

Policy and Sustainability Committee

10.00 am, Thursday 17 November 2022

Present

Councillors Day (Convener), Aston (substituting for Councillor Frank Ross), Beal, Campbell, Dijkstra-Downie, Dobbin (substituting for Councillor Biagi), Doggart, Griffiths, Lang, Macinnes, McVey, Meagher, Mumford, Parker, Staniforth, Watt, Whyte and Younie (substituting for Councillor Lang for items 12 and 13).

1. Business Bulletin

The Policy and Sustainability Committee Business Bulletin for 17 November 2022 was submitted.

Decision

To note the Business Bulletin.

(Reference – Business Bulletin 17 November 2022, submitted.)

2. Education and Children's Services Structure

Details were provided of a revised structure for the senior leadership team in Education and Children's Services to that agreed at Council in May 2021. Subject to approval, it was recommended that recruitment to the permanent role of Service Director, Education commenced immediately.

Decision

- 1) To agree the proposed changes to the Education & Children's Services senior leadership structure.
- 2) To agree the permanent recruitment to the proposed new post of Service Director, Education to start immediately in accordance with relevant Chief Officer Recruitment Policy.
- 3) To request that the full proposed Education and Children's Services structure be circulated to members.

(References – Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee of 6 September 2016 (item 5); report by the Executive Director, Education & Children's Services, submitted.)

3. End Poverty in Edinburgh Annual Report 2022

The second annual progress report against the Council's End Poverty in Edinburgh Delivery Plan was presented. This included a summary of actions taken by the Council and partners in response to the calls to action made by the Edinburgh Poverty

Commission. It covered the period from October 2021 to the end of September 2022 and included the ongoing response to the Covid-19 pandemic and to the emerging cost of living crisis, both of which had been significant in informing current and future actions. In line with recommendations made by the Commission, the report also incorporated and met the Council's statutory duty to produce, in partnership with NHS Lothian, an annual Local Child Poverty Action Report.

Motion

- 1) To approve the second annual progress report against the Council's End Poverty in Edinburgh Delivery Plan and agree actions for priority delivery during the next 12 months, subject to adjustments needed to ensure continued alignment with the updated Council Business Plan.
- 2) To note that the report incorporated and met the Council's statutory duty to publish a joint annual Local Child Poverty Action Report with NHS Lothian.
- 3) To agree that the report would be referred to the Education, Children and Families Committee for further scrutiny on actions relating to child poverty, with particular reference to the actions discussed in section 5.5 of Appendix 1 of the report.
- 4) To note that the report would be further referred for discussion by the Edinburgh Partnership in December 2022.
- 5) To agree that during 2023/24, in advance of reporting against interim targets set for 2024, Edinburgh Poverty Commission members would be invited to provide advice on progress to date and recommended next steps.

- moved by Councillor Day, seconded by Councillor Watt

Amendment

- 1) To approve the second annual progress report against the Council's End Poverty in Edinburgh Delivery Plan and agree actions for priority delivery during the next 12 months, subject to adjustments needed to ensure continued alignment with the updated Council Business Plan.
- 2) To note that the report incorporated and met the Council's statutory duty to publish a joint annual Local Child Poverty Action Report with NHS Lothian.
- 3) To agree that the report would be referred to the Education, Children and Families Committee for further scrutiny on actions relating to child poverty, with particular reference to the actions discussed in section 5.5 of Appendix 1 of the report.
- 4) To note that the report would be further referred for discussion by the Edinburgh Partnership in December 2022.
- 5) To agree that during 2023/24, in advance of reporting against interim targets set for 2024, Edinburgh Poverty Commission members would be invited to provide advice on progress to date and recommended next steps.

- 6) To note that women were at disproportionate risk of poverty and that within this group, the risk was heightened for disabled women, BAME women, refugee and migrant women, unpaid carers, LGBT+ women, younger women and other women facing multiple discriminations.
- 7) To recognise that important work had been done previously by the Edinburgh Poverty Commission to draw out the impacts of poverty on women and therefore regret that neither women nor the gendered nature of poverty were mentioned in the report.
- 8) To therefore request a report on the impacts of poverty on women and girls in Edinburgh within 3 cycles, containing intersectional analysis of the particular impacts on women and girls who shared other protected characteristics, and how the recommendations in this report would prevent and/or mitigate women's poverty.
- 9) To further request that proposals be brought forward by officers within 3 cycles on how gender and other protected characteristics and priority groups – including but not limited to lone parents, larger families, families with disabled members, BAME households and unpaid carers - could be mainstreamed into council reports going forward.

