



Argyll and Bute Council
Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal Agus Bhòid

Executive Director: Douglas Hendry

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2 November 2020

NOTICE OF MEETING

A meeting of the **CLIMATE CHANGE ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION GROUP** will be held by **SKYPE** on **MONDAY, 9 NOVEMBER 2020** at **2:00 PM**, which you are requested to attend.

Douglas Hendry
Executive Director

BUSINESS

1. **APOLOGIES**
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
3. **MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 7 SEPTEMBER 2020** (Pages 3 - 6)
4. **CLIMATE CHANGE ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION GROUP - DE-CARBONISATION PLAN - TO FOLLOW**
Report by Executive Director with responsibility for Commercial Services
5. **CLIMATE CHANGE ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION GROUP - ACTIVITY PLAN UPDATE** (Pages 7 - 14)
Report by Executive Director with responsibility for Commercial Services
6. **CLIMATE CHANGE ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION GROUP - RECOMMENDATIONS** (Pages 15 - 18)
Report by Executive Director with responsibility for Commercial Services

Climate Change Environmental Action Group

Councillor Rory Colville (Chair)
Councillor Bobby Good
Councillor Jim Lynch

Councillor Jim Findlay
Councillor Kieron Green
Councillor Alastair Redman (Vice-Chair)

Contact: Lynsey Innis, Senior Committee Assistant; Tel: 01546 604338

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**MINUTES of MEETING of CLIMATE CHANGE ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION GROUP held BY
SKYPE
on MONDAY, 7 SEPTEMBER 2020**

Present: Councillor Aileen Morton (Chair)

Councillor Rory Colville
Councillor Jim Findlay
Councillor Bobby Good

Councillor Kieron Green
Councillor Jim Lynch

Attending: Ross McLaughlin, Head of Commercial Services
Shona Barton, Area Committee Manager
Julie Millar, Communications Officer

1. APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

There were no apologies for absence intimated.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest intimated.

3. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 10 MARCH 2020

The minute of the previous meeting of the Climate Change Environmental Action Group, held on 10 March 2020 was approved as a true record.

4. CLIMATE CHANGE & COVID 19

The group gave consideration to a report highlighting some of the short term impacts Covid 19 has had on our Council in terms of Climate Change.

Discussion took place in respect of individual carbon footprint data specifically in relation to agile working; the reduction on greenhouse gas emissions over the lockdown period due to the reduction in travel and the strategy for disposing of PPE waste. The Head of Commercial Services agreed to look into this matter more closely with colleagues and bring it back to the next meeting for discussion.

Decision:

The Climate Change Environmental Action Group agreed to note the identified short term impacts that responding to Covid 19 has had on Council carbon emissions and associated activity.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director with responsibility for Commercial Services, dated 28 August 2020, submitted.)

5. CLIMATE CHANGE ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION GROUP - ACTIVITY PLAN UPDATE

Following approval of the Climate Change and Environmental Action Group Activity Plan by the Policy and Resources Committee in December 2019, and the subsequent global emergency, where resources had been redirected from delivering items on the original Activity Plan, consideration was given to a report seeking to review and reset the workplan based on the current situation and resources available and to map out future work streams that can be delivered within timescale.

Discussion was had in relation to the timescales for delivering the proposed activity plan; the engagement of the Community Planning Partnership together with the good work of local community groups throughout the pandemic and the proposed merging of action points 8 and 9 on the activity plan. The Head of Commercial Services agreed to feedback the comments of the group to the Climate Change Board and agreed that it would be best that points 8 and 9 remain as separate actions.

Decision:

The Climate Change Environmental Action Group agreed the revised Activity Plan for Climate Change Environmental Action Group contained within Appendix 1 of the report subject to ensuring that action points 8 and 9 on the Activity Plan remain as separate items.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director with responsibility for Commercial Services, dated 26 August 2020, submitted.)

6. COUNCIL CLIMATE CHANGE INDICATOR UPDATE

Following feedback and discussion at an officer workshop session which took place on 10 March 2020, consideration was given to a report outlining a new draft list of climate change indicators.

Discussion was had in relation to the inclusion of climate change as an implication on all future Council reports and the process for implementing this; the delay of the Scottish Government in setting its Climate Change indicators due to the outbreak of Covid-19 and the recommendations from this group to Council specifically in relation to the setting of targets. The Head of Commercial Services agreed to consider the scope and feasibility of targets ahead of the next meeting.

Decision:

The Climate Change Environmental Action Group:-

1. noted the update and agreed the minute from the officer/Councillor workshop session as outlined at Appendix 1 of the report; and
2. agreed the updated indicators at Appendix 2 of the report for development and inclusion in Council corporate performance monitoring and inclusion within the proposed de-carbonisation plan.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director with responsibility for Commercial Services, dated 12 August 2020, submitted.)

