
To: Leadership Board

On: 23 February 2022

Report by: Chief Executive

Heading: Climate Change Update

1. Summary

- 1.1 The Climate Change Sub-Committee of the Leadership Board was established in October 2020 to provide oversight and scrutiny of the Council's activities on climate change, and specifically its progress in terms of meeting the target of achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030.
- 1.2 The sub-committee met most recently on 9 February 2022 and considered:
- Progress updates in relation to the overall climate emergency work programme being progressed by services and partners.
 - A progress update on all projects that have been funded through the £1m Climate Change Action Fund, of which £933,000 has been committed to date.
 - Proposals to allocate a further £45,000 from the Climate Change Fund to accelerate the Council's ambitions in relation to sustainable procurement, and to support a charity gift card initiative that will support the development of the circular economy in Renfrewshire, whilst providing an additional option for support to low-income households.
 - A presentation from the Council's Youth Services Manager on engagement with young people in Renfrewshire in relation to the Climate Emergency; and
 - Key priorities to be progressed over the next 3 months by officers.
- 1.3 Updates are provided within this paper in relation to those items requiring noting / approval by the Leadership Board.

2. Recommendations

2.1 It is recommended that members of the Leadership Board:

- Note the progress achieved in relation to the Council's response to the climate emergency; and
- Agree the proposals to allocate £45,000 of the Climate Change Action Fund to support two initiatives outlined in section 5 of this report.

3. Background

3.1 As elected members will be aware, following the Council's declaration of the climate emergency in 2019, officers have been working very closely with partners to develop a programme of work which will drive the collective response to climate change in Renfrewshire. The work programme was paused in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, however work recommenced in Autumn 2020.

3.2 The core focus of the local programme of work has been to develop a plan which sets out how the Council will work with partners, communities and stakeholders to achieve the net zero carbon emissions target by 2030, which was set by Renfrewshire Council.

4. Update on work programme

4.1 Since the last update to Leadership Board, the following activities have been progressed:

- Renfrewshire Climate Panel has been established, and sessions have successfully taken place in November, December and January with further sessions planned for March 2022. The first session focused on introducing the Panel and the reasons for establishing it; outlining the background to the global climate emergency; and explaining why Renfrewshire declared a climate emergency and what this means. The session in December explored in more details the findings from the climate survey. In discussions over these two sessions, the panel members had requested a focus on particular areas – the January session focused on waste and recycling and it is planned that at the March session there will be a focus on active travel and sustainable transport.
- Youth Services have developed an extensive programme of work with young people focusing on the climate emergency including delivering an "Outdoor Academy" in response to COVID-19, and a focus on outdoor learning and raising awareness of nature and the environment as a focus on building back education recovery and investing in positive mental health and wellbeing. The team also delivered a range of events and legacy projects as part of the

Scottish Government's COP26 Youth Climate Programme. A key component of this is supporting Renfrewshire's COP26 Local Ambassadors through a programme of training and engagement.

- Renfrewshire's Net Zero Network met in late January 2022, the previous session in late 2021 having been rescheduled due to the emergence of the Omicron variant and the pressures experienced by partners. The session focused on the findings of the climate survey and updates from all partners on their own planning for net zero. A further session is scheduled to share the high-level findings from the baseline evidence report in Spring and identify shared areas of focus
- Work is underway to develop Renfrewshire's first net zero plan. The first phase of this work will involve establishing a strong evidence base in terms of carbon emissions in Renfrewshire, and identify exemplar options and ideas for further initiatives and interventions that could help Renfrewshire meet the ambitious 2030 net zero target. An interim update on this work will be provided to the Climate Change sub-committee at its next meeting, with a view to more detailed work being undertaken to finalise the plan by early summer.
- As approved by Leadership Board in December 2021, £50,000 has been allocated to fund a new Community Climate Fund which was launched on 31 January 2022 and is open for applications until 14 March 2022. The Community Climate Fund will provide awards of up to £3,000 to community organisations to develop localised, green community projects and initiatives which are tailored to the needs of individual communities.

5 Climate Change Action Fund

5.1 A full update was provided to members of the sub-committee on the progress achieved by projects funded through the Climate Change Action Fund. The Climate Change Action Fund has been utilised to support innovative projects and initiatives being developed by Council services in response to the climate emergency; provide initial funding to pilot new ideas and approaches; to support engagement and partnership working across Renfrewshire; or to accelerate the pace of change already being delivered through existing initiatives. This process is vital to the Council being able to lever in the external funding that will be required to support climate change initiatives at the scale and pace required. To date £933,000 of the £1m funding has been allocated.

5.2 Key progress to date includes:

- The purchase of new electric light commercial vehicles as part of the ongoing expansion of the Council's electric fleet.
- A feasibility study looking at the opportunity for a large-scale solar farm on the former landfill site at Moss Road, Linwood.

- Energy modelling at Bridge of Weir Primary School to develop energy efficient refurbishment options, which could potentially be replicated across the school estate.
- Completion of our residents' Climate Survey, including weighting and analysis of results to ensure a representative view as part of the evidence base for Renfrewshire's net zero plan. A representative sample of residents who responded, then formed the membership of the Climate Panel.
- Development of a local response to ensure resilient town centres by addressing current and issues within our towns and local centres in Renfrewshire. Work includes interventions to mitigate climate change impacts and support local centres from further economic impact.

