

Notice of Meeting and Agenda Council

Date	Time	Venue
Thursday, 27 February 2020	09:30	Council Chambers (Renfrewshire), Council Headquarters, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley, PA1 1AN

KENNETH GRAHAM
Head of Corporate Governance

Membership

Councillor Jennifer Marion Adam-McGregor: Councillor Tom Begg: Councillor Derek Bibby: Councillor Bill Binks: Councillor Bill Brown: Councillor Stephen Burns: Councillor Jacqueline Cameron: Councillor Michelle Campbell: Councillor Carolann Davidson: Councillor Eddie Devine: Councillor Andy Doig: Councillor Audrey Doig: Councillor Natalie Don: Councillor Alison Jean Dowling: Councillor Edward Grady: Councillor Neill Graham: Councillor Jim Harte: Councillor John Hood: Councillor Lisa-Marie Hughes: Councillor Karen Kennedy: Councillor Scott Kerr: Councillor Paul Mack: Councillor Alistair Mackay: Councillor James MacLaren: Councillor Kenny MacLaren: Councillor Mags MacLaren: Councillor Eileen McCartin: Councillor Colin McCulloch: Councillor Marie McGurk: Councillor John McIntyre: Councillor John McNaughtan: Councillor Kevin Montgomery: Councillor Will Mylet: Councillor Emma Rodden: Councillor Jim Sharkey: Councillor John Shaw: Councillor James Sheridan: Councillor Andy Steel: Councillor Jane Strang: Provost Lorraine Cameron (Convener): Councillor Cathy McEwan (Depute Convener): Councillor Iain Nicolson (Leader): Councillor Jim Paterson (Depute Leader)

Further Information

This is a meeting which is open to members of the public.

A copy of the agenda and reports for this meeting will be available for inspection prior to the meeting at the Customer Service Centre, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley and online at <http://renfrewshire.cmis.uk.com/renfrewshire/CouncilandBoards.aspx>
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Items of business

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.

1 Minutes of Meetings of Council, Boards and Panels

Leadership Board, 4 December 2019, pages 249-260

Council, 5 December 2019, pages 261-274

Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board, 14 January 2020, pages 275-292

Regulatory Functions Board, 15 January 2020, pages 293-300

Education and Children's Services Policy Board, 16 January 2020, pages 301-308

Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board, 20 January 2020, pages 309-314

Infrastructure, Land and Environment Policy Board, 22 January 2020, pages 315-326

Personnel Appeals and Applied Conditions of Service Appeals Panel, 23 January 2020, pages 327-328

Finance, Resources and Customer Services Policy Board, 29 January 2020, pages 329-342

Regulatory Functions Board, 30 January 2020, pages 343-350

Leadership Board, 19 February 2020, pages 351-362

2 Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board Review - Maintenance of Multi-occupancy Accommodation (Mixed-tenure Buildings)

Report by Lead Officer

3 Governance Arrangements 17 - 20

Director of Finance & Resources

4 European Union Flag 21 - 24

Report by Director of Finance & Resources

5 Climate Change Emergency 25 - 40

Report by Chief Executive

6 Notice of Motion 1 by Councillors J Cameron and Steel

"Council agrees that release of balloons or lanterns clearly pose a risk to wildlife, livestock, humans and property. 20 out of the 32 local authorities in Scotland have introduced a policy banning their release.

Therefore, council agrees that Renfrewshire Council should join the other local authorities in implementing a policy banning the release of

balloons or lanterns on Council property, Council owned land and at Council licensed, endorsed or supported events, including those not on Council owned land."

7 Notice of Motion 2 by Provost Cameron and Councillor

Devine

"John Patrick Byrne - celebrated playwright, painter, printmaker and theatre designer - has bestowed upon the world a treasure that is his art. By doing so, he has put Paisley and Renfrewshire on the map. His ongoing commitment to our local community - the community he grew up in - is to be admired. This commitment continues to be welcomed and treasured by citizens of Ferguslie Park, past and present, as well as the Renfrewshire community and its civic leaders.

Council notes the outstanding achievement that John has made to Renfrewshire, and in recognition of that contribution to his hometown, Renfrewshire Council formally resolves that he be admitted as Honorary Freeman of Renfrewshire.

The Director of Finance and Resources, in consultation with the Provost, is authorised to make the necessary arrangements to bestow this honour on and to include John Patrick Byrne on the roll of names of persons who are admitted as Freemen and Freewomen of Renfrewshire."

8 Notice of Motion 3 by Councillors Devine and Sheridan

"Derek Mackay, MSP Renfrewshire North and West Constituency

Renfrewshire Council believes that Derek Mackay should resign with immediate effect as MSP for Renfrewshire North and West Constituency. He has shown, by his behaviour with inappropriate texts to a 16 year old boy, that he is unfit to hold the office of MSP."

9 Notice of Motion 4 by Councillors Mack and Andy Doig

"The Core Duties of Chief Executives in Scottish Local Authorities

This Council believes, in the interests of prudent governance, that the core duties of the Chief Executive of the Council shall include acting as Returning Officer at public elections, and that there shall be no additional payment for these duties. Council further advocates that having adopted this position Renfrewshire Council will seek to persuade CoSLA to adopt that as their national policy."

10 Notice of Motion 5 by Councillors Mack and Andy Doig

"Green Belt Policy and Protecting the Biodiversity of Paisley

This Council notes that biodiversity is a crucial element in securing the future of our environment for future generations, and further recognises the importance of maintaining the green belt around the existing boundaries of the town of Paisley to maintain and enhance that biodiversity.

Council therefore, under Scottish Planning Policy 21, call on Renfrewshire Council's Local Development Plan to designate the green belt area around the existing boundaries of the town of Paisley as a green belt area, and therefore, not suitable for housing development."

11 Notice of Motion 6 by Councillors Mylet and K MacLaren

"Council thanks Renfrewshire Foodbank for supporting those in need across Renfrewshire. Council notes that between 1st April 2019 and 30th September 2019, Renfrewshire Foodbank distributed 4,702 three-day food supplies including 1,388 of them to children. Council further notes that the main reasons cited for people needing emergency food are low benefit income (38%) and delays (19%) or changes (17%) to benefits. Council calls on the UK Government to cease their politically motivated austerity cuts and ensure that benefits are raised so that no one has to rely on foodbanks to feed themselves or their family."

12 Notice of Motion 7 by Councillors McNaughtan and Steel

"That this Council notes:-

(a) The TUC 'Dying to Work' Campaign, calling for terminal illness to be made a 'protected characteristic';

(b) The TUC is requesting employers to sign up to a Voluntary Charter which states the following:-

- We recognise that terminal illness requires support and understanding and not additional and avoidable stress and worry.
- Terminally ill workers will be secure in the knowledge that we will support them following their diagnosis and we recognise that safe and reasonable work can help maintain dignity, offer a valuable distraction and can be therapeutic in itself.
- We will provide our employees with the security of work, peace of mind and the right to choose the best course of action for themselves and their families which helps them through this challenging period with dignity and without undue financial loss.
- We will support the TUC's Dying to Work Campaign so that all employees battling terminal illness have adequate employment protection and have their death in service benefits protected for the loved ones they leave behind.

