

Policy and Sustainability Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 22 February 2022

Scottish Government consultation on National Public Energy Agency – Council response

Executive/routine Executive
Wards
Council Commitments

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 To agree the Council response to the National Public Energy Agency consultation attached at appendix A, to be submitted as soon as possible after committee consideration, in line with the extension agreed with Scottish Government.

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Scottish Government consultation on National Public Energy Agency – Council response

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 Scottish Government is consulting on the [National Public Energy Agency: call for evidence](#). An extension to the consultation deadline has been agreed with Scottish Government to enable committee consideration of the response. The draft response is attached at appendix A.
- 2.2 The 2021/22 Programme for Government includes a commitment to establish a new National Public Energy Agency (the energy agency). The proposed energy agency would be tasked with leading the transformational change in heating homes, workplaces and community buildings (as set out in the Scottish Government [Heat in Buildings Strategy](#), published October 2021).
- 2.3 The draft City of Edinburgh Council response is provided in appendix A. The draft response highlights that Edinburgh shares the view of urgent need to take net zero action (as set out in the [Edinburgh 2030 Climate Strategy](#)) and welcomes the engagement with Scottish Government on how its approach to energy could support that transition.
- 2.4 In preparing the draft response, officers have drawn on the ‘calls to Government’ set out in the [Edinburgh 2030 Climate Strategy](#) and ensured general points are consistent with the core messages communicated in previous consultation submissions dealing with climate, energy or governance, such as the [response to the Local Governance Review](#) and the [submission to Scottish Government Heat in Buildings Strategy Consultation](#). These messages include greater use of place-based policy and funding approaches; innovative finance models; and supporting local empowerment and decision making to deliver net zero.
- 2.5 The draft response highlights that greater clarity is needed on the specific issues the energy agency is intended to respond to and queries how the energy agency would best support net zero actions - which will ultimately need to be delivered at local and community levels. It also highlights some positive contributions that could be delivered if the energy agency supported the coordination of existing national strategies, funds, and organisations and work alongside local government to achieve change.

- 2.6 The energy agency proposals include commitments to future consultation. The draft response is clear that the Council wishes to work with Scottish Government within that process to consider what is needed at national, regional and local levels to support locally delivered transitions.

3. Background

- 3.1 Scottish Government is proposing the energy agency be established in two phases.
- 3.1.1 Launch of a **virtual Agency by Sept 2022** - To be initially co-ordinated internally in Scottish Government, using existing resources to provide advice and information to people seeking to make a change in response to the heat decarbonisation agenda.
- 3.1.2 **Permanent Agency in place 2025** – to take over delivery from the virtual agency, with work required to establish structure and governance of the organisation, and the skills and expertise that will be necessary to have a permanent agency in place.
- 3.2 This call for evidence is the first phase in the two-stage process to establish a new dedicated energy agency outlined above. Scottish government is seeking input from individuals and stakeholder organisations across the public, private and third sectors. Broader formal consultation will be held following this call for evidence.
- 3.3 The consultation seeks feedback on the following aspects of the energy agency:
- 3.3.1 **Strategic purpose, remit and objectives** – including what is needed to achieve transformational change in the energy sector and how the energy agency can support the change needed.
- 3.3.2 **Functions** – setting out if and what the energy agency takes direct control of and delivery responsibility for and what it will steer strategically; seeking feedback on whether it should take on a regulatory function
- 3.3.3 **Institutional form and governance** – considering the level of independence from Scottish Government and whether establishing the energy agency on a statutory footing would support its remit and ensure the right expertise and powers.
- 3.3.4 **Relationship with the wider stakeholder landscape** – considering how the energy agency can garner respect and recognition of its position and authority amongst stakeholders and who it should work with to facilitate delivery
- 3.3.5 **Agency development process** – Summarises the two stage approach and proposes developing a transition route map that considers how to build on, improve and co-ordinate existing – and future – advice and delivery programmes, and what needs to happen to scale up to deliver within a single dedicated body by September 2025.