- moved by Councillor Mumford, seconded by Councillor Staniforth

In accordance with Standing Order (22)12, the amendment was accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Day:

- 1) To approve the second annual progress report against the Council's End Poverty in Edinburgh Delivery Plan and agree actions for priority delivery during the next 12 months, subject to adjustments needed to ensure continued alignment with the updated Council Business Plan.
- 2) To note that the report incorporated and met the Council's statutory duty to publish a joint annual Local Child Poverty Action Report with NHS Lothian.
- 3) To agree that the report would be referred to the Education, Children and Families Committee for further scrutiny on actions relating to child poverty, with particular reference to the actions discussed in section 5.5 of Appendix 1 of the report.
- 4) To note that the report would be further referred for discussion by the Edinburgh Partnership in December 2022.
- 5) To agree that during 2023/24, in advance of reporting against interim targets set for 2024, Edinburgh Poverty Commission members would be invited to provide advice on progress to date and recommended next steps.

- 6) To note that women were at disproportionate risk of poverty and that within this group, the risk was heightened for disabled women, BAME women, refugee and migrant women, unpaid carers, LGBT+ women, younger women and other women facing multiple discriminations.
- 7) To recognise that important work had been done previously by the Edinburgh Poverty Commission to draw out the impacts of poverty on women and therefore regret that neither women nor the gendered nature of poverty were mentioned in the report.
- 8) To therefore request a report on the impacts of poverty on women and girls in Edinburgh within 3 cycles, containing intersectional analysis of the particular impacts on women and girls who shared other protected characteristics, and how the recommendations in this report would prevent and/or mitigate women's poverty.
- 9) To further request that proposals be brought forward by officers within 3 cycles on how gender and other protected characteristics and priority groups – including but not limited to lone parents, larger families, families with disabled members, BAME households and unpaid carers – could be mainstreamed into council reports going forward.

(References – Policy and Sustainability Committee of 1 December 2020 (item 8) and 5 October 2021 (item 7); Report by the Interim Executive Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

4. Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report 2021/22

Approval was sought of the Council's statutory report for 2021/22 on compliance with the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 Public Bodies Climate Change Duties (PBCCD) as amended by the Climate Change (Duties of Public Bodies: Reporting Requirements) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2020, which took effect for all reporting periods commencing on or after 1 April 2021. Reports were required to be submitted to the Scottish Government on or before 30 November 2022.

Motion

- 1) To approve the City of Edinburgh Council Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report 2021/22, for submission to the Scottish Government on 30 November 2022.
- 2) To note that Council emissions had reduced by 66% from a 2005/2006 baseline and that there had been a 0.2% decrease in emissions since last year.
- 3) To note that the Council's strategic approach to reducing its corporate emissions was set out in the Council Emissions Reduction Plan (CERP), which was subject of a separate report to Committee.

- 4) To note that the Council and city's strategic approach to adapting Edinburgh to the impacts of climate change would also be the subject of a separate Committee report.

- moved by Councillor Day, seconded by Councillor Watt

Amendment

- 1) To approve the City of Edinburgh Council Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report 2021/22, for submission to the Scottish Government on 30 November 2022.
- 2) To note that Council emissions had reduced by 66% from a 2005/2006 baseline and that there had been a 0.2% decrease in emissions since last year.
- 3) To note that the Council's strategic approach to reducing its corporate emissions was set out in the Council Emissions Reduction Plan (CERP), which was subject of a separate report to Committee.
- 4) To note that the Council and city's strategic approach to adapting Edinburgh to the impacts of climate change would also be the subject of a separate Committee report.
- 5) To note that the annual Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Reporting to the Scottish Government required the Council to explain how spending plans and use of resources was aligned to emissions targets.
- 6) To agree that, in relation to the Council budget setting process and medium-term financial plan, Councillors and the public should understand the climate impact of spending proposals.
- 7) Therefore to request that Officers provide high level guidance for political groups to complete a climate impact assessment of proposed budgets in the run up to the Council's budget setting process in February; and recommend that all budget motions should include an accompanying statement to their proposals which sets out how their spending plans align with the Council's climate strategies, including this as an appendix.

- moved by Councillor Parker, seconded by Councillor Mumford

In accordance with Standing Order (22)12, the amendment was accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Day:

- 1) To approve the City of Edinburgh Council Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report 2021/22, for submission to the Scottish Government on 30 November 2022.
- 2) To note that Council emissions had reduced by 66% from a 2005/2006 baseline and that there had been a 0.2% decrease in emissions since last year.

- 3) To note that the Council's strategic approach to reducing its corporate emissions was set out in the Council Emissions Reduction Plan (CERP), which was subject of a separate report to Committee.
- 4) To note that the Council and city's strategic approach to adapting Edinburgh to the impacts of climate change would also be the subject of a separate Committee report.
- 5) To note that the annual Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Reporting to the Scottish Government required the Council to explain how spending plans and use of resources was aligned to emissions targets.
- 6) To agree that, in relation to the Council budget setting process and medium-term financial plan, Councillors and the public should understand the climate impact of spending proposals.
- 7) Therefore to request that Officers provide high level guidance for political groups to complete a climate impact assessment of proposed budgets in the run up to the Council's budget setting process in February; and recommend that all budget motions should include an accompanying statement to their proposals which sets out how their spending plans align with the Council's climate strategies, including this as an appendix.

