

Proposed Council De-carbonisation Plan 2021

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The impact and effects of the Covid19 pandemic have been far reaching and profound on many areas of social, economic and environmental activity in Argyll and Bute. A number of direct impacts on Climate Change Activity are outlined in previous agenda item – a paper titled '*Impact of Covid19 on climate change*'. Our Council has approved a Recovery Strategy and Framework based on a number of themes and notably in the context of climate change an Economic Recovery Plan that includes 'a low carbon economy' as a driver for growth, recovery and development.
- 1.2 The Council's Climate Change Board are assessed and monitored annually at a national level in relation to carbon emissions and environmental performance – these submissions have been provided to previous meetings of CCEAG. The Council has also produced Carbon Management Plans and more specific business cases relating to low carbon or environmentally conscious projects. However, given recent Covid19 events and re-focus of activities the Climate Change Board now feel that a new Council De-carbonisation Plan would be timely and a useful tool to assist with overall recovery. This new plan would aim to focus attention on reducing the Council's carbon footprint and be an easy to read document accessible to all. Given the disruption Covid19 has caused certain external engagements / interactions have also been postponed and therefore it's prudent to sure up our own priorities and positioning before going out to consult with others.
- 1.3 A new De-carbonisation Plan would have a short lead in period and aim to report to the 9th November CCEAG and then go on for approval at Council on the 26th November. The Plan would be largely based on existing work underway and our annual carbon reporting however it would be a concise and easy to read statement of intent and action plan that would be directly linked to our Economic Recovery Plan.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Group agrees to:-

1. Support the production of a new Council De-carbonisation plan for discussion in draft at 9th November CCEAG; and
2. Title the document 'Our Climate Change Commitments – Argyll and Bute Council's De-carbonisation Plan 2021.

3.0 DETAIL

Background & Scope

- 3.1 Covid19 has impacted upon the Council's Climate Change activities this year and it is considered a new de-carbonisation plan would now be timely to focus attention and align to the Council's recovery plan. It would also demonstrate commitment and ambition to the 'green economy' and environmental sustainability at a time of great change across many sectors. It would also form a basis for future dialogue and engagement with external partners, communities and businesses. The aim of the document would be to pull together all ongoing and future planned activities into an easy read and accessible format that could be branded accordingly. It would also develop upon our Carbon Management Plans, Climate Change Reporting Duties and business cases related to climate change. The document would aim to plan for 1 year initially. The production of such a plan would also align to ambition set out by Convention of Highlands and Islands (COHI) who our Council are a member.

External engagement & our Communities

- 3.2 We envisage the plan focusing solely on the internal activities of the Council at this stage as opportunities for external engagement have been limited this year and intention would be to use the document as a starting point to engage with our communities in 2021. Work had begun with our Community Planning Partnership in February 2020 to develop climate change activity and engagement workshops had been planned but this halted due to Covid19 and not yet rescheduled. Between now and Christmas 2020 our Community Planning Team intend to map and identify groups in our community that are already established in climate, environment or sustainability interest so this can be developed further in 2021. The Council would aim to support communities develop their own climate change plans & activities and where there is synergy partnership working would be encouraged.
- 3.3 An example of this partnership approach is the relationship the Council has developed with Argyll and Isles Countryside Trust (ACT) whereby a number of complementary climate change workstreams are being progressed or developed such as tree planting for natural capital and carbon storage.
- 3.4 The Council cannot address climate change in isolation so it is essential partnerships with external organisations, private sector, third sector and

our communities are developed in coming years to enhance future de-carbonisation plans.

Proposed structure of de-carbonisation plan

- 3.5 The aim of the plan is to be easy read and accessible that outlines our Council's climate change ambition in the after effects of Covid19. We aim to keep to less than 15 pages and be branded appropriately. Contents likely to include:-

Our Climate Commitments – Argyll and Bute Council's De-carbonisation Plan

1. Foreword – Cllr Aileen Morton
2. Vision
 1. Deliver 75% carbon reduction by 2030 and net zero before 2045
 2. Support our low carbon economy
 3. Lead by example and develop practices & partnerships that inspire low carbon behaviors
 4. Make 'Climate Friendly Argyll and Bute' #doyourbit a recognised brand
3. Argyll and Bute Context – our population, our services, our estate, our fleet
4. Current carbon footprint & trend – successes + completed projects
5. Our Climate Commitments
 - Tackle waste in most sustainable way – municipal, food, schools;
 - Reduce resource consumption in our buildings – fossil, electricity, water, school & building behaviors;
 - Reduce travel & use of fossil fuel on the move – agile working, hybrids;
 - Prepare and adapt for impacts of climate change;
 - Offset our emissions through innovation;
 - Tell you about it and encourage community to #doyourbit #climatefriendlyABC
6. Waste Priority Action Plan
7. Resources in our buildings Priority Action Plan
8. Travel + Fleet Priority Action Plan
9. Prepare & Adapt Priority Action Plan
10. Offsetting Priority Action Plan
11. Communications Priority Action Plan
12. Future Engagement & Community Planning Mapping
13. Our future

Timescale

- 3.6 The intention is to develop the plan with a short lead in period to align with Economic Recovery Plan and consolidating previous Carbon Management Plans and climate change activity. It is the intention to

have a draft to discuss at the next CCEAG on 9th November and once approved take to an online Members Seminar on 16th November then Council on 26th November.

4.0 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Policy:	Report aims to agree to develop a future activity plan and commitments for Climate Change.
4.2 Financial:	None at present
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.

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