

Climate Change Working Group

Date: 27 April 2023



Climate Change Working Group Highlight Report

Argyll and Bute Climate Action

1.0 Executive Summary

This CPP sub-group, known as the Climate Change Working Group are planning the production of a Climate Change Action Plan for Argyll and Bute.

The Action Plan is proposed to be produced by employing a Climate Change Project Manager to lead the process.

The Climate Change Working Group recently agreed to start the project by recruiting a Project Manager this financial year.

The project has been delayed due to underestimating the time taken to conclude a Memorandum of Agreement.

2.0 Highlight Report

2.1 Action Plan background

The purpose of the Action Plan is to establish a region-wide climate risk assessment and to develop an integrated set of adaptation, mitigation and engagement actions.

The proposed post of Climate Change Project Manager will bring organisations, businesses and communities together to develop a shared vision and understanding of climate change risks and opportunities across the Argyll and Bute region. It will identify priorities for communities, areas and sectors that will establish where (both spatially and thematically) and how the region can increase resilience and adapt, mitigate and engage on climate change issues.

It will identify, but not reproduce, climate change work either already happening or part of an organisation or business's own responsibilities.

2.2 Funding

The Climate Change Working Group are currently pulling together a funding package to support the post of the Climate Change Project Manager.

The cost of a Project Manager post is estimated to be in the region of £120,000 over two years, which would include the salary of an appropriately qualified climate leader, associated employer costs, T&S costs, etc.

Subsequent to previous calls for funding contributions, we had two firm contributions from partners:

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| £20,000 | NHS Highland - Argyll & Bute Health and Social Care Partnership |
| £50,000 | Argyll and Bute Council |

We have also submitted a bid to NatureScot for funds of £15,000, for this financial year.

2.3 Progress

The Climate Change working Group decided to start the project with the budget we currently have.

We have decided that we would advertise the Project Manager post with options for:

- i) 0.80 Full Time Equivalent for two years, or
- ii) 1.0 Full Time Equivalent for 18 months

...depending on the preferences of the successful candidate.

In any case we would need to continue searching for funding for either a continuation of the project timeline, or to provide additional assistance for the part time set-up. However, it was felt that finding £30,000 in year two would be achievable.

The project is almost ready to advertise for the post, but is awaiting the finalisation of the Memorandum of Agreement between the various parties, required to establish the governance arrangements. This has been more complex and time-consuming than we had planned.

3.0 Summary

1. We propose producing a strategic Action Plan process as the best, and most thorough, way to address the climate emergency in Argyll and Bute.
2. We have an approved governance arrangement for the Climate Change Project Manager post.
3. We are actively pursuing the recruitment of a Project Manager to start this Action Plan work and hope to have someone in post shortly, once the legal arrangements have been finalised.

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For more information, please contact:
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