Council, as a responsible employer, agrees to sign the Voluntary Charter so that employees who are battling terminal illness are supported, guided and protected following diagnosis.

Council will work with trade unions to ensure that existing policies are modified to support the principles outlined in the Charter."

13 Notice of Motion 8 by Councillors Graham and Begg

"Council notes the result of the EU referendum on 23rd June 2016.

Council further notes that the public voted to leave the EU.

Council agrees to respectfully lower the EU flag from Council buildings on 28 February at 11 am.

Council further agrees that the EU flag will be raised to celebrate Europe Day each year on 5th and 9th of May."

14 Notice of Motion 9 by Councillors Begg and Graham

"The Scottish Government is expecting us to maintain services on their behalf yet are reducing the resources available to us. Between 2013 and 2020 Local government has been given a disproportionate share of the revenue cuts. Scottish Government reduced their revenue by a low 2% while they reduced our local government revenues by a much larger 7% (Cosla; Invest in Essential Services Jan 2020)

We are being asked to do more and more with less and less.

This council will write to the Scottish Government asking for a reinstatement of at least that 5% deprived from our councils in this next financial round and that they pass on the full Barnett Consequentials."

15 Notice of Motion 10 by Councillors Dowling and Davidson

"Period Products

This council believes that period products should be free and universally available to Women and Girls.

Council notes that sanitary products were recently made free in schools and colleges across Scotland.

Council further notes the Scottish Government's stated reasons (as of 11th February 2020) for not supporting Monica Lennon's Period Products (Free Provision) Bill onto the next parliamentary stage, in committee.

Reasons given have been the estimated cost of implementing the policy and fears over 'cross-border tampon raids', whereby it has been suggested that people outside Scotland could come and take the free sanitary products and then sell them; also referred to as 'Tampon Tourism' or 'Period Piracy'.

The council believes that the estimated cost of implementing the Bill is a reasonable use of public monies to increase women's dignity and be a stigma smashing country with legal right to free, universally available period products.

Council also notes that following the introduction of minimum pricing for alcohol, previously expressed fears over Scottish people buying cheaper alcohol over the border then selling on in Scotland have not materialised.

The council is confident that cross-border tampon raids are unlikely to occur with such frequency as to endanger the viability of the provision.

The council supports the principle of period dignity for all and therefore commends to the Scottish Government that sanitary products should be made free for all women and girls on a universally available basis."

16 Notice of Motion 11 by Councillors Harte and Sheridan

"That this administration explains why a real term cut to local authority funding is a fair deal."

17 Notice of Motion 12 by Councillors Mack and Andy Doig

"Former Provost Willie Orr

Renfrewshire Council marks the passing of former Provost Willie Orr with a minutes silence and his portrait hung in the corridor of uncertainty with his peers."



To: Council

On: 27 February 2020

Report by: Lead Officer on behalf of the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board

**Heading: MAINTENANCE OF MULTI OCCUPANCY ACCOMMODATION
(MIXED TENURE BUILDINGS)**

1. Summary

- 1.1 As part of its annual programme the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board at its meeting on 27th August 2018 agreed the annual programme of activity for the Board for 2019/20. This included a review entitled "Maintenance of Multi Occupancy Accommodation".
- 1.2 The purpose of the Review was to consider potential options for ensuring that mixed tenure properties, where Renfrewshire Council has an interest therein, are maintained and that private homeowners and landlords are complying with their obligations under the Tenements (Scotland) Act 2004.
- 1.3 This report provides a summary of the Board's findings. The reports presented to the Board meetings are available as background papers.
- 1.4 In undertaking this review, consultations took place with other local authorities, housing providers, tenants and residents' associations and the Scottish Government.
- 1.5 The final report to Audit, Risk & Scrutiny Board on 20th January 2020 asked the board to note the good work that Communities, Housing & Planning Services currently provide and that they continued to work with owners of properties in mixed tenure accommodation as outlined in the Tenements (Scotland) Act 2004.
- 1.6 The Board were also asked to note that the majority of the Tenants and Residents' Associations were not aware of grant funding available to owners involved in the Council's capital improvement programmes and recommends that Communities,

Housing & Planning Services target awareness to owners.

- 1.7 It was also important to note that a working group report of cross party MSPs on Maintenance of Tenement Scheme Property was published in June 2019 which considered the challenges arising from the difficulties owners face in organising common repairs, identifying owners and securing contributions from owners. This is detailed further in section 3.4 of this report.
- 1.8 Given the good practice already taking place and the new legislation from Scottish Government which will require to be implemented in due course, there were no major recommendations from the Review.
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2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Council is asked to approve the findings of the review and the recommendation approved by the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board on 20th January 2020 as outlined in Section 4 of this report.
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3. Background

- 3.1 There is a variety of legislation which covers repairs in mixed tenure properties, including:

- Tenements (Scotland) Act 2004
- Housing (Scotland) Acts 1987 and 2006
- Environmental Protection Act 1990
- Building (Scotland) Act 2003
- The Private Housing (Tenancies) (Scotland) Act 2016
- Title Conditions (Scotland) Act 2003
- Property Factors (Scotland) Act 2011
- Repairing Standard 2016 (amended 2006 Act)

3.2 Tenements (Scotland) Act 2004

- 3.2.1 The primary legislation, where existing Title Deeds within a block are silent or inconsistent in relation to repairs to common parts is the Tenements (Scotland) Act 2004. The Act defines a tenement as being a building, or part of a building, which has two related flats, or has more than two flats, at least two of which are divided from each other horizontally, (i.e. flats on different floors), and at least two of which are, or are designed to be, in separate ownership. The flats can be domestic houses, shops or businesses.
- 3.2.2 The Act has the effect that all owners of flatted property in a tenement can consult on scheme decisions for management and maintenance of common parts so as to help ensure that the communally-owned parts of buildings, are kept in good repair. It sets up a default decision-making structure in the Tenement Management Scheme that

applies to many of the main structural parts of the building which are referred to in the Act as “scheme property”, where the title deeds to the properties in the tenement building do not all deal with a particular issue or are inconsistent: this should make it easier for owners to reach decisions to enable them to carry out repairs and maintenance. Where the Tenement Management Scheme is applicable, in most cases, this will mean that common repairs can be carried out with the agreement of the majority of owners. However, whilst the Tenements (Scotland) Act provides that in certain circumstances where there are disputes court actions can be raised in the sheriff court, the Act does not put in place any mechanism for mediation for resolution of disputes between owners.

