

## **EX115. Climate Emergency Update**

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Place Services which provided an update on the work in relation to the Climate Emergency. The report included updates on the following key areas:-

- Carbon Budgeting
- Climate Emergency Action Plan 2022-2030
- Progress toward Net Zero Targets
- Falkirk Council LCLIP (Local Climate Impact Assessment)
- Forth Valley Climate Forest

The Carbon Budget concept would allocate an allowance of tonnes Carbon Dioxide Equivalent (tCO<sub>2</sub>e) emissions annually for each Service area. Services would then be required to keep within their allocated Carbon Budget over the financial year allowing the Council to better manage progress towards meeting its emission reduction targets. Carbon budgeting was due to begin in 2022/23. The next steps were to embed carbon budgeting and develop the carbon budgeting tool for Services.

The Climate Emergency Action Plan outlined Council priorities/key actions to tackle climate change, including:-

- A review of the vehicle replacement programme to move towards a more sustainable fleet
- Improving energy efficiency in residential housing
- Reducing waste to landfill

The Action Plan was supported by the Council's Project Register and illustrated the actions/projects that the Council could implement to realise the reduction in carbon emissions required to meet the Net Zero Targets.

In 2020 the Energy and Climate Change Team updated and developed a new Local Climate Impact Profile (LCLIP). The LCLIP was a snapshot in time which assessed the anticipated weather patterns and how they may adversely affect service delivery.

The Woodland Trust had launched an Emergency Tree Fund, for applications of between £50,000 to £300,000, to help local authorities address the climate emergency, overcome potential barriers, stimulate activity in tree planting, and provide exemplars of innovation and inspiration that could be applied. The Forth Climate Forest would be a ten-year project to harness current urgency and enthusiasm for tree planting to build momentum across communities and regions. The Forth Climate Forest had 3 main objectives:-

- Canopy
- Connectivity
- Carbon.

Councillor Garner, seconded by Councillor Meiklejohn, moved that the Executive:-

- (1)notes the ongoing work across the Council linked to Carbon Budgeting;
- (2)agrees the Climate Emergency Action Plan 2022-2030;
- (3)notes the work outlined in the Climate Change Project Register;
- (4)notes the new Falkirk Council Local Climate Impact Assessment, and
- (5)agrees to participate in the Forth Valley Climate Forest project.

As an amendment in addition the motion, Councillor Bissett, seconded by Councillor Nimmo, moved that the Executive:-

- (6) recognise the importance of energy management in tackling the climate emergency;
- (7) agree to establish an Energy Management Monitoring Group;
- (8) request that the Director of Place Services presents a report to the next meeting setting out details of the Group's Terms of Reference and proposals for categories of Membership. Membership should be wide and include front line staff;
- (9) agree to set energy management targets for each premises for Year One (2022) as:-
  - 3% Electricity
  - 3% Gas
- (10) request that the Group presents an action plan to a future meeting for information which will then be followed by quarterly and an annual update in the Information Bulletin;
- (11) agree that financial savings achieved through energy management work will be reinvested in energy efficiency measures, and
- (12) request that the Corporate Plan is updated to reflect that energy management is an important part of the Council's approach to tackling climate change.

The Executive adjourned at 10.45am and reconvened at 11am with all members present as per the sederunt.

Councillor Garner, with the consent of Councillor Meiklejohn as his seconder, agreed to accept the terms of the amendment into the motion subject to an alteration to clause (9) to set the targets at 5% for electricity and gas. Councillor Bissett confirmed that he was content with this change.

## **Decision**

### **The Executive:-**

- (1) noted the ongoing work across the Council linked to Carbon Budgeting;**
- (2) agreed the Climate Emergency Action Plan 2022-2030;**
- (3) noted the work outlined in the Climate Change Project Register;**

- (4) noted the new Falkirk Council Local Climate Impact Assessment;**
- (5) agreed to participate in the Forth Valley Climate Forest project;**
- (6) recognised the importance of energy management in tackling the climate emergency;**
- (7) agreed to establish an Energy Management Monitoring Group;**
- (8) requested that the Director of Place Services present a report to the next meeting setting out details of the Group's Terms of Reference and proposals for categories of Membership. Membership should be wide and include front line staff;**
- (9) agreed to set energy management targets for each premises for Year One (2022) as:-**
  - 5% Electricity**
  - 5% Gas**
- (10) requested that the Group presented an action plan to a future meeting for information which would then be followed by quarterly and an annual update in the Information Bulletin;**
- (11) agreed that financial savings achieved through energy management work would be reinvested in energy efficiency measures, and**
- (12) requested that the Corporate Plan was updated to reflect that energy management was an important part of the Council's approach to tackling climate change.**