

ITEM No ...18.....

REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 16 NOVEMBER 2020

REPORT ON: TACKLING THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY THROUGH PARTNERSHIP ACTION AND ESTABLISHING A DUNDEE CLIMATE LEADERSHIP GROUP

REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

REPORT NO: 254-2020

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Committee of the progress made by members of the Dundee Partnership and other bodies in response to the climate emergency and ongoing delivery of the Dundee Climate Action Plan.
- 1.2 To inform Committee of the proposal to establish a Dundee Climate Leadership Group to advance the pace and scale of climate action.
- 1.3 To inform Committee of the resource capacity issues currently faced in taking forward climate action and the work being progressed to resolve this.
- 1.4 To agree that the Leader of the Council write to members of the Scottish Government seeking a meeting to explore funding opportunities that will support the city in advancing its climate ambitions.
- 1.5 To agree that officers engage with other Scottish Local Authorities and the city of Glasgow to pursue joint opportunities in advance of COP26 in November 2021.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:
 - a notes the progress of climate change activity undertaken by public, private and community organisations in Dundee over the last year;
 - b agrees to the establishment of a Dundee Climate Leadership Group as set out in paragraph 7; and
 - c notes that the Chief Executive is currently reviewing internal resource allocation with a view to providing a stronger team to drive forward sustainability and climate change across the city as set out in paragraph 8.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 It is recognised that significant additional investment will be required for emissions reduction activities if the city is to meet its target of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045 or sooner.
- 3.2 The Dundee Climate Action Plan represents a mix of committed and desired interventions across stakeholders with many actions already having funding committed, whilst others require feasibility studies or business cases to determine their viability and funding subsequently secured to make them happen. Potential sources of funding continue to be explored through existing avenues as well as new partnership approaches to ensuring projects can be delivered.
- 3.3 It is crucial that resources are made available to take advantage of the emerging opportunities in what is a substantial social, environment and economic growth area for Dundee and

Scotland. Yet it is also recognised that the City Council faces significant budgetary challenges and therefore funding of such resources may focus on redeployment of staff to support this work. The Chief Executive is currently looking at options for internal redeployment as well as reaching out to other city partners to identify resources to support wider city action.

4 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 In June 2019, the Council's Policy and Resources Committee unanimously "recognised the serious and accelerating environmental, social and economic challenges faced by climate change and declared a climate emergency" (Article V of the Minute of the Meeting of Policy and Resources Committee 24 June 2019, Report 258-2019 refers).
- 4.2 To respond to this challenge, Committee "agreed a science-based target of working towards net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045 or sooner for Dundee" and remitted the Executive Director of City Development to bring forward a partnership Climate Action Plan, carry out a period of public consultation and report back within six months (Article V of the Minute of the Meeting of Policy and Resources Committee 24 June 2019, Report 258-2019 refers).
- 4.3 The Climate Action Plan was published in December 2019 and was the culmination of a years' worth of collaborative work, led by the Council and co-designed with public, private and community organisations, recognising the fact that a concerted city-wide effort is required to reduce emissions. The Plan was informed by a Baseline Emissions Inventory, Climate Risk & Vulnerability Assessment, statutory Strategic Environmental Assessment, partnership workshops and public consultation.
- 4.4 The Plan includes four themes of Energy, Transport, Waste and Resilience with each theme including an initial set of actions to reduce emissions or adapt to a changing climate, taking into account existing projects, stakeholder priorities and national initiatives. Sixty Four actions were identified in the plan, including measures to:
- reduce the consumption of energy, promote energy efficiency and increase the proportion of power and heat from low and zero carbon technologies;
 - encourage active travel through walking, cycling and public transport and deploy sustainable alternatives to decarbonise transport;
 - manage waste sustainably by reducing, reusing, recycling and recovering waste to improve resource efficiency whilst working towards a circular economy; and
 - ensure our communities, green networks and infrastructure are adaptable to a changing climate and reduce the risks and vulnerability to unavoidable impacts.
- 4.5 In August 2020, the Council's Policy and Resources Committee approved the COVID-19 Recovery Plan (Article VI of the Minute of the Meeting of Policy and Resources Committee 24 August 2020, Report 185-2020 refers) adding the following recommendations as amendments:
- e reasserts the commitment made by Dundee City Council in declaring a climate emergency, recognising the principle actions detailed within Dundee's Climate Action Plan as referenced in paragraph 8.5;
 - f instructs the Chief Executive to bring forward a specific report updating the Policy & Resources Committee on progress/ actions undertaken in respect of (e), including details of any and all emerging opportunities to accelerate progress against environmental targets;