7. PROPOSED COUNCIL DE-CARBONISATION PLAN 2021

The group gave consideration to a report outlining how the effects of the recent global health pandemic had given way to a re-focus of activities of the Climate Change Board, who now feel that a new Council De-carbonisation Plan would be timely and a useful tool to assist with overall recovery. The new plan would aim to focus attention on reducing the Council's carbon footprint and be an easy to read document accessible to all.

Having noted the discussions that took place at agenda item 6 (Council Climate Change Indicator Update), and having noted that the group was a Short Life Working Group, set up to consider and advise on policy options and opportunities for strategic projects and activities that will form part of the ongoing commitment to deliver the Climate Change (Scotland) Act and efforts to enhance Argyll and Bute's contributions to addressing the global issue, discussion took place in respect of the lifespan of the group and how it would pass recommendations to Council to move things forward.

Decision:

The Climate Change Environmental Action Group agreed:

1. to support the production of a new Council De-carbonisation plan for discussion in draft at the next meeting of the Climate Change Environmental Action Group on 9 November 2020; and
2. to title the document 'Our Climate Change Commitments – Argyll and Bute Council's De-Carbonisation Plan 2021.'

(Reference: Report by Executive Director with responsibility for Commercial Services dated 12 August 2020, submitted.)

8. COMMUNICATION TO SUPPORT CLIMATE CHANGE

Consideration was given to a report providing the outline communication plan, which was intended to evidence the work the council is doing to address climate change, and to support others in playing their part.

Decision:

The Climate Change Environmental Action Group agreed to note the update to the communication plan as set out at Appendix 1 of the report.

(Reference: Report by Communications Manager, dated 7 September 2020, submitted.)

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Climate Change Environmental Action Group would take place at 2:00pm on Monday, 9 November 2020.

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ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL**Climate Change Environmental Action
Group****COMMERCIAL SERVICES****9th November 2020**

Climate Change Environmental Action Group – Activity Plan Update

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 At the first meeting of the Climate Change & Environmental Action Group (CCEAG) an Activity Plan was agreed and at subsequent meetings it had been updated following discussion with the group. The plan was also approved at the December 2019 Policy & Resources Committee.
- 1.2 A more substantial review of the plan was undertaken at the last meeting in September 2020 taking account of a paper titled '*Impact of Covid19 on climate change*'. This report aims to record what has been achieved thus far in the Activity Plan, to stimulate discussion about achievable priorities and also map out future workstreams that can be delivered within timescale.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Group is asked to:-
 1. Discuss and agree the revised Activity Plan for Climate Change Environmental Action Group (CCEAG) contained within **Appendix 1**; and
 2. Agree to report the Activity Plan to full Council on 26th November 2020.

3.0 DETAIL

- 3.1 An Activity Plan for CCEAG has been in place since late 2019 and reviewed at each meeting. A number of workstreams have been completed – mainly those scheduled up until March 2020 – however the Covid19 pandemic has had significant effect on delivery and timescales of this plan. Notably, the timescales since March to achieve milestones has been compromised due to resources being redirected. Resource pressure is still ongoing in certain departments as key officers are still working to amended duties or procedures which mean activities have been altered. A specific report reviewing the activity plan was considered at the last meeting of CCEAG in September 2020.

- 3.2 As discussed at previous CCEAG there is also a recognised importance of involving other stakeholders – such as businesses, community groups, third sector, professional bodies and other public sector organisations in our Climate journey. The Council cannot address climate change in isolation. There were planned workshops and engagement with such groups however given social distancing and restrictions on movements its relevant to consider online or technology to communicate rather than face to face. This may also bring new or improved opportunities for interaction with groups.
- 3.3 Now that the CCEAG is reporting its findings to full Council on November 26th 2020 it is the intention of this report to update the Activity Plan and report on achievement of goals.
- 3.4 Members are asked to review and agree the updated Activity Plan outlined at **Appendix 1**.

