

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

SUSTAINABILITY SUB-COMMITTEE

WOODHILL HOUSE, ABERDEEN, 3 FEBRUARY, 2016

Present: Councillors I Davidson (Chair), C C Buchan, G J Clark, L Clark, K Farquhar, and M A Ford.

Apologies: Councillor A S Buchan and P Oddie.

Officers: C Vilar, Sustainability and Climate Change Co-ordinator; R Matheson, Service Manager (Industry Sectors); I Paisley, Fleet Manager; B Smith, Engineering Services Manager; D Armitage, Roads Policy and Asset Manager; A Johnston, Senior Accountant; S Forbes, Health Improvement Officer and K Macleod, Committee Officer.

In attendance: S Govan, Climate XChange.

1. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No interests were declared by any member of the Sub-Committee, in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

2. PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY

In taking decisions on the undernoted items of business, the Sub-Committee **agreed**, in terms of Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010:-

- (1) to have due regard to the need to:-
 - (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
 - (b) advance equality of opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
 - (c) foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it, and
- (2) to consider, where an equality impact assessment had been provided, its contents and to take those into consideration when reaching a decision.

3. MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE OF 26 AUGUST, 2015

There had been circulated and was **noted** the Minute of Meeting of the Sub-Committee of 26 August, 2015.

4. ECONOMICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

The Sub-Committee received an oral presentation from Sarah Govan of Climate XChange on the Economics of Climate Change Adaptation, a project which aimed to examine the costs and benefits to the Council of managing the risks arising from climate change. Reference was made to supporting communities to be climate ready, duties under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act; data on weather-related expenditure, the findings of the research and potential for a further phase of research.

During discussion members asked questions and commented on community resilience and attitude shift, advance planning, investing in regular maintenance, reintroduction of beavers, design and engineering solutions and balancing costs with the likely frequency of weather events.

Thereafter the Sub-Committee thanked Sarah Govan for her interesting presentation.

5. COMBINED IMPACT APPRAISAL SCREENING

The Sub-Committee received an oral presentation from the Health Improvement Officer on the development of a Combined Impact Appraisal for climate change and health inequality impacts. The tool had been successfully piloted and feedback had allowed for further improvements to be made. Discussions were also taking place on potential integration with Equality Impact Assessments.

During discussion members asked questions on whether the policies in the pilot had been modified as a result of the impact appraisal and commented on the need for transparency.

The Sub-Committee thanked the Health Improvement Officer for the progress update and requested that members be given sight of an example Combined Impact Assessment in due course.

6. PUBLIC SECTOR CLIMATE CHANGE DUTIES REPORTING SUBMISSION 2014/15

There had been circulated a report dated 14 January, 2016, by the Director of Infrastructure Services, which (1) explained that the Council was a signatory of the Scottish Climate Change Declaration and had reported on its activities and progress on tackling climate change for a number of years and (2) presented the Council's Public Sector Climate Change Duties Report submission for 2014/15.

The Sustainability and Climate Change Co-ordinator introduced the report and advised that the figures showed more work needed to be done to meet the Council's targets. Officers provided the Sub-Committee with further information on sources of carbon emissions not included in previous submissions, work on the Council's carbon budget, and carbon emissions in relation to fleet, the depot strategy and street lighting.

Members commented that the changing scope of carbon emissions being reported meant that it wasn't possible to compare the figures across different years and understand any trends.

After due consideration, the Sub-Committee **agreed:-**

- (1) to approve the Council's completed submission for the 2014/15 reporting year to the Scottish Sustainability Network on behalf of the Scottish Government;
- (2) to request that further data be reported to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee, showing either (a) only elements which had been consistently reported or (b) retrospective estimates for newly incorporated elements, to allow for comparison with carbon emissions in previous years; and
- (3) to write to the Chief Executive and the Co-Leaders to encourage them to make action on climate change a priority in their leadership.

7. FAIRTRADE ZONE RENEWAL

There had been circulated a report dated 18 January, 2016, by the Director of Infrastructure Services, which (1) advised that the Council's Fairtrade Zone status was due for renewal on 1 April, 2016 and (2) provided the Committee with a progress update on delivery of the Council's Fairtrade commitments.

Following discussion, the Sub-Committee **agreed**:-

- (1) to note that the Council's Fairtrade Zone status was due for renewal on 1 April, 2016 and that a continued commitment from the Council was required to progress with the new application; and
- (2) to support the progress of the Council's Fairtrade commitment to beyond food items, including school uniforms and footballs.