- g agrees that ongoing engagement is a key tool in progressing with recovery in all of its forms and asks officers to engage with community groups who wish to support the city's environmental, social, cultural and economic recovery.

5 UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT OF ACTIONS AND PATHWAY OPTIONS TO NET-ZERO

5.1 Getting to net-zero by 2045 or sooner will be extremely challenging and will require more systematic and wide ranging policy and investment interventions both at a national and local level to ensure that the scale of challenge can be met. Understanding the possible pathways towards a net zero future is therefore crucial as it enables decision makers to better understand the options available for policy changes and future investment plans. Quantifying the carbon impact of new projects and activities will support the city to set interim, evidence-based targets and carbon budgets for reducing emissions in line with net-zero; or even bring this date forward based on new data. Three complimentary pieces of work are therefore being progressed to move this forward:

- Dundee City Council is trialling new software being developed by Swedish company ClimateView (www.climateview.global/about) that aims to help us better analyse the carbon reduction impact of the Dundee Climate Action Plan and track progress towards the city's net-zero target. The tool will quantify emissions savings of different actions within the Climate Action Plan and then enable users to evaluate the impact of possible future policy scenarios and actions across different sectors, such as decarbonising transport, increasing renewables and improving the energy efficiency of buildings. This will then support decision makers to assess what policy options and further interventions are required to achieve net-zero and allow for interim carbon reduction targets to be set. Dundee will be the first local authority in Scotland to trial the software and will work with national partners on its potential roll out across the Scotland;
- other Scottish city local authorities are trialling and developing similar area-wide emission modelling tools (eg Glasgow's EU funded RUGGEDISED Smart City Project, Edinburgh's work with the Edinburgh Centre for Climate Innovation to develop a Carbon Benefits Realisation Tool). The seven cities have come together with Scottish universities to share best practice and investigate the potential to develop a carbon investment tool for Scottish Local Authorities which would assess the capital and revenue implications for new low carbon projects. This is being taken forward under the auspices of the Scottish Cities Alliance in partnership with the Scottish Government; and
- Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) and Dundee City Council have partnered on the Regional Energy System Optimisation Planning (RESOP) Project, that is to look at future asset and infrastructure scenarios in Dundee, model the energy and carbon impact on the city's local electricity network and assess the role that different low carbon technologies can play in reducing emissions across different scenarios. The model will be developed over the course of the project with Council officers trained in its use to aid and inform local decision making. SSEN has secured funding of £343,000 from Ofgem's Network Innovation Allowance to deliver the project.

6 TAKING CITY-WIDE ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

6.1 The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the context, risks and opportunities for taking forward some projects across different sectors and organisations. There has also been a consequential impact of resources and staffing being reprioritised to support business and operational continuity or delays to construction works where sites were shut down for a period of time. It is yet unknown what long-term impact COVID-19 will have on the ability of the city to meet its net-zero ambitions.

6.2 Despite the challenges of COVID-19, a range of actions have been progressed to implement the Dundee Climate Action Plan as well as new initiatives that have arisen over the last year.

A summary of highlights is outlined below. In addition, the Council's Public Bodies Climate Change Duties 2019/20 report (Report No. 255-2020) provides additional information on activity that has taken place over the last year in support of the Council's duties under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.