4. Main report

4.1 Key positions in the draft response are summarised below

The need for the energy agency

- 4.2 The decision on the energy agency should be led by the clear identification of a need within the existing policy and delivery frameworks supporting net zero. This stage of consultation should be treated as a problem definition stage, using the feedback provided by organisations external to Scottish Government to better understand and define the shared problems preventing local and national action on energy. Following that, consideration can be given to the range of options to respond including how existing structures can be used to address them.
- 4.3 In considering these options, there needs to be a recognition that there are already a number of bodies and national funds that focus decarbonising energy, that are not coordinated in a way that supports local authorities to lead, develop and deliver decarbonised energy actions. Within this context, immediate priority should be given to improving the coordination of existing landscape rather than adding to its complexity.

Meeting strategic needs to decarbonise heat and energy

- 4.4 Achieving rapid and substantial emissions reductions from buildings is a priority for national and local governments. However, achieving the transformational change will require integration of heat decarbonisation actions with programs of net zero actions that enable locally led system-wide responses which deliver multiple outcomes and benefits.
- 4.5 To support this, there needs to be a focus on ensuring policy, legislation, funding and investment are aligned to support systemic and place-based action. Singular approaches to one aspect of that whole-system energy, including the creation of new national bodies may risk reinforcing silos, as opposed to supporting holistic responses that meet the totality of need and different issues in local communities.
- 4.6 While there could be benefits to national coordination, a national agency cannot be the answer to developing the local pipeline of projects for net zero action. This can only be done effectively locally, and local authorities are best placed to lead these programmes within their areas and regions. It would be helpful to understand how Scottish Government see the energy agency as meaningfully enabling this local action to happen at speed and scale required for deep action across the whole of Scotland.
- 4.7 There is a risk that a new energy agency in this space could divert skills and resources away from the local level at a time when they are needed to accelerate local action.

Statutory status

- 4.8 The statutory status of any energy agency should be led by the agreed strategic purpose, remit and objectives, and with a clear view of what the wider functions

should be. At this stage, the Council does not have a view on whether the energy agency should have regulatory functions or be on a statutory footing.

Governance and partnerships

- 4.9 Councils are the tier of government closest to communities, are the body through which citizens participate in local democracy, and which works closely with civil society, and the voluntary and community sectors. The energy agency will be unable to achieve effective and meaningful engagement at this level.
- 4.10 Should the energy agency be progressed, then the Council would expect that, given the interdependency between Scottish Government ambitions and local authority delivery, that the energy agency be jointly developed and governed. This could potentially be achieved by working closely with COSLA to ensure joint accountability to both Scottish Ministers and local government.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 The draft response to consultation (attached at appendix A) will be submitted following committee's consideration.
- 5.2 Council officers will engage with Scottish Government on the next stages of the energy agency proposal, working through Scottish Cities Alliance and COSLA as appropriate.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 There are no financial impacts arising as a result of this report.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 There are no direct stakeholder/community impacts arising as a result of this report.
- 7.2 The draft response raises issues about how well the energy agency meets the needs of local citizens and communities (summarised in the main section of this report). The draft response also highlights the role, relationship, and democratic mandates of local government in supporting communities.
- 7.3 The draft response raises relevant concerns related to carbon impacts, adaptation, climate change, and sustainable development, as far as possible at this stage of proposals. Council officers will continue to raise relevant issues as it further engages with Scottish Government on the development of energy agency proposals.

8. Background reading/external references

- 8.1 Scottish Government consultation, [National Public Energy Agency: call for evidence](#), December 2021
- 8.2 City of Edinburgh Council, [Edinburgh 2030 Climate Strategy](#), December 2021
- 8.3 Scottish Government, [Heat in Buildings Strategy](#), October 2021.

- 8.4 City of Edinburgh Council, Submission to [Submission to Scottish Government Heat in Buildings Strategy Consultation](#), April 2021
- 8.5 City of Edinburgh Council, [Response to the Local Governance Review](#), December 2018

9. Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix A – Draft Council submission to Scottish Government on National Public Energy Agency consultation.

