

Notice of Meeting and Agenda Climate Change Sub-Committee

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

KENNETH GRAHAM
Head of Corporate Governance

Membership

Councillor Iain Nicolson (Chair): Councillor John Hood (Vice Chair) Councillor Bill Brown:
Councillor Neill Graham: Councillor Lisa-Marie Hughes: Councillor Eileen McCartin: Councillor
Cathy McEwan: Councillor Marie McGurk: Councillor John Shaw:

Apologies

Apologies from members.

Declarations of Interest

Members are asked to declare an interest in any item(s) on the agenda and to provide a brief explanation of the nature of the interest.

Recording of Meeting

This meeting will be recorded for subsequent broadcast via the Council's internet site. If you have any queries regarding this please contact Committee Services on 07534 058160.

To find the recording please follow the link below.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=CGCvj00HoOw

Items of business

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| | Report by Head of Policy and Commissioning. | |
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| | Report by Chief Executive. | |



To: Climate Change Sub-Committee

On: 1 September 2021

Report by: Head of Policy and Commissioning

Heading: Climate Emergency - Policy Update

1. Summary

- 1.1 This paper updates members on a number of policy developments since the sub-committee last met in June 2021. The paper provides 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.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Climate Change Sub-Committee:

a) Note the policy updates in this paper.

3. Latest UN IPCC Report

- 3.1 In August 2021, the UN published the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Sixth Assessment Report (AR6)¹ on the physical basis for climate change. The IPCC is the world's leading authority on climate science and the latest report has been compiled by more than 200 scientists worldwide and approved by 195 countries. The report is the first of three due for publication and states:

- Climate change is widespread, rapid, and intensifying
- It is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the planet.

- Scientists are observing changes in the Earth's climate in every region and across the whole climate system
 - Many of the changes observed in the climate are unprecedented in thousands, if not hundreds of thousands of years, and some of the changes already set in motion—such as continued sea level rise—are irreversible over hundreds to thousands of years.
 - Strong and sustained reductions in emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gases would limit climate change
 - However, even with this action it could take 20-30 years to see global temperatures stabilize but that nations can still prevent the worst impacts.
- 3.2 The report has three sections, covering the increase in the rate of global warming, the impact on every region of Earth, and on the impact of humans on past, present and future climate change.
- 3.3 The report provides new estimates of the chances of exceeding the global warming level of 1.5°C in the next decades, and finds that unless there are immediate, rapid and large-scale reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, limiting warming to close to 1.5°C or even 2°C will be beyond reach. The report shows that emissions of greenhouse gases from human activities are responsible for approximately 1.1°C of warming since 1850-1900. It also finds that averaged over the next 20 years, global temperature is expected to reach or exceed 1.5°C of warming. This assessment is based on improved observational datasets to assess historical warming, as well as progress in scientific understanding of the response of the climate system to human-caused greenhouse gas emissions.
- 3.4 The second part of the report explains that every region on Earth is facing increasing changes to its climate and also highlights that what people experience is often very different to the global average. For example, warming over land is larger than the global average, and it is more than twice as high in the Arctic. The report projects that in the coming decades climate changes will increase in all regions. For 1.5°C of global warming, there will be increasing heat waves, longer warm seasons and shorter cold seasons. At 2°C of global warming, heat extremes would more often reach critical tolerance thresholds for agriculture and health, the report shows. Climate change is not a single effect but impacts regions differently, for example:
- Climate change is intensifying the water cycle. This brings more intense rainfall and associated flooding, as well as more intense drought in many regions.
 - It is affecting rainfall patterns. In high latitudes, precipitation is likely to increase, while it is projected to decrease over large parts of the subtropics. Changes to monsoon precipitation are expected, which will vary by region.
 - Coastal areas will see continued sea level rise throughout the 21st century, contributing to more frequent and severe coastal flooding in low-lying areas and coastal erosion. Extreme sea level events that previously occurred once in 100 years could happen every year by the end of this century.
 - Further warming will amplify permafrost thawing, and the loss of seasonal snow cover, melting of glaciers and ice sheets, and loss of summer Arctic sea ice.

