be zero carbon.
- 3.5 On 20 February 2020 the Council also agreed that sustainability, poverty and wellbeing are the three strategic policy objectives for the council which shape its strategic and operational activity as well as the Council budget.
- 3.6 In June the corporate sustainability programme successfully passed its European Funding stage gates although some timescales for future work have had to be reviewed.
- 3.7 During the pandemic a number of actions that have a direct impact on carbon have been taken forward including the transfer of more road space to walking and cycling and investment.
- 3.8 On 9 July the Edinburgh Climate Commission published its first report 'Forward, Faster, Together: Recommendations for a Green Economic Recovery in Edinburgh'
- 3.9 The Commission report recommends that the Council adopts a green recovery as the city rebuilds following the coronavirus pandemic and makes 10 recommendations supported by a number of proposed action for delivering on this commitment.

- 3.10 The Commission report states that everyone in the city has a part to play in addressing the climate emergency. Delivery requires collective actions requires collective action across city stakeholders; local and national government must lead, communities must be enabled to respond, businesses supported to change working practices and people encouraged to change behaviours. [The full report can be accessed here](#) and the summary of recommendations found on page 18

## **4. Main report**

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### **Responding to the Commission Recommendations**

- 4.1 The Policy and Sustainability Committee agreed on 25 June that it would take account of the recommendations made by the Edinburgh Climate Commission. The Commission report 'Further, Faster, Together: recommendations for a green economic recovery in Edinburgh' has now been published in full.
- 4.2 The Commission defines a green recovery as one that delivers for the long term, catalyses job creation into growth industries, empowers citizens, improves public health and drives innovation while at the same time removing our contribution to the climate emergency. The Commission, in its report and during evidence to committee, described the economic and wider data that evidences that a green recovery is the best form of recovery for the economy – gaining higher returns on investment, supporting job creation and ensuring the resilience of the city and its businesses.
- 4.3 The Commission report makes a number of recommendations directed at the Council and which have an overarching and strategic importance to the Council's recovery planning. These are dealt with below and it is recommended that the remaining recommendations are addressed as part of the Adaptation and Recovery programme.
- 4.3.1 The Commission recommendation was that both the Scottish Government and the Council formally commit to planning a green economic recovery from the pandemic. The purpose being to provide leadership and direction to the wider recovery planning in the city and to ensure that the decisions made by both layers of Government positively contribute to this commitment. The Committee is invited to agree this recommendation.
- 4.3.2 The Commission recommended that any public stimulus or organisational investment decisions be conditional on taking positive climate action. This was to ensure that investments supported by the public pound, contribute to a net zero future rather than returning to the status quo or creating negative consequences that compromise the carbon target. The Committee is invited to agree the principle that public stimulus and investment decisions should positively contribute to climate action and the city carbon target.
- 4.3.3 The Commission recognised that in many areas of work the Council was already moving in the right direction – for example, City Centre

Transformation, the City Mobility Plan and the regeneration of Granton. In this context the Commission recommended that the Council accelerate and enhance projects that contribute to the carbon target to reflect the scale and urgency of the climate challenge. The committee is invited to agree that the Adaptation and Renewal programme prioritises budget and resources on accelerating and enhancing its projects and programmes that contribute to carbon emission reductions.

- 4.3.4 Finally, the Commission recommends that the city is bold and innovative in seeking out new funding models to support the green recovery and climate action. While the exact nature of this needs to be more fully explored, the committee is invited to endorse the principle that the Council should be open to new mixed models of financing change and that it should actively seek to overcome any cultural, operational or procedural barriers that may exist.

