

# Policy and Sustainability Committee

2.00pm, Friday, 25 October 2019

## Climate Commission

Executive/routine  
Wards  
Council Commitments

### 1. Recommendations

---

That the Committee:

- 1.1 Notes the Council motion on 30 May on 'City of Edinburgh Climate Emergency Partnership'.
- 1.2 Agrees to co-sponsor a Climate Commission for Edinburgh with Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation and;
  - 1.2.1 agrees the broad scope of the Commission and that its work is tied to the Council commitment to be a Carbon Neutral city by 2030;
  - 1.2.2 delegates the identification of an appropriate independent chair to the Sustainability and Climate Emergency APOG;
  - 1.2.3 agrees that the terms of reference will be brought back to Policy and Sustainability Committee for consideration in November;
  - 1.2.4 recommends to the Chair the sectors to be represented, as far as possible, in the membership; and that an appropriate balance across sectors is achieved;
  - 1.2.5 agrees that the Council Leader will act as vice Chair to the Commission, and that the Council will be further represented by a member of the opposition, with the Chief Executive attending as Chair of the CEC Sustainability Programme Board;
  - 1.2.6 notes and as appropriate endorses key operating principles of the Commission identified in the report; and
  - 1.2.7 agrees to hear evidence and receive reports from the Commission at the appropriate times.

**Andrew Kerr**

Chief Executive

**Paul Lawrence**

Executive Director of Place

Contact: Paula McLeay, Policy & Insight Senior Manager

E-mail: paula.mcleay@edinburgh.gov.uk | Tel: 0131 529 3654

## Climate Commission

### 2. Executive Summary

---

- 2.1 Elected members are invited to agree to co-sponsor with Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation (ECCI), a Climate Commission for Edinburgh as the best way to provide expertise and support to citywide partnership working. The Committee is asked to delegate Council approval of the independent chair of the Commission to the All-party Oversight Group which is due to launch in November.
- 2.2 An update is also given on resources and capacity within the Council to support the programme. A delay in the release of European funding has been largely managed over the short term by the Policy and Insight Team although there has been a slight delay in the delivery of the planned engagement activity. The initial tranche of European Funding is now available to the Council and capacity is being augmented. All timescales are expected to be delivered as planned by December.
- 2.3 The next steps for the sustainability programme will be to work with ECCI to identify an independent chair for the Climate Commission and support activity to launch the Commission in December.

### 3. Background

---

- 3.1 On the 30 May 2019 the Council agreed a motion to look at options for establishing citywide partnership to progress climate action.
- 3.2 At the same time, the Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation (ECCI), part of the University of Edinburgh, has been funded through their P-CAN project<sup>1</sup> to convene and support a Climate Commission for Edinburgh. This paper develops the proposal for the Commission as a way of establishing citywide partnership on climate action.

---

1.1 <sup>1</sup> The PCAN (Place-Based Climate Action Network) project builds on best practice from other cities, with access to experience of creating successful models for effective city engagement in driving action to address climate change.

## 4. Main report

---

- 4.1 The Council has developed a strong partnership with ECCI and are collaborating on the Climate KIC deep demonstrator programme which recognises the Council role as the city 'problem/system holder'. This activity acknowledges that the Council has a unique role to play as a city leader in the drive to be Carbon Neutral by 2030. It is therefore proposed that the Council and ECCI jointly sponsor the establishment of the Commission.
- 4.2 Research on Commissions in other cities has shown that the most effective model for a Commission is for it to be independent of all city partners and therefore free to speak with an independent voice when it seeks to advise, challenge and act as a critical friend to all partners with a role to play in the tackling climate change (including those who may have a seat on the Commission).
- 4.3 Initial estimates produced by Leeds University as part of its work on a low carbon economic or 'mini-Stern' review for Edinburgh also suggest that while all public partners and in particular Councils have an important role to play, to successfully deliver a 2030 target requires the buy-in, support and leadership of citizens, the third sector, and the private sector. Indeed, data underpinning the research shows that as little as 12% of the city carbon emissions are in the direct control of public bodies.
- 4.4 In this respect, while the Council and ECCI would co-sponsor the establishment of the Commission, with its outcomes closely tied to the strategic aims of the city, the nature of the Commission's work, the content of its reports, and its expert leadership on climate change should function independently of the Council and the University. It is also further recommended that the Commission has an independent Chair. However, in recognition of the Council's unique role in providing civic leadership for the city, it is proposed that the Council Leader would act as Vice-Chair of the Commission.
- 4.5 Considering the above, it is proposed that the committee agrees to co-sponsor a Climate Commission for Edinburgh with Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation and
  - 4.5.1 agrees the broad scope of the Commission and that its work is tied to the Council commitment to be a Carbon Neutral city by 2030;
  - 4.5.2 delegates the identification of an appropriate independent chair to the Sustainability and Climate Emergency APOG;
  - 4.5.3 agrees that the terms of reference will be brought back to Policy and Sustainability Committee for consideration in November;
  - 4.5.4 recommends to the Chair the sectors to be represented, as far as possible, in the membership; and that an appropriate balance across sectors is achieved;

- 4.5.5 agrees that the Council Leader will act as vice Chair to the Commission, and that the Council will be further represented by a member of the opposition, with the Chief Executive attending as Chair of the Sustainability Programme Board;
- 4.5.6 notes and as appropriate endorses key operating principles of the Commission identified in the report; and
- 4.5.7 agrees to hear evidence and receive reports from the Commission at the appropriate times.