- Changes to the ocean, including warming, more frequent marine heatwaves, ocean acidification, and reduced oxygen levels have been clearly linked to human influence. These changes affect both ocean ecosystems and the people that rely on them, and they will continue throughout at least the rest of this century.
 - For cities, some aspects of climate change may be amplified, including heat (since urban areas are usually warmer than their surroundings), flooding from heavy precipitation events and sea level rise in coastal cities.
- 3.5 The IPCC has included a more detailed regional assessment of climate change in this latest report, including a focus on useful information that can inform risk assessment, adaptation, and other decision-making, and a new framework that helps translate physical changes in the climate – heat, cold, rain, drought, snow, wind, coastal flooding and more – into what they mean for society and ecosystems. Under scenarios with increasing CO₂ emissions, the ocean and land carbon sinks are projected to be less effective at slowing the accumulation of CO₂ in the atmosphere. This regional information can be explored in detail in the newly developed Interactive Atlas interactive-atlas.ipcc.ch as well as regional fact sheets, the technical summary, and underlying report.
- 3.6 The new report also reflects major advances in the science of attribution – understanding the role of climate change in intensifying specific weather and climate events such as extreme heat waves and heavy rainfall events. It shows that human actions still have the potential to determine the future course of climate. The evidence is clear that carbon dioxide (CO₂) is the main driver of climate change, even as other greenhouse gases and air pollutants also affect the climate. One of the report authors clearly states that “Stabilizing the climate will require strong, rapid, and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, and reaching net zero CO₂ emissions. Limiting other greenhouse gases and air pollutants, especially methane, could have benefits both for health and the climate.”
- 3.7 This means transformation is required at every level of society: individuals, employers, institutions and international partners will need to work together to understand the trade-offs, agree compromises and seize opportunities. Just as scientists are pooling insights from diverse fields of expertise, policymakers will need to work in new ways, sharing ideas across disciplines to plot a clear path from here to net zero. This is a whole systems challenge and tackling it will require a systemic approach.
- 3.8 The report states, with high certainty, that to stabilize the climate, carbon-dioxide emissions must reach net zero, and other greenhouse gas emissions must decline significantly. For a given temperature target, there is a finite amount of carbon that can be emitted before reaching net zero emissions. To have a 50:50 chance of halting warming at around 1.5°C, this quantity is about 500 billion tons of carbon dioxide. At current levels of carbon-dioxide emissions this “carbon budget” would be used up within 12 years. Exhausting the budget will take longer if emissions begin to decline.

- 3.9 The IPCC maps out four pathways to achieve 1.5°C, with different combinations of land use and technological change. Reforestation is essential to all of them as are shifts to electric transport systems and greater adoption of carbon capture technology. Carbon pollution would have to be cut by 45% by 2030 – compared with a 20% cut under the 2°C reduction pathway – and come down to zero by 2050, compared with 2075 for 2°C.
- 3.10 Although better than expected progress has been made in the adoption of renewable energy, deforestation for agriculture is turning a natural carbon sink into a source of emissions. Carbon capture and storage projects, which are essential for reducing emissions in the concrete and waste disposal industries, have also ground to a halt. The report concludes that reversing these trends is essential if the world has any chance of reaching 1.5°C without relying on the untried technology of solar radiation modification and other forms of geo-engineering, which could have negative consequences.
- 3.11 As elected members will be aware work is currently underway to establish a robust baseline and evidence base in relation Renfrewshire's level of carbon emissions. As part of this work recommendations will come forward which detail the actions that will need to be taken to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030.

4. Scotland's Climate Citizen Assembly Report

- 4.1 On the 25th September 2019 the Climate Change Bill was passed in the Scottish Parliament. This legislation commits Scotland to becoming a net zero emissions society by 2045, five years before the rest of the UK. The legislation required Scottish Ministers to establish a citizens' assembly to consider how to prevent or mitigate the effects of climate change and recommend measure to achieve emission reduction targets.
- 4.2 Scotland's Climate Assembly consisted of over 100 people randomly selected from across the country to represent the adult population in respect of age, gender, socio-economic class, educational qualifications, ethnic groups and political attitudes. The Assembly also engaged with the Children's Parliament to ensure representation from young voices. Assembly members collaborated several times between November 2020 and March 2021. This was conducted online in response to the constraints presented by the Covid-19 pandemic. An Evidence Group presented members with balanced and comprehensive information about the climate emergency and potential ways to address it. Members were split across three workstreams to identify key issues and priorities: diet, land use and lifestyle; homes and communities; and work and travel. Outputs from the Children's Parliament were fed back to the Climate Assembly and helped shape the Assembly outputs, which were laid before the Scottish Parliament on 23rd June 2021.
- 4.3 The report identifies the Scottish Climate Assembly's recommendations for Scotland to tackle the climate emergency. This is summarised by a Statement of Ambition, which identifies the Assembly's overarching views which are threaded through

related goals and recommendations. The Statement calls for a united drive for immediate action across government, business, communities, and individuals to encourage and subsequently embed sustainable behaviour across society.

- 4.4 Beneath the Statement sits a total of 16 goals and 81 recommendations, each agreed upon by consensus of Assembly members. Goals are high level and represent key areas or themes. These are:

1. **Resources** – reduce consumption and waste by embracing society wide resource management and reuse practices
2. **Building Quality** – adopt and implement clear and future-proofed quality standards for assessing carbon impact of buildings
3. **Retrofit Homes** – retrofit the majority of existing homes in Scotland to be net zero by 2030
4. **Standards and Regulation** – lead by example through government and public sector implementing mandatory standards, regulations and business practices that meet the urgency and scale of the climate emergency
5. **Public Transport** – implement an integrated, accessible and affordable public transport system and improved local infrastructure throughout Scotland that reduces the need for private cars and supports active travel
6. **Travel Emissions** – lead the way in minimising the carbon emissions caused by necessary travel and transport
7. **Carbon Labelling** – provide clear and consistent carbon content labelling on produce, products and services to enable people to make informed choices
8. **Education** – provide everyone with accurate information, education and lifelong learning to support behavioural, vocational and societal change to tackle the climate emergency
9. **Land Use** – balance the needs of the environment, landowners, and communities across Scotland for sustainable land use
10. **Communities** – empower communities to be able to develop localised solutions to tackle climate change
11. **Circular Economy** – strive to be as self-sufficient as possible, with a competitive Scots circular economy that meets everyone's needs in a fair way
12. **Work and Volunteering** – develop work, training and volunteering opportunities to support net zero targets
13. **Business** – support long term, sustainable business models where people and the environment are considered before profit
14. **20 Minute Communities** – realise the principles of a '20 minute community' in flexible ways across Scotland by reducing the needs to travel for work, shopping, services and recreation
15. **Taxation** – develop and implement a fair, equitable and transparent tax system that drives carbon emission reductions
16. **Measuring Success** – reframe the national focus and vision of Scotland's future away from growth and Gross Domestic Product in order to reflect climate change goals towards a more person and community centred vision

- 4.5 The 81 recommendations that sit under these goals identify the specific aims of Assembly members. Each recommendation identifies a discrete activity area and a

focussed call for change. Recommendations are supplemented with supporting statements which detail the reasons for their inclusion. They provide important insight into the thoughts, feelings and views of Assembly members in an accessible and easily understandable way.

- 4.6 A Children's Parliament Report is provided as an annex to the main report. The Children's Parliament Report summarises the activity undertaken with child contributors, and details their specific thoughts, opinions, and aspirations for tackling climate change, and how these have been reflected in final report outputs.
- 4.7 The Scottish Government is required to respond to the recommendations in the report within six months of its presentation in parliament. During summer 2021 Assembly members will have the opportunity to meet with people and organisations working in those areas covered by the Assembly's recommendations to discuss their proposals with stakeholders. Scotland's Climate Assembly members will also meet again after Ministers publish their response, expected December 2021.
- 4.8 The breadth and depth of the Assembly's report illustrates the success that can be achieved through this model of engagement. The Assembly's broad representation, extensive information sharing and effective facilitation has led to report outputs that are balanced, informed and relatable. Recommendations are written in an accessible manner and reflect ordinary experiences. This provides a clear route for change and creates an initial framework for monitoring and evaluation. The specific inclusion of children's views, presented through the Children's Parliament Report, is particularly successful in identifying the drivers for change amongst this age group.
- 4.9 The findings of the Assembly are helpful in terms of informing local work to establish Renfrewshire's Climate Panel to hear the views of Renfrewshire's citizen's and establish what action they would like to see at a more local level. As outlined within papers provided to the sub-committee, work is underway to establish the Panel in Renfrewshire and to involve this Panel in the development of our local net zero plan.

5. Net Zero Scotland

- 5.1 The Scottish Government's new climate change communications campaign, "Let's Do Net Zero" was launched in June 2021 to raise public awareness about climate issues ahead of COP26 in November 2021. The multi-media campaign has two phases. The first, which is currently running, is a national campaign to inform the population across Scotland about the climate emergency and the need to reach net zero. The second phase will be targeted at both domestic and international audiences and will focus on what Scotland is doing to tackle climate change.
- 5.2 The campaign has some simple key messages, with a particular focus on the urgency with which action is needed. It highlights environmentally friendly behaviours which have already become mainstream (such as recycling) and identifies some of the bigger changes required to deal with the climate emergency. The campaign has some clear and distinctive branding and a toolkit of resources is available on the Net Zero Nation website for partners and supporters to download

and add to their own social media profiles, emails, and other communications materials.

6. COP26 Update

- 6.1 The 26th Annual Climate Change Conference of the Parties, rescheduled from last year, will take place as an 'in person' event in Glasgow from 31 October to 12 November 2021. Event arrangements will reflect the current context and have additional measures in place to manage the Covid-19 risk but also to ensure delegates are able to attend from all over the world. Technological solutions will also be in place to allow those unable to travel to participate. The annual preparatory meeting will take place in Milan from 30 September to 2 October 2021.
- 6.2 An informal two-day meeting of more than 50 ministers and high-level representatives, including the UN Deputy Secretary-General, took place in July 2021 and delegates discussed expectations for the conference and deal with outstanding negotiations issues. The sessions covered five topics – scaling up of adoptions, mobilising finance, keeping the target of 1.5°C alive, loss and damage, and finalising the Paris Rulebook.
- 6.3 In terms of the hoped-for outcomes of COP26, delegates expressed a wish for a roadmap to accelerate the Global Goals for Adaption and for a package of finance to support that, with an improved balance between funding for mitigation and funding for adaption.
- 6.4 Delegates also stated that they would hope for all parties to have developed Nationally Determined Contributions to aligned to 1.5°C ahead of the conference alongside long-term strategies demonstrating how net zero would be reached by 2050.
- 6.5 Further discussions will take place before the conference on scaling up funding and on dealing with loss and damage. Separate meetings will also take place on the Paris Rulebook, with informal consultations planned on common timeframes and enhanced transparency.
- 6.6 Further detail is beginning to emerge around COP26 and its implications for Renfrewshire, as a key access point for those travelling to COP26. In addition, it is likely that there will be a range of citizen engagement opportunities, as a key feature of COP26.