#### **Mainstreaming the net zero carbon target post covid**

- 4.4 The Council set three strategic themes in February 2020, sustainability, anti-poverty and well being. Officers are working to fully map and evaluate the emerging risks and opportunities to these themes arising from COVID-19 and the anticipated impacts on the city, however, as an example:
- 4.4.1 Public transport capacity reduced significantly in response to the early stages of COVID-19 and short term demand for services is likely to be low until passengers have confidence to travel. Already one of the UK cities worst affected by congestion, there is a concern that more car journeys will lead to greater congestion.
- 4.4.2 While the full impact of the expected recession may not be felt for a number of months, significant additional job losses are expected. The ability of the economy to create new replacement jobs will depend a great deal on how resilient local businesses and communities are to creating new opportunities, organisations and businesses at a local level.
- 4.4.3 The breakdown in global supply chains has presented a number of challenges but the impact on food security has been widely recognised. Food security and food growing will require a greater focus than previously planned.
- 4.4.4 With the threat of COVID-19, protecting people, and the communities they live in from harm is increasingly important and a renewed focus on physical, mental and emotional health has emerged. The importance of open, safe and accessible green space has been underlined, particularly for more disadvantaged communities, and to ensure space is available for all for exercise, recreation and food production,
- 4.5 The Council's COVID-19 response and the Adaptation and Renewal Programme have already taken action to address some of these risks while the wider work of the council to mainstream sustainability and the carbon target into council activity has continued. These are detailed below but moving forward, and in recognition of

the Commission recommendations, if agreed by committee, the Adaptation and Renewal Programme will ensure that its work to plan for the City's renewal takes forward a green recovery across all four officer working groups.

- 4.6 In committing to a green recovery, each officer working group will reflect on how their work and proposals can positively contribute to green growth and the delivery of the net zero carbon target.
- 4.7 Each group will also be responsible for the delivery of those actions already agreed by the Council in its Short Window Improvement Plan (SWIP). Progress on SWIP deliverables was due to be reported to committee in June but progress and focus on the 37 actions contained in the SWIP has understandably been affected by the pandemic and its impact on Council capacity to prioritise all actions while managing and responding to the crisis.
- 4.8 All future reporting on the Adaptation and Renewal programme will reflect how the green economic recovery and carbon target are being taken forward by the Council and what, if any, implications there might be to other projects, policies or council finances. The commitment to a green recovery and the carbon target will be mainstreamed into all significant operational or financial proposals that will be brought forward in the autumn. This includes plans for a refreshed economy strategy and a new council business plan.
- 4.9 In the meantime, the Council is not standing still and much has been done to embed the net zero ambition into strategy, policy and investment plans.

### **Key Council action to deliver a net zero city by 2030**

#### **Decarbonising transport in Edinburgh**

- 4.10 The Council has committed to an ambitious 10 year mobility plan with a strategy to decarbonise transport in Edinburgh, enabling citizens and goods to move around the city easily and efficiently through an accessible, equitable and integrated low or no carbon transport system. Immediate action includes extending the tram network to Newhaven, establishing a Low Emission Zone (LEZ), and transforming the carbon footprint of public transport. In addition, the Council will continue to deliver an ambitious active travel programme across the city to encourage modal shift away from the private car wherever possible.
- 4.11 As part of this approach, the Council is consulting on the consolidation of the publicly owned transport companies. One of the objectives of this is to ensure strategic coordination of public transport planning and better connectivity between modes of public transport. In addition, the Council will work with any new future body to ensure that their strategic priorities are aligned to the Council's net zero target.
- 4.12 Medium and longer term objectives will be develop business cases for extension of the tram network with north-south routes and potential routes in west Edinburgh, with the extended network being linked with revised routing of bus services to ensure new development and existing poorly served areas of the city are connected up.

- 4.13 Supporting modal shift from car to low-carbon public transport, and from public transport to cycling, walking and other forms of active travel, is key to achieving a carbon-neutral city and can also secure public health benefits for citizens. Through its City Centre Transformation strategy, the City Mobility Plan and City Plan 2030 (the next Local Development Plan), the Council, including with developer cooperation, will undertake infrastructure improvements to deliver a walkable city with a network of car-free streets and expanded safe active travel routes.
- 4.14 As part of its response to COVID-19, the Council is already significantly increasing the physical space within the city set aside for pedestrians and cyclists. The Council's *Spaces for People* programme sets out a phased approach to rapidly increasing the number and size of pedestrian walkways and cycle paths. As well as enabling safe movement and neighbourhood access this will secure air quality and public health benefits, in addition to contributing the city's carbon target.
- 4.15 Alongside investing in and promoting sustainable modes of transport around the city, the Council will develop a business case and funding model for investing in an appropriate level of city-wide electric vehicle infrastructure. This will ensure that a more sustainable option exists for those who have no other option than to use cars, private taxis and other electric vehicles. It will also support the wider electrification of goods and services vehicles which may be required where other sustainable modes aren't appropriate.

