

- 2.2 Note the Council's Officer-led response submitted to the Scottish Government's draft Scottish National Adaptation Plan 3 public consultation.
- 2.3 Agree to implement the Sustainable Scotland Network's Leaders' Climate Emergency Checklist to support the Council's assessment and development of climate change capabilities, in line with SSN Guidance.

CLIMATE CHANGE BOARD UPDATE

3.0 INTRODUCTION

- 3.1 The Climate Change Board reports progress to the Policy and Resources Committee on a regular basis. This report outlines overarching activities of the Climate Change Board over the last quarter. The Council's work on climate change continues to align with the Decarbonisation Plan, which is the Council's key climate change document, adopted in December 2021, confirming the Council's commitment to achieving net zero emissions by 2045, in line with the Scottish Government's target.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Policy and Resources Committee are asked to:

- 4.1 Agree the proposal to vary / redistribute existing funding amounts allocated to three funding activities via the Scottish Government's Nature Restoration Fund based on subscription and feedback from our schools.
- 4.2 Note the Council's Officer-led response submitted to the Scottish Government's draft Scottish National Adaptation Plan 3 public consultation.
- 4.3 Agree to implement the Sustainable Scotland Network's Leaders' Climate Emergency Checklist to support the Council's assessment and development of climate change capabilities, in line with SSN Guidance.

5.0 SUMMARY UPDATES OF CLIMATE CHANGE BOARD

A – Scottish Government Nature Restoration Fund

- 5.1 At the previous Policy and Resources Committee meetings held on 12th October 2023 and 7th December 2023, the Committee agreed to allocate Scottish Government Nature Restoration Funding towards three different activities including the School Biodiversity Fund (£68,000), Tree Planting Fund (£75,000) and School Food Waste Composting Fund (£60,000). Commercial Services were tasked to develop spending plans for the three funding streams, with the Climate Change Board, Education Services and Finance working together to allocate this capital funding to ELCCs, primary schools and secondary schools.
- 5.2 At end of May 2024, 28 education establishments submitted applications requesting funds to buy equipment and materials that will enhance biodiversity and tackle school food waste, creating new opportunities for children and young people to learn and take action on nature restoration and climate change. The School Biodiversity Fund was the most popular funding stream, and was over-subscribed (£116,610 has been requested by schools, against the agreed allocation of £68,000). Fewer funding requests were made under the Tree Planting Fund and School Food Waste Composting Fund, with both underspent.
- 5.3 In order to meet the funding requests submitted by our schools, the Policy and Resources Committee are asked to consider the proposed changes to the agreed amounts allocated to the three funding activities:
- I. That £48,610 of underspent funds from the Tree Planting Fund and the School Food Waste Composting Fund be reallocated to meet the overspend of funding requested via the School Biodiversity Fund.
 - II. That Council Officers continue to work with our Education establishments, seeking additional funding applications to allocate the remaining unspent balance of funds under both the Tree Planting Fund and the School Food Waste Composting Fund.
- 5.4 Both of the above recommendations will help ensure Scottish Government Nature Restoration Funds are fully allocated, whilst maximising the benefits for our children, young people, nature and climate. The identification of projects and distribution of this fund is a Council decision without recourse to Government ensuring that the project purpose meets the criteria set out by the Nature Restoration Fund.

B – Argyll and Bute Council Consultation Response to Scottish Government Draft Scottish National Adaptation Plan 3

- 5.5 The Scottish Government published the draft Scottish National Adaptation Plan 3 for public consultation in January 2024. Once finalised, the Scottish National Adaptation Plan 3 is expected to be published in autumn 2024 and will cover a

five year period from 2024 to 2029, replacing the current Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme 2 which was launched in 2019.

- 5.6 ELT confirmed that an Officer-led response to the public consultation was required. This was developed collaboratively, with expert input from a range of cross-Council services. Additionally, a briefing session was delivered at Climate

D – Local Heat And Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES)

5.13

this will require a workforce and communities with the skills and capacity to realise that ambition.

5.20 ACT's rainforest 2045 targets will require a significant step change in availability of skilled woodland and herbivore managers working in Argyll's rainforest and forestry sector. There simply are

5.25 The Climate Change Working Group agreed that the emphasis should be on early production of an enabling strategy in order to allow more time to concentrate on development of the action plan with partners, following which the group approved a draft produced in spring as a working document, in support of the vision that *“We make Argyll and Bute climate ready by acting together to understand and adapt to our changing climate”*.

5.26 Key principles agreed include:

The strategy is to support partners to identify or create opportunities appropriate to Argyll and Bute’s geography and resources, especially through partnership working, to complement action that they are already taking individually.

The strategy can support partners to meet duties: it does not replace existing duties and does not have a mandate to create new duties.

Outcomes from key national climate strategies and local partners have been mapped and aligned with the three CPP Transport, Housing and Community Wellbeing outcomes.

Use of existing reporting mechanisms, principally the Public Body Climate Duty reporting requirements, where possible.

Recognise and work within the limits of the areas where CPP partners have control and where they can seek to influence. Notably, private sector emissions may be outwith the scope of influence for the CPP, but it remains important that businesses can be supported to reduce emissions as well as enhance their resilience.

The proposed national adaptation strategy places high expectations on the role of communities as part of an overall resilience response.

Engagement has been predominantly with institutions and key contacts but working closely with the grassroots engagement programme of the Climate Action Network Hub work funded by Scottish Government which has greatly extended reach. The strategy project is also adding value to the Hub work.

The project is also collaborating with the CPP and Council workstream developing Area Plans (working name)

6.0 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 This report provides various updates in relation to the Council's activities in relation to Climate Change.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Policy – Meeting obligations and commitment to Climate Change.
- 7.2 Financial – No direct linkage.
- 7.3 Legal – Meeting requirements of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, and the Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019.
- 7.4 HR - None
- 7.5 Fairer Scotland Duty:
- 8.5.1 Equalities - protected characteristics - None
 - 8.5.2 Socio-economic Duty - None
 - 8.5.3 Islands - None
- 7.6 Climate Change - Direct link updating activities of the Climate Change Board and projects that will address climate change.
- 7.7 Risk - Not addressing impacts or causes of climate change can lead to increased cost or censure if targets are not met.
- 7.8 Customer Service – None.

Douglas Hendry

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