Implications of the Report

1. Financial –None

- 2. HR & Organisational Development** –None
 - 3. Community/Council Planning** – None
 - 4. Legal** – None
 - 5. Property/Assets** – None
 - 6. Information Technology** – None
 - 7. Equality & 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, as it is a policy update for noting only.
 - 8. Health & Safety** – None
 - 9. Procurement** – None
 - 10. Risk** – None
 - 11. Privacy Impact** - None
 - 12. COSLA Policy Position** – Not applicable
 - 13. Climate Change** – This report provides an update on recent policy developments in relation to climate change.
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To: Climate Change Sub-Committee

On: 1 September 2021

Report by: Head of Policy and Commissioning

Heading: Climate Emergency Work Programme – Progress Update

1. Summary

- 1.1 At its meeting on 19 April 2021, the sub-committee considered a paper outlining progress on the work being undertaken by the organisation to respond to the climate emergency declared by Council in June 2019.
- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 This paper provides an update on the work undertaken to progress these priority actions and highlights some of the key activities that have been undertaken since the last update to Board. An updated work programme is provided at Appendix 1 for consideration by the sub-committee, with section 5 of the report setting out a number of key priority actions which have been identified by officers for completion over the next 3 months.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that members of the Climate Change Sub-Committee:
 - Note the progress achieved in relation to the current work programme and associated updated timetable; 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 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 guide our collective response to climate change in Renfrewshire. The work programme was paused in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, however work recommenced on this in Autumn 2020. 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 to achieve the net zero carbon emissions target by 2030, which was set by Renfrewshire Council.

Carbon emissions – this means the carbon (or its equivalent) being released into the Earth's atmosphere. A major cause of emissions is burning fossil fuels (such as coal, gas or oil) for heating or transport.

Net zero – this is when carbon emissions are reduced as low as they can be and any remaining carbon that can't be avoided is 'offset' by methods such as planting trees for example, to bring the overall amount of carbon used to zero (or less).

- 3.2 Initial research undertaken by the organisation in 2019, estimated that circa 3-4% of all emissions in Renfrewshire related to Council services or activities. In recognition of this, the local work programme agreed by elected members has had a strong focus on engagement with local residents, communities, partners and businesses on the emergency, and the actions which will be collectively required to respond to this.
- 3.3 There is a significant amount of learning and research that also needs to take place to support the organisation and partners to make the extensive changes that will be required to achieve the net zero emissions target by 2030. £1m of funding was previously allocated by Council to establish a Climate Change Action Fund within the organisation, with a view to this being used to support services to tests new approaches or technology and undertake work that could allow the Council to potentially lever in external funding to take forward its climate response at greater pace and scale.
- 3.4 The sub-committee considered a range of initial funding proposals in February and April 2021, and £768,000 of funding has now been allocated from the Climate Change Action Fund to support a number of initiatives. An update report on the Fund is provided as a separate item on this meeting agenda.
- 3.5 The work programme agreed by the sub-committee has continued to be progressed by officers in line with the key priorities agreed in April 2021. Section 4 provides a full update on the key actions that have been progressed between April and September 2021.

4. Update on work programme

- 4.1 At the Climate Change Sub-Committee meeting on 19 April 2021, an indicative work programme for 2021 was provided for members, with a key focus on progressing Renfrewshire's plan for achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030. The programme was presented as being indicative at that time, due to the ongoing nature of the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact that this may have on planned activities including the procurement of various projects.
- 4.2 Key immediate priorities agreed by the sub-committee at that time, were as follows:
- Establishment of a Partnership Forum
 - Recruitment of Renfrewshire Climate Panel members (local residents)
 - 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 baseline which will allow more detailed milestones and targets to be set within the draft adaptation strategy
- 4.3 Very good progress has been made in progressing these priority actions given the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic being experienced by the Council and its partners, and across communities. Specific updates can be provided as follows:

Developing the evidence base

- 4.3.1 As agreed by the Climate Change Sub-Committee, work has been undertaken to consider the external expertise that the Council needs to support local planning and decision making in relation to the climate emergency response. Specifically, support is required to develop a detailed carbon assessment for Renfrewshire and to identify milestones and targets to work towards net zero carbon emissions in Renfrewshire by 2030.
- 4.3.2 Extensive market engagement has been undertaken over the summer, which has allowed officers to develop a greater understanding of the support that could be provided to the Council. This has informed the development of a very detailed specification to guide this piece of work, which is currently out to tender.
- 4.3.3 Due to the additional time taken to research potential options for this work and associated procurement timescales, it is unlikely that this will be completed by the end of this year, which in turn will require timescales for the development of our local net zero plan to be adjusted.

Climate Change - Public Services Panel survey

- 4.3.4 A survey has been issued to all 1500 members of the Renfrewshire Public Services Panel. The main aim of the survey is to engage with local people on their understanding of the climate emergency and to probe some of the ways in which individual and collective behaviours could change to support the local

response. The survey is also available to the wider Renfrewshire population to complete and the results will be collated by an independent firm commissioned to undertake the survey work on behalf of the Council.