(References – Policy and Sustainability Committee of 30 November 2021 (items 6 and 7); Report by the Interim Executive Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

5. Council Emissions Reduction Plan – Annual Progress Report

The first annual progress report for the Council Emission Reduction Plan (CERP) was presented, following approval of the CERP by the Policy and Sustainability Committee on 30 November 2021. It included an update on progress made in the first year of implementing the plan, with a focus on latest emissions data, updates against key performance indicators and actions.

Motion

- 1) To note progress in delivering actions set out in the Council Emission Reduction Plan, and new actions identified by service areas to further reduce emissions.
- 2) To note that in 2021/22, the Council emitted 65,527 tCO₂e (-0.2% compared to 2020/21), representing 69% (over two third) of the three-years' cumulated carbon budget for the period 2020/21 to 2022/23.
- 3) To note that the Council's organisational emissions were updated annually and reported to the Scottish Government through the Public Bodies Climate Change Duty Reporting (PBCCD).
- 4) To note that the Leader of the Council had been selected through a highly competitive process to attend UK100's Climate Leadership Academy in Autumn 2022. It would provide a unique coaching opportunity for councillors to develop their policy skills, knowledge and confidence.

- 5) To note that the CERP underwent an internal agile audit, which had been reported and rated as 'effective' (green).
- 6) To note the revision of the Business travel guidance for employees and invite all Council members to also adhere to it.

- moved by Councillor Day, seconded by Councillor Watt

Amendment

- 1) To note progress in delivering actions set out in the Council Emission Reduction Plan, and new actions identified by service areas to further reduce emissions.
- 2) To note that in 2021/22, the Council emitted 65,527 tCO₂e (-0.2% compared to 2020/21), representing 69% (over two third) of the three-years' cumulated carbon budget for the period 2020/21 to 2022/23.
- 3) To note that the Council's organisational emissions were updated annually and reported to the Scottish Government through the Public Bodies Climate Change Duty Reporting (PBCCD).
- 4) To note that the Leader of the Council had been selected through a highly competitive process to attend UK100's Climate Leadership Academy in Autumn 2022. It would provide a unique coaching opportunity for councillors to develop their policy skills, knowledge and confidence.
- 5) To note that the CERP underwent an internal agile audit, which had been reported and rated as 'effective' (green).
- 6) To note the revision of the Business travel guidance for employees and invite all Council members to also adhere to it.
- 7) To note with concern the "significantly reduced capacity within key teams across the corporate and service areas".
- 8) To recognise that reduced capacity in key teams in the Council threatened the Council's ability to meet targets set out in the CERP, and to be able to lead and facilitate the City in progressing the 2030 Climate Strategy.
- 9) To request that a report is brought to the Policy and Sustainability Committee in 1 cycle which outlined investments required in staffing in order to deliver the Council's climate strategies, including information about how roles should be prioritised for investment / recruitment, where particular skill gaps lay in the Council currently, and actions the Council could take to retain key staff once in role too, including options for ringfenced funding.

- moved by Councillor Parker, seconded by Councillor Mumford

In accordance with Standing Order (22)12, the amendment was adjusted and accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Day:

- 1) To note progress in delivering actions set out in the Council Emission Reduction Plan, and new actions identified by service areas to further reduce emissions.
- 2) To note that in 2021/22, the Council emitted 65,527 tCO₂e (-0.2% compared to 2020/21), representing 69% (over two third) of the three-years' cumulated carbon budget for the period 2020/21 to 2022/23.
- 3) To note that the Council's organisational emissions were updated annually and reported to the Scottish Government through the Public Bodies Climate Change Duty Reporting (PBCCD).
- 4) To note that the Leader of the Council had been selected through a highly competitive process to attend UK100's Climate Leadership Academy in Autumn 2022. It would provide a unique coaching opportunity for councillors to develop their policy skills, knowledge and confidence.
- 5) To note that the CERP underwent an internal agile audit, which had been reported and rated as 'effective' (green).
- 6) To note the revision of the Business travel guidance for employees and invite all Council members to also adhere to it.
- 7) To note with concern the "significantly reduced capacity within key teams across the corporate and service areas".
- 8) To recognise that reduced capacity in key teams in the Council threatened the Council's ability to meet targets set out in the CERP, and to be able to lead and facilitate the City in progressing the 2030 Climate Strategy.
- 9) To request that a briefing be circulated to the Policy and Sustainability Committee in 1 cycle which outlined investments required in staffing in order to deliver the Council's climate strategies, including information about how roles should be prioritised for investment / recruitment, where particular skill gaps lay in the Council currently, and actions the Council could take to retain key staff once in role too, including options for ringfenced funding.

