

**RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION GROUP**

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**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 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 and has held 2 Councillor and Officer Workshops. 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 delayed this.
- 1.3 The CCEAG met on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020 and agreed a number of recommendations which are now presented to the Council for approval.
- 1.4 The CCEAG also updated the activity plan and this is presented to Council for information at Appendix 1.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 Council is asked to:-

1. Note the update to the Climate Change and Environmental Action Group activity plan as detailed in Appendix1.

2. Deliver net zero emissions target by 2045, as outlined in the 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 that a business case approach to climate change investment is adopted through the Council's Asset Management Board;
5. Agree that the Climate Change Environmental Action Group is disbanded from November 2020 and replaced with quarterly updates from the Climate Change Board being presented to Policy and Resources Committee;
6. Note specifically the commitments outlined in the Decarbonisation Plan relating to engagement with our communities and businesses through our communications and Community Planning teams:-
  - 'Comm1' – Develop and Deliver a Communication Plan to support the Decarbonisation Plan
  - 'Comm 2' – Engage with community and partners and deliver Climate Change Directory for our region.

### **3.0 DETAIL**

- 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 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.
- 3.3 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.

3.4 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 CONCLUSION**

4.1 The Climate Change Environmental Action Group was set up as a short life working group with a remit to report and make recommendations to Council. The Group has overseen the development of the Decarbonisation Plan and now presents their recommendations to Council for agreement.

#### **5.0 IMPLICATIONS**

5.1	Policy	Commitment to activities as outlined in decarbonisation plan.
5.2	Financial	None at present beyond officer resource
5.3	Legal	Legal commitment as specified in the Climate Change (Scotland) Act
5.4	HR	None at present
5.5	Fairer Scotland Duty:	None at present
5.5.1	Equalities - protected characteristics	None at present
5.5.2	Socio-economic Duty	None at present
5.5.3	Islands	None at present
5.6.	Risk	None at present
5.7	Customer Service	None at present

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## **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – CCEAG Activity Plan

**ACTIVITY PLAN - 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

**Appendix 1**

ACTION	RESOURCE	MILESTONES	COMMENT
<b>Council Policy</b>			
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

ACTION	RESOURCE	MILESTONES	COMMENT
			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"> <li>• Waste / BMW Carbon Impacts;</li> <li>• Renewable Energy Strategy &amp; Windfarms</li> </ul>	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  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning</li> <li>• Flood Risk</li> <li>• Transport</li> <li>• Waste</li> </ul>	March 2020	Completed to original timeframe

ACTION	RESOURCE	MILESTONES	COMMENT
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building Operations</li> <li>• Procurement</li> <li>• Education</li> </ul>		
<b>Council Business</b>			
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
<b>Climate Change Champion</b>			
8. Promote and champion the mitigation and adaption to the negative impacts of climate change, green investment	SLWG	Ongoing	Being taken forward as part of De-carbonisation Plan &

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<p>in our region, sustainable development and resource efficiency for the Council &amp; the communities we serve.</p>			<p>Communications Plan</p>
<p>9. Encourage effective partnership working across all community planning partners in relation to the impacts of climate change;</p>	<p>SLWG and Community Planning</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<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>



ACTION	RESOURCE	MILESTONES	COMMENT
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 & 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 <sup>th</sup> November
14. Members Seminar on Climate Change - 15 <sup>th</sup> June	SLWG	De-carbonisation Plan workshop on 16 <sup>th</sup> November	Delayed due to Covid19
15. Development of 'Our Council's Commitments – De-carbonisation Plan'	Climate Change Board	New Action	Complete draft for 9 <sup>th</sup> November CCEAG, Members Seminar on 16 <sup>th</sup> November & Full

ACTION	RESOURCE	MILESTONES	COMMENT
			Council November. 26 <sup>th</sup>
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