- 4.3.5 We intend to use the survey process to recruit the membership of the Renfrewshire Climate Panel, and in addition the survey findings will also shape the agenda for the initial meetings of this Panel.

Renfrewshire Climate Panel

- 4.3.6 As outlined above, members of the Renfrewshire Climate Panel will be recruited through the climate survey which is currently underway. Local residents will be recruited on a representative basis from all survey respondents by the firm commissioned to undertake the climate survey in order to ensure independence in selection. It is anticipated that the first meeting of the Renfrewshire Climate Panel will take place in September/October 2021.

Business Audit / survey

- 4.3.7 The Climate Change Sub-Committee has previously considered the critical role that local businesses will play in terms of responding to the climate emergency. This may be through a change or adaptation to existing business models or practice or could involve the development of new sectors and employment opportunities for local people. In order to gain a deeper understanding of the current landscape in Renfrewshire, a business survey has been developed in partnership with Renfrewshire Chamber of Commerce. The survey will be issued jointly by the Council and the Chamber of Commerce in September 2021, and will be co-ordinated by an independent research firm.

Lead Officer

- 4.3.8 Funding was previously allocated through the Climate Change Action Fund to appoint a Climate Emergency Lead Officer to co-ordinate the extensive programme of work currently underway in Renfrewshire, including the development of our local plan to achieve net zero carbon emissions. Following a competitive recruitment process, a lead officer has now been appointed and will commence in this role in September 2021.

Partnership Forum

- 4.3.9 The Partnership Forum met for the first time on 9 June 2021. Comprising initially of a range of key community planning partners, the first meeting served as a scoping session during which partners were able to discuss activities within their own organisations and to explore options to work more closely together to respond to the climate emergency in Renfrewshire. The meeting was very positive and one of the initial options being explored is the possibility of developing this type of forum into a Partnership network which could allow for information and learning to be shared, and ensure a wider group of partners and organisations can be engaged in local discussions.

Wider engagement

4.3.10 A range of stakeholder meetings have taken place in recent months at both a local and national level. The meetings have allowed officers to gain a greater understanding of the local and national policy context and to explore opportunities for collaboration within the Council and with external partners. These have included:

- Scottish Government policy teams
- Improvement Service
- A number of Scottish Local Authorities
- Colleagues leading this agenda at the City Region level
- Engagement sessions with senior leadership teams across all Council services and with Renfrewshire Leisure and Renfrewshire HSCP
- Engagement with Renfrewshire Community Planning Executive Group

4.3.11 A staff network and senior officer group are also being established to support greater collaboration across the organisation on the local response to the climate emergency.

Development of the adaptation / net zero plan for Renfrewshire

4.3.12 The activities above will support the development of Renfrewshire's plan for achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030. In previous papers to elected members this has been referred to as an adaptation plan, however through engagement with local and national partners it is evident that there is a need to make the purpose and focus of this plan much clearer for all stakeholders, therefore going forward it is proposed that this is referred to as Renfrewshire's net zero plan.

4.3.13 The net zero plan will set out the key actions the Council and partners will need to take to achieve net zero carbon emissions, and this will be supported by an adaption plan/strategy document which set out in much more specific detail the mitigations that the Council and partners will need to deploy to mitigate and build resilience against the impact of the climate change.

4.3.14 It may be helpful to clarify for members some of the terminology commonly used in relation to this agenda. There are three key areas in relation to climate change plans and strategies that are commonly referred to. These are:

- Mitigation, a climate plan or a plan for net zero – this outlines the types of mitigating activities that organisations, businesses and individuals can take specifically to reduce carbon emissions now and in the future. This type of plan explains how to achieve the targets set and, in Renfrewshire, this will be the overarching plan for our approach.
- Adaptation – this type of plan is concerned with the damage already done to the planet and the impacts felt now and will likely be experienced in the future. Adaptation plans outline how we can adapt our place, ways of working and lives now and in the future to ensure we are resilient. For example, we know that we are likely to experience more extreme weather conditions due to climate change, so an

adaptation plan would include actions to make sure properties can cope with extreme heat or cold etc. Some of these actions will overlap with activities needed to meet carbon emission targets but their focus is on the technical ways to adapt our way of life to cope with a more climate impacted future.

- A third strand is planning in relation to biodiversity and nature. This is very closely linked with the above two areas – we know that climate change is causing loss of nature and that loss of natural habitats and species will also impact on climate change. Some of the solutions and proposed activities to support achieving the 2030 target will be nature-based solutions and Renfrewshire Council is a signatory to the Edinburgh Declaration of Biodiversity, recognising its value and our role in protecting and enhancing it.

5. Revised programme

5.1 As outlined in section 4, very good progress has been made in terms of progressing the local climate emergency programme, however there has been some slippage in terms of establishing some of the projects and engagement mechanisms which will be required to support the development of Renfrewshire's net zero plan. A revised work programme is now attached as Appendix 1 for elected member's consideration.

