

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

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| 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. |

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Chair

Climate Change Environmental Action Group

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