

PERTH AND KINROSS COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

Friday 10 December

CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION

Report from Service Manager for Planning and Housing (Report No. G/21/183)

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report explores how climate change can be incorporated into the Community Planning Partnership. It considers both how community planning partners can work together to meet the collective duties that many face as public bodies under the Climate Change Act (Scotland) 2019 as well as considering how CPP members can jointly act to address inequality and climate change

1. BACKGROUND / MAIN ISSUES

- 1.1 Delivering a 'Just Transition' is one of the Scottish Government's key principles in developing its approach to the on-going climate crisis. This is similarly reflected as a key principle of Perth and Kinross Council's proposed Climate Change Strategy that will be considered at the Council Meeting on 15 December 2021. This linkage between climate change and inequalities is important because without action, many of the impacts of climate change will disproportionately affect those already disadvantaged. Examples of this include that across Scotland areas of higher deprivation are more likely to have an increased risk of flooding and experience higher levels of air pollution.
- 1.2 More importantly, addressing climate change also has the potential to help reduce inequalities and there are many actions that benefit both agendas. Improving energy efficiency reduces fuel poverty and improves health, while reducing emissions. Improving public transport and the active transport infrastructure can help with transport poverty. A significant number of green jobs will need to be created, which suitable training could lead to employment opportunities.
- 1.3 The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019 places a duty on Public Sector Bodies to take action to contribute to achieving Scotland's climate change targets, which applies to many of the Community Planning Partners. Associated with this Act and through subsequent legislation, several targets have been placed on public bodies. In addition to overall requirements to decarbonise and build resilience, it includes more specific the requirement to transition the light fleet away from petrol or diesel light fleet by 2025 and decarbonise estates by 2038 at the latest, with new interim targets for different building types expected early next year.

- 1.4 At the CPP Board Meeting in October, it was recognised the importance of climate change to meeting all five of the LOIP emerging priorities and it was agreed that Climate Change should be threaded through. This report supports that ambition and considers how community planning partners can work together to meet the collective duties that many face public bodies under the Climate Change Act (Scotland) 2009, as well as considering how CPP members can jointly act to address inequality and climate change.

2. PROPOSALS

Delivering a just transition

- 2.1 There are multiple ways that the CPP can take action to help deliver a just transition from the climate crisis. Many are also closely related to on-going work and, in some cases, are already happening. This can be around ensuring that when teams work in communities, they are able to help identify instances of fuel or transport poverty; working with the voluntary sector to ensure there is consistent messaging going out on climate related topics or helping to ensure training focused on developing green skills is reaching the necessary people.
- 2.2 There will also be opportunities to support other CPP priorities when tackling climate action. For example, over the next decade over 80% of social housing is going to need retrofitting to remain compliant with rising standards over the next decade. This will provide an opportunity to engage with residents on multiple issues at the same time.
- 2.3 To ensure that the intersection of climate change and inequalities is appropriately addressed, the Board is asked to commit to reviewing current and future workplans through the lens of delivering a just transition from the climate crisis.

Joint working to meet public sector duties

- 2.4 Many community planning partners are facing the same challenges around addressing climate change – there is significant benefit identified associated with organisations working together and sharing knowledge. This can include estate and infrastructure rationalisation (e.g., joint charging and the use of waste heat). Working together on sustainable procurement can drive increased value in terms of scale and outcome.
- 2.5 As such, it is recommended that the Board agree to establish a CPP climate change working group that meets at least quarterly – initially focused on estates and transport. The purpose of this group will be to share knowledge and help identify opportunities for joint working. The Climate Change Team from Perth and Kinross Council offers to provide the secretariat function for this group and the Chair will be agreed at the first meeting. It is proposed that the working group provides quarterly updates back to the Board.

- 2.6 To provide oversight of both the proposal for joint working and the delivery of a just transition, it is proposed that Climate Change becomes a standing item on the Board's agenda.

3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Board

- i) commits to reviewing current and future workplans with the lens of delivering a just transition to the climate crisis;
- ii) approves the establishment of a Climate Change Working Group that will report back to the Board quarterly;
- iii) agrees to make climate change a standing item on the Board agenda.