Energy

- 6.3 Heating and lighting homes in Dundee accounts for approximately 37% of the city's energy consumption. It is therefore important that the energy hierarchy continues to be delivered on the principles of reducing the need for heat; supplying heat efficiently and at least cost to householders and using renewable and low carbon heat.
- 6.4 Energy efficiency remains the most cost-effective way of reducing heating demand and, in the process, emissions. Measures can include retrofitting properties with better insulation, installing more efficient boilers, controls and energy management systems. Typically, this will mean a shift towards renewable and low carbon energy sources with national legislative standards being stepped up over the coming years.
- 6.5 Dundee City Council continues to maximise the use of the Home Energy Efficiency Programme Scotland - Area Based Schemes (HEEPS:ABS) funding by combining it with its own capital funding and ECO funding from SSE to externally insulate mixed tenure blocks of flats in former Council estates that are either solid wall or non-traditional construction.
- 6.6 In 2019/20 External Wall Insulation (EWI) was installed in three large areas of Dundee in Stirling Park, Law Crescent and Dudhope. This included 588 properties, occupied by both Council and private residents whom benefited from the upgrades. The total cost of this work was £5.2m with £2.8m coming from the Scottish Government in the form of HEEPS:ABS funding for private owners.
- 6.7 Since its inception in 2013 the EWI Programme has invested approximately £47m with almost 5,000 residents in Dundee seeing their properties thermally upgraded. These improvements have played a significant part in creating warmer homes with reduced fuel bills for residents as well as tackling fuel poverty across the city which continues to experience a downward trend. In turn this helps to alleviate wider socio-economic issues, particularly for the city's low income and protected characteristic households.
- 6.8 In addition, the Housing Service is committed to improving the efficiency and performance of its properties to benefit tenants and private owners. In 2019/20 the service delivered the following projects/installations:
- 201 properties benefited from renewed roofing; and
 - 272 properties had new windows installed.
- 6.9 It is recognised that there are challenges ahead in domestic energy efficiency, particularly in the requirement to maximise the number of properties achieving Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) Band B by 2032 in order to meet the new Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing 2 (EESH2) standard. In meeting this target, Dundee must ensure that there is a just transition and that the fuel poor in the city are prioritised.
- 6.10 It is still to be fully understood the extent to which hydrogen will be deployed to displace natural gas from the gas grid and how it can best meet the cost of upgrading the electricity network to allow it to cope with an increase in demand for electrical heating in homes in conjunction with rising numbers of heat-pumps. Whatever option or combination of options is chosen, it is clear that there will be a phasing out of gas heating with a prohibition already on the installation of gas-boilers in new-build housing after 2025. Therefore, as the thermal performance of properties continues to be improved through insulation, new innovative ways of heating homes

requires to be trialled and establish ways of decreasing the extent to which tenants have to pay for electricity from the grid through utilising roofs to host photovoltaic arrays for decentralised energy generation.