Appendix A

National Public Energy Agency: consultation - call for evidence 2021/2022

City of Edinburgh Council response
22 February 2022

1. Introduction and summary comments

- 1.1 Thank you for the opportunity to input on the National Public Energy Agency call for evidence 2021/22. As a lead delivery partner of decarbonised heat and energy in Edinburgh, the Council appreciates the early engagement with Scottish Government.
- 1.2 The decision on the energy agency needs to be led by the clear identification of a need within the existing policy and delivery frameworks supporting net zero. The energy agency is presented '*in recognition of the urgency and need for action to be taken now to begin ramping up delivery of energy efficiency retrofit and zero emissions heat installations, we will launch a virtual Agency by September 2022*'.
- 1.3 Edinburgh shares the view of urgent need to take net zero action (as set out in the [Edinburgh 2030 Climate Strategy](#)). However, greater clarity is required on what specific issues the energy agency responds to and how it supports net zero actions which will ultimately take place at local and community levels. Decarbonising our heat and energy will not be delivered by national agencies, but rather will happen neighbourhoods, streets, and communities at a time – and requires an approach that fosters local and rapid change.
- 1.4 There are already a number of existing national strategies, funds, and organisations in place already that can deliver and take responsibility for the energy aspects of the net zero transition. This existing landscape needs to focus on system wide changes that deliver multiple outcomes and local benefits, taking a 'covid-19' whole system emergency style approach. This means enabling fast and coordinated public sector decision making, and using it to underpin consideration of additional powers, freedoms and flexibilities support local government to accelerate action on climate change.
- 1.5 The Council believes priority should be given to improving the coordination of existing national strategies, funds, and organisations rather than adding to them.

- 1.6 This stage of consultation should be treated as a problem definition stage, using the feedback provided by organisations external to Scottish Government to better understand and define the problems preventing action on energy and the shared outcomes sought. Following that, consideration can be given to the range of options to respond including how existing structures can be used to address them.
- 1.7 Should the energy agency be progressed, then the Council would expect that, given the interdependency between Scottish Government ambitions and local authority delivery, it is critical that the development of the energy agency be a jointly developed and governed body.

2. Response to consultation questions

Q 1 - What is needed to achieve the transformational change that is necessary for heat decarbonisation in Scotland

- 2.1 As noted by the Climate Emergency Response Group, if Scotland as a whole is to meet its 2045 target, our cities need to make faster progress. This also means Scottish Government needs to do more to support Councils such as Edinburgh who are playing their part by committing to more immediate net zero targets. Local Authorities have the democratic mandate to mobilise and have collaboration and partnerships -across public sector, with civil society, academic sectors, businesses.
- 2.2 The Council is seeking Scottish Government recognition of the critical role cities have in meeting Scotland's 2045 net zero target and to support high ambition local authorities who have set more challenging targets to maximise their contribution. This support should include the powers, funding, and resources needed to enable local authorities to develop local solutions that reflect their individual needs and unlock the greater opportunities of a green economic recovery.
- 2.3 Achieving rapid and substantial emissions reductions from buildings is a priority for national and local governments. However, achieving the transformational change will require integration of heat decarbonisation actions with programs of net zero actions that enable locally led system-wide responses which deliver multiple outcomes and benefits.
- 2.4 Scottish Government needs to focus on ensuring policy, legislation, funding and investment are aligned to support systemic and place-based action. Thematic approaches are not a technically, operationally or financially viable way to deliver the transition to a net zero city or nation. Singling out energy and developing a national body around it could reinforce siloed responses, as opposed to supporting holistic responses that meet the totality of need and different issues in local communities.
- 2.5 To deliver transformational net zero change, local authorities and delivery partners need support to meet local challenges (which can be varied across authority areas). Specific challenges exist for Edinburgh in relation to:

- 2.5.1 the scale and challenge of building retrofit (including public buildings), financially and in terms of supply chains
 - 2.5.2 the need to develop at pace the city's energy networks and supporting infrastructure,
 - 2.5.3 the importance of ensuring action on energy delivers wider social and economic benefits as part of a just transition.
 - 2.5.4 the promotion of local energy generation and Scottish Government support for publicly owned models of energy generation.
- 2.6 In delivering the Heat in Buildings Strategy and proposed heat decarbonisation implementation plan, Scottish Government needs to ensure it includes adaptation actions to ensure our net zero transition is future proofed for the impacts of unavoidable climate change.
- 2.7 Work with the UK Government is also needed to set out a clear vision for how the energy markets will be reformed to support decarbonisation of heat. This is necessary to ensure the transition to electric heat is affordable for citizens – particularly those at risk of fuel poverty.

Q 2 - How can the new dedicated Agency best support this change programme?

