

Minute of Meeting Climate Change Sub-Committee

Date	Time	Venue
Wednesday, 01 September 2021	10:00	Remotely via MS Teams,

Present: Councillor Bill Brown, Councillor Neill Graham, Councillor John Hood, Councillor Lisa-Marie Hughes, Councillor Eileen McCartin, Councillor Cathy McEwan, Councillor Marie McGurk, Councillor Iain Nicolson, Councillor John Shaw

Chair

Councillor Nicolson, Convener, presided

In Attendance

L McIntyre, Head of Policy & Commissioning, P Moss, Strategy, Policy & Insight Manager and G Crawford, Senior Communications Officer (all Chief Executive's); F Carlin, Head of Housing Services (Communities & Housing Services); G Hutton, Head of Operations & Infrastructure and L Rennie, Operations Manager (both Environment & Infrastructure); M Conaghan, Legal & Democratic Services Manager, D Pole, End User Technician, E Gray, Senior Committee Services Officer and J Barron, Assistant Committee Services Officer (all Finance & Resources)

Recording of Meeting

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Convener intimated that this meeting of the Climate Change Sub-committee would be recorded and that the recording would be available to watch on the Council's website.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were intimated prior to the commencement of the meeting.

1 **Climate Emergency - Policy Update**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Policy & Commissioning providing a summary of the latest UN report on the science of climate change, a summary of the findings of the Scottish Government's Climate Change Citizen's Assembly; information on the new 'Let's Do Zero' campaign and the latest developments in relation to COP26.

The Policy & Insight Manager gave a presentation on Climate Emergency – Policy Update which included information from the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Officers responded to members' comments and questions, including how the Council was progressing with the Climate Panel, engagement with the community and the role of schools and education in tackling climate change.

Members thanked the Policy & Insight Manager for her presentation.

DECIDED: That the policy updates in the paper be noted.

2 **Climate Emergency Work Programme : Progress Update**

Under reference to item 1 of the Minute of the meeting of the Sub-committee held on 19 April, 2021 there was submitted a report by the Head of Policy & Commissioning providing a progress update on the Climate Emergency Work Programme.

It was noted that at its meeting on 19 April 2021, the Sub-committee considered a report outlining progress on the work being undertaken by the organisation to respond to the climate emergency declared by Council in June 2019.

The Sub-committee agreed a number of key priorities to be progressed by officers, recognising that it was a particular priority to continue to develop Renfrewshire's plan for achieving the target of net zero carbon emissions by 2030.

The report provided an update on the work undertaken to progress these priority actions and highlighted some of the key activities that had been undertaken since the last update to the Sub-committee. An updated work programme was considered by the Sub-committee, with section 5 of the report setting out a number of key priority actions which had been identified by officers for completion over the next three months.

DECIDED:

(a) That the progress achieved in relation to the current work programme and associated updated timetable be noted; and

(b) That it be agreed that the key priorities for progression over the course of the next three months as set out in Section 5 of the report.

3 **Climate Change Action Fund**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Policy & Commissioning regarding the budget approved by Council on 9 March 2020. The report outlined that £1,000,000 of funding had been allocated to support the Council in progressing its response to the climate emergency through a Climate Change Action Fund.

The Climate Change Sub-committee had considered a number of funding proposals developed by the Council during 2021. Following discussion and engagement with members, these proposals had been formally approved by the Leadership Board held on 24 February 2021, with £768,000 of funding allocated to date from the Climate Change Action Fund.

Two new proposals were included within the report for consideration by the Sub-committee. In line with previous proposals, these supported the Council's response to the climate emergency, with a key focus on testing new technology and practices, and in supporting local communities and businesses to reduce carbon emissions.

It was noted that following the last meeting of the Sub-committee held on 2 June 2021, officers had also progressed options for the development of a community-based fund for local projects/initiatives which supported the drive to net-zero. It was anticipated that a detailed proposal would be submitted to the Sub-committee for consideration on 17 November 2021.

DECIDED:

(a) That the progress update provided on the initiatives funded through the Climate Change Action Fund to date be noted;

(b) That consideration of the proposals detailed in the report, with £115,000 of funding requested from the Climate Change Action Fund be approved; and

(c) That it be noted that these proposals would be submitted to the Leadership Board for approval.