
To: Climate Change Sub-Committee

On: 19 April 2021

Report by: Chief Executive

Heading: Climate Emergency – Update on Strategic Response

1. Summary

- 1.1 Further to the Council's declaration of a climate emergency in June 2019, work has been undertaken to develop a strategic programme of work, which demonstrates how all businesses, communities and residents can come together to achieve the ambition of net zero carbon emissions by 2030.
- 1.2 Whilst this work was paused due to COVID-19, activity resumed in Autumn 2020, with the climate change sub-committee being established in October 2020 to oversee this programme of work.
- 1.3 This paper provides an update on the programme, with a particular focus on the development of an adaptation plan for Renfrewshire which will set out how partners will work together to achieve shared ambitions in relation to climate change.
- 1.4 The paper sets out an indicative timetable for the development of the adaptation plan, and highlights the key priorities which will be progressed over the course of the next 3 months for information.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that members of the Climate Change Sub-Committee:
 - Note the progress achieved to date in terms of the strategic response to the climate emergency;
 - Note the proposed approach, timetable and outline structure for Renfrewshire's adaptation plan; and

- Agree key priorities for progression over the course of the next 3 months as set out in Section 5 of the report.

3. Background

- 3.1 Following the Council's decision to declare a climate emergency in June 2019, work has been undertaken to develop the local response to the emergency and to identify the key actions that must be progressed collectively with businesses, communities and residents to achieve the agreed target of net zero carbon emissions by 2030.
- 3.2 A cross-party climate emergency working group was established to identify the priority actions that will need to be undertaken to achieve this target. Council agreed the initial findings of the working group when these were reported to Council in February 2020, and confirmed that the immediate priorities to be progressed were to:
- Establish a sub-committee of the Leadership Board to oversee the Council's progress in relation to oversee the strategic response to the climate emergency.
 - Develop an adaptation plan for Renfrewshire Council.
 - Mainstreaming climate emergency within the Council and aligning staffing resource to support this.
 - Engage with communities, key partners and the wider business community.
 - Identify potential funding and other opportunities to support the Council's response.
- 3.3 Unfortunately initial work was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, however good progress has been made since activity resumed in August 2020, despite ongoing resource constraints. Specifically:
- Leadership Board agreed on 16 September 2020 to establish a Climate Change Sub-Committee, with the first meeting taking place in October 2020.
 - Through the Placeshaping review, Leadership Board agreed that the strategic remit for the climate emergency would be allocated to the Head of Policy and Commissioning, who has now assumed this role and is working with services to establish a climate emergency officer group and to recruit a project co-ordinator/ lead for the climate emergency work programme.
 - A Climate Change Action Fund was established in late 2020, with the Climate Change Sub-Committee recommending the allocation of £0.698m to 8 projects. These proposals were formally agreed by Leadership Board in February 2021.
 - The initial proposals developed by services and funded from the Climate Change Action Fund have largely been identified to support feasibility studies and tests of change, which will allow the Council to lever in potential significant levels of external funding in the future.

- The Climate Change Sub-Committee have also approved proposals to establish a partnership forum to develop collective ownership around the climate emergency and a residents' forum/citizens' assembly to inform the development of the adaptation strategy.

3.4 A key element of the work being progressed is the climate change adaptation plan, with a full update provided in section 4.

4. Renfrewshire Climate Change Adaptation Plan

4.1 Adaptation plans help organisations to plan the actions needed to manage or reduce their contribution to the global climate emergency, within a strong local context, demonstrating an understanding of the risks and opportunities within their place. These plans help to prepare for and protect against the impacts of the climate crisis such as flooding, adverse weather conditions and food insecurity.

4.2 Work is underway to develop Renfrewshire's first adaptation plan which will map out Renfrewshire's journey and the key activities required to work towards the target set to achieve net zero carbon emissions for by 2030 and support other sectors, organisations and our communities to significantly reduce their carbon emissions.

4.3 It was initially intended that the plan would relate specifically to the activities of Renfrewshire Council, however this will be widened out to include the actions required across Renfrewshire and its communities. It is important that the plan is accessible to all stakeholders and sets out the key steps which need to be taken collectively across Renfrewshire to achieve shared climate aspirations.

4.4. The plan will be developed in full consultation with local people, communities, partners and businesses. It is proposed that the draft is also subject to a process of engagement before finalisation during the second half of 2021. The Climate Change Sub-Committee has previously endorsed plans to establish a partnership forum and a residents' forum/climate change assembly to inform the development of the adaptation plan.

4.5 Additional engagement with local businesses will also be undertaken in close partnership with Renfrewshire Chamber of Commerce, in order to identify opportunities for collective action, highlight best practice and understand what more the Council can do to support local businesses to adapt to more sustainable practices. This will be linked to local COVID-19 economic recovery plans.

4.6 The timetable and milestones which will guide the development of the adaptation plan are set out within the table below. The timetable is indicative at this point, as there remains potential for this to be impacted by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and any associated restrictions.

	Key activities	Planned timeframe
Stage 1	Desk based analysis and research in relation to national policy, practice and innovation	Ongoing
	Engagement with Council services and partners	April 2021
	Partnership Forum engagement	June 2021
	Renfrewshire Citizens' Climate Forum meetings	July 2021
	Business Audit	June 2021
Stage 2	Partnership forum engagement on draft	September 2021
	Renfrewshire Citizens' Climate Forum engagement on draft	September 2021
	Draft adaptation plan presented to Climate Change Sub-Committee	September 2021
Stage 3	Public consultation – 4 weeks	Mid Sept – Mid October
Stage 4	Final draft considered by Climate Change Sub-Committee	17 November 2021
	Final approval at Leadership Board	December 2021

- 4.7 A draft outline structure of the adaptation plan is attached at Appendix 1. The proposed structure builds on that used within the high-level climate action plan approved by Council in February 2020.