- 6.11 RPC Dundee was officially opened in February 2020 and is heated by Scotland's largest ground source heat pump (GSHP) system. Through £5m investment from the Council and the Scottish Government's Low Carbon Infrastructure Transition Programme to construct an on-site energy centre, the development uses three GSHPs supplied with water from a series of 120 boreholes around 200m deep, circulating hot water from the energy centre. Powered by a combined heat and power unit, these heat pumps supply the main sports hub building and smaller athletics building through pipework, which is connected to a low-pressure hot water and domestic heat exchanger in each building.
- 6.12 The Council has continued to invest in decarbonising its own non-domestic buildings portfolio over the last year through the use of Energy Performance Contracts (EnPC). Supported by the Scottish Government through a procurement framework and consultancy support, the EnPC allows the financial risk of an investment to be transferred to the contractor as they guarantee the savings that will be made. Another advantage of this type of contract is that an independent consultant is appointed to measure and verify the savings achieved. This exercise is completed a year after the final measures are commissioned. If the savings have not been made then the contractor has to take remedial action and does not get full payment until the guaranteed savings have been met. To date the contractor has achieved the savings they have guaranteed for the Council. It has allowed a step change in the pace of installation of energy efficiency measures which has been limited by capacity to deliver in house. To date, two phases have been completed and twenty-six properties, including the highest energy users, Olympia and Dundee Ice Arena, have had a range of energy efficiency measures installed. These are all well proven measures including energy efficient lighting, combined heat and power, energy efficient fans for ventilation systems, variable speed drives, photovoltaic (PV) panels, improved building controls and improved thermal insulation. A third phase is currently out for procurement which will cover another 24 properties with an expected value around £2.75 million.
- 6.13 A number of high level feasibility studies have also been carried out to assess the opportunity for further district heating schemes across the city utilising low and zero carbon technologies.
- 6.14 New planning guidance for developers on connecting to or creating district heating systems as part of their plans was issued for consultation in September 2020. This will support Council policy requiring developers to demonstrate that they have considered this method as a sustainable form of heating within their scheme.
- 6.15 The Michelin Scotland Innovation Parc (MSIP) was established as a joint venture to deliver Scotland's centre for driving innovation and investment in sustainable mobility and low carbon energy, giving a significant boost to Dundee's and Scotland's journey to net zero emissions.
- a To date, 20 new jobs have been created to form the MSIP Team, and 15 of these appointments are from ex Michelin Dundee employees.
 - b Provisional tenant agreements have been made with the first three companies who operate across fuel cell technologies, conversion of vehicles to electric drive trains, and renewable energy. Discussions are at an advanced stage with several other companies to locate at MSIP in the near future.
 - c A memorandum of understanding has been signed with the University of St. Andrews to commit to the shared delivery of low-carbon technologies, supporting product development in companies, assisting companies in the sustainable mobility and low-carbon sectors to grow, offering test and demonstration facilities and equipment and access to external funding. Both organisations are exploring the potential for work experience and apprenticeships opportunities while St Andrews University will support the

delivery of courses, modules or postgraduate training through the proposed Skills Academy at MSIP.

- d Eight start-up companies from across Scotland have recently been selected for the MSIP Sustainable Mobility and Low Carbon Innovation Accelerator which will coach the cohort of companies and individuals who have developed products, prototypes or investor ready solutions focused on sustainable mobility, clean transport and low carbon energy. As part of the programme, each founder will work closely with specialist sector delivery partners Ricardo and Productiv to gain industry insight and hands-on experience to break into production and to market.
- 6.16 The Neart na Gaoithe (NnG) offshore wind farm has started its construction phase and will use the Port of Dundee for turbine construction and marshalling. The clearance and preparatory works for the new facility on the eastern side of the port is well underway as part of the Port's £40m investment to benefit decommissioning activity. Around 100 jobs will be created in construction and marshalling phase of the project. The Council is a key driver and member of Forth and Tay Offshore Steering Group who provide support with supply chain development and key promotional events. Over the last year a supply chain business directory has been established with 184 businesses for Offshore Wind.
- 6.17 Last year Orbital Marine, based in Orkney, announced that it had awarded the main manufacturing contract to build the first commercial 2nd-gen tidal power device - the O2 turbine to the TEXO Group who are carrying out the work at their quayside facilities in Dundee. Funding has been secured via a range of including £10m of funding raised through the London-based crowdfunding platform Abundance Investment and £3.4m from the Scottish Government's Saltire Tidal Energy Challenge Fund. TEXO's team of 35 employees at their facility in Dundee Port have a wealth of experience in marine engineering and the project allows them continue a transition from oil and gas to renewables and to showcase their vast capabilities for the offshore renewables sector. It is hoped that the contract will allow TEXO to recruit additional staff in the city, with the potential to grow number to 100. There is hope that this project is the first of many attracted to the city with a focus on renewables manufacturing and will hopefully generate more work for TEXO in the future, and other local companies. It shows that the focus/hard work that has gone into bringing renewables jobs and investment to Dundee is paying off.

