

Agenda Item	6
Report No	CCWG/10/20

HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: Climate Change Working Group

Date: 11th August 2020

Report Title: Climate Change Workstreams

Report By: Climate Change Officer

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

1.1 This report provides an overview of a number of workstreams and projects which are underway across the Council, and where appropriate, with partners, to address the climate and ecological emergency.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to:

1. note the contents of this report;
2. agree that an update on workstreams is presented as a standing item at future meetings of the Climate Change Working Group.

3. Implications

3.1 Resource – there are no resource implications arising from this report. However, Members will note that the scale and range of work currently underway in respect of addressing the climate and ecological emergency is extensive.

3.2 Legal – there are no legal implications arising from this report.

3.3 Community (Equality, Poverty and Rural) – there are no community implications arising from this report.

3.4 Climate Change/Carbon CLEVER – there are no direct climate change implications arising from this report.

3.5 Risk – there are no risk implications arising from this report.

3.6 Gaelic – There are no Gaelic implications arising from this report.

4. Background

- 4.1 It has been highlighted at previous meetings of the Climate Change Working Group that whilst the level of detail set out in the annual response under the Public Bodies Climate Change Duties provides a robust summary of climate action across the organisation, Members would welcome a more concise note setting out the work of the Climate Change team.
- 4.2 This paper provides a short overview of the most pertinent current workstreams, with a more detailed breakdown provided at **Appendix 1**. It is proposed that an updated version of the workstream document is presented as a standing item at future meetings of the Climate Change Working Group to provide Members with a regular opportunity to consider work underway and suggest areas where additional focus may be required.

5. Current Resourcing Levels – Climate Change Team

- 5.1 The Council's Climate Change Team currently consists of 2 dedicated officers – 1 x Climate Change Officer and 1 x Climate Change Coordinator. Although Members agreed funding for the recruitment of a Climate Change & Energy Manager in December 2019, recruitment to this post has not yet been undertaken.
- 5.2 In addition to the 2 officers who are dedicated to delivering on the Council's climate change commitments, it is important to highlight to Members that responsibility for delivery of the public electric vehicle (EV) charging network now sits with the Climate Change team, a programme of work with value in excess of £1m. As a result, the Mechanical Design Engineer leading on this work has now joined the Climate Change Team, and has 100% of her time committed to delivery of this programme. To support the delivery and community consultation required of the EV infrastructure programme, particularly in rural Highland, a LEADER-funded Climate Change Coordinator (Electric Vehicle) was recruited in May 2019, and this post is fully funded until October 2020.

6. Current Workstreams

- 6.1 As mentioned above, a copy of the Climate Change team's current work programme is set out at **Appendix 1** to this report. This document is regularly updated by the Climate Change Officer, and provides a useful snapshot of the variety of work being undertaken at any given time. For the sake of completeness, other key workstreams which contribute to the Council's low carbon ambition but not directly managed by the Climate Change team (for example the SALIX fund), have also been listed for visibility.
- 6.2 In recent weeks, as a result of service restructures, the Council's Energy & Sustainability Team have largely shifted across to the Infrastructure & Environment service. It is anticipated that there will be closer liaison between the Climate Change team and Energy & Sustainability team going forward, and the vision for this is likely to be shaped by the recruitment of the Climate Change & Energy Manager. Therefore, it is likely that that the climate change workstream document at **Appendix 1** will begin to change and better align with energy considerations over the coming months, but for the time being, sets out the current priorities and areas of focus.
- 6.3 Aligned with the Council's wider push for economic recovery post-COVID-19, work is underway, assisted by the Commercial & Efficiency Team, to develop a vision and structure for the EV programme to put the Council in a better position to be proactive around future funding calls, maximise external income for the Council and deliver expedited decarbonisation of transport within the region. If successful, it is expected that this new model could be replicated, with minor adjustments, across the wider climate agenda. Following a Recovery Board workshop on 28th

July 2020, it was proposed that a separate workshop is arranged for Members of the Climate Change Working Group to contribute to the development of this vision and structure. It is hoped that this session can be arranged to take place in early September 2020.

Designation: Climate Change Officer

Date: 23rd July 2020

Author: Keith Masson

Appendix 1

Action Plan & Priorities 2020 – Climate Change Team

Activity / Project & Key Tasks	Corporate / Community Benefit	Relevant Carbon Management Plan 2013-2020 Strategic Theme(s)	Lead Officer(s)	Timescale / Dates	Priority Level
<p>Development of Net Zero Strategy & Action Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review CMP 2013-2020 Re-engage key officers & Members (ELT & Climate Change Working Group) Collaborate with service leads re revised targets / Climate Change Act / climate & ecological emergency ambition Explore carbon budgeting options (utilisation of Aberdeenshire Council model?) Explore procurement & land use as essential sectors for inclusion Identify relevant projects & actions (current & future) & scope out funding opportunities (SALIX, PWLB, capital programme etc) – links to programme alignment work detailed below. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved management of internal carbon emissions Reduced costs Increased ownership of emissions at Service level Public facing demonstration of Council's commitment to climate change agenda Identification of partnership opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All 	Keith Masson	31/12/20	High
<p>Establish <i>Highland Adapts</i> Partnership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalise business case & circulate to partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highland-wide, place-based approach to climate risk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adaptation Energy 	Keith Masson	31/12/2023	High