5.2 Key priorities during the next 3 months have been identified as follows:

- Completion of public and business climate surveys
- Establishment of the Renfrewshire Climate Panel (engagement with residents)
- Appointment of supplier to support carbon budget and net zero plan development.
- Development of further Climate Change Action fund proposals, including the potential development of a community climate fund, as agreed at the last meeting of the climate sub-committee.

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: Laura McIntyre, Head of Policy and Commissioning

Appendix 1 – Revised work programme

	Key activities	Timescale
Stage 1	Desk based analysis and research in relation to national policy, practice and innovation	Ongoing
	Engagement with Council services and partners	Ongoing
	Partnership Forum engagement	Initial meeting held June 2021
	Climate survey	August 2021
	Renfrewshire Climate Forum meetings	September / October 2021
	Business survey	September 2021
Stage 2	Partnership forum engagement on draft	November 2021
	Renfrewshire Climate Forum engagement	November/ December 2021
	Draft net zero plan presented to Climate Change Sub-Committee	End of 2021
Stage 3	Public consultation – 4 weeks	Early 2022
Stage 4	*Final draft considered by Climate Change Sub-Committee	9 February 2022
	*Final approval at Leadership Board	24 February 2022

*subject to consultation timetable being completed in line with restrictions.



To: Climate Change Sub-Committee

On: 1 September 2021

Report by: Chief Executive

Heading: Climate Change Action Fund

1. Summary

- 1.1 As part of the budget approved by Council on 9 March 2020, £1m of funding was allocated to support the organisation in progressing its response to the climate emergency through a Climate Change Action Fund.
- 1.2 The Climate Change sub-committee has considered a number of funding proposals developed by the organisation during 2021. Following detailed discussion and engagement with members, these proposals have been formally approved by the Leadership Board, with £768,000 of funding allocated to date from the Climate Change Action Fund.
- 1.3 This paper provides a high-level overview of the progress that has been achieved to date in terms of the projects and initiatives supported through this funding to date.
- 1.4 Two new proposals are also included within this paper for consideration by elected members. In line with previous proposals, these support the organisation'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.
- 1.5 Following discussion at the last meeting of the sub-committee on 2 June 2021, officers have also progressed options for the development of community-based fund for local projects/initiatives which support the drive to net-zero. It is anticipated that a detailed proposal will be submitted to the sub-committee for consideration on 17 November 2021.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that members of the Climate Change Sub-Committee:
- Note the progress update provided on the initiatives funded through the Climate Change Action Fund to date;
 - Consider the proposals detailed at Appendix 1 of this report, with £115,000 of funding requested from the Climate Change Action Fund and;
 - Note that subject to agreement, these proposals will be submitted to the Leadership Board for formal approval.

3. Background

- 3.1 In the budget approved by Council on 9 March 2020, £1 million was allocated to establish a Climate Change Action Fund which would support the next steps outlined in the report “Climate Change Emergency” approved by Council on 27 February 2020. The report set out the initial findings and recommendations of the Climate Change Emergency Working Group, which had been convened following the Council’s declaration of a climate emergency in June 2019.
- 3.2 The Climate Change Action Fund is intended to fund 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.

4. Progress – projects and initiatives supported by the Fund.

- 4.1 To date, £768,000 funding has been allocated to support 10 projects through the Climate Change Action Fund. A number of these projects relate to feasibility studies or engagement work with local businesses and communities and good progress has been made in terms of progressing these and appointing relevant suppliers and specialists to support this work. Appendix 1 provides specific detail on this progress which includes:
- Detailed assessment work underway in relation to various peatland restoration sites in Renfrewshire;
 - The research partnership to inform and guide the development of the new build Council housing programme is underway, with a key focus on delivering high quality housing in Renfrewshire which delivers on sustainability requirements.
 - The appointment of a lead officer to support the climate emergency response in Renfrewshire.
 - The purchase of new electric light commercial vehicles as part of the ongoing expansion of the Councils electric fleet.

- The launch of a public survey to assess the views of local residents in relation to the climate emergency with a business survey planned for September 2021.

5. New funding proposals

- 5.1 Two further proposals have been developed by services in relation to the Climate Change Action Fund, with a total of £115,000 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:
- The introduction of a business support scheme which would provide small grants to local businesses to support the transition to green energy sources and processes.
 - An energy modelling project in Bridge of Weir Primary, the findings from which could be used to inform the refurbishment of other similar primary buildings.
- 5.2 Subject to the views of the sub-committee, these proposals would be submitted to the Leadership Board for formal approval. If approved, £117,000 would remain within the Climate Change Action Fund for future allocation.
- 5.3 Following discussion at the last meeting of the sub-committee on 2 June 2021, officers are also progressing options for the development of community-based fund to support local projects/initiatives which support the drive to net-zero. It is anticipated that a detailed proposal will be submitted to the sub-committee for consideration on 17 November 2021.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – none
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – none
3. **Community/Council Planning** – this report includes funding 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 - none

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Appendix 1 – Update on projects supported by the Climate Change Action Fund