(References – Policy and Sustainability Committee of 30 November 2021 (item 7); Interim Executive Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

6. City 2030 Net Zero Target Annual Report

Details were provided of the latest emissions inventory of the city of Edinburgh (2020/21), based on the most recent datasets available. The calculation methodology was based on the Global GHG Protocol for Cities. This methodology and the boundary selected to monitor progress against the new net-zero target was detailed in the 2030 City target monitoring approach report brought to the Policy and Sustainability

Committee in April 2021. The Council's own organisational emissions were additionally monitored and reported through Public Bodies Climate Change Duties reporting.

Motion

- 1) To note that it was estimated that the city had achieved emissions reductions of 14% between 2020/21 and 2018/19, the baseline year; and that this exceeded the indicative target of 13 % which was set to achieve the interim 25 % reduction in 2022/23.
- 2) To note that the main reductions came from a reduction in electricity consumption, the decarbonisation of the electricity grid, and a reduction in road travel (mainly from cars, followed by vans and HGVs).
- 3) To note that figures were provisional pending publication of a final dataset in Q2 of 2023, but it was expected that the impact on the total footprint would be negligible.
- 4) To note that this latest data reflected the significant impact that the Covid pandemic had on the city; and that to be able to meet future targets, the pace of climate action must significantly accelerate.

- moved by Councillor Day, seconded by Councillor Watt

Amendment 1

- 1) To note that it was estimated that the city had achieved emissions reductions of 14% between 2020/21 and 2018/19, the baseline year; and that this exceeded the indicative target of 13 % which was set to achieve the interim 25 % reduction in 2022/23.
- 2) To note that the main reductions came from a reduction in electricity consumption, the decarbonisation of the electricity grid, and a reduction in road travel (mainly from cars, followed by vans and HGVs).
- 3) To note that figures were provisional pending publication of a final dataset in Q2 of 2023, but it was expected that the impact on the total footprint would be negligible.
- 4) To note that this latest data reflected the significant impact that the Covid pandemic had on the city; and that to be able to meet future targets, the pace of climate action must significantly accelerate.
- 5) To recognise that in order to meet climate targets, further resources and investment would be required, despite challenging financial circumstances.
- 6) To note that "research shows that the cost of inaction for the economy and society far outweighs the cost of taking action now" (paragraph 6.5 of the report) and that "while the financial challenges in achieving net zero emissions will be significant, investing in carbon reduction projects often results in wider co-

benefits such as the creation of local jobs, improved air quality and public health, or reduced congestion” (paragraph 7.1 of the report).

- 7) To further note that “the Council is working to better understand the cost of inaction locally and some costing for adaptation has been done as part of the Climate Change Risk Assessment” (paragraph 6.5 of the report).
- 8) To understand that knowledge of the costs of the “status quo” compared to the costs of adaptation would be required for Council to make informed decisions around spending and investment, especially ahead of budget processes and the setting of the medium-term financial plan.
- 9) Therefore, to request that all existing information around the likely costs of failing to invest in climate solutions locally be made available to groups as soon as possible, and to request a report to the Policy and Sustainability Committee within 2 cycles which outlined how the Council could cost the consequences of inaction vs adaptation in order to support budget setting processes, and the development of the medium-term financial plan.

- moved by Councillor Parker, seconded by Councillor Mumford

Amendment 2

To agree the original motion as proposed by Councillor Day.

- moved by Councillor Whyte, seconded by Councillor Doggart

In accordance with Standing Order (22)12, amendment 1 was accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion (as adjusted) – 15

For Amendment 2 – 2

(For the motion (as adjusted): Councillors Day, Aston, Beal, Campbell, Dijkstra-Downie, Dobbin, Griffiths, Lang, Macinnes, McVey, Meagher, Mumford, Parker, Staniforth and Watt

For Amendment 2: Councillors Doggart and Whyte)

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Day:

- 1) To note that it was estimated that the city had achieved emissions reductions of 14% between 2020/21 and 2018/19, the baseline year; and that this exceeded the indicative target of 13 % which was set to achieve the interim 25 % reduction in 2022/23.