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure funding for Project Manager post (HC & SNH contributions secured) Recruit Project Manager Develop governance arrangements (proposals included in business case) Draft & agree operational plan with partners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced internal adaptation burden Increased local resilience to extreme weather events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement Strategy Land Use & resources Economy Transport 			
<p>Carbon Baseline Report for Highland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support contractor in securing appropriate and relevant data sets Review draft report and agree on communication of findings Report to Council in Autumn 2020 Use findings to frame both internal and external aspects of Net Zero Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop clear overall emissions profile for Highland More focus on key emissions envelopes areas e.g. transport & energy. Ability to deliver evidence-based climate policy in Highland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adaptation Energy Engagement Strategy Land Use & resources Economy Transport 	Keith Masson	31/08/2020	High
<p>Programme Alignment - Council programme & Scottish Government programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support contractor in securing and understanding appropriate and relevant documents / data sets Assist in coordination of stakeholder workshops Scrutinise draft report and seek amends as required. Report to Council (late Summer / Autumn 2020) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create opportunities to secure external funding for low carbon projects Develop more robust project planning / development mechanisms Better alignment of Council aspirations with SG. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adaptation Energy Engagement Strategy Land Use & resources Economy Transport Waste 	Keith Masson	31/08/2020	High

<p>COVID-19 – Green Economic Recovery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support Recovery Board to ensure that economic recovery in Highland is shaped by net zero and Just Transition agendas Support key officers in embedding climate change considerations as part of Council redesign. Collate detailed list of Council & partnership projects which contribute to both net zero & economic recovery, identify opportunities for better project alignment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will assist in Members' aspirations for a carbon neutral region by 2025 Opportunities for economic development for local businesses which embrace low carbon / circular economy principles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adaptation Engagement Strategy Economy Transport Energy 	<p>Keith Masson Joe Perry</p>	<p>31/12/2020</p>	<p>High</p>
<p>EV Infrastructure Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roll-out of Electric A9 and other publicly accessible EV chargers Liaison with key partners Identification of key funding opportunities (non-TS) which align with other Council priorities linked to net zero ambition Development of vision, structure & governance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key infrastructure priority for Highland Significant inward investment Expedited decarbonisation or road transport in Highland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy Engagement Strategy Economy Transport 	<p>Jackie Sayer Anna Myeshkova (Martin MacDonald)</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>High</p>
<p>Green Impact Pilot - Research, Develop & Launch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop business case for Green Impact at HC / regional level Secure Graduate support from UHI to develop programme Procure Green Impact platform, design, build & launch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote low carbon behaviours to staff Financial & carbon savings Demonstration of collaborative pan-Highland approach to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy Transport Waste 	<p>Joe Perry</p>	<p>30/10/2020, then ongoing</p>	<p>High</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote scheme via press releases, website, In Brief etc 	tackling climate emergency				
Climate Change Working Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate 6-weekly meetings of climate change panel. Prepare, coordinate and arrange papers relevant to climate actions being undertaken. Liaise with Chair and Leader regarding agendas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased Member and public scrutiny of climate change action 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All 	Keith Masson Joe Perry	On-going	High
Highland Climate Change Conference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organise venue, speakers, themes, agenda etc for 2-day climate change conference in Autumn 2020 (TBC depending on situation re COVID-19) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased visibility of climate action across Highland Develop partnerships for future action. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adaptation Energy Engagement Strategy Land Use & resources Economy Transport 	Keith Masson Joe Perry	31/10/2020	Med
Annual Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gather required data from services (from Apr 2020 onwards) Update Master Data spreadsheet for annual data comparison Arrange with committee services for items on committee agendas (Climate Change Working Group & Economy & Infrastructure Committee) Write report Present findings to Members at Committees Data – new baseline for Net Zero Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legally required to report on progress (PBCCD) Opportunity to analyse progress / gaps / opportunities re CMP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economy Energy Land Use & Resources Transport Engagement Strategy 	Joe Perry Keith Masson	30/11/2020	Med

<p>Cromarty Firth Freeport Proposal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with partners to develop a Roadmap to Net Zero vision for the Cromarty Firth Freeport proposal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant opportunities for Highland if Cromarty Firth secures freeport status 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economy • Transport • Energy 	Keith Masson	31/12/2020	Med
<p>Climate Change Workshops for Members, Executive Chief Officers & Heads of Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrange sessions in 2020 for Members & ECOs to identify key interventions and opportunities to reduce emissions from service delivery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase levels of understanding and participation in climate change agenda across the Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adaptation • Energy • Engagement Strategy • Land Use & resources • Economy • Transport • Waste 	Keith Masson Joe Perry	31/12/2020	Med
<p>Committee Papers / Business Cases</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop guidance and mechanisms to ensure climate & ecological emergency related issues are properly considered and factored in to committee papers, business cases & project development from outset. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase awareness of impact of Council decisions on ability to meet net zero targets. • Improve accountability re climate change agenda 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All 	Joe Perry Keith Masson	31/10/2020	High
<p>Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 – Allotments & Food Growing Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult public on draft FGS (delayed due to COVID-19 pandemic and moratorium on consultations) • Present draft strategy to Climate Change Working Group / Economy & Infrastructure Committee for approval 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comply with legislative requirements. • Engage with communities, especially Areas of Multiple Deprivation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land Use & Resources • Economy • Engagement Strategy 	Keith Masson Emma Whitham (consultant)	31/10/2020	Med