Wider context

- 4.8 It is important to note that the Renfrewshire Adaptation Plan will be informed by both the Scottish Government and Glasgow City Region plans but will retain a principal focus on what needs to happen in Renfrewshire to progress climate change aspirations locally.
- 4.9 In terms of wider context on the national and City Region plans, the Scottish Government first launched the Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme (SCCAP) in 2014, reporting annually on progress before a second SCCAP was launched in 2019, with the third due in 2024. The most recent progress update on the SCCAP was published in May 2020, with a strong focus on maintaining commitment to meeting climate ambitions within the new COVID-world and therefore ensuring that adaptation is an integral part of green recovery.

- 4.10 The Glasgow City Region adaptation plan has been developed through Climate Ready Clyde which comprises key officers from member organisations, including the Glasgow City Region local authorities, the NHS, SEPA, SGN, SPT and Transport Scotland, the Universities of Glasgow and Strathclyde and the Scottish Government and is managed and delivered by Sniffer, the sustainability charity, who prepared the adaptation plan.
- 4.11 With a strong focus on resilience the draft plan highlights 11 key interventions – reshape governance mechanisms; develop ability of all sectors to adapt; financing adaptation; enabling community participation; embedding evaluation and learning into adaptation action; adapting the Clyde Corridor for the twenty-second century; early warning preparedness for floods and heatwaves; ensure homes, offices, buildings and infrastructure are climate resilient; deliver nature-based solutions for resilient places; establish the region as a research and knowledge hub; and transitioning to a climate-resilient economy.

5. Update on Work Programme

- 5.1 As outlined within section 3 of this report, it is recognised that the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the pace at which the climate emergency response has been progressed. A work programme has been developed to pull together all key strands of the climate emergency response within the organisation and with partners, and regular updates will be provided to the Climate Change Sub-Committee on the progress that is achieved. A timeline highlighting the key milestones and updates to be provided at each meeting is outlined in Appendix 2 of this report.
- 5.2 Key priorities over the next three months include:
- Establishment of Partnership Forum
 - Recruitment of Renfrewshire Citizen's Climate Forum members
 - Finalisation of Business Audit proposal with Chamber of Commerce
 - Development of further Climate Change Action Fund proposals
 - Exploration of potential to engage academic partner to support the Council to develop a detailed carbon budget which will allow more detailed milestones and targets to be set within the draft adaptation strategy.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – none
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – none
3. **Community/Council Planning** – this report highlights proposals to develop citizen and partnership forums 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 provides a summary of work being undertaken by the Council to respond to the climate emergency.
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List of Background Papers - none

Author: Pauline Moss, Strategy, Policy and Insight Manager
Chief Executive's Service

Appendix 1 - Proposed structure of Renfrewshire Adaptation Plan

Introduction

Strategic context – this gives an overview of recent local and national policy development, with Renfrewshire Council declaring a climate emergency and the establishment of the Climate Change Sub-Committee. It recognises the impact covid-19 has had on our way of life but also on the opportunity to support our climate work through green recovery, aligning to the national approach.

Strategic framework – this shows how the adaptation plan will link with the Council and other stakeholders' own 'in house' plans for climate action (for example, Renfrewshire Council's Carbon Management Plan) and other key strategies (our recovery plans, our local development plan etc) and link to the Glasgow City Region adaptation plan and Scotland's adaptation plan.

Scope of the plan – this highlights the key partners and stakeholders involved in the development and delivery of the plan (including a section describing the engagement consultation process once complete). It also outlines the governance and oversight arrangements for ensuring the successful implementation of the plan.

Priorities – these priorities are the key themes proposed by the Climate Emergency Working Group and agreed by Council.

- 1. Place**
- 2. Energy**
- 3. Waste**
- 4. Transport**
- 5. Engagement**
- 6. Governance and innovation**

Under each priority, there will be an opening statement, outlining our vision for Renfrewshire in relation to this theme, our opportunities and our current position as we understand it. There will then be key activities within each theme, as developed through the engagement and consultation programme. Some of these activities will be actions for Renfrewshire Council, already highlighted through previous reports to Council, but some will be broader, reflecting the wider scope of the adaptation plan and will require stakeholders' agreement. We would use these priorities through the listening events, grouping discussion around each of these themes in order to understand local views, opportunities and challenges.

Monitoring, measurement and reporting – critical to the successful implementation and linked back to the governance, this section will outline plans for how we monitor and measure success, consider suitable targets and milestones and how we will report this with shared responsibility across all stakeholders.

Glossary of terms – to ensure clarity and consistency for all audiences on some of the terms used within the plan.

Appendix 2 – Key Reporting Dates

Date of meeting	Scheduled agenda items
2 June 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Proposals to be brought forward on Climate Change Action Fund
1 September 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Draft adaptation plan for considerationConsultation and engagement update – Partnership Forum, Renfrewshire Citizens' Climate Forum and business audit6-monthly update on Climate Change Action Fund proposalsAny COP 26 related updates
17 November 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Final adaptation plan for agreement