Name / Description	Funding allocated	Summary	Short summary of progress
Housing led Regeneration and Renewal Programme – Zero Energy Buildings (RenZEB)	£75,000	Renfrewshire Council will develop a collaborative and an innovative partnership with a research organisation to design and deliver a social housing new build development within the context of the Council approved Regeneration and Renewal Programme.	<p>The project team appointed is formed by a collaboration between the Department of Architecture and Energy Systems Research Unit (ESRU) of the University of Strathclyde as lead partner, in collaboration with John Gilbert Architects Architects (JGA) and NBM Construction Cost Consultants. Led by the following: Professor Lori McElroy, Department of Architecture, University of Strathclyde, Chris Morgan, Director, John Gilbert Architects Ltd, and NBM Construction Cost Consultants.</p> <p>This collaboration includes members who recently undertook a review and technical evaluation of Renfrewshire Council's approach to retrofit and includes experts with specific understanding of building standards and regulations, architectural design, construction industry and related industry processes, expertise in embodied energy in materials, ultra-low energy design and operation, indoor environmental quality survey methods, ventilation design expertise, indoor air quality and health in buildings.</p> <p>The commission is being managed by the Communities and Housing Directorate and regular updates will be provided to the relevant Council Boards including the Climate Change Sub-committee.</p>
Enhancement of Electric Vehicle Programme	£258,000	As the organisation moves through its vehicle replacement programme, all opportunities and external funding sources are being utilised to develop the electric fleet.	A total of 27 electric vehicles have been purchased by the Service utilising funding from the Climate Change action Fund and Transport Scotland.

Name / Description	Funding allocated	Summary	Short summary of progress
		<p>In the next phase of its approach, Environment and Infrastructure are seeking to introduce electric to different categories of the fleet, i.e. light commercials. It is proposed that several panel vans or transit sized vehicles will be purchased which will allow the service to consider options for introducing these across the rest of the fleet, with the opportunity to unlock further external funding and to inform the future vehicle replacement programme at potentially a faster pace.</p> <p>This is the single largest vehicle category within Renfrewshire Council's fleet and if electrified would significantly reduce our carbon emissions while delivering frontline services.</p>	<p>The 27 electric vehicles consisted of 20 off Large 3.5Tonne Vans, 18 off Light Vans and 7 off Cars.</p> <p>These EVs bring the total number of Fleet EVs to 127 or around 30% of the Council Fleet.</p> <p>25 of 27 vehicles arrived in Summer 2021 for operational use at Underwood Road Depot. The remaining two vehicles are due to arrive in late August 2021.</p>
Feasibility study – photovoltaic project	£30,000	The Energy Management Unit (EMU) has identified an opportunity to deliver largescale renewable electricity from Photovoltaic Panels (PV). The proposed site is Moss Road in Linwood, this was previously used as a land fill site, with a feasibility study to be undertaken.	<p>The EMU is currently in the process of appointing an identified contractor to undertake this work.</p> <p>Project specification currently being finalised and timescales for completion will be confirmed shortly.</p>
Climate Change Response – Programme Governance	£125,000	Given the scale of the response to the climate change by Renfrewshire Council and the need to move this forward at pace, a climate change officer post will be recruited on 2 year fixed term basis, with the initial focus of the role being to support the drafting of the climate change adaptation plan, the climate change sub-committee and to take forward proposed partnership and citizen engagement forums on	A new post of Climate Emergency Lead Officer was developed, job evaluated and recruited for through My Job Scotland and an appointment has been made. The successful candidate is due to start in mid-September. The post is temporarily funded for up to two years within the allocated funding.

Name / Description	Funding allocated	Summary	Short summary of progress
		climate change issues which have been identified by the Climate Change Sub-Committee as key priorities.	
Community Food Growing Proposal	£50,000	<p>It is proposed that a large scale community food growing initiative within the Johnstone area is supported.</p> <p>As well as bringing land back into purposeful use, the main aim of the project would be to maximise the availability of locally available and fresh food to people experiencing financial insecurity and/or health and wellbeing issues. It is anticipated that this project will be progressed in partnership with local community groups and organisations, with clear links being established to community justice services, community projects and organisations and local school and care services to maximise community involvement and benefit.</p>	<p>A project group has been formed, which has supported initial engagement with local groups and organisations who are interested in working together with the Council on this project. The engagement process is ongoing, although the timelines for this have been impacted by COVID and associated restrictions.</p> <p>Officers have been preparing initial costings to support the development of a project plan, which will be progressed by the group in Autumn 2021.</p>
The Renfrewshire Active Travel Network Feasibility level funding to identify and deliver interventions and new links	<p>£75,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - £25,000 to support overall analysis of network gaps relative to economic opportunities - £50,000 for follow-on 	<p>Investment in Renfrewshire's Active Travel Network is a priority of the approved Economic Recovery Plan (Dec 2020). From an economic perspective there are gaps in the strategic network and to and from that strategic network, that would better connect communities to places of work and study, town centres, and other economic destinations. Developing the network and its local connections would be a significant driver in offering attractive alternatives to the use of</p>	<p>Procurement exercise in June failed to attract a bidder. Market analysis reveals that initial budget was considered too low in a very buoyant market for active travel consultants. Our revised strategy is to retender with a higher budget with support from Sustrans – Places for Everyone budget in September.</p>