3.2.3 Who is responsible for what?

- (a) Individual responsibility - Anything serving only one flat, including the door to that flat from the stair, its windows and the inside of walls, floors and ceilings to the halfway point of the boundary with the next property. Generally speaking, owners are solely responsible for all repairs and maintenance to their own flat.
- (b) Where anything is used by or serves two or more flats, including the close stairs, close stair windows, chimneystacks, service cables, pipes etc., the flats served by that item have a right of common property in it. Where the Tenement Management Scheme applies, repairs to these common parts of the building should be paid for equally by all who use that part, except where the floor area of the largest flat is more than 1.5 times that of the smallest, in which case the costs are calculated on a proportion basis.
- (c) An important part of the relevant law, is that relating to all the parts of the building where maintenance is paid for by all owners. These usually include in tenement buildings part-owned by the Council: the roof, the foundations and external walls, and also any other part of the property which the Title Deeds set out as being the property of all owners. It is important to note that where the Tenement Management Scheme is applicable to maintenance of a tenement building's roof, paying for roof repairs is basically the responsibility of every owner in the building. This is unless the Deeds completely provide for maintenance otherwise.

3.3 Consultation Process for Maintenance and Repair of Multi-Occupancy Accommodation (mixed tenure properties).

- 3.3.1 Renfrewshire Council will not generally carry out repairs or improvements without consulting other owners within the building first. Where its decision-making provisions apply, the Tenements (Scotland) Act 2004 allows the Council to carry out common repairs to scheme property if a majority of the relevant owners agree to the work. However, Renfrewshire Council will also intervene where emergency common repairs are required, particularly where a repair directly affects a Council-owned property. Other more general repairs that are reported by owners or tenants in a block will be assessed and prioritised.

- 3.3.2 Annually, there are around 1000-1500 repair jobs raised for mixed tenure/multi-occupancy properties. Renfrewshire Council or their appointed Contractor carry out all repair and maintenance in mixed tenure accommodation. Renfrewshire Council do not carry out these works as a factor. If a repair is an emergency then the Council would carry out the works as another owner and bill the owners. For routine repairs and maintenance, quotes are sent to owners to indicate if they are willing to pay their share. There is a 28-day period for the tenant to inform Renfrewshire Council of their decision.
- 3.3.3 A majority agreement in the scheme decision is required for the maintenance or repairs to proceed. Generally, there is one vote per unit / dwelling. The voting rights are contained within a properties' title deeds or, where applicable, under the Tenements (Scotland) Act 2004. Around one third of jobs do not go ahead as there is no majority agreement with tenants. Anecdotally, this is due to maintenance / repair costs and a lack of funds by owners. Annually around 20-50 owners in mixed tenure properties progress with completing the repair works themselves and invoicing Renfrewshire Council on completion.

3.4 **Scottish Government and Legislative review**

- 3.4.1 A working group report of cross party MSPs on Maintenance of Tenement Scheme Property was published in June 2019 which considered the challenges arising from the difficulties owners face in organising common repairs, identifying owners and securing contributions from owners.
- 3.4.2 The recommendations proposed in this Working Group report, which is not restrictive to pre 1919 tenemental blocks and acknowledges that all flatted property have similar challenges in securing common repairs will require legislative changes which will take some time to evolve. Without these further changes in the law for "tenements," landlords and owners associations will continue to face obstacles in securing common repairs and the cooperation of owners.
- 3.4.3 Their report contained three main recommendations - regular inspections of common property, establishment of owners associations and/or compulsory factoring and the creation of reserve funds for blocks.
- (a) Building Inspections - The "scheme property" of all tenements should be inspected every five years and a report prepared that will be publicly available to existing or prospective owners and tenants, neighbours and policy makers.
 - (b) Establishing compulsory owners' associations - The group continues to believe that owners' associations are an essential element of tenement maintenance by providing leadership, effective decision-making processes and the ability of groups to enter into contracts.
 - (c) Establishment of Building Reserve Funds - The core of the original proposals was that Building Reserve Funds (BRF) should be held in a specially established national or regional level fund, in the form of a social investment

fund. Safe Deposits Scotland was used as an example, but a Credit Union structure could equally be suitable. However, it is accepted that some residents' associations will already have, or will want to establish and control, their own building maintenance accounts. Comparing the two, it is felt that a central fund has many advantages over an owners' association-held fund.

- 3.4.4 The majority of this report's proposals require legislative action. Some may simply require secondary legislation and could be introduced relatively quickly; whilst other proposals – those which are more straightforward – might be included in related legislation dealing with, for example, planning, finance or energy. The report, entitled Working Group on Maintenance of Tenement Scheme Property Final Recommendations Report is attached as appendix 1 to this Council report for information.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 The recommendations approved by the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board on 20th January 2020 were as follows:
- (a) Notes the key findings of the review including consultations with other local authorities, housing providers, tenants and residents' associations and the Scottish Government.
 - (b) Notes the good work that Communities, Housing & Planning Services currently provide and that they continue to work with owners of properties in mixed tenure accommodation as outlined in the Tenements (Scotland) Act 2004.
 - (c) Notes that the majority of the Tenants and Residents' Associations were not aware of grant funding available to owners involved in the Council's capital improvement programmes and recommends that Communities, Housing & Planning Services target awareness to owners.
 - (d) Notes the recommendations of the Working Group report of cross party MSPs on Maintenance of Tenement Scheme Property – Final Recommendations Report had three main recommendations including Building Inspections, Establishing compulsory owners' associations and Establishment of Building Reserve Funds.
 - (e) Approves that Communities, Housing & Planning Services continues to monitor legislative changes following the Maintenance of Tenement Scheme Property – Final Recommendations Report in order to implement guidelines and processes for Renfrewshire Council.
 - (f) Approves report to be presented to a future meeting of the Council.
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Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – None
 2. **HR & Organisational Development** – None
 3. **Community 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. 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 & Safety** – All work undertaken is assessed under appropriate Health and Safety legislation.
 9. **Procurement** – All procurement legislation is adhered to when items are procured for this project.
 10. **Risk** – None
 11. **Privacy Impact** – None
 12. **Cosla Policy Position** – None
 13. **Climate Risk** – none.
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List of Background Papers

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|-----|--|
| (a) | Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board Report 01 – 28 th May 2019 |
| (b) | Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board Report 02 – 26 th August 2019 |
| (c) | Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board Report 03 – 23 rd September 2019 |
| (d) | Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board Report 04 – 21 st October 2019 |
| (e) | Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board Report 05 – 20 th January 2020 |

The foregoing background papers will be retained within Environment & Infrastructure for inspection by the public for the prescribed period of four years from the date of the meeting. The contact officer within the service is Dorothy Kerr, Service Coordination Manager 0141 618 7578

Author: Lead Officer - Dorothy Kerr, Service Coordination Manager 618 7578



To: Council

On: 27 February 2020

Report by: Director of Finance and Resources

Heading: Governance Arrangements

1. Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider the Church of Scotland's representative on the Education & Children's Services Policy Board; the appointment of the Chair to Clyde Muirshiel Park Authority Joint Committee and the Council's representative to the Improvement Service's Annual General Meetings; and an amendment to the Terms of Reference of the Regulatory Functions Board.
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2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the resignation by Mr Keith as the Church of Scotland's representative on the Education & Children's Services Policy Board be noted and that the Council appoint the Church of Scotland's replacement nominee, Ms Bird.
- 2.2 That the Council appoint Councillor Audrey Doig as Chair of the Clyde Muirshiel Park Authority Joint Committee;
- 2.3 That the Council agree that the Chief Executive be the Council's representative at Annual General Meetings of the Improvement Service or where unable to attend to appoint a proxy to represent the Council; and

