

**Climate Change Environmental Action Group – Decarbonisation Plan**

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**1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1.1 Addressing Climate Change is a global issue that is hugely reliant on partnership, collaboration and the actions of us all. No single organisation can tackle it in isolation and as a Council we need to show clear leadership and lead by example in all that we do. Given the unprecedented year we have had in light of the global pandemic we have decided to accelerate the production of a Council Decarbonisation Plan and make a clear commitment that as our businesses, communities and services recover from the pandemic we will be doing it in a low carbon and environmentally responsible manner. The plan also supports and promotes activities undertaken by the Council's Climate Change Board and political Climate Change Environmental Action short life working group.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 The Group are asked to:-

1. Agree the content of the Decarbonisation Plan 2021 outlined at Appendix A;
2. Note there will be a Members Seminar held on 16<sup>th</sup> November regarding the plan;
3. Recommend that Council adopt the Plan at meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> November;

**3.0 DETAIL**

3.1 Our area has long been a leader in wind and hydro power production and this coupled with sparse population, high forest, peatland cover and a low number of polluting sources means as a region we are already one of the lowest net producers of carbon in the UK and almost carbon neutral – way ahead of most other regions.

3.2 However, we wish to build on these strong foundations and specifically in the Decarbonisation plan aim to outline actions of the Council in our business operations to address our own carbon footprint. This will be a new reference point for our own journey towards being a 'net zero'

organisation by 2045 and also demonstrates our commitment to others in our region who we wish to bring with us. The behaviors and actions of our community, employees, service users and customers have a significant impact on our carbon emissions, so communication and engagement is key to our successful implementation of this plan.

- 3.3 The plan will evolve in future years and the intention is to widen out the scope to include greater integration with local communities and businesses. However this first plan aims to provide focus for the Council to respond to the diverse challenges and activities to urgently reduce and adapt to climate change.

#### **4.0 IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Policy:	Commitment to activities as outlined in plan.
4.2 Financial:	Resources will required to be deployed to deliver actions of the plan.
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

29th October 2020

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