

REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 5 DECEMBER 2022

REPORT ON: DELIVERING DUNDEE'S CLIMATE COMMITMENTS - ONE YEAR ON FROM COP26

REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CITY DEVELOPMENT

REPORT NO: 281-2022

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To inform committee of action taken to support the C40 Cities: Race to Net Zero Pledge; The Edinburgh Declaration and the Glasgow Food & Climate Declaration, all endorsed by committee ahead to COP26, held in November 2021.
- 1.2 To inform committee of progress in delivering the Council's sustainability and climate change functions since COP26 through partnership work in support of the Dundee Climate Action Plan.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee reaffirms its commitments to the climate emergency and to the C40 Cities: Race to Net Zero Pledge; The Edinburgh Declaration; and the Glasgow Food & Climate Declaration.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Costs associated with the implementation of actions are contained within existing capital and revenue budgets. Funding for future actions has been secured or will be sought through future departmental budgets and external funding sources.

4 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 In November 2021, Glasgow hosted the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) which saw twelve days of climate talks and negotiations focused on how to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement - the first-ever legally binding global climate deal requiring countries to take drastic action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to ensure global temperatures increases do not exceed 1.5 degrees. The participation of subnational governments, cities, and local authorities from across the globe was sought to support the ambitions of COP26 and the conference presented a local opportunity for representatives of Dundee's public bodies, businesses, environmental groups, charities and the creative sector to come together under "Sustainable Dundee" to deliver a programme of local events in the run up to and during the Conference.

5 SUPPORTING CLIMATE PLEDGES

- 5.1 To support COP26, Dundee City Council were asked to demonstrate their ongoing commitment to tackle climate change and shift towards a lower carbon, more inclusive society through becoming signatories to the C40 Cities: Race to Net Zero pledge; The Edinburgh Declaration; and The Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration. Progress in supporting these pledges since COP26 includes:
 - opening of the Waterfront Active Travel Hub and full implementation of Ride On e-bike hire scheme across the city;
 - Biodiversity Action Plan Progress Report to committee in June - areas in 27 of Dundee's parks and greenspaces are now being managed as biodiversity grasslands or naturalised grasslands, thus improving their resilience to the effects of climate change;
 - in March, the Eden Project's initiative to bring 14 hectares of new wildflower habitat kicked off as the first seeds of the ambitious project were sown at Seabraes, supported by

NatureScot and local partners. A further seven meadows will be created at Magdalen Green, Dawson Park, Lochee and Myrekirk Parks, Claypotts Pond, Caird Park and Claverhouse Industrial Estate over the next two years. Funding is being provided by the Alexander Moncur Trust, a grant making charity based in Dundee celebrating its 75th Anniversary this year.

- plans finalised for new East End Campus, replacing Braeview Academy and Craigie High School – the campus will be built to Passivhaus standards, the highest level of energy efficient design;
- COP26 generated great interest and enthusiasm from our young learners. Dundee schools were very engaged in sustainability and climate change issues and have received support from organisations including the Eden Project, Vital Energy, MSIP and received online lessons from Keep Scotland Beautiful, who administer the Eco schools programme as well as sustainability focused STEM support. The Council's Sustainability and Climate Change team are now working with the Pupil Voice to develop an in-person Eco conference/gathering during Earth Hour week in March 2023. We aim to have all our primary school Eco Committees attend this engaging and creative event;
- funding application is in for improved and new active travel routes to the East End Community Campus, with the goal that as many staff and students as possible will be able to walk, wheel and cycle to school. The furthest homes within the catchment area are a 20 minute cycle away;
- nine new Solar PV installations in progress across public buildings;
- Third Phase of the "Invest to Save" initiative procured via the Non-Domestic Energy Efficiency (NDEE) framework completed. The work comprises of the installation of 6 different energy conservation measures in 20 different properties. Projected savings are £245,000 annual energy costs and 562 tonnes of CO₂; and
- five new schools identified for Traffic Exclusion Zones to reduce congestion and improve air quality around schools, building on the success of the scheme for Fintry Primary School.

6 SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE TEAM PROGRESS SINCE COP26

- 6.1 Over the summer of 2021, the team led a city-wide partnership to create '**Dundee Celebrates COP26**', a six-week programme of events with over 30 local partners to engage, educate and encourage people to find solutions to climate change. 'Hub-Fest' at Slessor Gardens launched the programme in conjunction with the launch of Dundee's Active Travel Hub. Storm, the giant sea-goddess puppet, toured Dundee, encouraging spectators to celebrate our seas and care for our coastlines, and drawing people into the event which attracted around 12,000 people. The six-week programme leading up to and during COP26 included architectural installations, lectures, tree planting, business-focussed events, an international electric vehicle conference, Pecha Kucha Night, dance, theatre, and talks. 'Dundee Celebrates COP26' was a finalist at the UK APSE Awards, COSLA Awards and collected a Council OSCA.
- 6.2 As a direct legacy of 'Dundee Celebrates COP26', the **Sustainable Dundee Network** was established to continue this partnership work and create collaborative public engagement initiatives, share innovation, ensure widespread cross promotion of events and develop learning opportunities for net zero.
- 6.3 During COP26 a range of **Climate Literacy training** was delivered for Council staff. These included online Sways that introduced staff to COP26, energy, transport, waste and resilience actions and what they can do to work and live more sustainably; mandatory Climate Literacy training for all staff through the Council's E-Learning platform; and a bespoke Climate Literacy Leadership training course for over 100 managers in partnership with Keep Scotland Beautiful and the Carbon Literacy Project.
- 6.4 On 24 March, the Sustainability and Climate Change team, in partnership with Dundee and Angus Chamber of Commerce, organised a **Net Zero Business Event** for over 50 SME's as

part of Earth Hour Week. The event involved a series of presentations delivered by organisations that could either support businesses on their path to net zero or provide valuable examples of how they themselves have made changes to reduce emissions and become more sustainable.