4.0 IMPLICATIONS

- | | |
|---|---|
| 4.1 Policy: | Commitment to activities as outlined in plan. |
| 4.2 Financial: | None at present beyond officer resource. |
| 4.3 Legal: | None at present |
| 4.4 HR: | None at present |
| 4.5 Fairer Scotland Duty: | None at present |
| 4.6 Equalities – protected Characteristics: | None at present |
| 4.7 Socio-economic Duty: | None at present. |
| 4.8 Islands | None at present |
| 4.9 Risk: | None at present |
| 4.10 Customer Service: | None at present. |

Rory Colville

Chair

Climate Change Environmental Action Group

Douglas Hendry

Executive Director with responsibility for Commercial Services

29 October 2020

For further information contact:

Ross McLaughlin

Head of Commercial Services

Ross.mclaughlin@argyll-bute.gov.uk

PROPOSED SLWG ACTIVITY PLAN - 9th November 2020

ACTION	RESOURCE	MILESTONES	COMMENT
Council Policy			
1. Collate existing Council policy and corporate policy approach to address climate change matters for Members to note and consider;	All members of Climate Change Board including Economic Development, Procurement, Planning Department, Roads & Infrastructure, Property Services	January 2020	Complete to original timeframe
2. Consider the implications/opportunities of Government policy and legislation in relation to addressing Climate Change; a. Respond to SG Consultation	Climate Change Board	Ongoing Feedback from SG Consultation = January 2020	Complete to original timeframe. Scottish Government has now pushed their update on monitoring & evaluation timeframe back to May 2021 due to Covid19. Some guidance has been produced such as consultation responses & Just Transition Commission: Advice on Green Recovery
3. Note and consider the Council's annual climate change submission to Scottish Government and other performance indicators in compliance with the Climate Change Act;	Climate Change Board Specific briefing notes on:- • Waste / BMW Carbon Impacts; • Renewable Energy Strategy & Windfarms	January 2020	Completed to original timeframe
4. Hold informal workshop with wider range of officers to facilitate discussion around policy & indicators	Officers from Climate Change Board • Planning	March 2020	Completed to original timeframe

ACTION	RESOURCE	MILESTONES	COMMENT
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood Risk • Transport • Waste • Building Operations • Procurement • Education 		
Council Business			
5. Review the Action Plan and activities of the Climate Change Board;	Climate Change Board	March 2020	Completed to original timeframe
6. Consider the establishment of a climate change fund for innovation or development.	Climate Change Board	June 2020	June meeting did not take place to discuss. Covid has created budget pressures across a number of services and a business case approach to dealing with investment in Climate Change activities is proposed.
7. Endorse a new renewable energy sourcing strategy for Council assets (RSS2).	Property Services	August 2020	December 2020
Climate Change Champion			
8. Promote and champion the mitigation and adaption to the negative impacts of climate change, green investment in our region, sustainable development and resource efficiency for the Council & the communities we serve.	SLWG	Ongoing	Being taken forward as part of De-carbonisation Plan & Communications Plan

ACTION	RESOURCE	MILESTONES	COMMENT
9. Encourage effective partnership working across all community planning partners in relation to the impacts of climate change;	SLWG and Community Planning	Ongoing	<p>Community Planning Partnership held 2 meeting specific to Climate Change and further workshop scheduled. New mapping exercise of climate change activities and groups to be mapped by 31st December 2020 – undertaken by Community Development Team + ACT.</p> <p>In 2021 seek further engagement (virtually and face to face depending on social distancing)</p>
10. Promote Argyll and Bute as a low carbon area and to develop and seek additional investment for green infrastructure including renewables,	Climate Change Board / Economic Development	May 2020	Not completed via Group but this forms key theme of Council's Covid19

ACTION	RESOURCE	MILESTONES	COMMENT
environmental and biodiversity business to develop;			Recovery Plan & De-carbonisation Plan.
11. Identify, acknowledge and champion positive climate change projects carried out by (A) the Council (B) our CPP partners, (C) our communities (D) our businesses and others	Climate Change Board	June 2020	Delay until 2021 and completion of De-carbonisation plan (item 15) and Mapping Exercise (item 8 &9)
12. Development of a communications and engagement strategy around the impacts of climate change and how we intend to mitigate and adapt	Communications Team	March - August 2020	Ongoing and under separate paper & De-carbonisation plan.
13. Recommended actions from the group are to be reported back to Full Council by August 2020	SLWG	August 2020	Report to full Council on 26 th November
14. Members Seminar on Climate Change - 15 th June	SLWG	De-carbonisation Plan workshop on 16 th November	Delayed due to Covid19
15. Development of 'Our Council's Commitments – De-carbonisation Plan'	Climate Change Board	New Action	Complete draft for 9 th November CCEAG, Members Seminar on 16 th November & Full Council 26 th November.

