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**East Dunbartonshire Council**

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**COUNCIL** SUNDAY, 1 OCTOBER 2023

**REFERENCE:** EDC/011/23/NU

**LEAD OFFICER:** DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

**CONTACT OFFICER:** NIALL URQUHART, SUSTAINABILITY & PLANNING POLICY MANAGER

**SUBJECT TITLE:** CLIMATE ACTION PLAN: EVIDENCE, OPTIONS AND NEXT STEPS

## **1.0 PURPOSE**

**1.1** The purpose of this Report is to update Council on progress with the development of the Climate Action Plan (CAP); to agree the pathways, target dates and key actions for achieving net zero emissions; and to agree adaptation options and key actions based on the evidence provided..

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Council:

**2.1** In relation to the Net Zero Evidence & Options Report Summary:

- i. approves the recommended pathway to achieve net zero emissions for all Council activities by 2045, and for scope 1 and 2 emissions by 2036;
- ii. approves the recommended pathway to support achievement of net zero emissions for East Dunbartonshire as a whole by 2045; and
- iii. agrees to adopt the measures recommended in Appendix 2 within Appendix 1 to this report ('Recommended Actions for Corporate Net Zero') to progress towards the emissions reductions necessary to meet the net zero targets and notes that the detail of these and the delivery responsibilities for each will be further developed in the Draft CAP;

**2.2** In relation to the Adaptation & Nature-based Solutions Evidence Report:

- iv. approves the adaptation options set out in the Evidence & Options Report as the basis for building resilience to the effects of climate change at both corporate and area-wide levels; and
- v. agrees the proposed actions set out in the Evidence & Options Report and further described in the Adaptation & Nature-based Solutions Options Assessment Report and notes that the detail of these and delivery responsibilities for each will be further developed in the Draft CAP;

### **2.3 Notes:**

- vi. that following agreement of the above, officers will prepare the Draft CAP, setting out the vision, objectives and detailed actions to achieve net zero and build resilience to the negative effects of climate change, to be reported to Council during the first half of 2024; and
- vii. that the financial information provided in the attached reports is indicative only. Further refinement of the costs associated with delivery of actions will be undertaken as part of the preparation of the Draft CAP as set out in paragraphs 3.21 and 4.4 of the report; Progress on the development of the Local Heat & Energy Efficiency Strategy which will provide a key aspect of the evidence base for the production of the CAP.

**ANN DAVIE  
DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

### **3.0 BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES**

**3.1** This report sets out the evidence collected to date to support the preparation of the CAP and sets out the recommended options for achieving net zero, including recommended net zero target dates and associated measures to support meeting the targets, and options and measures to improve resilience to the effects of climate change. The proposed measures and targets will ensure that the Council is taking appropriate action to meet its duties under section 44 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 and other relevant legislation. The evidence and options, and relevant supporting material, are set out in the following reports which are attached as appendices:

- Net Zero Evidence & Options Report Summary (**Appendix 1**)
- Financing Net Zero Report (**Appendix 2**)
- Adaptation & Nature-based Solutions Evidence & Options Report (**Appendix 3**)
- Adaptation & Nature-based Solutions Options Assessment Report (**Appendix 4**)

The full version of the Net Zero Evidence & Options Report and supporting details and technical information for the Adaptation & Nature-based Solutions Evidence & Options Report have been circulated to elected members and are available on request.

**3.2** In January 2021, it was agreed under delegated decision that work would commence on the preparation of a Climate Action Plan (CAP) (PNCA/004/21/SG) and in June 2021, Council agreed the programme for its preparation (PNCA/046/21/NU). That report noted the mounting evidence of the accelerating effects of climate change on our planet, its increasing impacts on weather patterns, and the escalating risks to future wellbeing, economy and security arising from climate change.

**3.3** In 2018, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) highlighted the need for rapid, far reaching change if the commitment to limit global warming to 1.5°C, set by international consensus at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris in 2015, was to be achieved. Without such action, the risk of catastrophic and irreversible climate change would escalate.

**3.4** Following publication of the IPCC report and independent advice from the Climate Change Committee, the Scottish Government significantly tightened Scotland's legally binding emissions reduction targets. The resulting Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019 amended the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, introducing a target to reduce Scotland's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to net-zero by 2045 at the latest, with interim targets for reductions of at least 75% by 2030 and 90% by 2045.

**3.5** The Council's Sustainability & Climate Change Framework (SCCF) was approved by D&R Committee (PNCA/073/16/SG) in November 2016. In December 2019, Council approved an update to the Framework, including the introduction of an Action Plan (PNCA/112/19/SG) which remains the current policy basis for the Council's action on climate change. The SCCF update included the introduction of the following 'headline commitments' for future action on climate change:

- The Council will set a date by which it will reach net-zero emissions, including interim annual targets.