### **City Development**

- 4.16 Choices for City Plan 2030 sets out that the next local development plan for the city mainstreams and prioritises climate action and the zero carbon 2030 target through its proposed approach. Subject to the outcome of consultation on it, the Council's objectives for this 10 year plan are to ensure that Edinburgh develops as a sustainable city which: supports everyone's physical and mental well being; where everyone lives in a home which they can afford; where people don't need to own a car to move around; and where everyone shares in the city's economic success.
- 4.17 The Choices document specifically seeks to address climate change and reduce carbon emissions by proposing:
  - 4.17.1 Establishing a city-wide green network to connect our places, parks and greenspaces together as part of a multi-functional, local, city-wide, regional, and national green network.
  - 4.17.2 Requiring all new buildings and refurbishments to meet the zero carbon / platinum standards as set out in the current Scottish building regulations and for all new developments to demonstrate how their design will incorporate measures to tackle and adapt to climate change.
  - 4.17.3 Promoting higher density, mixed use neighbourhoods to allow for local access to services and jobs and reduce the need to travel;
  - 4.17.4 Supporting the outcomes of the City Mobility Plan;

- 4.17.5 Maximising development around existing infrastructure and therefore minimising the need for new service infrastructure (and the embedded carbon costs involved in both buildings and travel).
- 4.17.6 Supporting Local Place Plans to help the city achieve thriving and resilient places and support community ambitions.

### **Investment in Sustainable Urban Regeneration**

- 4.18 The Council has invested in a major £1.3 billion redevelopment of North Edinburgh which will deliver low carbon communities at the Granton Waterfront and into West Edinburgh. The planning guidance for the development seeks to secure carbon reduction and other co-benefits by creating a framework for place-making, building with nature, supporting active travel and securing public health improvements by creating communities where employment and leisure opportunities, services and community facilities are within a short journey by sustainable transport mode. The development is set to be one of the best examples of low-carbon urban development in Europe.
- 4.19 This is part of a wider programme of investment in the development of the city which includes other live projects including, Fountainbridge, Meadowbank and Powderhall. These developments will collectively bring forward approximately 1000 homes as well as new workspace, community facilities and high quality public realm. They are all now being brought forward with the ambition of being carbon neutral and with potential to support carbon reduction on neighbouring sites.
- 4.20 The Council is also, in partnership with Scottish Enterprise, University of Edinburgh and NHS Lothian, working to accelerate the delivery of the BioQuarter. The ambition is to deliver a world beating life sciences quarter that provides healthcare, medical teaching, research and development facilities and commercial space. In addition the development will include housing and community facilities. Again the stated ambition of the partnership is for the BioQuarter to be carbon neutral. Work is currently under way to begin the process of procuring a development partner.
- 4.21 There is now a significant amount of development activity in the city that is focussed on achieving carbon neutral status. The examples mentioned above represent several billion pounds of investment programmed in the city over the next ten years.

### **Council Housing**

- 4.22 As a large social landlord in the city with over 19,500 homes and ambitions to build a further 10,000 new homes the Council can lead by example in delivering high quality, sustainable homes at a price that is affordable to the Council and its customers.
- 4.23 Across the existing and new build housing estate, significant investment has already been made in both building homes to very high energy efficiency standard and retrofitting existing homes to improve their energy performance and help to tackle fuel poverty. Capital investment has more than doubled over the last five years and is expected to more than quadruple over the next five years.