- 2) To note that the main reductions came from a reduction in electricity consumption, the decarbonisation of the electricity grid, and a reduction in road travel (mainly from cars, followed by vans and HGVs).
- 3) To note that figures were provisional pending publication of a final dataset in Q2 of 2023, but it was expected that the impact on the total footprint would be negligible.
- 4) To note that this latest data reflected the significant impact that the Covid pandemic had on the city; and that to be able to meet future targets, the pace of climate action must significantly accelerate.
- 5) To recognise that in order to meet climate targets, further resources and investment would be required, despite challenging financial circumstances.
- 6) To note that “research shows that the cost of inaction for the economy and society far outweighs the cost of taking action now” (paragraph 6.5 of the report) and that “while the financial challenges in achieving net zero emissions will be significant, investing in carbon reduction projects often results in wider co-benefits such as the creation of local jobs, improved air quality and public health, or reduced congestion” (paragraph 7.1 of the report).
- 7) To further note that “the Council is working to better understand the cost of inaction locally and some costing for adaptation has been done as part of the Climate Change Risk Assessment” (paragraph 6.5 of the report).
- 8) To understand that knowledge of the costs of the “status quo” compared to the costs of adaptation would be required for Council to make informed decisions around spending and investment, especially ahead of budget processes and the setting of the medium-term financial plan.
- 9) Therefore, to request that all existing information around the likely costs of failing to invest in climate solutions locally be made available to groups as soon as possible, and to request a report to the Policy and Sustainability Committee within 2 cycles which outlined how the Council could cost the consequences of inaction vs adaptation in order to support budget setting processes, and the development of the medium-term financial plan.

(References – Policy and Sustainability Committee of 20 April 2021 (item 14); Report by the Interim Executive Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

7. 2030 Climate Strategy – Environmental Assessment Consultation and Review

The Council had approved the publication of the 2030 Edinburgh Climate Strategy while acknowledging that both the Strategy and the Implementation Plan would operate as a ‘live document’ that would need to be reviewed at key points, including to take account of the outcomes of the Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA).

Sustainability remained a key priority for the Council. However, the Council was facing

a challenging financial outlook at the same time as reduced capacity. Therefore, it was more important than ever to prioritise the Council's interventions to ensure that available resources are focused on the areas which will have the greatest impact in reducing the city's emissions. The latest annual progress report covered 2020/21 and showed that Edinburgh continued to meet its annual target. However, the report acknowledged that the pandemic had contributed to that target and that to be able to meet future targets, the pace of climate action needed to significantly accelerate.

Motion

- 1) To note the findings from the consultation process on the environmental report as summarised in Appendix 1 of the report by the Interim Executive Director of Corporate Services.
- 2) To agree the proposed actions in response to the findings of the Strategic Environmental Assessment as highlighted in Appendix 3 of the report by the Interim Executive Director of Corporate Services, subject to on-going analysis of available resources.
- 3) To note the overview of key work undertaken to support the 2030 Climate Strategy delivery plan, and in particular the establishment of the Infrastructure Investment Programme Board and City Partnerships.
- 4) To note the increasing financially challenging context and agree the prioritisation of the decarbonisation of transport; active and public transport; climate change adaptation; energy efficiency of public buildings and the delivery of infrastructure that enabled a 'net zero' city as the most impactful ways of reducing the city's emissions and ensuring future resilience to climate impact.
- 5) To thank Dr Sam Gardner, the current chair of the Edinburgh Climate Commission (ECC) and the other volunteer commissioners for their contribution over the last three years to climate action in Edinburgh and, in particular, their support in the development of the Climate Strategy and the City Climate Compact.
- 6) To note that the ECC was now reviewing its purpose and would progress, subject to the decision of ECC members, as part of an independent programme funded by the Place-based Climate Action Network (PCAN).

- moved by Councillor Day, seconded by Councillor Watt

Amendment

- 1) To note the findings from the consultation process on the environmental report as summarised in Appendix 1 of the report by the Interim Executive Director of Corporate Services.
- 2) To agree the proposed actions in response to the findings of the Strategic Environmental Assessment as highlighted in Appendix 3 of the report by the

Interim Executive Director of Corporate Services, subject to on-going analysis of available resources.

- 3) To note the overview of key work undertaken to support the 2030 Climate Strategy delivery plan, and in particular the establishment of the Infrastructure Investment Programme Board and City Partnerships.
- 4) To note the increasing financially challenging context and agree the prioritisation of the decarbonisation of transport; active and public transport; climate change adaptation; energy efficiency of public buildings and the delivery of infrastructure that enabled a 'net zero' city as the most impactful ways of reducing the city's emissions and ensuring future resilience to climate impact.
- 5) To thank Dr Sam Gardner, the current chair of the Edinburgh Climate Commission (ECC) and the other volunteer commissioners for their contribution over the last three years to climate action in Edinburgh and, in particular, their support in the development of the Climate Strategy and the City Climate Compact.
- 6) To note that the ECC was now reviewing its purpose and would progress, subject to the decision of ECC members, as part of an independent programme funded by the Place-based Climate Action Network (PCAN).
- 7) To note that in the last year's budget, Council agreed to set aside £200k for investment to develop a business plan for Energy for Edinburgh.
- 8) To recognise that Energy for Edinburgh had a role to play in the Council's Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy, and that this was proposed as a priority area for investment.
- 9) To further note that on 14th November 2022, the Finance and Resources Committee "reaffirm[ed] the importance of this strategic work to investigate local heat and energy efficiency solutions in helping Edinburgh Council to meet our climate change and energy targets" and requested "a report on progress made towards this action at Policy and Sustainability Committee within 3 cycles".
- 10) To therefore request that in support of the above and as part of this report, a thorough options appraisal for opportunities for energy generation partnerships in the city be undertaken with an evaluation of how best to make Energy for Edinburgh an active enterprise, including consideration of options for alternative and joint ventures for Committee to consider, and with learning from other ESCOs and Local Authorities.