Name / Description	Funding allocated	Summary	Short summary of progress
	specific feasibility development of interventions	<p>private cars particularly for short journeys and make progress towards delivering 20-minute neighbourhood living across Renfrewshire.</p> <p>Benefits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - reducing carbon emissions from travel - healthier lifestyles - more sustainable local economies and services 	
Town Centres climate resilience programme	<p>£75,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - £25,000 to support overall analysis of measures and opportunities - £50,000 for follow-on specific feasibility development of interventions 	<p>A certain degree of climate impact is built into established climate agreements meaning that some level of climate warming is expected, leading to greater variability in climate including heat events and wetter periods of the year. Streets and public spaces in town and local centres will have a role to play in providing shelter and would benefit economically by offering good environments for people. Work is required to develop a local response to these issues aimed at delivering programmes of beneficial interventions in centres with property owners, residents and users.</p> <p>Benefits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - more climate resilient communities - supporting local centres from further economic impact - providing enhanced and local places as attractive alternatives to those further afield (e.g. climate controlled indoor 	The commissioning of the studies to inform the programme is underway. Tenders have been returned and these are being evaluated for a contract award in September.

Name / Description	Funding allocated	Summary	Short summary of progress
		centres) – and therefore reducing the need to travel	
Peatland restoration	£10,000	<p>The degradation and erosion of upland and blanket peat bogs is contributing to the loss of carbon sinks. There are significant peatland resources in the ownership of the council albeit under tenancy to farmers on Glenniffer Braes and Muirshiel, and there are lowland peat bogs within the extended site at Bishopton. The feasibility of a programme of peat moss restoration, as part of the NatureScot (NS) programme - Peatland ACTION, should be tested to inform further discussions with owners, tenants and conservation experts.</p> <p>Benefits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - carbon storage - enhanced biodiversity - enhance water/flood retention in upland catchment areas <p>£10,000 is required to support an initial feasibility study, so as to be well positioned to bid for external funding from a national programme, Peatland ACTION, which has £250m to invest over the next 10 years.</p>	<p>3 sites in Renfrewshire currently being progressed, 2 of which are Council owned - Sergeantlaw Moss (Gleniffer Braes); West Tandlemuir (Clyde Muirshiel) and Barochan Moss, Bishopton (owned by BAE).</p> <p>Licence to Occupy issued by Council to NatureScot (NS) in June 2021.</p> <p>NS completed its in-house site assessment of Sergeantlaw Moss mid-July and is currently preparing its report for presentation to the Council.</p> <p>All relevant tenders have now been issued to support the work programme.</p>
Specialist support to develop 'carbon budget' element	£50,000	Technical expertise is needed to support the development of an evidence base in Renfrewshire in relation to carbon emissions,	Market engagement undertaken during Summer 2021, with procurement exercise to commence shortly.

Name / Description	Funding allocated	Summary	Short summary of progress
of adaptation plan and identify key opportunity areas		and the actions required to achieve the net zero target set by Council in 2019.	
Business survey and analysis and Climate Panel survey and recruitment	£20,000	Two immediate priorities are to carry out a climate emergency survey of Renfrewshire's businesses and to survey and then recruit a representative sample of Renfrewshire's population to participate in a Climate Panel. Both activities require to happen at pace in order to influence the content of Renfrewshire's net zero plan and it is proposed that using a research partner, similar to the approach used for the Council's Public Services Panel, will allow the administrative element of this work to be completed in a robust and independent manner	<p>Business survey has been developed in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce and will be issued during September 2021.</p> <p>Survey of local residents is now underway to gain greater insight to views in relation to the climate emergency. Members of the Climate Panel for residents, are currently being recruited from the respondents to the survey.</p>

APPENDIX 2 - Climate Change Action Fund – Funding Proposals August 2021

Name / Description	Funding required	Summary
Net Zero Business Grant Support – Renfrewshire Council Grant programme for local businesses	£100,000	<p>This proposal aims to encourage local businesses to embrace net zero ambitions and to support Renfrewshire’s goal of net zero emissions by 2030.</p> <p>With one in three small businesses worried about rising energy prices, including more than half of SMEs in hospitality and leisure, this proposal ensures business get the support they need to cut emissions and their bills at the same time.</p> <p>50% grant support (up to £10k per grant) will be offered to support local businesses to make changes to business premises and operations. For example, a move to low carbon heating systems, solar powered energy and other measures to reduce emissions.</p> <p>The grants will be delivered through the Economic Development Team in line with other similar business grant funds.</p>
Energy modelling Bridge of Weir PS	£15,000	<p>Proposal to undertake detailed energy modelling of Bridge of Weir Primary School to facilitate design and development of enhanced and integrated energy efficient ‘Enerphit’ refurbishment options.</p> <p>Bridge of Weir PS is an archetype of a number of Primary Schools in the portfolio and the modelling exercise/data will inform potential options for other properties across the school estate.</p>