- 4.24 The housing service's ambitious £2.5 billion investment strategy to deliver new homes, invest significantly in existing stock and transform services for customers, was outlined in the latest Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget Strategy, which was approved by Council in February 2020.
- 4.25 All new Council homes currently in design development will achieve net zero carbon. This presents a number of opportunities for funding new technologies, to foster collaboration and learning with both the private and academic sectors and to trial innovative low carbon technology pilots. As an example, funding has recently been secured for a cross partner project focused on developing offsite construction with a pipeline for delivery through the Council's housebuilding programme and City Region partners.

### **Housing and estate retrofit**

- 4.26 An ambitious new approach to advanced whole house retrofit is being developed across the Council's existing homes. This new strategic approach will embed an advanced retrofit standard (such as EnerPHit) which combines energy efficiency with building improvement and robust asset management to deliver health, comfort and affordability to tenants and long-term savings to the Council.
- 4.27 This approach will radically change how building retrofit is delivered with fabric first and low energy demand siting at the heart of this new approach to achieve significant carbon savings but also incorporating wider building improvements. It will also champion a long-term holistic approach to asset management and energy efficiency with both aligned at the design stage to achieve a consistent approach for the improvement of homes and to embed future maintenance savings. The Council is working with Renfrewshire Council to jointly develop a number of design principles to help inform the future advanced whole house retrofit approach. Also, a number of pilot projects are in development to test advance retrofit approaches such as EnerPHit and other renewable / low carbon technologies such as combined solar PV and battery storage.
- 4.28 Property and Facilities Management are also in the process of securing funding for a feasibility study into the deep energy retrofit of Council buildings. The feasibility study will seek to establish the parameters under which a deep energy retrofit delivers best value. This will help inform the Council's future approach to property investment as well as advancing in-house Council knowledge of deep energy retrofit. By leading on the investigation of innovative and rigorous best practice energy efficiency solutions the Council can demonstrate further opportunities for carbon reduction across its estate and set a positive example for both Edinburgh and more widely.

### **Ongoing sustainability programme development and future actions**

- 4.29 The corporate sustainability programme has three specific tasks. Firstly, to support the mainstreaming of Climate Action throughout the work of the council and enable collective oversight and monitoring of the Council's cumulative impact on its own and the wider city carbon emissions. The report summarises the mainstreaming and

collective approach of the council to act now on its net zero city ambition and updates on development of an evidence base to assess progress.

- 4.30 The sustainability programme also provides corporate capacity and skills to support and drive impactful areas of change, improvement and innovation. In this con is worth highlighting that the council role in heat and energy generation is underdeveloped and requires further and significant consideration. Officers are in early discussions with Edinburgh University to seek out shared opportunities associated with the retrofit of our respective estates but more needs to be done to ensure that the city plans in this area mirror the level of ambition in other Council plans.
- 4.31 Similarly, it is widely recognised that the city has a significant amount of green space but that it is not widely accessed or aligned either to improving city wide public health or our net zero commitment – including how it might be used proactively in respect of heat and energy generation. There is a need to review the Council approach to green and open space that officers will take forward in the sustainability programme plan.
- 4.32 In addition, alongside our Climate KIC deep demonstrator partners, officers have identified a series of action areas that require additional investment, expertise, specialist input or technological innovation to maximise delivery of carbon reductions and other co-benefits. These action areas have been designed as ‘tests of change’ that will allow rapid learning which can be scaled up to support Edinburgh in meeting its net zero target by 2030.
- 4.33 The tests of change below have been designed to utilise existing or planned public finance investment in infrastructure as the basis for developing blended finance proposals which secure additional investment to support innovation, experimentation and acceleration of progress towards the city’s 2030 carbon target. Tests of change will be implemented in the next 5 to 10 years, with 2020 and 2021 activity focusing on establishing capacity across the Council through recruitment of C-KIC funded posts; scoping specialist input required; understanding costs, including of failure demand; developing a capital investment profile; and identifying potential funding sources.
- 4.34 The 4 tests of change being developed are:
  - 4.34.1 **Community Retrofit** - Buildings where the Council owns a minority number of units present significant challenges for retrofitting, due to the requirement for commitment and finance from owners of the remaining units, which significantly impacts on the city’s ability to reduce the emissions arising from heating and powering domestic properties.
  - 4.34.2 This planned test of change would look to develop and support a mixed tenure model of community retrofit in combination with the Council’s programme for CEC homes. It will explore the most technically effective retrofit measures for challenging building types situated within communities with high levels of mixed-tenure shared buildings. It will also seek to enhance the participation and decision-making processes of owners and