Transport

- 6.18 The lockdown measures put in place to control the spread of COVID-19 in late March has changed much about the way we live, work and travel. It resulted in a dramatic drop in road traffic in Dundee with daily average levels of NO₂ at some real-time monitoring stations reducing by over 70% compared to the same period in 2019. To that end, the Council secured £2.46million through Sustrans' Spaces for People Programme. This funding - for temporary measures - has already delivered 20mph zones in Douglas, Fintry, the Perth Road and Broughty Ferry. Broughty Ferry has also seen modal filters installed on the Esplanade and Douglas Terrace to provide people with more space for walking, cycling and wheeling. The closure of Union Street to through traffic has been welcomed by residents and traders and has been one of the biggest success stories of the Spaces for People programme Scotland-wide.
- 6.19 In May 2020 the Scottish Ministers announced a pause on the Low Emission Zone (LEZ) development process, due to COVID-19, and subsequently a delay to their introduction in Aberdeen, Dundee and Edinburgh. Traffic modelling of potential LEZ design options for Dundee has been carried out however the impact of COVID-19 on future travel behaviour will now need to be applied to the traffic modelling work. Outputs will then be applied to the SEPA Air Quality City Model to identify air quality impacts. A revised indicative introduction date of February 2022 to May 2022 was announced by Scottish Ministers in August 2020 with the 2020/21 Programme for Government committing this new time period for the introduction of LEZ's in these zones. Further information is available in Committee Report No. 224-2020 ('Air Quality and Low Emission Zone Update) presented to the Community Safety and Public Protection Committee on 28 September.

- 6.20 The Embark Dundee e-bike sharing scheme is set to launch this autumn and will be the largest e-bike share service in Scotland. The fleet will be funded and operated by Ride On, an international urban mobility company, and their delivery partner Enzen, a global knowledge enterprise specialising in utilities. Charging stations are currently being installed around Dundee with the initial phase bringing circa 150 e-bikes with Phase 2 to follow immediately thereafter, providing a new solution for commuters and visitors to move around the city, as well as for leisure. In particular, it will better connect the University of Dundee campus, major workplaces and visitor attractions owing to the strategic placement of docking stations in these areas.
- 6.21 The city's first Active Travel Hub is now under construction at the Waterfront adjacent to the V&A, due for completion in spring/summer of 2021. It will promote cycling and other forms of sustainable and low carbon travel to visitors and residents of Dundee and have immediate access to the National Cycle Network that runs alongside the Tay and across to Fife. After a tendering process it will be run by Angus Cycle Hub Community Interest Company (CIC), a not for profit social enterprise dedicated to supporting cycling and active travel.
- 6.22 Tactran, the Regional Transport Partnership was successful in being awarded £147,000 funding by Transport Scotland to undertake Tay Cities Park & Choose Study which is considering Park & Choose options along the Montrose to Perth Transport Corridor. This study will include consideration of bus and rail park & choose options on approaches to Dundee. The first stage Case for Change report is nearing completion for submission to Transport Scotland. Fife Council, in partnership with Dundee City Council and Tactran, undertook work to develop the business case and design of a Park & Choose facility at South end of Tay Road Bridge during 2019/20.
- 6.23 Investment from Transport Scotland enabled a new 150kw electric charger provision to be installed and tested at Greenmarket for commercial vehicles. This has helped to support start-up company Ember to launch the UK's first all-electric coach service now operating between Dundee and Edinburgh. Due to the investment in infrastructure, the coaches and Embers' office are based in Dundee and seven drivers have been recruited in the city.
- 6.24 As the global sales of Electric Vehicles (EVs) continues its year on year growth, the Council continue to lead on clean fleet transition and developing innovative solutions to charging infrastructure within the city. It has introduced two new electric refuse vehicles into its fleet, reducing emissions and servicing and maintenance costs. Officers continue to use their experience to support city and regional growth in electric vehicle rollout. A further investment of £420,000 is planned for 2020/21 for new charge points to improve the availability of Electric Vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure, particularly for those without access to off-street parking via on street pop-up chargers. Last year, in a UK-first, a solar powered charging hub, which has 20 charging bays, and an innovative battery storage system was opened. A central system controls the charging points, and dynamic load management technology shifts the supply of energy depending how many vehicles are charging. The hub is the first of three in the city sited to encourage commuters to charge during the day and residents to charge their EV at night.