- The Council will report on how its spending plans and its procurement activities align with its agreed emissions targets.
- The Council will report annually on progress towards achieving net zero emissions.

**3.6** These 'headline commitments' reflect changes to the statutory public bodies reporting requirements introduced following the introduction of the Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019.

**3.7** Reflecting these legislative changes, Council report PNCA/046/21/NU (17 June 2021) set out that the main purposes of the CAP will be to:

- Set a date by which the Council can achieve zero direct emissions (emissions that are directly owned or directly controlled by the Council) for its own activities and operations, along with interim targets to support the progressive reduction of the Council's emissions, and setting out the actions necessary to achieve the reductions;
- Identify opportunities to reduce indirect emissions (emissions from sources that are not owned and directly controlled by the Council, including the Council's supply chain), including from procurement activities);
- Work with partners to establish a realistic target date by which net zero emissions can be achieved in East Dunbartonshire as a whole, and identify the main actions necessary to support achievement of this target; and
- Set out a local strategy to adapt to the increasing effects of changing climate and ensure resilience against the future impacts of climate change.

**3.8** An update and further details on the programme for preparation of the CAP and its content was provided to Council in March 2022 (PNCA/022/22/NU).

**3.9** The Climate Action Plan will supersede the existing climate change policies and actions contained in the SCCF and Action Plan and also the Council's existing Carbon Management Plan and will build on the considerable progress the Council has already made on emissions reduction. The Council's overall carbon footprint in 2020-21 was 52% lower than the 2012-13 emissions baseline and the background to this was set out in a report to PNCA Committee in November 2022 (PNCA/101/22/SG).

## **Influences on the Climate Action Plan**

**3.10** The approach being taken to the preparation of the CAP is influenced by a range of primary and secondary legislation and guidance. These include:

- The requirement for public bodies to take the lead in delivering net zero and accelerating action to become a net zero organisation. This guidance is based on the duties placed on public bodies in the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 to use the full range of their functions to address climate change and the expectation that all public bodies lead on achieving the Scottish net zero targets, including a 75% reduction in emissions by 2030 (Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009; Climate Change Plan Update, 2020;

Public Sector Leadership on the Global Climate Emergency Guidance, 2021; Ministerial letter to Council Leaders and Chief Executives, 2021)

- A requirement for public bodies to integrate action on climate change into their governance arrangements. To date, this requirement has been met in East Dunbartonshire by the establishment of a Climate Change Member Officer Group and supporting working groups. These groups oversee and help co-ordinate the development of the Climate Action Plan (Public Sector Leadership on the Global Climate Emergency Guidance, 2021);
- The requirement for public bodies to align investments and programmes with the priorities of the Scottish Government Climate Change Plan Update to support a just transition to net zero and a green recovery (Climate Change Plan Update, 2020; Public Sector Leadership on the Global Climate Emergency Guidance, 2021)
- The introduction of a set of 'milestones' for the public sector, including implementation of the sustainable procurement duty, embedding circular economy principles into procurement strategies, promotion of nature-based solutions to climate change, and support for the delivery of Scotland's Climate Change Adaptation Programme (Climate Change Plan Update, 2020; Public Sector Leadership on the Global Climate Emergency Guidance, 2021);
- The need for public bodies to engage with the private sector to encourage them to take action towards a just transition, including transition planning, a commitment to partnership working, placing equity and environmental considerations at the heart of decision-making and supporting good, green jobs and sustainable procurement (Climate Change Plan Update, 2020; Public Sector Leadership on the Global Climate Emergency Guidance, 2021)
- The requirement for emissions from homes and non-domestic buildings to fall by 68% between 2020 and 2030 and for all homes and buildings to be using zero emissions heating systems by 2045 to meet the Scottish net zero targets. The emphasis on public sector leadership on decarbonisation is reflected in the intention to introduce a series of phased targets commencing in 2024 for the phase-out of all fossil-fuel heating systems in the public estate, with a final deadline for the most challenging buildings to be decarbonised of 2038. Public bodies are also expected to lead in delivering the aim of transitioning at least 1 million homes to zero emissions heat by 2030 (Climate Change Plan Update, 2020; Heat in Buildings Strategy 2021)
- The preparation of Local Heat & Energy Efficiency Strategies for all local authority areas, for completion by the end of 2023 (Local Heat & Energy Efficiency Strategies (Scotland) Order 2022). See paragraphs 3.36-3.42 below.
- Steps to establish the potential for local zero-carbon heat networks, including the requirement for local authorities to prepare a report on Heat Network Zones in their area by the end of 2023 and Building Assessment Reports to be prepared for all public sector buildings as soon as reasonably practicable. The 2021 Act sets targets for the amount of heat to be supplied by heat networks and there is an expectation that local authorities will lead on facilitating this, including through linking their own buildings to heat networks where appropriate. (Heat Policy Statement 2015; Heat in Buildings Strategy 2021; Heat Networks (Scotland) Act 2021; Heat Networks Delivery Plan