- 2.4 That the Council agrees to amend paragraph 2 of the Terms of Reference of the Regulatory Functions Board so that it reads: “To develop and review the Council's policies, and to exercise the functions of the Council in relation to applications for licences, permits, permissions, and or registrations **or other matters arising out of the above Acts** which are not otherwise specifically allocated to another Policy Board.”
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3. **Background**

- 3.1 **Education & Children’s Services Policy Board** - Section 124 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 provides that where an education authority appoints a committee whose purposes include advising the authority on any matter relating to the discharge of their functions as education authority or discharging any of those functions of the authority on their behalf, three of the members to be appointed (who shall not be members of the education authority) shall be church representatives. One of the three places requires to be filled in accordance with the Act by a nomination from the Church of Scotland. Mr Iain Keith was appointed as the Church of Scotland representative on the Education & Children’s Services Policy Board at the statutory meeting of the Council held on 17 May 2017. The Church of Scotland has intimated Mr Keith’s resignation from this position and have indicated that they have nominated Mary Jane Bird as their new representative.
- 3.2 **Clyde Muirshiel Park Authority Joint Committee** – At the meeting of the Council held on 5 December 2019 it was agreed that Councillor Audrey Doig replace Councillor Steel as one of the Council’s representatives on the Joint Committee. Councillor Steel had been Chair of the Joint Committee and the Administration has proposed that in terms of the Minute of Agreement which states “The Renfrewshire Council shall nominate the Chair and North Ayrshire and Inverclyde Councils a member each to act as Vice Chair of the Park Authority”, that Councillor Audrey Doig be nominated as Chair of the Park Authority.
- 3.3 **Improvement Service** - The Council, like all other Scottish Councils, is a member of the Improvement Service. It is proposed that the Chief Executive be the Council’s representative at Annual General Meetings of the Improvement Service or where unable to attend to appoint a proxy to represent the Council.
- 3.4 **Regulatory Functions Board** - With regard to the proposed change to Paragraph 2 of the Terms of Reference relating to the Regulatory Functions Board, it has emerged, in discussions relating to possible changes to the appointment of taxi ranks, that the current Terms of

Reference for the Board do not provide authority to the Board to agree consultation proposals in respect of new taxi ranks or to appoint new taxi ranks following public consultation. Where the Council is considering the appointment of new taxi ranks, a statutory consultation process is required. Under the existing Scheme of Delegated Functions it is not certain which Board has delegated authority to consider this issue. The Council has not changed the position of taxi ranks in Renfrewshire since 1997, at which time these matters were delegated to the Corporate Services Committee. The Regulatory Functions Board has within its Terms of Reference all licensing applications falling within the terms of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, including taxi licence applications, and policies of the Council relating to licensing applications. Council may wish to amend the Terms of Reference for the Regulatory Functions Board accordingly.

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**
 - (a) 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. 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 & Safety – *None***
9. **Procurement – *None***

- 10. **Risk – *None***
- 11. **Privacy Impact – *None***
- 12. **Cosla Policy Position – *None***
- 13. **Climate Risk – *None***

List of Background Papers

- (a) Background Paper 1 – None

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To: Council

On: 27 February 2020

Report by: Director of Finance & Resources

Heading: European Union Flag

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report asks the Council to consider which flag(s) will be flown from the third flagpole following the exit from the UK from the European Union on 31 January 2020.
- 1.2 There are currently three flag poles at Renfrewshire House, Renfrew Town Hall and Houston Square Johnstone. The Council has agreed previously that the Union Flag, the Saltire and the Europe Flag be flown every day of the year, other than as detailed at paragraph 3.3 below in relation to the Europe Flag.
- 1.3 Options for consideration in relation to the third flagpole are detailed in paragraph 3.4 below

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Council consider the options for the third flagpole as detailed in paragraph 3.4.
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3 Background

- 3.1 The Council has over several years taken decisions in respect of which flags will be flown from Council premises, the dates and occasions on which these flags will be flown and the occasions on which flags will be flown at half-mast.
- 3.2 Other decisions have been taken on an ad hoc basis having regard to guidance provided by the Flag Institute and on receipt of requests from a number of parties including the Scottish and Westminster Governments, CoSLA and the Merchant Navy Association. Many of these decisions are historic and were taken prior to the re-development of the Council HQ at Renfrewshire House and the refurbishment of Renfrew Town Hall.
- 3.3 The occasions on which flags, other than the Europe Flag, are to be are:
- Armed Forces Day – From the Friday preceding Renfrewshire’s Armed Forces Day each year until after the National Armed Forces Day takes place
 - Commonwealth Flag – on the second Monday in March of each year
 - Red Ensign – on 3 September of each year, unless 3 September falls on a weekend when the flag would be raised on the preceding Friday
 - Rainbow Flag – it was agreed that the flag would be flown annually, and to consult with the local LGBT community on how best to mark this occasion.
 - International Brigades Flag – it was agreed that this flag would be flown on 16 February each year. Leaders of the political groups subsequently agreed that should 16 February fall on a weekend that the flag be flown on the following Monday.
- 3.4 Arising from the referendum result, the Council requires to take a decision in relation to the European Union Flag now that the UK has exited the European Union.
- The default position that the current Council approval continues in force and the EU flag remains as the flag flown on all days other than those on which an alternative flag has been approved;
 - The EU Flag is also the flag of the Council of Europe. The United Kingdom remains a member of that organisation and the Council could decide to fly the flag of the Council of Europe
 - Council could decide simply that following Brexit the EU flag is no longer flown (with the option to fly it only on Europe Day, 9 May). This would mean that the third flagpole would be empty on most days.
 - Council could approve another “default” flag to be flown most days. However, there is no obvious contender for that.
 - There is no Renfrewshire flag and although the former Burghs had Coats of Arms, it is understood that the Lord Lyon was against flags with these Coats of Arms being flown because the Burghs no longer exist
 - A flag could be designed and flown when ready.