- moved by Councillor Parker, seconded by Councillor Mumford

In accordance with Standing Order (22)12, the amendment was accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Day:

- 1) To note the findings from the consultation process on the environmental report as summarised in Appendix 1 of the report by the Interim Executive Director of Corporate Services.
- 2) To agree the proposed actions in response to the findings of the Strategic Environmental Assessment as highlighted in Appendix 3 of the report by the Interim Executive Director of Corporate Services, subject to on-going analysis of available resources.
- 3) To note the overview of key work undertaken to support the 2030 Climate Strategy delivery plan, and in particular the establishment of the Infrastructure Investment Programme Board and City Partnerships.
- 4) To note the increasing financially challenging context and agree the prioritisation of the decarbonisation of transport; active and public transport; climate change adaptation; energy efficiency of public buildings and the delivery of infrastructure that enabled a 'net zero' city as the most impactful ways of reducing the city's emissions and ensuring future resilience to climate impact.
- 5) To thank Dr Sam Gardner, the current chair of the Edinburgh Climate Commission (ECC) and the other volunteer commissioners for their contribution over the last three years to climate action in Edinburgh and, in particular, their support in the development of the Climate Strategy and the City Climate Compact.
- 6) To note that the ECC was now reviewing its purpose and would progress, subject to the decision of ECC members, as part of an independent programme funded by the Place-based Climate Action Network (PCAN).
- 7) To note that in the last year's budget, Council agreed to set aside £200k for investment to develop a business plan for Energy for Edinburgh.
- 8) To recognise that Energy for Edinburgh had a role to play in the Council's Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy, and that this was proposed as a priority area for investment.
- 9) To further note that on 14th November 2022, the Finance and Resources Committee "reaffirm[ed] the importance of this strategic work to investigate local heat and energy efficiency solutions in helping Edinburgh Council to meet our climate change and energy targets" and requested "a report on progress made towards this action at Policy and Sustainability Committee within 3 cycles".
- 10) To therefore request that in support of the above and as part of this report, a thorough options appraisal for opportunities for energy generation partnerships in the city be undertaken with an evaluation of how best to make Energy for Edinburgh an active enterprise, including consideration of options for alternative and joint ventures for Committee to consider, and with learning from other ESCOs and Local Authorities.

(References – Policy and Sustainability Committee of 5 October 2021 (item 13); Report by the Interim Executive Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

8. Climate Change Adaptation Update – Response to Motions by Councillors Macinnes and Parker

Edinburgh's 2030 Climate Strategy placed a renewed focus on adaptation. In response to motions by Councillor Macinnes (Transport and Environment Committee of 18 August 2022) and Councillor Parker (City of Edinburgh Council of 25 August 2022), details were provided of the work being done by the Council and its partners to adapt Edinburgh to the impacts of climate change. A new Chair had been appointed to the Edinburgh Adapts partnership, membership had been widened and a new Climate Ready Edinburgh plan was in development. A consultation draft of the new plan and updated risk assessment would be brought to Committee in early 2023 with preparatory briefings being offered to elected members in advance of that. At regional level, a business case was in development on undertaking a regional climate change risk assessment under the Edinburgh and East of Scotland City Region Deal's Shared Prosperity Framework. This risk assessment would help identify cross-border and shared climate risks and impacts across the ESEC region.

Motion

- 1) To note the work being undertaken by the Council and partners on adapting Edinburgh to the impacts of climate change, including the appointment of a new Chair of Edinburgh Adapts and its widened membership.
- 2) To note that a new Climate Ready Edinburgh adaptation plan was in development, informed by an updated climate change risk assessment commissioned by the Council. The plan would set out the short-, medium- and long-term actions that need to be taken in the city.
- 3) To note that the Climate Ready Edinburgh Plan 2023-2030 consultation draft and final risk assessment would be brought to Committee in early 2023 and that a business case was being developed for undertaking a city region climate change risk assessment under the Edinburgh and East of Scotland City Region Deal's Shared Prosperity Framework.

- moved by Councillor Day, seconded by Councillor Watt

Amendment

- 1) To note the work being undertaken by the Council and partners on adapting Edinburgh to the impacts of climate change, including the appointment of a new Chair of Edinburgh Adapts and its widened membership.
- 2) To note that a new Climate Ready Edinburgh adaptation plan was in development, informed by an updated climate change risk assessment commissioned by the Council. The plan would set out the short-, medium- and long-term actions that need to be taken in the city.