2022; Heat Networks (Heat Network Zones and Building Assessment Reports) (Scotland) Regulations 2023)

- Public sector leaders are required to take 'strong action' to decarbonise the public estate fleet with the need for new petrol and diesel cars and light commercial vehicles phased out from 2025 and all new vehicles to be zero carbon from 2030 (Climate Change Plan Update, 2020; Public Sector Leadership on the Global Climate Emergency Guidance, 2021)
- Implementation of changes to the Building Regulations requiring that heating of new and refurbished buildings consented from 1 April 2024 is not by means of a direct emission heating system. In practice, this will mean that new buildings must be heated by heat pumps or direct electric heating rather than gas boilers from that date. Decarbonisation of the electricity grid and electrification of heating is being promoted through the new draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan (Building (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2023)
- National and regional frameworks for adaptation and flood risk management setting the basis for local action to improve resilience to the effects of climate change (Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009; Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009; Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme; Flood Risk Management Strategy Clyde & Loch Lomond Local Plan District 2021; Glasgow City Region Adaptation Strategy & Action Plan)
- The requirement for public bodies to demonstrate in their organisational procurement strategies how they will prioritise and take account of climate and circular economy in their procurement activity, and to report ongoing progress against these commitments in their annual procurement reports (Public Sector Leadership on the Global Climate Emergency Guidance, 2021; Scottish Procurement Policy Note 3/2022)
- The need for public bodies to support skills development and the just transition (draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan 2023; Climate Emergency Skills Action Plan 2020; Scotland's Future Skills Action Plan 2021)
- Supporting decarbonisation and increasing resilience through the land use planning system. Significant weight is given to the global climate emergency, including steps to reduce emissions arising from new development and adapting to a changing climate, in National Planning Framework 4, and these principles will be carried through to both our Climate Action Plan and Local Development Plan 3 (NPF4, 2023)

**3.11** The Draft CAP is being prepared within a rapidly changing landscape in terms of legislation and guidance relating to climate change and related issues. As the Draft Plan is prepared over the coming months these emerging requirements will be taken into account in the proposed measures and actions set out in the Plan. These new influences are expected to include:

- A new Scottish Climate Change Plan with the full draft to be laid before the Scottish Parliament before the end of 2023;
- New Statutory Guidance on climate action for public bodies currently in preparation to replace the interim Public Sector Leadership on the Global Climate Emergency Guidance. Consultation expected early 2024;

- Heat in Buildings Bill (strengthened regulation on decarbonisation of buildings). Initial consultation expected late 2023;
- A Local Authority Cost Strategy for Heat Networks, due 2024;
- Energy Performance Certificate reform, consultation on which is currently under way;
- Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan. Consultation on draft completed; final version expected soon along with sectoral Just Transition Plans;
- New Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Plan (SCCAP 3). Consultation expected early 2024 with final Plan laid in Scottish Parliament later in 2024. It is expected this will include a requirement to significantly accelerate work on climate change adaptation within the public sector;
- Local Transport Strategies guidance is being updated to support climate change objectives;
- The final version of the Scottish Government's 20% Car km Reduction Route Map is expected in late 2023;
- The Circular Economy (Scotland) Bill, which includes development of a circular economy strategy and targets, waste reduction, and improved waste monitoring was laid in Parliament in June 2023 and is currently at Stage 1 of the legislative process;
- A Natural Environment Bill (to include content on nature based solutions to climate change) is due to be introduced to Parliament during 2024.

**3.12** Scrutiny on the performance of public bodies and the ways in which local authorities can contribute to climate change targets is also increasing. The outcome of this work will be taken into account in the preparation of the Draft CAP. Recent and current activity includes:

- Expansion of reporting requirements related to the climate change public bodies duties;
- Publication of the Scottish Parliament Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee report on the Role of Local Government and its Cross-sectoral Partners in Financing and Delivering a Net-zero Scotland (January 2023) which includes recommendations to the Scottish Government on the need for a clearer roadmap for delivery of net zero for local government; the creation of a 'climate intelligence unit' to provide specialist help to local government (now under way); the provision of larger, fewer and more flexible funding streams; speeding up delivery of renewables projects through the planning system; and greater clarification of the role Councils will play in an area-based approach to heat decarbonisation and the additional support they will be offered to prepare LHEES;
- An ongoing investigation by Environmental Standards Scotland into the effectiveness of the systems in place concerning local authorities' contribution to the delivery of the Scottish climate change targets;
- Audit Scotland's 2022 report on 'Addressing Climate Change in Scotland – A summary of Key Recommendations for Public Bodies'; and the 'Auditing Climate Change' strategy published in December 2022.

