

On 26 June 2019 in accordance with Standing Order 31.1 Council referred the following motion, proposed by Councillor Coombes, to the Executive:-

Council welcomes the Climate Emergency declarations made by both UK and Scottish governments in recent weeks and the proposed amendment to the Climate Change Bill which will set a target of 'net zero' emissions of greenhouse gases in Scotland by 2045 – the most ambitious statutory target in the world.

Council however notes with concern that the Scottish Government has missed its statutory emissions targets for 2016 and 2017.

Council therefore calls for a report on the actions in place, and planned, by the Council to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Falkirk and the anticipated reductions which these would achieve.

Councillor Coombes, seconded by Councillor Bissett, moved the terms of the motion.

As an amendment, Councillor Garner, seconded by Councillor Alexander, moved, in substitution for the motion, that the Executive:-

- (1) recognises that climate change is an emergency and notes the urgent need for action to address existing negative impacts such as extreme weather, fires, droughts, floods and loss of habitat and indeed species. The Executive understands the impact of Global Warming and the enormous harm that a 2 degrees centigrade average rise in global temperatures is likely to cause, compared with a 1.5 degrees centigrade rise;
- (2) agrees to declare a Climate Emergency immediately and to continue with the excellent work already underway in Falkirk Council and push towards increasing our efforts to reduce our carbon emissions to net zero by 2030, while making Grangemouth our first carbon neutral town;
- (3) notes that the Council would continue to embed climate change throughout the organisation via our Corporate Sustainability Working Group, accompanied with raising climate change to a 'high' level within our corporate risk register;
- (4) agrees to create a network of climate champions throughout the organisational structure and in partnership with Elected Members. This would be complemented by our Climate Week itinerary, which would see the climate change team run several workshops and activities across the second week in October. These would be themed around areas of our carbon footprint to increase awareness within the organisation of the impact that we as a Council make;

- (5) requests a review, with the aim of establishing meaningful carbon reduction targets aligned with the Scottish Government's ambitious targets which would aid the Council in achieving net zero. Targets would also be reviewed by Service area to ensure a whole organisational approach;
- (6) notes the undertaking of large scale actions to reduce the carbon impact within the Falkirk area through the Growth and Investment Deal which would look at energy and carbon reduction projects;
- (7) notes the continued development of our suite of projects aimed at reducing the Council's carbon impact;
- (8) notes the focus on increasing Biodiversity through our aim to plant 40,000 new trees and our peat bog restoration project within the area, to mitigate our climate impact and improve air quality, and
- (9) requests a review of how the climate is changing for the Falkirk area and the development of a strategy on how the Council can help adapt our services and spaces to ensure that the Council area remains a pleasant place to live, work and visit.

The Executive adjourned at 10.20am and reconvened at 10.30am with all members present as per the sederunt.

Following discussion, Councillor Coombes as the mover of the motion, with the agreement of Councillor Bissett as her seconder, indicated that she was willing to amend her motion to replace its clauses with that of the amendment subject to the inclusion of an additional clause 10 as:-

- (10) requests that the Director of Development Services provide information on what actions the Council is taking in relation to climate change and what information can be promoted to individuals. The information to be presented either within a report on the Economic Partnership and Growth Deal or as a standalone item.

## **Decision**

### **The Executive:-**

- (1) **recognised that climate change is an emergency and noted the urgent need for action to address existing negative impacts such as extreme weather, fires, droughts, floods and loss of habitat and indeed species. The Executive understands the impact of Global Warming and the enormous harm that a 2 degrees centigrade average rise in global temperatures is likely to cause, compared with a 1.5 degrees centigrade rise;**

- (2) agreed to declare a Climate Emergency immediately and to continue with the excellent work already underway in Falkirk Council and push towards increasing our efforts to reduce our carbon emissions to net zero by 2030, while making Grangemouth our first carbon neutral town;**
- (3) noted that the Council would continue to embed climate change throughout the organisation via our Corporate Sustainability Working Group, accompanied with raising climate change to a 'high' level within our corporate risk register;**
- (4) agreed to create a network of climate champions throughout the organisational structure and in partnership with Elected Members. This would be complemented by our Climate Week itinerary, which would see the climate change team run several workshops and activities across the second week in October. These would be themed around areas of our carbon footprint to increase awareness within the organisation of the impact that we as a Council make;**
- (5) requested a review, with the aim of establishing meaningful carbon reduction targets aligned with the Scottish Government's ambitious targets which would aid the Council in achieving net zero. Targets would also be reviewed by Service area to ensure a whole organisational approach;**
- (6) noted the undertaking of large scale actions to reduce the carbon impact within the Falkirk area through the Growth and Investment Deal which would look at energy and carbon reduction projects;**
- (7) noted the continued development of our suite of projects aimed at reducing the Council's carbon impact;**
- (8) noted the focus on increasing Biodiversity through our aim to plant 40,000 new trees and our peat bog restoration project within the area, to mitigate our climate impact and improve air quality;**
- (9) requested a review of how the climate is changing for the Falkirk area and the development of a strategy on how the Council can help adapt our services and spaces to ensure that the Council area remains a pleasant place to live, work and visit, and**
- (10) requested that the Director of Development Services provide information on what actions the Council is taking in relation to climate change and what information can be promoted to individuals. The information to be presented either within a report on the Economic Partnership and Growth Deal or as a standalone item.**