- The Council could decide to permanently fly the flag of a recognised organisation or cause whose aims align with Council policy eg the Rainbow Flag
- The third flagpole could be removed although that means a decision will be required on what will happen on the various commemoration days already approved by Council.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – there will be a cost to the Council if a flag were to be designed. There would also be costs involved if the third flagpoles were to be removed.
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. 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 & Safety** – none
9. **Procurement** – none
10. **Risk** – none
11. **Privacy Impact** – none
12. **CoSLA Policy Position** – not applicable
13. **Climate Risk** - none

List of Background Papers – none

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To: Council

On: 27 February 2020

Report by: Chief Executive

Heading: Climate Change Emergency

1. Summary

- 1.1. On 27 June 2019, Renfrewshire Council declared a climate emergency, with many other local authorities across the UK and Scotland also making this declaration. The actions that are required to respond to the climate emergency are potentially complex and multi-faceted, cannot be tackled in isolation and require full collaboration and support by organisations across all of society.
 - 1.2. This report provides an update to elected members on the activities undertaken to date, with specific focus on the activities of the cross-party working group which has been established to make recommendations to Council on the actions that must be taken to respond to the climate emergency in Renfrewshire.
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2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that elected members:
 - note the progress achieved to date in terms of responding to the declaration of a climate emergency by the Council in June 2019.
 - notes the progress Renfrewshire Council has made in terms of responding to climate change to date, as set out in section 5 of this report;
 - agree that the recommendations made by the Climate Emergency Working Group are taken forward by officers; and
 - agree that a Climate Change sub committee of the Leadership Board, should be established in line with the arrangements set out at section 7.2 of this report.

3. Background

- 3.1 On 27 June 2019, full Council approved two motions relating to the declaration of a climate emergency in Renfrewshire. A key action to be progressed was the establishment of a cross party working group, which would examine in detail the actions that could be taken by Renfrewshire Council to address the declared climate emergency. Recognising the Council's crucial role in this agenda, it was agreed that a report outlining key recommendations, would be provided to full Council by end of March 2020.
- 3.2 Following engagement with the Cross Party Sounding Board in September 2019, the Climate Emergency Working Group (CEWG) was established. The CEWG is chaired by the Leader of the Council and has cross party representation. The CEWG has met regularly to consider evidence and information in relation to climate change, with a specific focus on the Council's current and planned activities, and the subsequent actions that the Council can take to lead and drive change across all of Renfrewshire.
- 3.3 A key starting point for the group was to establish a baseline for Renfrewshire's carbon emissions, in order to identify the level and nature of change that would have to happen in Renfrewshire to achieve the 2030 net zero target agreed by Council in June 2019. Officers also undertook a mapping exercise and gave presentations to the group on the work being undertaken by the Council to both reduce and mitigate the impact of carbon emissions. A summary of the CEWG's work programme is attached to this report at Appendix 1 and 2, with section 4 of this report providing further context on the climate emergency and section 5 providing a summary of the CEWG's findings.

4. Context

- 4.1 Under the 2008 Climate Change Act, the UK Government committed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% by 2050 when compared to the level in 1990. In 2016, the UK Government ratified the Paris Climate Agreement which aims to avoid the most devastating effects of climate change by reducing carbon emissions. As a result of signing this agreement, a new more ambitious goal to achieve net zero greenhouse gases/carbon emissions by 2050 was set.
- 4.2 In Scotland, the Scottish Government has committed to reducing carbon emissions to net zero by 2045. In September 2019, the Scottish Government launched its Big Climate Conversation to discuss action on the climate emergency with communities, businesses and public sector organisations. Climate change action is a central priority within the most recent Programme for Government, which sets out the next steps in Scotland's journey to achieving net zero emissions by 2045.
- 4.3 International focus on climate change has continued to escalate in response to a number of factors such as growing public awareness and concern, the publication of linked research and data, as well as physical evidence relating to climate change. In

2019, a number of local authorities declared a climate emergency in order to focus on this issue strategically at a local level.

5. Summary of Findings

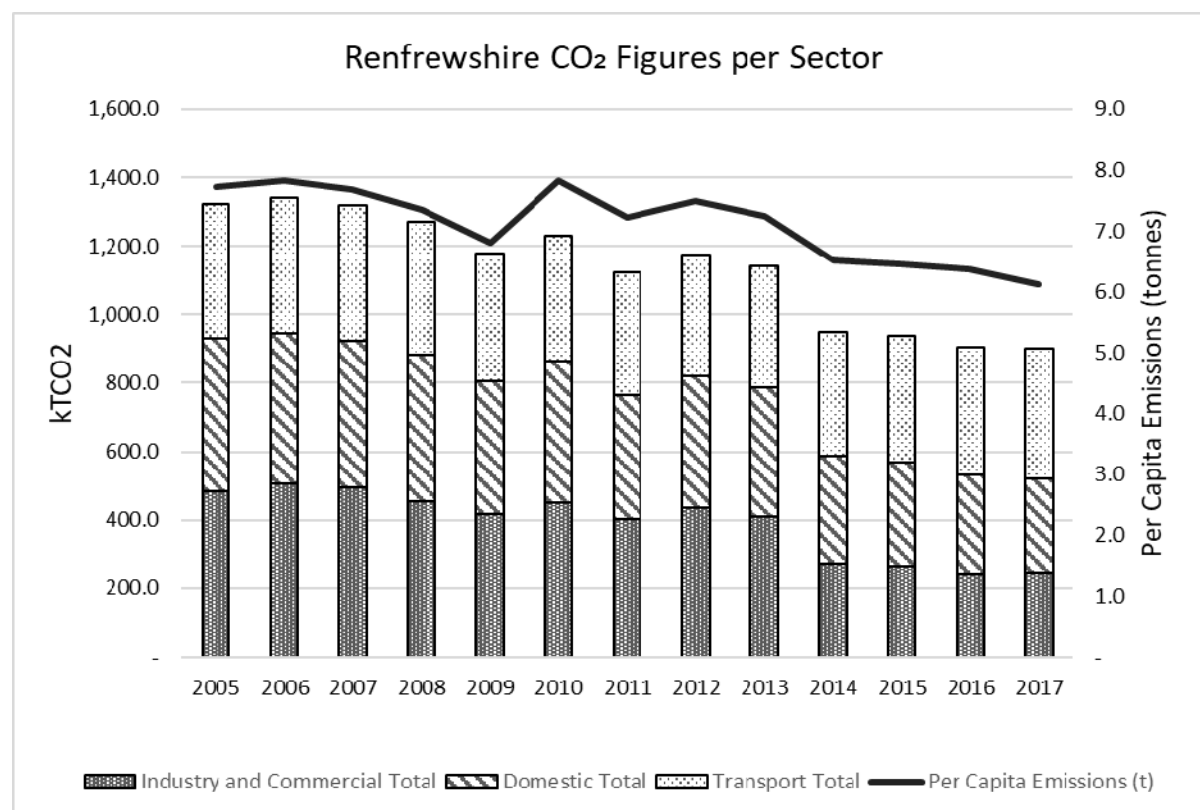
5.1 As part of the climate emergency declared in June 2019, Council agreed to work to ensure Renfrewshire was carbon neutral by 2030. Being carbon neutral means that organisations or places reduce the carbon that they emit to the lowest possible level, whilst offsetting or mitigating against the impact of these emissions.

5.2 Although all greenhouse gas emissions (such as methane) affect the rate of climate change, evidence indicates that long term global warming is mainly driven by CO₂ emissions which are active in the atmosphere for up to 100 years.