## **Co-ordination with Supporting Plans and Strategies**

- 3.13** While the CAP will provide the over-arching strategic direction to ensure that the Council meets its statutory net zero and adaptation duties, its success depends on the alignment of its objectives and actions with those of other programmes, plans and strategies prepared and implemented by both the Council and key partners.
- 3.14** Close partnership working is therefore vital to ensure that the Council and partners' policies align with the CAP's emerging objectives and proposed measures. Work on the preparation of the LHEES, which is a key influence and source of data and intelligence for the CAP, has been integrated into the CAP development process, with the same Council officers and consultancy support working on both projects in tandem. This has ensured that their objectives are closely linked and complementary. Other key supporting plans and strategies include the Circular Economy Strategy, which integrates with the waste reduction aspect of the CAP and was approved by PNCA Committee in March 2023; the emerging Greenspace Strategy; Active Travel Strategy and Local Housing Strategy.

## **Engagement**

- 3.15** Internal and external stakeholders have been involved at all stages of CAP development to date. This approach not only helps align the CAP with other emerging policies but also ensures that community and other stakeholder voices are heard and can influence the direction the CAP takes. An initial Climate Conversation early engagement exercise was carried out between March and May 2021 which helped frame the key considerations and emphasis given to each aspect of the CAP. A Report of Consultation on the Climate Conversation was reported to Council in June 2021 (PNCA/046/21/NU).
- 3.16** The approach being taken to engagement is based on the Scottish Government's 'Net Zero Nation: Public Engagement Strategy for Climate Change'. This sets out strategic objectives to 'Understand', ensuring awareness of action necessary to tackle climate change and help people understand how it relates to their lives; to 'Participate', to ensure that people can actively participate in shaping just, fair and inclusive policies that promote mitigation of and adaptation to climate change; and to 'Act', by encouraging and normalising the action needed on climate change in households, communities and places across East Dunbartonshire. Following the 'Net Zero Nation' principles, a range of engagement sessions and events have been undertaken during the evidence-gathering stages to ensure that the CAP is prepared in collaboration with key internal and external partners. The Net Zero Nation principles will continue to underpin the approach taken to engagement as the draft version of the CAP is prepared.
- 3.17** Following on from the Climate Conversation, a regular quarterly newsletter has been published on the Council's website to provide updates on CAP development and update meetings have been held with interested parties during the preparation period. To ensure effectiveness of engagement and efficiency in use of resources, joint engagement on the development of both the CAP and LHEES have been undertaken together. Community workshops to further inform CAP and LHEES development were held in June 2022 and January 2023, with housing interests also being invited to the latter. Throughout the CAP development process to date, a large number of focus meetings have been held with a range of internal and external



stakeholders including community planning partners, distribution network operators/utilities, the NHS and HSCP, and business interests, and an update report was also provided to the Community Planning Partnership Board. Carbon literacy training has also been arranged for elected members and is now being rolled out to community groups. Specific adaptation-related events including elected member adaptation training and community adaptation events have also been held.

**3.18** In terms of internal partnership working, regular meetings of the Net Zero Focus Group and the Adaptation & Nature Based Solutions Working Group have brought together partners from internal Council teams with an interest in, and a role in delivering, the main actions in the CAP. The Member Officer Group has been convened to ensure oversight of the process and keep its elected member representatives and senior management informed of the CAP development process at intervals during CAP preparation and a progress update was also provided to the Council's Strategic Management Team in September 2022.

**3.19** Further engagement will be carried out as preparation of the Draft CAP proceeds over the next few months. Following approval of the Draft CAP, a comprehensive engagement exercise will be carried out to ensure that there is agreement on the vision, objectives and detailed delivery actions contained in the Plan.

## **The Net Zero Evidence & Options Report**

**3.20** A summary of the Net Zero Evidence & Options Report prepared by consultants Ricardo is attached to this report as **Appendix 1**. This sets out options for achieving net zero at both the corporate and area-wide levels and the full technical report has been circulated to elected members and is available on request. The Report sets out the evidence on what action the Council and its partners need to take to make sure that we are on track to achieve net zero emissions by the target year of 2045, in alignment with the Scottish Government's targets set out in the Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019. To conform with the expectation that the Council, along with the public sector as a whole, 'leads' on the delivery of net zero, the Net Zero Evidence & Options Report identifies those areas where it would be practical to deliver net zero in advance of the 2045 target date and the actions we need to take to ensure that this is achieved.