- 2.8 Should a decision be taken to progress a dedicated energy agency, it should then be based around joint development and governance with local government. A joint approach, especially in relation to governance, will be critical to enable Scottish Government to improve the understanding of and respond to the needs of local government. The Council is keen to work with Scottish Government to consider what is needed at national, regional and local levels to support locally delivered transitions.
- 2.9 The Council's view on priorities for Scottish Government across its net zero program are set out below. Supporting these priorities will best help local authorities to deliver on heat and energy and should be used guide decisions about support and resources across the existing and potential new policy, legislation, funding and investment frameworks.
- 2.9.1 Setting progressive policy, addressing regulatory barriers, ensuring enabling legislation is available for local authorities and partners.
 - 2.9.2 Joining up existing siloed funds and aligning Scottish Government funding to provide accessible, long-term funding for support for local authorities and communities to deliver place-based actions.
 - 2.9.3 Supporting local authorities to develop internal capacity, skills and expertise across the energy agenda
 - 2.9.4 Prioritising funding to support the building of investible business cases that share risk and reward and unlock access to large-scale, private and blended finance models that support net zero change

- 2.9.5 Working with local government and regional partners to help connect private sector investment to local opportunities
- 2.9.6 Coordinating at the national level to ensure national infrastructure and capacity is ready to meet local project needs.
- 2.9.7 Ensuring the wider public sector (including non-departmental public bodies) is empowered to collaborate locally with local government to develop and deliver programs that meet local needs.
- 2.9.8 Leading national communications campaigns on climate change that complement and amplify local messaging, and support an open and frank dialogues with citizens about the changes needed
- 2.9.9 Bring forward at speed improved schemes to support citizens to fund energy efficiency upgrades.

Q 3 - What are the opportunities and challenges for delivery presented by this agenda, and how might this best be overcome through the Agency?

- 2.10 There are already a number of bodies and national funds that focus on or incorporate decarbonised energy, that are not coordinated in a way that supports local authorities to lead, develop and deliver decarbonised energy actions. It is unclear how another national agency would support Councils to access opportunities and overcome the challenges in delivering the net zero and heat and energy agenda in ways that couldn't be progressed locally with the right capacity and skills.
- 2.11 From experience to date, in seeking support to fill resource and expertise gaps, the Council generally approaches existing industry and consultancy (taking careful consideration where there are potential overlaps with commercial interests). There is a risk that substantial expansion of a Scottish Government led 'centre of expertise' will replicate what local authorities need in-house, and potentially oversubscribe the demands on people and organisations with the existing skills. Having a centralised service will still require substantial input from local authorities to ensure solutions meet local needs as well as to coordinate, sequence and plan for the delivery of the transition as a whole, again removing that capacity from the real time delivery of action plans.
- 2.12 Developing holistic and place-based decarbonised solutions at the pace and scale required can be supported through exiting frameworks and recognising that local government needs to grow its internal skills and capacity, and this can't be substituted by one off expertise being allocated by a national body. While this can add value, it often requires significant local investment to ensure that the national sector expertise can be applied to the local context. Given the long-term commitment to the energy landscape it would be more fruitful to grow and embed that capacity within Councils.

Q 4 - Based on the proposed purpose, remit and objectives of the dedicated Agency, do you have any evidence, or insights based on experience, that

demonstrate the need and potential added value of a new public body of this nature in the heat decarbonisation delivery landscape?

- 2.13 Local Authorities need a coordinated programme of national policies and funds that will unlock, support and give confidence to local programmes of climate action to deliver. This strategic point aside, there could be some benefit for taking a step along that journey by coordinating Scottish Government funding pots that target energy action, but it is unclear that an energy agency is required to achieve this.
- 2.14 Ultimately, a national agency cannot be the answer to developing the local pipeline of projects for net zero action. This can only be done locally, and local authorities are best placed to lead these programmes within their areas and regions. It would be helpful to understand how Scottish Government see a National Agency as meaningfully enabling this local action to happen at speed and scale required for deep action across the whole of Scotland.

Q5 - Are you aware of any case studies – UK or international – or research that can help inform design of a new public sector delivery body to ensure it is able to delivery effective outcomes, and to be consumer focused across its operations? What do you think are some of the key factors that need to be built into the strategic framework – and corporate design – of the new body to best enable this?

- 2.15 Should the energy agency be progressed, then the Council would expect that, given the interdependency between Scottish Government ambitions and local authority delivery, that the energy agency be jointly developed and governed. Scottish Government should also be working closely with COSLA to ensure joint accountability to both Scottish Ministers and local government.