- a. The **UK Climate Change Committee** visited Dundee on 12 April 2022 as part of their UK tour to better understand the challenges and opportunities of delivering the UK target of net zero emissions. Their visit was intended to listen and learn, with the aim of reflecting key findings in their advice to Government and reports to Parliament. The Committee visited eight locations across the UK, with Dundee its only destination in Scotland. The visit was hosted by the Dundee Climate Leadership Group and the Sustainable Dundee Network, with the Committee meeting a range of partner organisations, visited examples of innovative action and heard from community and creative groups.
- b. In June, the Council submitted the city's first ever climate progress report to the highly respected **Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP)**, a not-for-profit charity that runs the global disclosure system for investors, companies, cities and states to share their climate action. The world's economy looks to CDP as the gold standard of environmental reporting with the richest and most comprehensive dataset on corporate and city action. The assessment result for City of Dundee is expected in November 2022.
- 6.5 In July, members of the **Dundee Climate Leadership Group**, including the Council, Scottish & Southern Electricity, Scottish Gas Networks, Scottish Water commenced work on a first of its kind, public/private whole system approach to **Local Area Energy Planning (LAEP)** and **Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies (LHEES)**, leveraging a £340,000 Ofgem Innovation fund to support its development. The plans aim to establish a comprehensive understanding of the city's energy demand assets for heating, cooling, and power; underpin with a comprehensive data model and credible decarbonisation pathways; identify low carbon energy infrastructure technologies suitable for Dundee; and set out a pathway of actions to attract investment opportunities that are required to drive the transition, including short-term, low/no regrets actions. This is a nationally important project and has attracted interest from the Scottish Government and Scottish & Southern Electricity as a replicable model across the country.
- c. Whilst the Council recognises its leadership role in driving forward the city's transition to net-zero it also recognises that we now require our own internal plan for how we will become a net-zero organisation in accordance with new statutory reporting duties for achieving zero direct emissions; targets for reducing indirect (Scope 3 / supply chain) emissions and how the Council will align its spending plans to contribute to its emissions reduction targets. To support this, the Council's first **Net Zero Transition Plan** is currently being prepared that will set out organisational emissions reduction programmes and targets and a carbon budget for each Service. Workshops have been held with each Service Management Team to inform the plan and provide the initial steps in codesigning its actions. A first draft plan is to be submitted to Council Leadership Team in January 2023.
- 6.6 On 5 September, members of the **Scottish Parliament's Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee** visited Dundee to better understand the role of local government and its cross-sectoral partners in financing and delivering a net-zero Scotland. A series of discussions, presentations and site visits were arranged including tours of Princes Street EV charging hub, Hillcrest Homes, Active Travel hub and MSIP, concluding with a session with community groups at V&A Dundee.
- d. The **Sustainable Dundee Website** (www.sustainabledundee.co.uk) was launched in September as part of activities for Scotland's Climate Week. The website is a newly created and developing resource and information hub to help empower organisations, schools, and residents on their journey to net zero. It features case studies from Dundee City Council, community planning partners and community action groups, a portal for community group funding and practical actions people can take to live more sustainably.
- 6.7 In collaboration with the Sustainable Dundee Network, an interactive **Sustainable Dundee Map** (<https://sustainable-dundee.blue2web.co.uk>) has been created that comprises over 180

sustainability initiatives in Dundee that link directly with each of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs). The tool will be promoted in schools as an educational resource to help set the UN SDGs in a local context, as well as promoting these initiatives to residents and visitors.

- e. Most recently, the **Dundee Climate Fund** has been launched up to support community-led climate change projects in the city. This is the UK's first Council-led Green Participatory Budgeting project and based on a model of Community Choices where citizens decide how to spend a budget that supports the delivery of the city's Climate Action Plan. The Fund has a total of £750,000 over the next four years to support projects that relate to the themes of Energy (reducing consumption, promoting energy efficiency, use of renewables); Transport (encouraging active travel, decarbonising transport); Waste (reducing waste, recycling, reusing resources); Resilience (improving greenspaces, biodiversity, local food growing); and Community Engagement (increasing public awareness, engaging communities and young people in climate change). Each application will undergo a review process to ensure it meets feasibility and eligibility criteria, with eligible projects being shared online via the CONSUL platform for the public to vote on during a publicity campaign that will run over February and March 2023.
- 6.8 On the 7 November, the first day of COP27, the Sustainability and Climate Change team launched the Dundee Climate Emissions Dashboard, hosted on the Sustainable Dundee website. In doing so, Dundee became the first Scottish city and one of the first in the world to digitise its climate data into an interactive, easy-to-understand visualisation of its Climate Action Plan and roadmap towards net-zero. This was created using ClimateOS software and provides an understanding of how the actions in the city-wide Climate Action Plan are impacting Dundee's target of net zero by 2045 or sooner whilst allowing us to model new solutions to close the emissions gap. The team also worked alongside the Sustainable Dundee Network to communicate conversations and actions coming out of COP27 as well as continuing to build momentum by sharing information on the successes and achievements of this past year in Dundee using the Sustainable Dundee communication platforms.

7 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 This report has been subject to the Pre-IIA Screening Tool and does not make any recommendations for change to strategy, policy, procedures, services or funding and so has not been subject to an Integrated Impact Assessment. An appropriate Senior Manager has reviewed and agreed with this assessment.

8 CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 The Council Leadership Team have been consulted in the preparation of this report and are in agreement with its content.

9 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.1 None.

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