**3.21** The Net Zero Evidence & Options Report includes:

- For the Council as an organisation:
  - The GHG emissions baseline
  - A 'business as usual' scenario which shows what would happen if we took no action to reduce our emissions
  - An assessment of opportunities to reduce emissions across Council services
  - Net zero pathways and costings
  - Offsetting options
  - Governance proposals
- For East Dunbartonshire as a whole:
  - The GHG emissions baseline
  - A 'business as usual' scenario which shows what would happen if we took no action to reduce our emissions

- An assessment of opportunities to reduce emissions across all sectors and mapping of the Council's influence in reducing emissions in various activity areas
- Net zero pathways

**3.22** In addition to the 'business as usual' scenario, a range of other scenarios, or 'pathways' towards net zero have been modelled. Each pathway is based on a set of assumptions with a different level of ambition attached to each pathway. Each of the measures set out in these pathways has a cost attached to them. The consultant has estimated these costs as far as possible given limitations on available data and this provides a range of indicative costs for each of the pathways for comparative purposes. Further assessment work will be necessary to improve the accuracy of these costs along with development of more dependable figures on which future financial planning can be based.

**3.23** It is evident from the work that has been carried out that the costs of meeting net zero will be substantial, with indicative costs at the corporate level ranging from around £429m to £1.37bn in the period to 2045 (before revenue savings arising from the measures taken are factored in). However, equally there will be very significant economic and social costs for the Council and the people of East Dunbartonshire if the Council and other public sector bodies do not act to bring down their own emissions and prepare for the impacts of climate change. The consultants have submitted a 'Financing Net Zero' report to accompany the Evidence & Options Report identifying potential sources of funding to support the cost of transition. This report is attached as **Appendix 2**.

**3.24** At the corporate level, the recommended net zero option, Pathway 1a, enables the Council to reach net zero for scope 1 and 2 emissions by 2036, and scope 3 by 2045. The main features of this scenario are that:

- Scope 1 emissions are substantially reduced by 2036 through a move to electric heating and electric or green hydrogen fuelled vehicles in the fleet.
- Scope 2 emissions are substantially reduced by 2035, mainly due to grid decarbonisation, although a small proportion of emissions remain that could be removed through the increased use of local renewable generation or green energy procurement
- 90% of scope 3 emissions are removed largely due to assumed decarbonisation in the supply chain, enabling net zero to be met by 2045 for all scopes. This assumes that supply chain emission reductions are largely delivered without significant cost to the Council and with limited Council intervention. However, there is a high level of uncertainty related to this and it is recommended that further assessment is required (at a cost of around £100,000).

An explanation of what comprises scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions is included in **Appendix 1**.

**3.25** At the area-wide level, modelling indicates that the recommended net zero option, Pathway 1, would deliver a net zero target for the whole of East Dunbartonshire of 2045, in line with the Scottish target. However, given the Council's very limited influence over most emissions at the area-wide level, there is less certainty associated with setting a target at this level. The main features of this scenario are that:

- Energy use in buildings is largely decarbonised, with the use of zero carbon heat networks and heat pumps, along with improved thermal efficiency
- The electricity grid is decarbonised
- Massive increase in local deployment of roof-mounted solar technologies
- Near complete electrification of the transport sector with reduced demand for LGV and HGV movements
- Car journeys are reduced (e.g. through increased working from home) and a proportion of remaining car journeys are replaced with more sustainable modes
- Decarbonisation of industry
- Reduced emissions from waste
- Reduced emissions from agriculture and land use and increased carbon sequestration in the land use and forestry sector
- However, substantial residual emissions would remain (around 10% of 2019 emission levels are not removed at source) and these emissions would require to be offset through options such as expansion of woodland planting and the regeneration of peatlands.

## **The Adaptation & Nature-based Solutions Evidence & Options Report**

**3.26** Section 44 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 requires public bodies, in exercising their functions, to “help deliver Scotland’s climate change adaptation programme” and the Climate Change (Duties of Public Bodies: Reporting Requirements) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2020 requires that public bodies report on “how the body is contributing to Scotland’s Adaptation Programme”. The Programme, prepared by the Scottish Government, sets out and responds to the priority risks for Scotland independently verified by the Climate Change Committee and as set out in the evidence reports of the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (UKCCRA)

**3.27** The consequences of climate change are increasingly causing impacts across the globe, including an increasing incidence of wildfires, flooding and high winds, and an increasing intensity in the scale and frequency of these events. In the UK, 2022 was the warmest year on record and the 10 years with the highest annual temperature in the UK, since records began in 1884, have all occurred in the last 20 years. The UK’s highest ever temperature was recorded in July 2022 (40.3°C) and Scotland’s highest ever temperature was recorded in the same month (34.8°C). Along with the 2022 heatwave, the UK suffered widespread drought and crop failures testing the resilience of our water supply and agriculture, and more widely Europe suffered its worst drought in 500 years. July 2023 was the hottest month on record globally with ocean temperatures also reaching record high levels. There has also been an increase in destructive storms in recent years, such as Storm Arwen in November 2021 which resulted in damage to transport infrastructure and resulted in extensive loss of power across the east coast of Scotland and England.