ACTION	RESOURCE	MILESTONES	COMMENT
16. Governance – Once updated Activity Plan has been agreed report back to Policy & Resources Committee, Business Continuity Committee or Full Council in October	Committee Services	New Action	To approve amended timescales

ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL**Climate Change Environmental Action
Group****COMMERCIAL SERVICES****9th November 2020**

Climate Change Environmental Action Group – Recommendations

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Council approved a motion in September 2019 acknowledging that Argyll and Bute local authority area currently has the lowest rate of CO2 emissions per head of population in the UK however amidst the growing concerns about the climate change emergency it was agreed to establish the Climate Change Environmental Action Group (CCEAG) to enhance Argyll and Bute's contribution to addressing this global issue.
- 1.2 The CCEAG was established as a political Short Life Working Group and has now met on 5 occasions as well as a Councillor and Officer Workshop – with another one scheduled for 16th November 2020. The original intention had been to report back on the findings of the CCEAG at the August 2020 meeting of Council however the impact of Covid19 has delayed this and a new timetable indicated that this report feedback to November 2020.
- 1.3 This report is intended to be reported to full Council as suggested actions.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The CCEAG agrees to the following actions for recommendation to Council:-
1. Endorse the Decarbonisation Plan 2021 (previous agenda item);
 2. Deliver net zero emissions target by 2045 as outlined in Decarbonisation Plan 2021;
 3. Review the ambition and 2045 target date within 12 months based on national direction of performance monitoring and performance of the plan;
 4. Agree a business case approach to climate change investment is adopted through Council's Asset Management Board;
 5. That CCEAG is disbanded from November 2020 and replaced with quarterly updates from the Climate Change Board being presented to Policy & Resources Committee;
 6. Note specifically the commitments outlined in the Decarbonisation Plan relating to engagement with our communities & businesses through our communications and Community Planning teams:-

- 'Comm1' - Develop and Deliver a Communication Plan to support the Decarbonisation Plan
- 'Comm2' - *Engage with community and partners and deliver Climate Change Directory for our region that the Community Planning'*

3.0 DETAIL

Short Life Working Group

- 3.1 The CCEAG recognises our Council's commitment to deliver the Climate Change (Scotland) Act and aims to enhance Argyll and Bute's contribution to addressing this global issue. The cross party political group has been considering and reviewing Climate Change work undertaken by the Climate Change Board for a year now across a broad range of topics as the Activity Plan report has highlighted. Topics have included; (1) a review of international, national and local policy (2) review of local climate change indicators (3) oversight of submissions to government relating to climate change consultations and annual performance data (4) Officer / Member Workshop and (5) Development of first Decarbonisation Plan.
- 3.2 The CCEAG was always set up to be a Short Life Working Group and therefore time limited in delivery. Whilst the impacts of the global pandemic have extended the original lifespan from August to November it is considered that sufficient ground has been covered to draw the group to a close. Whilst the political group is being wound up it is explicit that the Officer led and operational Climate Change Board will certainly continue and they will be focused on delivering the actions of the decarbonisation plan and new performance indicators as they are developed at a national and local level. The scrutiny of Climate Change work will also be enhanced by regularised reporting on a quarterly basis to the Policy & Resources Committee.

Decarbonisation Plan & Future Engagement

- 3.3 The adoption of the Decarbonisation Plan is a notable milestone and achievement for the CCEAG as it demonstrates commitment and visibility to the work underway by the Council to address Climate Change. It is acknowledged that this first plan is focused on activities of the Council as a business however Actions outlined by the Communications Team and Community Planning Team already highlight steps to engage wider with our communities, businesses and general public (actions Comm1 &2). Community Planning Team have already commenced a mapping exercise of Climate Change activity ongoing in our communities.

Future Review & Resourcing

- 3.4 As discussed, at previous CCEAG meetings the global pandemic has impacted our decarbonisation journey in a number of ways. At a national level new indicators and reporting methodologies which were anticipated this year have been postponed until 2021 and once the performance

picture is clear we aim to review our plan once more including the specified 2045 ambition.

- 3.5 Any future changes to the 2045 target will need to be carefully considered and resourced in terms of officer time and funding to be achievable. The Climate Change Board operate a 'business case led approach' to investment to ensure value for money, deliverability and consider risk. It is considered that this case by case review of climate change investment continues and where appropriate reporting to the Council's asset management board for capital investment.

4.0 IMPLICATIONS

- | | |
|---|--|
| 4.1 Policy: | Commitment to activities as outlined in decarbonisation plan. |
| 4.2 Financial: | None at present beyond officer resource. |
| 4.3 Legal: | Legal commitment as specified in the Climate Change (Scotland) Act |
| 4.4 HR: | None at present |
| 4.5 Fairer Scotland Duty: | None at present |
| 4.6 Equalities – protected Characteristics: | None at present |
| 4.7 Socio-economic Duty: | None at present. |
| 4.8 Islands | None at present |
| 4.9 Risk: | None at present |
| 4.10 Customer Service: | None at present. |

Rory Colville

Chair

Climate Change Environmental Action Group

Douglas Hendry

Executive Director with responsibility for Commercial Services

29th October 2020

For further information contact:

Ross McLaughlin

Head of Commercial Services

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