

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 As outlined in previous agenda item – a paper titled '*Impact of Covid19 on climate change*' – the Council has had to respond to the global emergency and resource has been redirected from delivering items on the original Activity Plan. Indeed, for several months the Climate Change Board and CCEAG had been suspended and resources focused on addressing critical pandemic matters. This is the first calling of the CCEAG since the Covid19 response and lockdown and it is therefore important to review and reset the workplan based on current situation and resources available. 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 agrees to:-
 1. Discuss and agree the revised Activity Plan for Climate Change Environmental Action Group (CCEAG) contained within **Appendix 1**;

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 require

to be reviewed or original target date for completion has already passed.

- 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 Notwithstanding this, the Covid19 situation has also meant that the Council needs to re-set its own priorities and commitments to climate change and it is considered timely by officers that a new de-carbonisation plan should form the basis of this (Agenda item 4 specifically refers to this). Such a plan would allow solid foundations and consistent vision for our own business activities and underpin the Council's Recovery Planning.
- 3.4 Members are asked to review and agree the updated Activity Plan outlined at **Appendix 1**.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

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| 5.1 Policy: | Commitment to activities as outlined in plan. |
| 5.2 Financial: | None at present beyond officer resource. |
| 5.3 Legal: | None at present |
| 5.4 HR: | None at present |
| 5.5 Fairer Scotland Duty: | None at present |
| 5.6 Equalities – protected Characteristics: | None at present |
| 5.7 Socio-economic Duty: | None at present. |
| 5.8 Islands | None at present |
| 5.6 Risk: | None at present |
| 5.7 Customer Service: | None at present. |

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26th August 2020

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PROPOSED SLWG ACTIVITY PLAN - 7th September 2020

ACTION	RESOURCE	ORIGINAL TIMEFRAME	REVIEW 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:- <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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	Officers from Climate Change Board	March 2020	Completed to original timeframe

ACTION	RESOURCE	ORIGINAL TIMEFRAME	REVIEW COMMENT
discussion around policy & indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning • 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 will need to be considered November onwards as part of wider Budget.
7. Endorse a new renewable energy sourcing strategy for Council assets (RSS2).	Property Services	August 2020	October 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	Merge items 8 & 9. Community Planning Partnership held 2 meeting specific to Climate Change

ACTION	RESOURCE	ORIGINAL TIMEFRAME	REVIEW COMMENT
9. Encourage effective partnership working across all community planning partners in relation to the impacts of climate change;	SLWG and Community Planning	Item on agenda for discussion at December 2020 CPP management committee meeting then ongoing	<p>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, environmental and biodiversity business to develop;	Climate Change Board / Economic Development	May 2020	Not completed via Group but this forms key theme of Council's Covid19 Recovery Plan.

ACTION	RESOURCE	ORIGINAL TIMEFRAME	REVIEW COMMENT
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.
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	June 2020	Hold Members Seminar focused on De-carbonisation Plan + Actions from CCEAG on 16 th November
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	ORIGINAL TIMEFRAME	REVIEW 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