Baseline data

5.3 According to the most recently published data for Renfrewshire released by BEIS, 900,000 tonnes of carbon were emitted in 2017 (Table 1). In line with the national approach, published data does not include emissions relating to aviation, military or maritime activities, however evidence presented to the CEWG by officers estimated that carbon emissions would rise to in the region of 1.1m-1.2 million tonnes should aviation emissions linked to Glasgow Airport be included.

Table 1:



- 5.4 Carbon emissions are categorised in Table 1 into three main categories: - Domestic, Industry and Commercial and Transport.
- 5.5 Emerging practice in some local authorities is to calculate a carbon budget for the local authority area: - working back from the target date to map out the level at which emissions would have to reduce each year. The local authority with partners, would then require to identify the actions which would achieve this as quickly as possible. It should be noted that the level of reduction could be in the region of up to 20% each year, indicating a very steep reduction required in carbon emissions over a relatively very short period of time. The Council as an organisation takes this type of approach in terms of its Carbon Management Plan.
- 5.6 In terms of evidence considered by the CEWG, there was consensus that reduction of carbon emissions needed to be the principal focus, with measures to offset carbon emissions alone being unlikely to achieve the significant level of reduction required.

Review of existing activities

- 5.7 A mapping exercise was undertaken by officers to identify all existing activities being undertaken to both reduce carbon emissions and to manage the impact of climate change by Renfrewshire Council. Members of the CEWG noted the level of activity that had been undertaken or was underway, and viewed this as being a very positive basis on which to build the scale of future activities that would be required to address climate change issues. For example:
- The implementation of the new waste strategy has seen the area's recycling rate increase every quarter throughout 2019, with the latest figures showing 55.42% of waste was recycled, and this is further supported by the commencement of the Clyde Valley Residual Waste Project which now sees at least 90% of non-recyclable waste turned into energy rather than going to landfill.
 - A transformation of the street lighting in Renfrewshire has reduced energy consumption and carbon emissions by 64%, contributing to an 8% reduction in the council's overall emissions, while there are now 100 electric vehicles in council's fleet – part of a commitment to replace any vehicles with electric versions wherever possible.
 - Since 2013, the council has secured more than £15million in funding for improvements in home energy efficiency. More than 6000 homes have benefited so far and carbon emissions have reduced by 108,000 tonnes - the equivalent of removing 21,000 cars from the roads.
 - Recently, the council was awarded £1.8million by the UK Government to turn 75 properties into low energy or EnerPHit homes, which are low energy buildings that requires very little energy to heat or cool and will see annual energy bills reduced to £150 for residents.
 - Since 2012/13, Renfrewshire Council has reduced its carbon emissions by 55.7%, far exceeding the 36% target for the organisation. The 2019/20 target has been achieved early through a variety of methods including the installation of photovoltaic panels on 25 public buildings, the installation and effective management of public building heating systems, boiler replacements, internal LED lighting, electrification of Council fleet, the diversion of waste from landfill through increased recycling and heat from waste.

- 5.8 On 22 January 2020, an update was provided to the Infrastructure, Land and Environment Board on the progress achieved in terms of the Council's Carbon Management Plan. A breakdown of CO2 emissions was provided and is attached below for information.

	2012-13 Baseline	2018-19 Actual	2018-19 Actual
	CO2 Emissions (tonnes)	CO2 Emissions (tonnes)	% Reduction
Electricity (buildings)	12,505	6,362	49.1%
Gas (buildings)	14,479	7,953	45.1%
Oil (buildings)	1,735	0	100.0%
Water (buildings)	395	396	-0.3%
Transport (Council Fleet)	3,521	3,837	-9.0%
Street Lighting	7,016	1,643	76.6%
Waste	13,348	3,110	76.7%
Staff Mileage	516	380	26.4%
Total CO2 Actual	53,515	23,681	55.7%

Moving beyond targets into action

- 5.9 Following consideration of all evidence heard and information gathered, the Climate Emergency Working Group agreed that there must be a Council and Renfrewshire wide focus on moving beyond target setting into action. Recommendations have subsequently been identified by the CEWG which are set out in section 6 of this report. Section 7 sets out proposed next steps for progressing these recommendations.

6 Key recommendations

- 6.1 Since its establishment, the Climate Emergency Working Group has considered a range of evidence on climate change:
- Analysing information on carbon emission levels across Renfrewshire and the impact of carbon emissions on the local area
 - Reviewing all activities currently undertaken by Council services to reduce carbon emissions and to mitigate the impact of climate change; and
 - Exploring options for the Council to accelerate its work in order to meet the 2030 net zero carbon target agreed by Council.
- 6.2 Based on current data indicating that the Council contributes to 3-4% of overall carbon emissions, the group has recognised that the 2030 target for net zero carbon emissions in Renfrewshire represents a **significant challenge**, and will only be achieved through the **collaboration and commitment of businesses, communities and citizens**. This will require a **step change**:- responding to the climate emergency will need to be seen by all stakeholders as one of our most significant priorities, with the Council providing **leadership to drive and influence**

this agenda at both a local and national level. There is also a requirement to ensure the Council's response is undertaken in a managed way, in order to mitigate any other aspects on communities, for example change to employment and sectors. This is increasingly being referred to as a “**Just Transition**” to a new way of working where communities or groups of people are not unexpectedly impacted in a negative way by the process of change.

- 6.3 The Working Group has heard evidence that the response to the climate emergency should predominantly focus on reducing carbon emissions, whilst also introducing mechanisms to offset emissions in the sort to medium term eg tree planting, peat bogs etc.
- 6.4 A key finding of the Climate Emergency Working Group is that the Council demonstrates leadership and works towards meeting the net zero target by 2030, whilst activating all of the arrangements required now to drive this agenda at a Renfrewshire wide level.
- 6.5 The Working Group has identified a number of recommendations to inform this programme of work, and actions to be taken to both reduce and offset carbon emissions, with a primary focus on the reduction of carbon emissions. The key recommendations are set out below and focus on the actions that the Council can take to:
- Adapt its existing practices to reduce carbon emissions eg transport, waste, energy.
 - Offset carbon emissions from its activities
 - Engage with businesses, communities and citizens
 - Support required changes to culture and behaviours; and
 - Innovate and develop expertise to maximise external investment opportunities.

CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP : KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

<p>ENERGY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with national and local partners to explore alternative energy options for Council buildings such as solar panels, battery storage, energy from waste and district heating, ensuring the Council has robust businesses cases in place ready to attract significant levels of national funding. • Implement pilot initiative to turn 75 local homes into low energy homes and develop investment proposals to reduce carbon across the Council's housing stock. • Review the lifecycle replacement programme for Council buildings to consider how changes to current specifications could improve energy efficiency, piloting innovative materials and developing business cases to roll these out where appropriate. 	<p>WASTE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with staff and communities to maximise opportunities to reduce unnecessary single use plastic use within the organisation and throughout Renfrewshire. • Continue to promote recycling awareness and availability of recycling facilities across Council buildings including schools and consider opportunities in relation to the reduction of food waste. • Develop options for the promotion of the circular economy in Renfrewshire, which could provide opportunities to reuse and recycle surplus or end of life items.
<p>TRANSPORT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with partners at a local, City Region and national level to consider low carbon integrated transport solutions – trains, buses, cycling and walking and the uptake of electric vehicles. • Promote the use of low carbon travel within the Council's workforce through the provision of electric pool vehicles and cycle to work schemes. • Develop an electric vehicle plan for Renfrewshire, targeting opportunities to lever in additional funding to secure EV infrastructure, such as charging points, equipment and fleet. • Consider approaches being rolled out across other local authorities in relation to the promotion of better air quality, including the development of low emissions zones, which are also aiming to improve public health 	<p>ENGAGEMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce new mechanisms for engaging with citizens and businesses on potential responses to the climate emergency such as through citizens assemblies or climate forums, including consideration of how to report the Council's progress on climate change. • Actively engage with young people through the annual Youth Assembly, and involve young people in the Council's decisions on our climate change actions. • Engage at a regional and national level with other local authorities and agencies on these issues, including in relation to the delivery of the COP 26 event in November 2020.

<p>PLACE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put climate change at the heart of the new Economic Strategy and Skills Plan, working with businesses to lead by example and to demonstrate real change. • Use effective spatial planning to address climate change in line with legislation, the National Planning Framework and associated guidance, with a focus on adapting to and mitigating the impact of climate change through the planning process. • Develop a Carbon Offset Plan for the Council, clearly articulating opportunities for activities such as additional tree planting and carbon sinks such as peat bogs and utilising Renfrewshire’s rich biodiversity across areas such as Clyde Muirshiel. • Consider proposals to introduce wildflower areas in Renfrewshire, and engage with local communities on initiatives which promote the awareness and use of green space. 	<p>GOVERNANCE / INNOVATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a Carbon Budget for Renfrewshire with community planning partners, gaining agreement on shared responsibilities and actions, recognising the presence of an international airport within the local authority area. • Establish a new partnership forum to drive Renfrewshire-wide change on climate. • Use the Council’s sustainable procurement duties to consider all opportunities to reduce or offset carbon, including where possible through community benefits. • Develop a detailed adaptation plan for climate change, and ensuring the organisation has the capacity, skills and expertise to deliver a programme of work which will attract external investment/funding wherever possible. • Engage with industry and with academic institutions to develop possible opportunities to pilot new/emerging technologies in Renfrewshire.
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7. Next steps

- 7.1 The Climate Emergency Working Group has recognised the range of activities already undertaken by Renfrewshire Council, however the group is clear that the recommendations it has made require to be taken forward at pace. It is further recommended that early priorities for the Council should be:
- Establishment of a sub committee of the Leadership Board which would allow the work of the CEWG to continue.
 - Ensure climate change has a mainstream focus within the Council, linking to the Placeshaping review as part of Right for Renfrewshire programme and ensuring that the Council has aligned staffing resource and developed the required expertise to deliver on this agenda.
 - The development of an adaptation plan for Renfrewshire Council within the next 6 months which sets specific targets for carbon emissions across transport, waste, housing and includes key actions to be taken to achieve net zero by 2030.
 - The establishment of a citizens forum or assembly to engage with local people and communities on this agenda in a meaningful way, specifically identifying opportunities to engage with young people around this agenda.
 - Engage with key partners and with the wider business community to collaborate and make impactful change across the whole of Renfrewshire.
 - Engaging with Scottish Government and more widely to identify potential funding streams which could be used to invest in and accelerate the Council's activities.
- 7.2 In terms of the Leadership Board sub-committee, it is recognised that further discussion on the membership and remit is required. It is therefore proposed that the Climate Emergency Working Group continues to meet to discuss these matters, with a further report on the sub-committee proposals including its membership and remit, being submitted to Leadership Board on 28 April 2020.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – The Council's response to the Climate Change agenda may impact the Council's cost of service delivery, and may require a shift in the focus of investment. There is potential to lever in external funding to support the agenda from national funds.
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – none.
3. **Community Planning** – the local response to the climate change will require a significant change in behaviours and activity, with a key focus on engaging with communities, partners and businesses to make the required level of change happen.

4. **Legal** - none.
5. **Property/Assets** – The Council has been active in terms of its Carbon Management Plan and the focus on energy efficiency of public buildings. This will be a continued area of focus for the Council going forward
6. **Information Technology** – none.
7. **Equality & Human Rights** – none.
 - (a) 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 & Safety** – none.
9. **Procurement** – The Council may be required to review its purchasing decisions to ensure these support the carbon neutral target and to drive its sustainable procurement duty.
10. **Risk** - none.
11. **Privacy Impact** – none.
12. **COSLA** - none.
13. **Climate Risk** – As per the content of this report.

Author *Laura McIntyre, Head of Policy and Commissioning 0141 618 6807*

Appendix 1 – Climate Emergency Working Group

Membership of the Climate Emergency Working Group
Cllr Iain Nicolson (chair) Cllr Cathy McEwan (Cllr Natalie Don – substitute) Cllr Bill Brown (no substitute) Cllr Tom Begg (Cllr John McIntyre – substitute) Cllr Eileen McCartin Cllr Paul Mack (Cllr Andy Doig – substitute)

Meeting Programme

Date of meeting	Agenda items
24 October 2019	Policy context – Head of Policy and Commissioning Identification of key areas to explore
14 November 2019	Mapping of current Council activities- Head of Policy and Commissioning Establishing Baseline data on carbon emissions – Craig Thorpe Role of Planning authorities in climate change and Building Standards – Sharon Marklow Green Travel – Stephen Heron
5 December 2019	Biodiversity / Carbon capture – Steve Edwards Sustainable Procurement - Bridget Lambert Circular Economy – Karen Anderson
23 January 2020	Identification of opportunities
30 January 2020	Agree key recommendations

Appendix 2 – Key Messages from Evidence Considered by the Climate Emergency Working Group

Who have we heard from	What are the key messages
Policy context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of Council declaration – commitment to make Renfrewshire carbon neutral by 2030 • Understanding the IPCC report – key concern is the predicted 1.5c increase in global temperatures • Overview of Scottish Government Policy with commitment to achieve net zero status by 2045 • Research and recognised publications indicate key contributors to climate change are: - fossil fuels, single use plastics, high emission vehicles, air pollution, landfill, frequent flying, not recycling, food/farming • Summary of key Scottish Government Commitments: - Green City Deals, investment in green transport infrastructure, all new housing must use renewable or low carbon energy by 2024, workplace parking levy, decarbonisation of flights by 2040, promotion of electric vehicles, and considering how procurement can unlock green benefits • Action groups have already published reports which outline key actions local authorities can take – Council are undertaking a number of these actions already. • APSE Briefing on Local Authority Climate Declarations – clear message to local authorities to establish baseline data and set clear targets, to agree scope of what will focus on ie local authority or Renfrewshire wide action, to develop skills and capacity and to develop financial expertise in this area.
Overview of priorities / areas of exploration	<p>Elected members in the group confirmed key priority areas for immediate and longer term exploration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First step to be the development of an adaptation plan for Renfrewshire Council – what are we doing now and what do we want for the future (goals and targets) and how we get there • Undertake a mapping exercise to ensure there is awareness of all existing activities • Undertake discussion and agree how we will measure progress eg carbon neutral, net zero. Develop baseline – agree what measure and who is responsible for measuring impact of actions • Oversight of national policy • Consider governance arrangements • Explore grant and funding opportunities • Consider partnership opportunities for addressing climate change – community groups, communities of interest, stakeholders and other organisations and businesses • Consider communications to be undertaken - how do we raise awareness about what already do and what needs to be done • Planning and building control considerations (including local development planning and vacant and derelict