### **Scope of the Commission**

- 4.6 Building on experience of other Climate Commissions in the UK, members are invited to discuss and agree the broad scope of the Commission as being to *'Bring together leading public and private partners from across the city to provide expert advice, challenge and encouragement in progressing Edinburgh's contribution to tackling climate change; communicating and engaging with civil society and citizens to promote carbon literacy and support local action. The Commission will also support key actors and collaborations to deliver innovative solutions and projects that support a just transition to a carbon neutral future for the city.'*
- 4.7 The purpose is to ensure that the ambitions of the Council and wider cross sector buy-in and activity to deliver a 2030 Carbon Neutral Target are supported, promoted and encouraged.

### **Chair of the Commission**

- 4.8 The Commission is due to be launched at a City Climate Conference in December. Committee is invited to delegate Council agreement of the appointment of the independent commission chair to the All-Party Oversight Group chaired by the Leader and deputy Leader of the Council. The appointment and biography of the Chair will be confirmed with all members of the P&S Committee ahead of any public announcements. It is expected that the chair of the commission will be a strong climate change advocate able to credibly lead an independent commission of partners to support the delivery of impactful change in the city.

### **Membership of the Commission**

- 4.9 Once appointed, the chair of the commission would be responsible for identifying and appointing the other members of the commission – except where sectors or organisations are invited by the chair to nominate their members. This approach will enhance the leadership role of the chair and preserve the independence of the commission.
- 4.10 However, committee members are invited to recommend to the chair that membership of the commission should, as far as possible, represent the following sectors and interests -
  - 4.10.1 Public sector partners, including the Council and NDPBs

4.10.2 Third sector representatives, including NGOs

4.10.3 Communities

4.10.4 Industry (including energy and digital)

4.10.5 Business and commercial (including property, retail and financial services)

4.10.6 Culture and Tourism

4.11 Committee members are further invited to recommend to the chair that an appropriate balance across the public, private and third sector should be sought to ensure representation reflects the range of key actors across the city whose active participation is needed to lever the required scale and pace of change.

4.12 It is envisioned the Commission will comprise 10-15 members, drawn from the sectors listed above. In recognition of Council's unique role as a city leader in the drive to be Carbon Neutral by 2030, the Committee is invited to agree that the Council will be represented on the Commission by, the Leader of the Council as Vice Chair, one opposition representative, and the Chief Executive.

4.13 The commission will also actively seek ways of ensuring the wider involvement of a diverse range of individuals and communities, including young people and seldom-heard groups.

#### **Operating Principles of the Commission**

4.14 The commission is co-sponsored by the Council and ECCI but it will operate under the independent leadership of its chair. The ECCI will provide secretariat support and convene the meetings of the Commission. The ECCI will also support the communications and any engagement activity of the Commission. All reasonable costs associated with the running of the Commission will be met by ECCI. The Council will contribute through the aligned priorities of the sustainability programme and the deep demonstrator project.

4.15 At its last meeting, the APOG advised that the commission should, as far as possible apply the principle that it would operate transparently and as far as possible through public meetings and with the publication of key material. This will be reflected in the terms of reference for the commission although it should be recognised that there may be occasion when closed commission sessions are appropriate and necessary.

4.16 While the commission will operate independently of the Council and the University, regular updates on its activity will be given to the APOG, the officer Sustainability Board and the Policy and Sustainability Committee.

#### **Terms of Reference**

4.17 Officers will work with ECCI to develop more detailed terms of reference, building on the operating principles outlined above. Terms of reference will be brought to the P&S Committee in November for consideration.

## 5. Next Steps

---

- 5.1 The next steps for the sustainability programme will be to
  - 5.1.1 work with ECCI to identify an independent chair for the Climate Commission, formulate terms of reference, and support activity to launch the Commission in December.

## 6. Financial impact

---

- 6.1 There are no direct resourcing implications for the Council

## 7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

---

- 7.1 It will be important to engage and consult with citizens about the appetite for and detail of bold economic, environmental and social sustainability ambitions for Edinburgh and to ensure a just transition to a lower-carbon future which does not disproportionately disadvantage groups with protected characteristics and/or the most vulnerable in our communities.
- 7.2 The Council's participation in the Climate Commission will provide one mechanism for engaging with stakeholders and it will be important to ensure that other engagement activity the Council undertakes complements and enhances this. A Council engagement plan is currently being developed and as a first step, the Council will launch a city conversation via our website, consultation hub and social media by the end of November, subject to Committee agreement.
- 7.3 In the meantime, the Council will continue to engage with key stakeholders, participating in or hosting a programme of events throughout November and December 2019, including the launch of the Commission.

## 8. Background reading/external references

---

- 8.1 Item 7.4 – Sustainability Approach, Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee, 14 May 2019
- 8.2 Item 7.3 – Sustainability Audit, Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee, 26 February 2019
- 8.3 Item 7.5 – Sustainability Audit, Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee, 4 December 2018
- 8.4 Item 8.4 – Sustainability, Full Council, 28 June 2018
- 8.5 Leeds Sustainability Commission Report

## 9. Appendices

---

None.