

Agenda Item	6
Report No	CCC/03/22

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: Climate Change Committee

Date: 3 November 2022

Report Title: Net Zero Strategy - Workshop Programming

Report By: Executive Chief Officer – Performance and Governance

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 This paper provides Members with a proposed programme of workshops for Members of the Climate Change Committee.
- 1.2 The program is intended to deliver the key requirements to provide Members with an in-depth knowledge of the work being developed across the Thematic groups which will deliver the Net Zero Strategy for the Highland Council. As the work on the Strategy looks to progress at the pace it is recognised that the need for interested parties to be fully aware of the complexities of the various workstreams. This report will set out two options for the development of the level of understanding which will be required in order for the committee to scrutinise the work as a complete body of work, providing constructive input into the delivery of the action plan, key performance milestones and in delivering a realistic pathway to net zero.
- 1.3 This paper also highlights the National Frameworks and Strategies which will help to shape the region's Route to net zero, allowing us to explore areas where Members feel they would like to develop a greater level of understanding.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to:
 - i. Note the proposals on net zero strategy workshops and agree either Option 1 or Option 2;
 - ii. Consider and comment upon opportunities for further training requirements;
 - iii. Agree the need for Carbon Literacy training for Members;
 - iv. Consider and comment upon the current proposal for knowledge sharing on National frameworks & strategy;
 - v. Consider and comment upon the current proposals for presentations from external partners.

3. Implications

- 3.1 Resource – there are no specific implications arising from the recommendations in the report except for staff and Member time commitment.
- 3.2 Climate Change/Carbon Clever – This paper is designed to help deliver a level of understanding of the scale at which delivering a net zero strategy and action plan will impact across all services within The Highland Council.
- 3.5 There are no specific Legal, Risk, Equality, Rural or Gaelic implications arising as a direct result of this report.

4. Net Zero Thematic Groups, Strategy & Outcomes

- 4.1 The Council's strategic approach to delivering net zero has been broken down into seven thematic groups.
 - i. Built Estate & Energy
 - ii. Fleet & Staff Travel
 - iii. Waste and Circular Economy
 - iv. Planning Land Use & Environment
 - v. Capital Programme & Net Zero Funding
 - vi. Procurement and Community Wealth Building
 - vii. Social Housing/HRA Estate

The following proposals are intended to ensure elected Members are fully sighted on the challenges and complexities of delivering net zero within each thematic strand and how they impact on each other in the delivery of The Highland Council's net zero strategy.

- 4.2 **Proposal 1-** The Climate and Energy team host a two-day all-Member workshop where Members will spend time with each of the Thematic Groups. Allowing each of the thematic groups to present in detail the workstreams they are developing, giving Members the opportunity to interrogate the work fully. We would look to hold this in early February, so Members are fully aware of the work before an update is presented at the next committee. We would recommend that following on from this initial condensed session, there would be a programme of workshops specifically targeted at Climate Change Committee members, covering a range of associated themes relating to climate change and adaptation to occur every two months starting from the completion of the net zero strategy workshops.
- 4.3 **Proposal 2-** The Climate and Energy Team host a monthly workshop starting in January. These would look at two of the thematic groups within each workshop with opportunities for other subject matter to be covered. The monthly workshops would continue until April by which time all seven of the Thematic Groups would have been covered. Future workshops would then revert to every two months.
- 4.3 It is recognised this is asking for a great deal of commitment within a short period of time. However, given the size of the piece of work it is felt that gaining knowledge of the thematic groups at an early stage will add value to the Committee going forward.

Through the development of in-depth knowledge of each of the Thematic Groups, Members will be fully equipped to

- i. Provide input into an evidence-led setting of the milestones and targets required as part of the Highland Council's route map to net zero.
- ii. Monitor and scrutinise the delivery of the Net Zero Strategy and action plan.
- iii. Evaluate and comment on risks identified.
- iv. Review Council policy and make recommendation to other committees to ensure alignment with net zero.

5. Training

- 5.1 Consideration should be given to the types of training Members would like to develop through future workshops. There is a real need to develop an understanding of Climate Change across the Council. The workshops provide an opportunity to develop this in advance of roll out across the Council.
- 5.2 Carbon Literacy – As a Council we are committed to developing and delivering low carbon behaviour across the region. To achieve this, we must make substantial commitment to Carbon Literacy, developing a level of understanding that equips representatives of the Council to engage positively with colleagues, partners and communities on a move to net zero.

6. Knowledge Sharing

- 6.1 Workshops provide Members with the opportunity to consider National frameworks and strategies and discuss with the subject matter experts how they align with Council policy and how they impact on the Region. A number of proposals for training and workshops have already been put forward by the Committee members.
 - i. National planning Framework 4
 - ii. Energy Strategy
 - iii. Heat in Buildings Strategy
 - iv. National Transport Strategy
 - v. Land Reform Bill
 - vi. Biodiversity Strategy
 - vii. Environment Act
 - viii. Good Food Nation Act
 - ix. Just Transition

7. Presentations

- 7.1 Workshops provide the opportunity to hear from others outwith the organisation who are experienced in areas of interest to the members. The following suggestions have been made by members of the Climate Change Committee. Members are encouraged to make suggestions of any areas they feel the Council would benefit from engaging with. The organisations proposed are as follows.
 - i. Highland Adapts
 - ii. Other Scottish Local Authorities
 - iii. Zero Waste Scotland

- iv. Scottish Communities Climate Action Network
- v. Highland Good Food Partnership

Designation: ECO Performance and Governance

Date: 24 October 2022

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Background papers:

NPF4: [NPF4](#)

Energy Strategy: [EnergyStrategy](#)

Heat In Buildings Strategy: [HeatInBuildings](#)

National Transport Strategy: [NationalTransport](#)

Land Reform Bill: [LandReform](#)

Biodiversity Strategy: [BioStrategy](#)

Good Food Nation: [GFN](#)

Just Transition: [fairerGreenerScotland](#)