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish final strategy • Implement HC actions arising from plan 					
Climate Week 2020 – 14th–20th Sept <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop ideas for online events to support climate week. • Engage with Eco Officers to maximise number and scope of events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to achieve buy-in to climate action • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All sectors 	Joe Perry Anna Myeshkova	20/09/2020	Med
Eco Officer Network <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor key aims / objectives • Develop robust package / campaign for each new quarter • Recruit new members & officers • Develop training • Maintain regular communication with network • Develop newsletters • Utilise network to maximise uptake of low carbon alternatives throughout the Council. • Link network to Green Impact to maximise carbon reduction / behaviour change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embed message around low carbon behaviours across organisation, thus reducing costs and emissions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy • Transport • Waste • Engagement Strategy 	Joe Perry	On-going	Med
Carbon CLEVER Declaration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of ideas / proposals regarding how to refresh and relaunch the Carbon CLEVER Declaration in light of climate & ecological emergency declaration / need to ensure green economic recovery post-COVID-19 • Development of new “brand” / title for the initiative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase region-wide buy-in to Council’s declaration of climate and ecological emergency • Support local businesses / 3rd sector in achieving low carbon outcomes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All 	Joe Perry	31/03/2021	Med

Staff engagement re TRIADS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email all staff on likely TRIAD dates Investigate automated email on TRIAD dates Build in wider energy efficiency message to communications Utilise Eco Officers in delivery of messaging 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in energy costs Reduction in carbon emissions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy Engagement Strategy 	Keith Masson Richard Bamborough	29/02/2021	Low
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Associated Workstreams (not managed by Climate Change team – list not exhaustive)

Activity / Project & Key Tasks	Corporate / Community Benefit	Relevant Carbon Management Plan 2013-2020 Strategic Theme(s)	Lead Officer(s)	Timescale / Dates	Priority Level
SALIX <ul style="list-style-type: none"> £3.5m recycling fund to support Council projects which meet Salix funding requirements in respect of carbon reduction, payback etc. Examples include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> River Ness Hydro Fossil fuel boiler replacements Lighting upgrades - LED 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced energy consumption, carbon emissions and costs Improved reputation re climate change targets / ambition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy Transport Economy 	Martin MacDonald	On-going	High
Grey & White Fleet Reviews <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement range of solutions identified through Grey Fleet report & work to-date on White Fleet Continue roll out of car club vehicles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced emissions, cost, travel and risk for HC. Increased productivity of staff. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport Energy Engagement strategy 	Fiona Daschofsky Andrew Morgan Caroline Campbell	31/12/2020	Med

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete baseline report & analysis for white fleet • Develop costed action plan and recommendations for future of white fleet, supported by business cases where required 					
Solar PV Programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of solar PV arrays at various sites across Council estate • £2.5m programme of work, over 6 phases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renewable energy generation for Council • Reduced reliance on grid-supplied electricity • Cost & carbon savings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy 	Allan Henderson	On-going	High
SMART Cities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SMART Highlands, SMART Buildings – programme that aims to use information & control to achieve sustainable energy savings for Council • Provides control of use & consumption of energy, automation of warnings and user reports. • 30 sites initially targeted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in energy consumption • Better management information • Increased ownership of consumption at building level. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy • Economy • Engagement strategy 	Brian Robertson	On-going	High
Energy Efficient Scotland Programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides support and advice to improve energy efficiency of Highland homes • Targets fuel-poor areas & offers insulation measures • Funded by Scottish Government 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in fuel poverty • Home improvements for Highland residents • Reduced carbon emissions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy 	Isla MacMillan	On-going	Med

<p>NPF4, IMFLDP & IRSS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting the vision for a low carbon Highlands from a planning context, out to 2050. • Sets framework for investment & development, contributing to Scotland's aim to end its contribution to climate change by 2045. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide new economic opportunities re low carbon agenda • Increasing focus on low carbon development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All 	<p>Scott Dalgarno Development Plans Team</p>	<p>Various</p>	<p>High</p>
<p>Spaces for People</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in local community-based cycling & walking as result of COVID-19 • Enhancement of key access routes whilst reducing interaction with vehicular traffic. • Ensuring appropriate social distancing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing levels of active travel. • Reduced carbon emissions from road transport. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport • Fleet • Economy 	<p>Colin Howell Craig Baxter</p>	<p>On-going</p>	<p>High</p>