5.3 Two further proposals have been developed by services in relation to the Climate Change Action Fund, with a total of £45,000 of funding being requested this cycle. Further detail on these proposals is outlined within Appendix 2 of this report and these would seek to deliver:

- A Charity Shop Gift Card pilot, which would support local work in relation to the circular economy, whilst also being a potential source of support to low income households;
- Funding to support the development of a Renfrewshire Sustainable Procurement programme which would strengthen and accelerate the local approach and support net-zero ambitions across Renfrewshire.

5.4 Following consultation with the Sub-Committee, these proposals are now being submitted to the Leadership Board for formal approval. If approved, £22,000 would remain within the Climate Change Action Fund for future allocation.

6. Key priority areas

6.1 Looking ahead to the next 3 months, key priority areas for the climate emergency work programme have been identified as follows:

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| Review the commissioned work on baseline carbon emissions and share findings with Elected Members, partners and citizens, as outlined in section 4 | March to June 2022 |
| Continue to progress the development of phase 1 of Renfrewshire's Plan for Net Zero, with summary position reported to next meeting of Sub-Committee | For next Sub-Committee meeting |
| Develop approach for phase 2 of Renfrewshire's Plan for Net Zero and prepare tender for technical support for scope interventions and impact | May/June |
| Review submissions and agree awards for Community Climate Fund as noted in section 4 | May/June |
| Carry out business survey | Spring 2022 |
| Engagement with underrepresented groups | Ongoing throughout January to May 2022 |

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – the paper includes a recommendation in relation to the Climate Change Action Fund in section 5, with £45,000 to be allocated to fund two specific projects
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – none
3. **Community/Council Planning** – this report includes updates and further proposals to support engagement and collaboration with local businesses, partners and communities on the climate emergency agenda.
4. **Legal** - none
5. **Property/Assets** - none
6. **Information Technology** - none
7. **Equality and Human Rights** - The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report because it is for noting only. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.
8. **Health and Safety** - none
9. **Procurement** – none
10. **Risk** – none
11. **Privacy Impact** – none
12. **COSLA Policy Position** – none
13. **Climate Risk** – this report outlines work being undertaken by the Council to respond to the climate emergency.

List of Background Papers:

Climate Change Action Fund, 2 June 2021 Climate Change Sub-Committee

Climate Emergency Work Programme: Progress Update, 1 September 2021 Climate Change Sub-Committee

Author: Laura McIntyre, Head of Policy and Commissioning

Appendix 1 – Climate Change Action Fund – Funding Proposals February 2022

| Name/Description | Funding Required | Summary |
|--|------------------|--|
| Charity Gift Shop Pilot – promoting the circular economy | £5,000 | <p>Proposals have been developed with Charity Shop Gift Card (CSGC) to develop a pilot initiative in Renfrewshire which would promote local efforts in terms of the circular economy, whilst also offering a potential source of additional support for low income households.</p> <p>The pilot is anticipated to work by giftcards being made available to individuals and families working with local community organisations to purchase clothing and other items.</p> <p>The CSGC organisation would cover all administration costs, liaison with charity shops and partners and promotion of the service. They are currently seeking funding for the pilot, which if it works could be expanded to cover household and other items. This initiative not only helps families in need, but also fits with climate emergency work as it demonstrates an example of the circular economy. Agreement has been reached with one charity shop in Paisley to take vouchers at present. The pilot would be expected to start in 2022.</p> |
| Sustainable Procurement Programme | £40,000 max | <p>As previously discussed by the Climate Sub-Committee, the Council potentially contributes in the region of 3-4% of Renfrewshire's carbon emissions, and therefore the leadership role of the organisation is crucial in terms of working with citizens and businesses to reduce wider carbon emissions. An important element of leadership is through the Council's spending arrangements.</p> <p>Scottish public procurement legislation includes in law a Sustainable Procurement Duty which requires that procurement consider how our contracts can improve the social, environmental and economic wellbeing of our own area with a particular focus on reducing inequality. The core principles of the Sustainable Procurement Duty are reflected in our Procurement Strategy and the goals and objectives for the procurement team and there is good practice across the procurement team in this regard.</p> <p>The pace of change across markets and in terms of service requirements in terms of sustainable procurement is exponential, and it is essential that the Procurement function is able to maximise sustainable procurement opportunities to ensure contracting activities support net-zero aspirations throughout the contract lifecycle, using all relevant tools and support available and maximising engagement with supply chains.</p> <p>Our ambition is to ensure that the Council not only keeps abreast of best practice but has an opportunity to engage and consult with our suppliers, our colleagues and the wider public sector to help shape and form future</p> |

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| | | <p>Council policy and innovation. Funding from the Climate Change Action Fund will help to develop initial resource to support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development of a clear framework for training and development to ensure that our processes support embedding sustainable procurement in all of our practice and we actively contribute to the Council's Net Zero goal; • the development of an approach to monitoring and recording climate change and circular economy initiatives throughout the life of contracts; • active engagement with Economic Development to help run events for local businesses about sustainable procurement and to help them become more sustainable and focused on tackling the Climate Emergency; • the development of cross functional roadmaps for major and targeted impact areas setting out key milestone and targets for action and implementation. |
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