Q6 - What tools and support will the dedicated Agency need in order to effectively establish leadership and coordination of heat decarbonisation in Scotland?

- 2.16 The ability to devolve budgets and staff resources to the local level would enhance heat decarbonisation in Scotland, for example by seconding or assigning teams to individual local authorities/partnerships. However, undertaking this function does not necessarily require a new national energy agency.
- 2.17 It would be helpful to understand what type of coordination is imagined in this context and how a National Agency would add value to the need for speed, scale of action and local delivery. Response to this questions depends on whether the Agency would be playing a coordination role at the very local level, regionally, within a council boundary or across the whole of Scotland, and how it would achieve 'coordination' at each of those levels.
- 2.18 The coordination required by local authorities to unlock local action is across the thematic national bodies playing a role in this space. This raises questions about how, for example, would the energy agency fit in alongside Transport Scotland, Scottish National Investment Bank, Zero Waste Scotland, and other agencies tasked with net zero action.

Q7- Do you have any evidence, or further insights regarding the potential added value that the functions set out can deliver within the heat decarbonisation landscape? This may include both examples of where these types of functions have, or have not been conferred on a national body as part of leading a programme of delivery and change, and the resulting implications (positive or negative).

- 2.19 There is a need to create a critical mass of funding at the national level to incentivise and unlock climate action. Local authorities need this to be true across all the key thematic priority areas for a net zero transition, but it will be most impactful if provided a strategic funding mechanism for place-based action.
- 2.20 There is a danger that an energy agency in this space will deplete scarce skills and local resources at a time of deep development needed to accelerate action. This cannot be compensated by sporadic or thinly applied national expertise.

Q8- Do you have any evidence, or case studies that demonstrate the effectiveness or not of new regulatory standards being enforced at a national versus local level? This may include international comparisons.

- 2.21 The Council's [response](#) to Scottish Parliament's inquiry into the role of local government and its cross-sectoral partners in financing and delivering a net-zero Scotland sets out some of the challenges in relation to the planning framework.
- 2.22 Regulatory frameworks need to empower local authorities to have autonomy to vary regulation to best fit local needs. There is also a need for overarching regulatory systems to operate at a faster pace (for example by streamlining statutory appeals processes and reducing the length of time they take) as well as ensuring regulation remains fit for purpose and keeps pace with innovation and development within core net zero sectors.
- 2.23 Generally, regulatory responsibility should be informed by the need for regulation, the intended outcomes, strategic responsibility, and regime design. Examples exist in the planning and buildings standards regulatory regimes.
- 2.24 A broader issue exists in relation to the cost of managing enforcement regimes. Local authorities do not have available resource to take on new regulatory functions without financial and support or the capability to charge to recover the cost of managing the enforcement regime.

Q9 - Are you aware of any existing, or previous, public bodies that exercise both an advisory and regulatory role within the same organisation – and how this dual remit has been translated at an operational level to avoid any risks relating to conflicts of interest, governance and lines of accountability? This may include examples from the international landscape, and/or UK context.

- 2.25 None in addition to the information earlier questions.

Q 10- Are you aware of any case studies, or recent research that considers the opportunities and challenges of establishing a public sector body that is tasked with programme delivery functions on a statutory footing?

2.26 None in addition to the information earlier questions. It would be helpful if Scottish Government could clarify what programme delivery looks like in this space. If this were coordination of national programmes, then it might have some added value.

Q 11 - In terms of potentially establishing the dedicated Agency on a statutory footing as part of future proofing it to be able to take on any new functions or responsibilities as heat decarbonisation delivery progresses over the coming decades, are there any other considerations related to this that you think we need to be aware of and why? This may include, for example: upcoming evidence and research, other strategic policy developments and targets, wider industry and sector led developments in the heat and energy efficiency landscape or related delivery areas.

2.27 The response to question 15 provides further detail on approaches to decision making about the energy agency.

2.28 The statutory status of any agency should be led by the agreed strategic purpose, remit and objectives, and with a clear view of what the wider functions should be. At this stage, the Council does not have a view on whether the energy agency should have regulatory functions or be on a statutory footing.