occupiers in mixed tenure settings for individual building, street level and whole community retrofit interventions. The test of change will further explore ways to incentivize property owners to increase investment in their property or find alternative sources of finance to fund the work and include testing the business, financial and social engagement models for delivering whole community energy retrofit, including buildings, infrastructure (EV, PV solar, utilities, road and green spaces) and associated ‘place-making’.

**4.34.3 The Granton Development** - There is a correlation between poor quality living space and health issues (physical, mental, wellbeing). Current approaches to urban development and regeneration do not deliberately design for preventative health and community wellbeing. This test of change will explore how the built environment (housing, urban spaces, private spaces) can become a piece of health infrastructure for Edinburgh by seeking to realize additional health and wellbeing benefits within the £1.3 billion North Edinburgh development at the Granton Waterfront and beyond.

**4.34.4** The programme will explore models of housing, urban planning and natural spaces that: rely on local sustainable supply chains; build resilient communities through civic participation and ownership; and explore new and more agile regulatory processes to maximise the potential of public land to deliver public health outcomes and manage social and system risks. This will include testing the ‘15 minute neighbourhood/city’ model which seeks to create communities where public services, amenities, employment and leisure opportunities are within 15 minutes travel by foot or other sustainable transport mode.

**4.34.5 Citywide EV infrastructure** - The City Mobility Plan aims to secure a Carbon Neutral future for city transport, with significant investment in active travel, disincentivisation of car travel and investment in Public Transport. The Council is also investing in electrification of its fleet, as are other public sector partners. This, coupled with a slow but increasing transition to electric vehicles among taxis, private hire cars, public transport and private vehicles will see an increasing demand for a fit-for-purpose EV charging infrastructure within the city. As lockdown eases, there is a risk that car use will increase due to perceived risks of public transport.

**4.34.6** This test of change will seek to ensure that car use contributes positively to the carbon neutral target as far as possible by mapping, designing and providing a business case and funding model for the roll out of a modern city wide EV infrastructure. The programme will also establish partnerships with large employers to explore new models of organizational working and asset management plans across the city post-Covid, to produce a transport planning response to a new ‘city life cycle’ as working patterns and commuter behavior changes post-Covid.

**4.34.7 Circular low carbon economy** - Edinburgh’s economy is strongly dependent on services (professional ,financial, business, education, tourism and hospitality) with supply chains and benefits realization often extending

well beyond the city and region, resulting in waste, carbon emissions and missed opportunities to retain financial and other benefits within a more resilient local economy.

- 4.34.8 This test of change will explore new and more agile regulatory processes and ways of working with businesses to develop and incentivize shortening of supply chains and adoption of circular economy principles. This will include exploring opportunities for regional infrastructure development, local production chains, local skills development, and new ownership models in key sectors such as food, tourism and hospitality, to support resilience and growth as part of a more circular economy.
- 4.35 Finally, Council officers are working closely with the Climate Commission secretariat to support city wide action and collaboration towards the 2030 target. The team have also sought out bilateral relationships in particular with the university and key business leaders. The Chief Executive had to cancel a series of meetings with city leaders due to COVID19 but officers are working to re-establish these through August.
- 4.36 The planned work with the Commission, City partners and European partners will underpin the development of the City Sustainability Strategy 2030. The timescales for producing this strategy have necessarily been delayed given that engagement with city partners had to be postponed while the council and the city responded to the pandemic. It is now expected that the Council will work with the Commission to publish the strategy in October 2021. However, work to progress the sustainability programme will continue as described above while the longer-term strategy is developed.
- 4.37 It is worth noting that the Scottish Cities Alliance have also made the low carbon economy a joint priority and officers are working with the secretariat and the Scottish Government to scope opportunities and asks.