- 3) To note that the Climate Ready Edinburgh Plan 2023-2030 consultation draft and final risk assessment would be brought to Committee in early 2023 and that a business case was being developed for undertaking a city region climate change risk assessment under the Edinburgh and East of Scotland City Region Deal's Shared Prosperity Framework.
- 4) To recognise that the effects of climate change would be felt differently by different communities across the city, not just by geography but also by demographic.
- 5) To reaffirm the Council's commitment to a just transition as outlined in the 2030 Climate Strategy, and recognise the importance of applying a climate justice lens to adaptation planning.
- 6) To therefore request that the development of the Climate Ready Edinburgh plan and risk assessment include specific detail about how measures proposed in the plan – and risks identified in the risk assessment – would affect different demographics differently, and that this be included in the draft version coming to committee in early 2023.

- moved by Councillor Parker, seconded by Councillor Mumford

In accordance with Standing Order (22)12, the amendment was accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Day:

- 1) To note the work being undertaken by the Council and partners on adapting Edinburgh to the impacts of climate change, including the appointment of a new Chair of Edinburgh Adapts and its widened membership.
- 2) To note that a new Climate Ready Edinburgh adaptation plan was in development, informed by an updated climate change risk assessment commissioned by the Council. The plan would set out the short-, medium- and long-term actions that need to be taken in the city.
- 3) To note that the Climate Ready Edinburgh Plan 2023-2030 consultation draft and final risk assessment would be brought to Committee in early 2023 and that a business case was being developed for undertaking a city region climate change risk assessment under the Edinburgh and East of Scotland City Region Deal's Shared Prosperity Framework.
- 4) To recognise that the effects of climate change would be felt differently by different communities across the city, not just by geography but also by demographic.
- 5) To reaffirm the Council's commitment to a just transition as outlined in the 2030 Climate Strategy, and recognise the importance of applying a climate justice lens to adaptation planning.

- 6) To therefore request that the development of the Climate Ready Edinburgh plan and risk assessment include specific detail about how measures proposed in the plan – and risks identified in the risk assessment – would affect different demographics differently, and that this be included in the draft version coming to committee in early 2023.

(References – Transport and Environment Committee of 18 August 2022 (item 16); Act of Council No. 30 of 25 August 2022; Report by the Interim Executive Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

9. Endorsement of Plant-based Treaty – Response to Motion by Councillor Burgess

In response to a motion by Councillor Burgess at the City of Edinburgh Council on 17th March 2022, details were provided of the potential implications for the City of Edinburgh Council of endorsing the call for a Plant-based treaty and integrating its principles and relevant actions, including for cities and education, into Council strategies and action plans.

Decision

To continue consideration of the matter to the next meeting of the Committee.

(References – Act of Council No. 21 of 17 March 2022; Report by the Interim Executive Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

10. Performance Update Report

An update was provided on Council performance, following the approach set out in the Planning and Performance Framework, which Elected Members approved on 10 June 2021. This was the first performance report focusing on the 2022/23 reporting year. The information was the latest available data and reflected the current position at the time of publication.

Motion

- 1) To note the Performance Update Report in Appendix A of the report by the Interim Executive Director of Corporate Services.
- 2) To approve the KPIs and targets for 2022/23 set out in Appendix B of the report by the Interim Executive Director of Corporate Services.
- 3) To approve the amendments to the KPIs for 2022/23 set out in Appendix C of the report by the Interim Executive Director of Corporate Services.
- 4) To refer the report to the relevant Executive Committee where a red RAG status had been noted.

- moved by Councillor Day, seconded by Councillor Watt

Amendment

- 1) To note the Performance Update Report in Appendix A of the report by the Interim Executive Director of Corporate Services.
- 2) To approve the KPIs and targets for 2022/23 set out in Appendix B of the report by the Interim Executive Director of Corporate Services.
- 3) To approve the amendments to the KPIs for 2022/23 set out in Appendix C of the report by the Interim Executive Director of Corporate Services.
- 4) To note the KPIs did not cover all the services Council provided.
- 5) To note the KPIs covered some functions of Council as an employer and some as a service provider.
- 6) To request a further report to this Committee in one cycle that ensured the measurement of all service provision within KPIs.
- 7) To recommend a separate report to Finance and Resources Committee within one cycle setting out the KPIs appropriate to the Council's responsibilities as an employer.