Waste

- 6.25 The Circular Tayside initiative is continuing to grow. Over the last year and despite the challenges of COVID-19, the Circular Tayside team have held ninety 1-2-1 conversations with local businesses about circular economy opportunities. Twelve events were held that focused on raising awareness of circular economy and supporting businesses to collaborate and move ideas forward.
- 6.26 Zero Waste Scotland have directly supported five local businesses through fully-funded consultancy support to further develop ideas and opportunities in addition of offering expert circular economy advice to a wider group of businesses, stakeholders, and other organisations in the city.

- 6.27 The Council's Waste Management Service are developing a Single Use Reduction Strategy including the launch of a "plastics pledge" and associated toolkit for both householders and businesses in the city.
- 6.28 Zero Waste Scotland have delivered a number of food waste initiatives including a successful pilot project at St Joseph's/Victoria Park Primary School; partnership with Dundee & Angus College to deliver food waste workshops to hospitality businesses; food waste audits with Dundee University hospitality outlets to identify waste hot spots; and support to Dundee City Council.
- 6.29 Council Officers have been working with Zero Waste Scotland to establish waste and recycling baseline measurements for future waste reduction interventions, including a modelling exercise to determine the impact of the deposit return scheme on the waste stream when the scheme is implemented. The date the scheme will go live has changed from April 2021 to July 2022.
- 6.30 The Council's ongoing waste education programme has been paused due to reprioritising waste services as a result of COVID-19. The current programme has been reviewed and changed with a particular emphasis on schools undertaking a greater role to ensure the available resources can reach as many schools as possible. An internal waste reduction project to align all schools with the current Council waste policy has commenced.

Resilience

- 6.31 Dundee's Biodiversity Action Plan was agreed in January 2020 outlining how Dundee City Council and its partners can protect, enhance and raise awareness of biodiversity in the city over the next ten years. The Biodiversity Duty Progress report will be submitted to Neighbourhood Services Committee in November 2020.
- 6.32 The Council has proposed biodiversity / naturalised grass areas in 27 parks and greenspaces across the city. A citywide consultation will be conducted from October to December 2020.
- 6.33 In June this year, the Eden Project, Dundee City Council and the University of Dundee commenced a feasibility study for a new project in the city. Provisionally known as Eden Project Scotland, the proposal is part of Eden's portfolio of international projects which also includes developments in China, Australia, New Zealand and Costa Rica as well as UK projects including in Morecambe, Derry-Londonderry and Weymouth. The study will establish a suitable site for the project, begin developing content ideas and explore the potential for creating jobs and boosting the regional economy. Like every Eden Project around the world, Eden Project Scotland will be transformational and regenerative with an overarching theme of humanity's connection to the natural world. This nationally significant project offers a clear alignment between Dundee's ambitions of tackling climate change and what Eden is known for – sustainability, education and a first-class visitor experience.
- 6.34 The Local Food Growing Strategy was agreed on 10th August 2020 and details existing community growing projects in Dundee whilst identifying potential sites to meet demand for new growing projects. The Community Allotment Officer continues to support and develop projects where appropriate.
- 6.35 Since 2019 a programme of dune restoration works has been implemented, with the ongoing objective to effectively manage the dune range to provide a natural flood protection. Chestnut pale fencing has been installed to limit access by members of the public, with the aim of preventing erosion and protecting the natural grasses and fragile habitat. Non-indigenous plants have been removed and new native species have been planted to stabilise the sand dunes. The management of the dunes is ongoing and regular inspections are being undertaken to identify further works to protect and enhance the area. These works have been undertaken to complement the natural flood protection that the dunes provide to Broughty Ferry.