### **Carbon Scenario Tool and developing the emissions evidence base**

- 4.38 The research by the University of Edinburgh and the University of Leeds alongside council data which is used to report against our climate duties, provide a strong base of evidence and information on the City's carbon emissions that can be used to evidence progress and Council performance. However, this data only provides a retrospective analysis of performance and impact and at best can only be used to provide a trajectory and broad analysis as to how 'on track' the Council and the City are to reaching the 2030 carbon target.
- 4.39 As part of the Council sustainability programme, carbon data experts from the Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation have been working with council officers from various parts of the organisation to develop a carbon scenario tool. This tool is in the final stages of development and would allow officers and elected members to evaluate the projected carbon emissions impact of projects, proposals and programmes of activity. Work is currently underway to stress test necessary assumptions within the calculator and to explore how wider co-benefits such as public health impact can be evaluated and qualified as part of the final product.

- 4.40 Officers would look to invite some independent evaluation of the tool and its use in council decision making before recommending its adoption as part of the sustainability impact assurance offered to elected members and wider city partners. Ultimately this tool would provide transparency around the carbon impact of Council plans and decisions but would also allow real time monitoring of Council performance in relation to the carbon target.

## Resources

- 4.41 Members are aware that the corporate sustainability programme has been established with support from Climate KIC. Climate KIC were only able to confirm the funding agreement in February which slowed recruitment of the sustainability programme team. This was exacerbated by lockdown but recruitment is now underway and the team is expected to be fully in place by September. Despite this delay in resources and capacity, all deliverables have been met in the most recent funding stage gate however, officers are still working through the implication of these delays on future programme timescales.
- 4.42 The implications of Brexit on future years funding are still unknown. Having said that, the partnership with Climate KIC is strong and the programme deliverables are significant and the team continues to plan for the programme on the basis that Edinburgh has entered into a 5 year strategic funding relationship with Climate KIC. Officers will keep elected members updated.
- 4.43 The tests of change and the wider work of the sustainability programme are being supported by capacity from Climate KIC design partners. These partners are providing their support, skills, capacity and knowledge free as part of the programme to help the city to work towards its carbon target. This includes financial expertise to support and source opportunities for new models of funding for programme and the wider council activity.
- 4.44 A round table of Climate KIC, Commission and Council finance experts and project leads is planned for August to explore funding opportunities for further accelerating projects and programmes that deliver against the carbon target.

## 5. Next Steps

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- 5.1 Edinburgh Climate Commission recommendations to be reviewed by the Adaptation and Renewal APOG on 30 July
- 5.2 Launch the Edinburgh Talks Climate engagement site 27 July (subject to committee approval in a separate report)
- 5.3 August round table on financing change
- 5.4 July and August – begin development of the tests of change projects
- 5.5 August – Chief Executive to host a series of engagements with key city leaders as a means of beginning development of the City Sustainability 2030 Strategy

- 5.6 October committee update on the mainstreaming of the carbon target and the Commission recommendations in the Adaptation and Renewal Programme, future operational change and budget proposals as well as a stock take on delivery of the SWIP
- 5.7 Submit a new funding proposal to Climate KIC at the end of October.

## **6. Financial impact**

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- 6.1 There are no new financial implications from this report
- 6.2 Any proposals brought forward as part of the Adaptation and Renewal programme will be financially assessed
- 6.3 Any financial proposals brought forward in the Autumn review of the Council budget and in future budget planning for the Council will reflect the net zero commitment
- 6.4 A workshop has been arranged with key financial experts in the city to consider financial innovations and new funding models to support change

## **7. Stakeholder/Community Impact**

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- 7.1 There are no impacts resulting from this report.
- 7.2 Community engagement and consultation on climate action is addressed in a separate report to the Policy and Sustainability committee on 23 July.

## **8. Background reading/external references**

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- 8.1 Edinburgh Climate Commission – [Recommendations for a Green Recovery](#)
- 8.2 Policy and Sustainability Committee 9 July 2020 – [Edinburgh Climate Commission](#)

## **9. Appendices**

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None