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> land) Public transport as key area of interest Traffic management Potential developments within the Council fleet and car parking Low carbon heat solutions eg Passivhaus standards Opportunities to promote the circular economy Woodland management (including town centre and 'street trees')
Audit of existing activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed summary considered
Carbon emissions – overview of local data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Available data on carbon emissions published by BEIS (Business Energy and Industrial Strategy) is at least 2 years in arrears – 2017 figures most recent available. In 2017 it is estimated that Renfrewshire emitted around 900,000 tonnes of Co2 (excludes aviation, maritime and military use) We plotted aviation emission data available for Glasgow Airport against our own data and estimate emissions would increase to be between 1.1m and 1.2 m tonnes per annum of c02 emitted. Although all greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, such as methane, affect the rate of climate change, long term warming is mainly driven by CO₂ emissions eg methane has a life of circa 20 years and if considered short life. Co2 is long-term and is active in the environment for circa 100 years. As such the global carbon emissions in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on 1.5°C , relate to CO₂. We compared our local data to that released through Tyndall Centre for Climate Research, which is part of Manchester University. The centre produced a report on Emissions in the UK that is split down per local authority. This allowed us to verify local calculations. Emerging theory is around development of carbon budgets across geographies. That is each local area has a budget or amount of carbon which it can emit over say a 10 or 20 year period – this budget is set by working out how much carbon must reduce to achieve the targets set out in the Paris Climate Change agreement – ie to minimise the increase in global temperatures to 1.5 degrees. Net zero is the definition adopted by Scottish Govt – that is a process whereby we reduce carbon emissions whilst also taking action to take emissions out of the atmosphere. Group agreed majority of focus must be on reducing direct emissions and to look at options for offset where appropriate. The carbon budget approach as per the Tyndall report confirms significant intervention is required to “live within our means”, and to reduce carbon emissions to such a level as to meet the minimum temp increase of 1.5 degrees.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To stay within the recommended carbon budget Renfrewshire will, from 2020 onwards, need to achieve average mitigation rates of CO₂ from energy of around 13.3%-20% per year. This will require that Renfrewshire rapidly transitions away from fossil fuel use.
Role of Planning Authorities in Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current Planning Act – requires local development plans to include policies requiring all developments to be designed to ensure new buildings avoid “specified and rising proportion of greenhouse gas emissions” Scottish Planning Policy updated to reflect climate change legislation – “the need to help mitigate the causes of climate change and the need to adapt to its short and long term impacts should be taken into account in all decisions throughout the planning system”. New Planning Act 2019 - The Purpose of Planning in the new Act has been changed in the New Act: - ‘<i>The purpose of planning is to manage the development and the use of land in the long term public interest.</i>’ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the ‘long term interest’ includes anything which contributes to sustainable development. Certain developments no longer requiring planning permission such as local renewable energy and electric vehicle charging. Range of statutory environmental processes and assessments underpin planning process eg landscape assessment, flooding assessment LDP under finalisation will further seek to address climate change in terms of land use.
Building standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The current energy standards in building regulations were introduced in October 2015. They set targets that deliver a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of 21% for new homes and 43% for other buildings over the previous 2010 standards. Emissions from new buildings constructed to current building standards are, on average, 75% lower than those constructed to the equivalent standards in force in 1990. New houses now require multiple Low Zero Carbon Technologies to allow them to meet these standards. These technologies include photovoltaics, shower waste water heat exchangers, boiler gas heat exchangers etc. The Scottish Government are examining elements of the Planning and Building Standards systems which address greenhouse gas emissions to ensure greater alignment between the two systems to provide clarity for developers. Given the robustness of current energy standards and further proposed improvements for 2021, it not envisage that the planning system will require building owners to build to higher energy efficiency levels than those required under current building regulations.
Travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scottish Government commitment to phase out the need for new petrol and diesel cars and vans by 2032 Local authorities contributing to this by developing Electric Vehicle (EV) Strategies, EV workplace and public charging and promotion of low carbon transport Renfrewshire Council will reach 100 Electric Vehicles in its fleet in January 2020. Over 20% of Council Fleet is

	<p>Electric</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Savings Trust support – Feasibility Study to determine next phase of locations • 30 Electric Vehicles in Staff Travel Pool Fleet / 23 Charging Bays • Awaiting final confirmation of the proposal to install solar PV at Underwood Rd, Biomass System installation • Importance of active travel routes eg cycling, walking
Biodiversity / carbon capture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee on Climate Change analysis outlines that 32,000 hectares annually of net woodland increase is required for the next 30 years to make the UK carbon neutral by 2050, moving the UK from 13% to 17% woodland cover. This equates to a million new hectares of woodland cover, and some 1.5 billion trees. • Twin approach to reducing CO₂ concentrations in the atmosphere – reduce emissions and increase “sponge” mechanisms which absorb carbon eg: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Minimise woodland felling, bog and wetland drainage and other habitat destruction. ○ Restore peat bogs so they retain water and lock away more CO₂. ○ Plant trees and woodlands. ○ Conserve soils so they accumulate organic matter. • The Woodland Trust’s website estimates that the average UK citizen generates 5.5 tonnes of CO₂ emissions per annum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Planting 100m² of woodland stores an additional 13.68 tonnes CO₂ ○ Therefore, each person needs to plant 40m² of woodland per year to be carbon neutral. ○ Therefore, we need to plant 715 ha woodland per year to be carbon neutral = 2.73% of our land area each year. • Is locking up carbon in trees a sensible way of mitigating the greenhouse effect? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It is a limited, short term measure. ○ It may be used as an excuse not to cut (the use of) fossil fuels. ○ If no technical solution is found, it may be storing up trouble for the future. • Peatlands are the largest natural terrestrial carbon store • Damaged peatlands are a major source of greenhouse gas emissions • Projects underway locally community gardens work / tree planting requests.
Procurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 public bodies are required to consider in their procurements how they will improve the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of their areas. • Sustainable procurement is embedded into Renfrewshire Council’s procurement processes. The procurement team utilise the Sustainable procurement duty tools provided by Scottish Government and work closely with key stakeholders to ensure that risks are identified, and all opportunities are explored. • A sustainability test is completed for all relevant contracts and this helps to identify social, economic and environmental factors which must be considered throughout the entire procurement process.