- 6.36 Broughty Ferry Coastal Flood Protection Scheme is currently under construction. A new seawall is currently under construction along with walkway/cycleway and a combination of setback wall's and flood-gates. The project will take approximately two years to complete. Once complete the new seawall will reduce the risk of flooding to residential, community and business properties, whilst improving and enhancing active travel along the main shoreline of Broughty Ferry.
- 6.37 Dundee City Council and Angus Council have commissioned a Flood Protection Study to identify flood risk areas along the Dighty Water, Gelly Burn and Fithie Burn in the Downfield and Dundee/Monifieth and Sidlaws area and to assess options (including economic viability) for flood protection measures that can be introduced to reduce flood risk to residential and non-residential properties.
- 6.38 There are currently 12 primary and secondary schools in the city actively working towards their Eco-Schools Green Flag award. In pursuit of this award they are involved in a number of environmental initiatives, with waste and energy being the most popular themes. Litter picks and recycling in schools have a high profile, coinciding with the installation of new recycling bins and waste education delivered by the waste team. An eco-conference was due to go ahead in March to coincide with Earth Hour and although cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions, it is hoped to run the conference in 2021. Schools continue to progress their participation in the scheme, taking advantage of the on-line Eco-Schools resources available to them. Schools actively and regularly participate in competitions related to conservation and the environment, such as the European Clean Air at School project, helping to raise awareness of pollution around their schools. Dundee schools have enjoyed a longstanding association with the John Muir Trust and have partnerships with local conservation groups such as Dighty Connect. Some primary schools have been part of a programme, funded by Scottish Natural Heritage to increase participation in learning in outdoor spaces. Teachers are also upskilling themselves by undertaking professional learning in programmes such as Climate Ready Classrooms and STEM by Nature.
- 6.39 In partnership with NHS Tayside and Scottish Natural Heritage, the Council has successfully developed the Green Health Partnership (GHP) as part of the national Natural Health Service. The GHP aims to encourage an increase in social prescribing by linking health care professionals with local greenspace health initiatives, such as Branching Out and the Family Fresh Air Club run by the Dundee Countryside Rangers and Dundee Association for Mental Health's Greenbuds, as well as community growing spaces. A Green Bus Map, linking buses to parks and greenspaces has been launched as well as an e-bike scheme for doctors. Green Health Prescriptions are also being piloted in a number of GP surgeries as part of wider Social Prescribing proposal across Tayside. This is a new referral process for health care professionals to sign-post patients to nature-based interventions instead of traditional prescriptions where appropriate and is supported by Dundee Volunteer and Voluntary Action.
- 6.40 The Council has joined Adaptation Scotland's Benchmarking Working Group comprising a group of public sector organisations actively using their adaptation capability framework and benchmarking adaptation progress, developing case studies and sharing good practice in order to improve climate adaptation strategies in Scotland.
- 6.41 The Council's Sustainability and Climate Change Team offer support to businesses and the tourist industry in Dundee on resilience and climate change, providing information resources and education through presentations (currently in the form of webinars) in partnership with Green Tourism Accreditation and the Dundee and Angus Chamber of Commerce.

Engagement and Awareness Raising

- 6.42 A week of awareness raising events had been planned across local businesses, schools, NHS, universities and communities in the lead up to Earth Hour in March 2020, however the country went into lockdown just prior to this and these activities were put on hold until it is safe and appropriate to do so.