- moved by Councillor Doggart, seconded by Councillor Whyte

In accordance with Standing Order (22)12, the amendment was adjusted and accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Day:

- 1) To note the Performance Update Report in Appendix A of the report by the Interim Executive Director of Corporate Services.
- 2) To approve the KPIs and targets for 2022/23 set out in Appendix B of the report by the Interim Executive Director of Corporate Services.
- 3) To approve the amendments to the KPIs for 2022/23 set out in Appendix C of the report by the Interim Executive Director of Corporate Services.
- 4) To refer the report to the relevant Executive Committee where a red RAG status had been noted.
- 5) To note the KPIs did not cover all the services Council provided.
- 6) To note the KPIs covered some functions of Council as an employer and some as a service provider.
- 7) To request a further report to this Committee in one cycle that ensured the measurement of all service provision within KPIs.
- 8) To recommend a separate report to Finance and Resources Committee within two cycles setting out the KPIs appropriate to the Council's responsibilities as an employer.

(References – Policy and Sustainability Committee of 10 June 2021 (item 9); Report by the Interim Executive Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

11. Draft Council Business Plan 2023-27

An updated draft of the Council Business Plan was submitted for consideration and discussion by Committee. The draft had been developed as an evolution of the existing Council Business Plan, updated to incorporate new cross party strategic objectives agreed by Council, alongside officer assessment of approaches needed to meet budgetary and other pressures facing the Council.

Motion

- 1) To note the work undertaken by officers to prepare an updated Council Business Plan aligned to existing Council commitments and the shared political priorities agreed by Council in June 2022.
- 2) To note the draft Council Business Plan prepared by officers.
- 3) To notes the committee discussion on the draft business plan.
- 4) To agree that those considerations be taken into account, and that officers bring forward an updated Draft business plan to Council on 15 December 2022.

- moved by Councillor Day, seconded by Councillor Watt

Amendment

To note the draft business plan text and refer to December 2022 Full Council for decision.

- moved by Councillor McVey, seconded by Councillor Macinnes

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion – 12

For the amendment – 5

(For the motion: Councillors Day, Beal, Dijkstra-Downie, Doggart, Griffiths, Meagher, Mumford, Parker, Staniforth, Watt, Whyte and Younie

For the amendment: Councillors Aston, Campbell, Dobbin, Macinnes and McVey)

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Day.

(References – Act of Council No. 5 of 18 February 2022; Act of Council No. 4 of 30 June 2022; Report by the Chief Executive, submitted.)

12. Covid-19: Service Resumption – Response to Motion by Councillor Lang

In response to a motion at the City of Edinburgh Council on 25 August 2022 by Councillor Lang, details were provided of services which were not being provided or were only being provided on a significantly restricted basis as a result of COVID-19. There were two areas within the Council where services had not resumed as normal following the Covid Pandemic: some cultural venues remained closed and school foreign visits.

Decision

- 1) To note the latest position with regard to resumption of Council services suspended or amended due to Covid-19.
- 2) To request a note on the resumption of school foreign visits.
- 3) To request that the advice provided to Council employees during the Pandemic on physical wellbeing be reissued.

(References – Act of Council No. 19 of 25 August 2022; Report by the Interim Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

13. Forth Green Freeport

An update was provided on the Forth Green Freeport (FGFP) bid, including details of the possible implications of this for the City of Edinburgh Council.

Motion

- 1) To note that a Forth Green Freeport (FGFP) Bid had been submitted for consideration by the Scottish and UK Governments.
- 2) To agree the Council Leader would send a response setting out the Council's final position regarding Green Freeports to Forth Ports and the UK/Scottish Governments.

- moved by Councillor Day, seconded by Councillor Watt

Amendment

- 1) To note the Council Leader's failure to bring the decision on supporting a Green Freeport to Council for approval and meant a letter of support was submitted without the endorsement of the Council.
- 2) To note the Council Leader and senior officers were aware of concerns across parties relating to the content of these proposals and therefore understood this was a politically sensitive decision which made it inappropriate for any decision to be taken under delegated authority.
- 3) To note the failure to report this decision to the next Policy and Sustainability Committee also constituted a material breach of Council Governance.

- 4) To recognise that while Green Free Ports may be useful in unlocking economic development in some areas, the case for Edinburgh's involvement in the Forth bid had a number of important outstanding questions.
- 5) Therefore to agree to receive a further report within one cycle setting out the full position of aspects of the bid within Edinburgh, including analysis of bid activity already happening versus additional investment and job opportunities, the potential for loss of tax take through the incentives within the Green Freeport plans, and further information on the strength of commitments of both Governments to the enforcement of conditions relating to Fair Work and Climate Change.
- 6) To further agree the Council Leader and Chief Executive would write again to both Governments within 5 working days to confirm support for Forth Green Freeport was given prematurely. This would make clear the Council currently had not yet made a decision about supporting the Edinburgh element of the bid and would not be able to confirm support until the Council came to a settled position, agreed by Councillors through Full Council.

- moved by Councillor McVey, seconded by Councillor Dijkstra-Downie

At this point in the meeting, Councillor Day withdrew his motion.

Decision

- 1) To approve the amendment by Councillor McVey.
- 2) To request a briefing on the allocation of additional funding sources.

(References – Act of Council No. 23 of 17 March 2022; Report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)