2.29 Should regulatory functions be taken forward, Scottish Government must ensure there is a clear case and evidence base that the intended outcomes cannot be achieved through non-statutory means and that any additional resulting requirements for local authorities are fully funded.

2.30 It should also be noted there are existing regulatory regimes in place through the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, CCPBD reporting, planning and building standards frameworks, and the emerging LHEES program. Any additional regulatory functions would need to dovetail with these and avoid simply layering new requirements in a way which results in a cluttered landscape and duplication of reporting and other effort at the expense of programme delivery.

Q 12 - Who will the Agency need to work closely with in order to best facilitate delivery of the transformational change required, and how do you think this should work in practice?

2.31 Given the Council's views on the energy agency, it does not have a clear view on who the energy agency needs to work with in delivery of transformation change and does not consider it to be the right time to make this decision. The response to question 15 provides further detail on approaches to decision making about the energy agency.

2.32 Local Authorities have the democratic mandate to mobilise and have collaboration and partnerships -across public sector, with civil society, academic sectors, businesses. Relationships with community involvement and co-development of local schemes should remain at the local level and include local authorities.

2.33 A key gap across the net zero program in Scotland is leadership on communications and citizen involvement – providing information, sign posting to where support, advice and resources can be found. Scottish Government also

needs to work with city partners on awareness raising campaigns which support a frank discussion on climate change action.

Q 13 - Are you aware of any case studies that demonstrate (in)effective partnership working by a public body to coordinate a broader delivery landscape to achieve a shared goal? What lessons can be taken from these examples?

- 2.34 Councils have a democratic mandate to mobilise and have collaboration and partnerships -across public sector, with civil society, academic sectors, businesses. They have a central role in coordinating and leading local partnerships, and are best able to do this when they are fully empowered to collaborate and take decisions local levels.
- 2.35 Evidence of meaningful Scottish Government investment in collaboration such as the Scottish Cities Alliance and a track record of unlocking success through this partnership would pave the way for a more substantive partnership to coordinate delivery.

Q 14 - What role do you see your organisation playing in relation to the Agency once established?

- 2.36 Given the interdependency between Scottish Government ambitions and local authority it is critical that the development of the energy agency be a jointly developed and governed body and ensure local authorities are core partners of the virtual and permanent energy agency.
- 2.37 Further detailed discussion is required with Scottish Government on the Council's view of the energy agency and future roles. City of Edinburgh Council would be happy to engage in those discussions.

Q 15 - What role do you see for your organisation during the development process of the Agency, and do you have any examples of the type of collaborative approach to design of a new public body or delivery programme that you would like to see implemented? What lessons can be taken from these?

- 2.38 As set out in response to earlier questions, the Council seeks further consultation and engagement and for views to be taken on board. Any progression of the energy agency needs to be undertaken jointly with local government.
- 2.39 The next stages of consultation should remain open on whether an energy agency or some other national coordination agency is required. This stage of consultation should be treated as a problem definition stage, using the feedback provided by organisations external to Scottish Government to better understand and define the problems and outcomes sought. Following that, consideration can be given to the range of options to respond including how existing structures can be used to address them. At this point further consultation on a more informed proposal can be undertaken and a decision can be made on the energy agency.

16 - What types of approaches to civic participation do you think could work most effectively in supporting development of the dedicated Agency, and why? How can these be best implemented to work alongside wider stakeholder engagement?

Please provide any examples, or case studies you may have to support your response.

- 2.40 Energy is an issue that citizens experience at a very local level impacting decisions and behaviours in homes, work, and communities.
- 2.41 Councils are the tier of government closest to communities, are the body through which citizens participate in local democracy, and which works closely with civil society, and the voluntary and community sectors. A national energy agency will be unable to achieve effective and meaningful engagement at this level. In addition, a national energy agency is likely to need substantial local authority support to undertake local engagement likely duplicating resources and expertise that could best be prioritised at a local level.
- 2.42 The Council is committed to three pilots to progress net zero communities in Scotland. The Council will work with communities, Community Councils, Edinburgh's Universities in one of the 20-minute neighbourhood hubs to scope and develop funding bids for local pilots to understand what it would take to become net zero. The pilot scope will be coproduced with citizens and will link to Local Place Plans. Direct national support for delivery programmes of this nature would be of the utmost value to the transition at a neighbourhood and council level and be meaningful in terms of the impact on behaviour change and citizen action.

3. Contact details

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