



# Business bulletin

## Policy and Sustainability Committee

10.00am, 6 October 2020

Virtual - via - Microsoft Teams

# 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 Kate Campbell</p> <p>Councillor Nick Cook</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 Rob Munn</p> <p>Councillor Ian Perry</p> <p>Councillor Alex Staniforth</p> <p>Councillor Susan Webber</p> <p>Councillor Iain Whyte</p> <p>Councillor Donald Wilson</p> | <p><a href="#">Jamie Macrae</a>,<br/>Committee Officer</p> <p><a href="#">Louise Williamson</a>,<br/>Assistant Committee Officer</p> |

| Recent news  | Background   |
|--|--|
| <p><b>Annual Performance Report</b></p> <p>A briefing was circulated to all elected members on Friday 28 August, providing details about service improvements for the performance indicators showing declining performance or a RAG status of red or amber in the Annual Performance Report 2019/20. <a href="#">Council APR briefing update.pdf</a></p>   | <p><a href="#">Request for further information at Policy and Sustainability Committee on 20 August</a></p> <p>Contact: Catherine Stewart, Lead Change and Delivery Officer, Tel: 0131 553 8303; E-mail: <a href="mailto:catherine.stewart@edinburgh.gov.uk">catherine.stewart@edinburgh.gov.uk</a></p> |
| <p><b>Carbon Impact of CEC’s International Travel</b></p> <p><u>Background</u></p> <p>At the City of Edinburgh Council meeting in November 2019, it was recommended under item 1.5 – “To agree that that the overall carbon impact of the Council’s International travel is reported annually to the Policy and Sustainability Committee.”</p> <p>Due to the global Covid 19 pandemic all international travel was suspended in early 2020. The impact on international travel will clearly see a reduction on the council’s carbon footprint but this will affect year-on-year comparisons on baseline emissions.</p> <p>It is recommended that a full report will be produced in Autumn 2021 to reflect the impact of Covid 19 on CEC’s International travel and related carbon emissions. This will enable the CEC to achieve a fuller understanding of year-on-year data analysis.</p> <p>The Strategy and Communications team now have the International Travel data to calculate the carbon footprint of council staff and members and will use the Scottish Government’s “greenhouse gases conversion factors” to measurement this.</p> | <p>Contact: Paula McLeay, Policy and Insight Senior Manager, 07903 721 805 <a href="mailto:paula.mcleay@edinburgh.gov.uk">paula.mcleay@edinburgh.gov.uk</a></p>  |

## Support for Business – Local Champion Network Update

We have identified and contacted potential members for the local Business Champions Networks and initial introduction meetings with each network and Council Officers have commenced. To date, the initiative has been well received and the level of engagement from local champions high, with feedback on activity to date and ideas for the future as well as feedback on the proposed Shop Local programme. We will continue to engage with the networks and work with them on the continued development and roll out of Shop Local and other initiatives.

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## Edinburgh Talks Climate: Youth Summit

A Youth Summit was organised on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020, for young people to share their concerns, issues and priorities on climate change. Run in partnership with Scottish Youth Climate Strike and Scottish Youth Parliament, the event was attended by 117 pupils from 8 secondary schools across the city, and focussed on areas where carbon emissions could be impacted: transport, housing, biodiversity, food and consumerism.

Facilitated by young organisers and volunteers, the workshops identified young people's general concerns in each area, and pinpointed some of the key barriers to behaviour change and key actions which young people would like to see in Edinburgh. These included encouraging active travel and public transport use, for housing developers to take on more responsibility for sustainability, reducing plastic in schools and greater awareness raising on issues such as biodiversity, consumerism and sustainable eating. Read a full summary of the findings [[https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/bi/fd06713c/supporting\\_documents/Youth%20Summit%20Workshop%20Summary.pdf](https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/bi/fd06713c/supporting_documents/Youth%20Summit%20Workshop%20Summary.pdf)]

A series of videos of pupils, created from the day, have since been used to continue the Council's conversation with young people in the city, on Edinburgh Talks Climate [link: <https://edinburghtalksclimate.dialogue-app.com/>] and to explore the climate change issues which young people feel are important and the challenges they face in tackling the

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climate emergency. A follow up to the Youth Summit with Edinburgh primary schools is currently being planned.

Outputs from the Youth Summit and future engagement with young people will be shared widely to help inform strategic planning and service delivery, and insights from the work will inform the development of a sustainability strategy for the city.

### **Accounts Commission: Local Government in Scotland overview**

On 6 August Committee agreed that the Chief Executive and the Executive Director of Resources report to Committee in two cycles providing a comprehensive assessment of how the Council was addressing the recommendations outlined in the key messages section of the Accounts Commission's review into Local Government in Scotland. Given the Accounts Commission will also shortly be publishing Edinburgh's Best Value Report and we will be presenting this to Policy and Sustainability for scrutiny and discussion, it is proposed that a single report covering both reports is issued and presented to Committee. This will be within the next two cycles.

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### **New Cities Foundation Wellbeing Cities Award 2020**

In March 2020, the City of Edinburgh Council submitted a bid to the Wellbeing Cities Award, an open competition for local governments around the world that is organised by the Canadian-based global non-profit organisation, New Cities Foundation, to recognise cities' efforts to place wellbeing at the heart of policy and planning.

Building on the Council's vision for Edinburgh to be a green, fair, and healthy city that is carbon neutral by 2030, an application was made to the 'Prioritizing Wellbeing' category promoting the benefits of city-wide plans and actions to boost the wellbeing of citizens. A case was made to the competition's jury and advisory board demonstrating the ambitious and comprehensive cross-cutting programme of work that will address projects in four key sectors – domestic, public and commercial buildings, industry, and transport.

The application cited the Council's work with world-leading partners including the Edinburgh Centre for Carbon

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Innovation and EIT Climate-KIC to implement a phased programme of complex system change. It also highlighted the work of the Edinburgh Climate Commission in bringing together partners in the public, private, and non-profit sectors to deliver a carbon-neutral city.

On 15 September 2020, at the New Cities Foundation's Wellbeing Cities Forum, it was announced that Edinburgh was shortlisted as one of the top four cities in the 'Prioritizing Wellbeing' category.

As a finalist, Edinburgh beat strong global competition from cities across Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas, to be recognised as a city that promotes and prioritises wellbeing by demonstrating leadership and commitment to work with local stakeholders and citizens to meet the objectives set out in the competition's category.

The city of Curridabat in Costa Rica won the category for its programme to promote the utilisation of pollinators in urban design.

Further details: <https://newcities.org/wellbeingcity/2020-award/>

### **Forthcoming activities:**

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