- 6.43 One of these events that had to be postponed was a Green Walk, organised by Friends of the Earth Tayside in partnership with Dundee Botanic Gardens, Friends of Riverside Nature Park, Ninewells Community Garden and the Council. It is hoped that this self-guided walk with talks on Dundee's greenspaces and the climate emergency at different points on the route can take place in 2021.
- 6.44 In August, the Dundee Action Forum organised an online People's Assembly on 'A Green Recovery for Dundee' which took place online over two nights with the aim of building momentum and opportunity for a greener future. It brought together over 80 people from community groups to hear from a range of speakers on different aspects and possible solutions to the climate and ecological crisis and then discuss ideas on what could be important for change in Dundee. The results of these discussions were formulated into a proposal for the Council to assist and inform their COVID-19 Recovery Plan and presented at a deputation to the Council's Policy and Resources Committee on 24 August 2020. As a result, the Committee agreed three recommendations as amendments, outlined in paragraph 4.5 above.
- 6.45 The Dundee Climate Conference due to take place in October 2020 has been rescheduled due to COVID-19 and is now hoped to take place in Sept/Oct 2021 to tie in with COP26 which is expected to take place in Glasgow in November 2021. Prior to lockdown the Council's Sustainability and Climate Change team were in the stage of planning for the Dundee Conference and discussions had taken place with a number of arts-led organisations, charities, universities and schools in Dundee for potential events, talks and creative projects. These will be picked up and progressed in early 2021.

7 DUNDEE CLIMATE LEADERSHIP GROUP

- 7.1 All partners and in particular the Council have an important role to play in tackling climate change. Yet to successfully deliver the target of achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045 or sooner requires the buy-in, support and leadership of citizens, the third sector, and the private sector.
- 7.2 It is therefore recommended that a high-level Dundee Climate Leadership Group be established to bring together leading actors from across the city with the aim of providing expert advice, challenge and encouragement in progressing Dundee's contribution to tackling climate change. The Group would support collaborations to deliver innovative solutions and projects that support a just transition to a net-zero future for Dundee.
- 7.3 It is proposed that an appropriate balance of representation be sought across sectors to reflect the range of key actors whose active participation is needed to lever the required scale and pace of change. As far as possible, there should be representation from public bodies, universities, environmental groups, electricity and gas distribution network operators, the local business community, financial services, manufacturers and entrepreneurs/Innovators.
- 7.4 In order to demonstrate commitment from city as a whole it is proposed that an independent organisation should take the chair role with the Council providing a vice-chair role. To establish the Dundee Climate Leadership Group as a true partnership endeavour resources are sought from all partners with the Council providing administrative support as required.

8 RESOURCING CAPACITY AND SKILLS GAPS

- 8.1 The city's response to the COVID-19 pandemic has shown that change can be delivered at pace. A green recovery for Dundee should therefore both lock in the positive changes from the COVID-19 response and accelerate decarbonisation plans and transformation activities already underway.

8.2 It has been identified that for the Council to accelerate its own progress in delivering an effective response to the climate emergency, current resourcing capacity requires to be reviewed and addressed in the following areas:

- Carbon Budgeting - to ensure Council projects consider carbon emissions savings alongside financial costs and savings as required by the forthcoming duties on public bodies to align spending plans with net-zero targets.
- Project Officer – to support to work on the formulation of investable business cases for decarbonisation and renewables investment projects.
- Campaigning and Engagement - to work in partnership with Council services, partners, and external agencies.

8.3 The Council Management Team is reviewing current resources to consolidate and strengthen capacity within these areas of Sustainability and Climate Change to further drive the co-ordination of the agenda across organisations and within the wider Dundee Partnership. Opportunities for career development and being considered along with external support from city partners.

9 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 This report has been subject to an assessment of any impacts on Equality and Diversity, Fairness and Poverty, Environment and Corporate Risk.

9.2 A copy of the Impact Assessment is available on the Council's website at www.dundee.gov.uk/ia.

10 CONSULTATIONS

10.1 The Council Management Team have been consulted in the preparation of this report and are in agreement with its content.

11 BACKGROUND PAPERS

11.1 None.

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