**3.28** As these impacts continue to accelerate it is becoming more urgent to ensure that we are taking steps to build resilience. The Council has taken an active role along with its partners in Climate Ready Clyde to develop the Glasgow City Region Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan which was launched in June 2021. The

adaptation strand of the CAP will form the local expression of the regional Strategy and Action Plan, incorporating proposals to progress each of its 11 interventions at the local level. The CAP will also form the delivery mechanism for the 16 high-level Flagship Actions contained within the Strategy at the local level including:

- New integrated climate warning alert system
- Communities shaping climate ready places through a place-based approach
- Climate resilient design principles and guidelines
- Net zero, climate resilient housing retrofit
- Regional transport resilience
- Clyde Climate Forest

Work on delivering the adaptation strand of the CAP will be taken forward together with our partners in Climate Ready Clyde and will include work to develop initiatives such as an Adaptation Finance Lab to establish means of mobilising the finance required to effectively adapt to the impacts of climate change.

**3.29** Nature Scot has identified climate change as the number one threat to Scotland's habitats. Given the close links between the nature crisis and climate crisis, particular emphasis has been placed on work completed to date on nature-based solutions to adaptation as a means of reversing biodiversity decline while addressing both resilience to climate change and the need to sequester carbon. Work on this includes woodland planting, peatland regeneration and wetland creation.

**3.30** The Adaptation & Nature Based Solutions Evidence & Options Report summarises the findings of the Local Climate Impact Profile, which provides baseline data on the frequency and severity of recent extreme weather events; a Climate Risk & Opportunity Assessment; and the development of a suite of Options and Delivery Actions to build resilience to climate change. The full technical data contained in these reports is available on request. Some of these directly support the delivery of the interventions and flagship actions contained in the Glasgow City Region Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan at the local level, while others are more specific to local needs in East Dunbartonshire. All of the Options and Delivery Actions are influenced by the Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme.

**3.31** The Adaptation & Nature-based Solutions Evidence & Options Report is attached to this report as **Appendix 3**. A companion Options Assessment Report which sets out further supporting information on each of the proposed options developed to date, including details of financial and economic analysis and identified constraints and limitations is attached as **Appendix 4**.

### **Climate Action Plan Next Steps**

**3.32** Following agreement of the recommendations of this report, the Draft CAP will be prepared. This will be based on the modelling and recommendations completed as part of the evidence and options work and, in terms of climate mitigation, will develop the agreed pathways to net zero set out in the Evidence & Options Report along with the necessary delivery actions to achieve the emission reduction milestones and targets.

- 3.33** In the case of the net zero work, the recommendations set out in the Evidence & Options Report will be developed along with a carbon offsetting strategy to identify the most effective means of sequestering residual carbon emissions.
- 3.34** In the case of both the adaptation and mitigation aspects of the Plan, further work is required on risk, including development of the recommendations on preparing a Climate Change Risk Register; on the approach to financing the necessary transition; and on meeting our duty to align the Council's spending plans and use of resources to the reduction of emissions and achieving our set emission reduction targets.
- 3.35** The Climate Action Plan will only be successful if each Council service takes the lead in driving the necessary carbon reduction and resilience actions within their operational areas. Collaborative work on this is already under way in key areas such as fleet decarbonisation (assisted by the Energy Saving Trust) and building decarbonisation (assisted by consultants). The Action Plan will identify the Executive Officer leads for each of the corporate actions, along with the key external partners with whom the Council will work to deliver area-wide climate action to support the achievement of the area-wide emissions reduction targets.
- 3.36** The Draft Climate Action Plan will be subject to a range of impact assessments including Strategic Environmental Assessment. Initial assessments based on the work carried out to date are included as **Appendices 5-9** of this report.

### **Local Heat & Energy Efficiency Strategy**

- 3.37** Reports to Council in June 2021 (PNCA/046/21/NU) and March 2022 (PNCA/022/22/NU) set out the requirement for the Council to develop a Local Heat & Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES) and the close relationship between the LHEES and the CAP.
- 3.38** The LHEES will set out how carbon emissions from buildings, which constitute a significant proportion of East Dunbartonshire's emissions, will be addressed via energy efficiency and heat decarbonisation measures. The scope of the LHEES covers both domestic properties, including the Council's own stock, and non-domestic properties.
- 3.39** The Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies (Scotland) Order 2022 places a statutory duty on local authorities to prepare, publish and update a Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy and accompanying Delivery Plan for their area. The Order requires that each local authority must publish their first LHEES and Delivery Plan on or before 31 December 2023, keep them under review and update them at intervals of no more than 5 years after the date of publication of the previous Strategy and Delivery Plan.
- 3.40** LHEES are required to:
- Set out how each segment of the building stock needs to change to meet national and local objectives, including achieving zero greenhouse gas emissions in the building sector, and the removal of poor energy efficiency as a driver of fuel poverty;

- Identify strategic ‘heat decarbonisation zones’, and set out the principal opportunities and measures for reducing building emissions in each zone; and
- Prioritise areas for delivery, against national and local priorities.

**3.41** The LHEES is being developed in line with guidance and a supporting methodology published by the Scottish Government in October 2022. Work is now largely complete on five of the six evidence stages but has been delayed at Stage 6 due to data issues affecting all Scottish local authorities and procurement issues relating to the extension of the contract for technical support. These issues appear to be close to resolution and it is now anticipated that the evidence stages will be completed during the autumn and it is anticipated that the Draft LHEES and initial outline Delivery Plan will be completed in spring 2024.

**3.42** While this will be later than the December 2023 deadline set in the statutory order, the reasons for the delay have affected all Scottish local authorities and discussion has been between Council officers and Scottish Government on the factors causing delay. Officers are also in regular contact with other Scottish local authorities and it is understood that very few if any will be in a position to meet the deadline and that most are aiming to complete their LHEES in 2024. It is understood that the Scottish Government appreciate the reasons for the delay and that is not intended that any action will be taken as a result of the December 2023 deadline not being met.

**3.43** Evidence work undertaken on the LHEES provides much of the data on building emissions informing the CAP net zero evidence and options. As the LHEES is developed, it will continue to provide a source of data and set the policy framework for building decarbonisation and the identification of heat network zones which will then be incorporated into the CAP. Given this close relationship, it is intended that the draft CAP and draft LHEES will be reported to Council together during the first half of 2024, and that joint consultation on both will proceed thereafter.

## **4.0 IMPLICATIONS**

The implications for the Council are as undernoted.

**4.1** Frontline Service to Customers – There are no specific implications on front line service to customers arising from the work carried out to date. As the proposed measures are developed in the draft CAP implications for service delivery will be assessed and reported when the draft CAP has been completed.

**4.2** Workforce - (including any significant resource implications) – none.

**4.3** Legal Implications – The measures set out in the Evidence & Options Reports are strongly influenced by legislative requirements and guidance as set out in paragraph 3.9 of this report. Significant new legislation and statutory guidance relevant to action on climate change and related issues is anticipated in the coming months as explained in paragraph 3.10 of this report. The implications arising from these will be considered and will influence the final measures proposed in the draft CAP.

**4.4** Financial Implications – As set out in the Evidence & Options Reports, there are very significant capital and revenue implications for the Council in meeting its statutory

duties to achieve net zero emissions and increase its resilience to the effects of climate change. There are also considerable financial implications of achieving net zero across East Dunbartonshire as a whole, with costs falling on all sectors of society and the economy. The Evidence & Options report provides indicative costs associated with decarbonisation and the report attached as **Appendix 2** provides further information on financing net zero. Further work will continue in tandem with the preparation of the draft CAP on the financial implications including work on decarbonisation of buildings, decarbonisation of the Council's fleet and the costing and potential means of funding climate change adaptation, in association with Climate Ready Clyde.

It is important that the emerging findings from the CAP process, and the outcome of carbon and cost analyses of proposed projects and programmes, are closely integrated with the Council's Capital Programme and Asset Management Planning process, and that the Council re-visits the financial implications of the actions required to achieve emissions reduction on an annual basis through its budget-setting processes. Officers will continue to liaise as information on the cost of decarbonisation is further developed and report back to Council on these as the information becomes available.

The Net Zero Evidence & Options Report identifies the need to allocate £100,000 for an in-depth assessment of the steps required to decarbonise the supply chain and consideration should be given to allocating this funding in the 2024/25 financial year.

- 4.5** Procurement – In accordance with sustainable procurement commitments, consideration will be given in the preparation of the draft CAP on how the Council's procurement process will promote decarbonisation and the circular economy, while also extending provisions for community benefits to support reskilling and upskilling for the transition to net zero. As set out in the Net Zero Evidence & Options Report, the supply chain is the largest single contributor to the Council's footprint and the report recommends that £100,000 is allocated for a more in-depth assessment of the steps required to decarbonise the supply chain.
- 4.6** ICT – There are no implications arising from this report in relation to ICT. Consideration will be given to the role of ICT in supporting emissions reduction through the development of the draft CAP.
- 4.7** Corporate Assets – The Net Zero Evidence & Options Report places emphasis on the importance of decarbonising the Council's building stock and fleet in order to meet the Council's statutory duties. Action on both are key aspects of achieving the recommended net zero pathways. Officers will work to establish realistic interim targets to be met for the decarbonisation of corporate assets once approval has been given for the incorporation of the recommended pathways in this report into the draft CAP.
- 4.8** Equalities Implications – The equalities implications of this report are set out in **Appendix 6**.
- 4.9** Corporate Parenting – There are no implications arising in relation to Corporate Parenting.
- 4.10** Sustainability – The Evidence & Options Reports have been prepared in the context of the statutory requirement for public bodies to "act sustainably" in exercising their

functions. The main purpose of the CAP is to ensure that the Council meets the three public bodies duties set out in the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009. In addition to acting sustainably, this includes contributing to delivery of Scotland's national net zero target and helping deliver Scotland's climate change adaptation programme.

**4.11 Other** – There are no other direct implications arising from this report.

## **5.0 MANAGEMENT OF RISK**

The main risk associated with this work is increased pressure on Council and partner resources (e.g. officer time and particularly budgets) to align with climate transition and achievements in relation to progress adhering to new emissions reductions targets in line with Scottish Government targets (or delivered earlier, if possible) and to implement other actions within the CAP. The risk and control measures relating to the preparation of the CAP are set out in **Appendix 8** in full however a number of control measures are in place including project planning, engagement and governance arrangements.

## **6.0 IMPACT**

- 6.1 ECONOMIC GROWTH & RECOVERY** – The evidence and options work on the CAP has been prepared alongside the development of the Circular Economy Strategy which was recently approved by PNCA Committee and is now at the implementation stage. The draft CAP will reflect the agreed actions in the Circular Economy Strategy and the approved Economic Recovery Plan. The draft CAP will consider how East Dunbartonshire can benefit from the opportunities associated with green recovery, while minimising the risks presented by the climate emergency.
- 6.2 EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS** – The need for rapid decarbonisation of the economy offers opportunities to nurture employment and training in green growth sectors of the economy. The CAP will integrate with the Economic Recovery Plan to identify skills development to capitalise on these opportunities and will consider how the principles and actions contained in Scotland's Future Skills Action Plan and the Climate Emergency Skills Action Plan and Implementation Plan can be effectively delivered at the local level.
- 6.3 CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE** – Climate action is of particular relevance and importance to children and young people. Focused consultation has been carried out to gather the views of young people during the evidence stages of CAP development and this will continue as the CAP is developed.
- 6.4 SAFER & STRONGER COMMUNITIES** – The impacts of climate change tend to fall disproportionately on more vulnerable communities and households. The evidence stage of the adaptation strand of the CAP has considered the socio-economic impacts of climate change and ways in which these can be mitigated.
- 6.5 ADULT HEALTH & WELLBEING** – Climate change can have significant impacts for health, wellbeing and safety. Environmental and social determinants of health, including clean air, the prevalence of infectious diseases, and availability of nutritious food and safe drinking water are all impacted by the causes and effects of



climate change. The impacts of extreme weather events which are made more likely by climate change, such as heatwaves and flooding, can have a direct effect on physical wellbeing. Climate change can also affect mental health, for example through the effects of flooding on homes and impacts on businesses. These effects have been considered as part of the evidence work undertaken to date and the responses to them will be further developed through the preparation of the draft CAP.

- 6.6 OLDER ADULTS, VULNERABLE PEOPLE & CARERS** - The impacts of climate change tend to fall disproportionately on more vulnerable communities and households. The impacts of extreme weather events which are made more likely by climate change, such as heatwaves and flooding, can have a direct effect on physical wellbeing. Climate change can also affect mental health, for example through the effects of flooding on homes. The adaptation strand of the CAP will consider the socio-economic impacts of climate change and ways in which these can be mitigated.
- 6.7 CLIMATE CHANGE** – The CAP is intended to form the overarching policy response of the Council to climate change, ensuring that the Council takes a consistent and integrated approach to meeting its statutory climate change duties.
- 6.8 STATUTORY DUTY** – The CAP is strongly influenced by the action required to ensure that the Council is fully meeting its statutory climate change public bodies duties and reporting on those duties, as required by the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 and related legislation, and other relevant legislation and statutory guidance.

## **7.0 POLICY CHECKLIST**

**7.1** Completed versions of the following are appended to the Report:-

- Appendix 5:** Policy Development Checklist template checklist attached
- Appendix 6:** Equality Impact Assessment template assessment attached
- Appendix 7:** Strategic Environmental Assessment completed
- Appendix 8:** Risk Assessment template assessment attached
- Appendix 9:** Data Protection Impact Assessment Policy template assessment attached

## **8.0 APPENDICES**

- 8.1 Appendix 1:** Net Zero Evidence & Options Report Summary
- 8.2 Appendix 2:** Financing Net Zero Report
- 8.3 Appendix 3:** Adaptation & Nature-based Solutions Report
- 8.4 Appendix 4:** Adaptation & Nature-based Solutions Options Assessment Report
- 8.5 Appendix 5:** Policy Development Checklist template checklist
- 8.6 Appendix 6:** Equality Impact Assessment template assessment

**8.7 Appendix 7:** Strategic Environmental Assessment

**8.8 Appendix 8:** Risk Assessment template assessment

**8.9 Appendix 9:** Data Protection Impact Assessment Policy template assessment