

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

15 November 2021

CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITMENTS

**Report by Executive Director (Communities)
(Report No. 21/209)**

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report is to inform elected members of the Covenant of Mayors, the Edinburgh Declaration and the Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration, outlining the commitments required for each.

It also seeks approval for the Council to become signatories to the declarations, demonstrating the Council's ongoing commitment to tackle climate change, in advance of the Climate Change Action Plan being submitted to Council at its next meeting.

1. BACKGROUND / MAIN ISSUES

- 1.1 Perth and Kinross Council formally recognised the urgent need to take action on climate change in June 2019. In December 2019, Council approved the Interim Climate Emergency Report and Action Plan, committing the Council to take ambitious climate action (Report No. 19/362). The detailed Climate Change Action Plan will be submitted the Council meeting in December 2021.
- 1.2 Cities and local governments across the globe have been called to act in response to climate change. To help identify the ambition of cities, ensure consistent action, and facilitate the sharing of best practice, a number of climate declarations/initiatives have been developed. This paper outlines the benefits of joining the following five declarations/initiatives which have been introduced to assist cities and local governments in tackling climate change. These initiatives have been reviewed at the officer Climate Change Board with the recommendation to join them. These are in addition to the Race to Zero Campaign, which the Council has already signed up for on 14 October 2021, following agreement at its meeting on 6 October 2021.

2. OVERVIEW OF THE INITIATIVES

The Global Covenant of Mayors

- 2.1 The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (GCoM) is the largest global alliance for city climate leadership, built upon the commitment of over 10,000 cities and local governments to tackle the challenges of climate change. The cities and partners share a long-term vision of supporting voluntary action to combat climate change. By becoming part of the alliance, cities and local governments are empowered to drive climate action in their communities by working with city/regional networks, national governments, and international institutions.

2.2 Joining the GCoM requires making the following commitments to:

- undertake a community-wide Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emission inventory.
- carry out an assessment of local climate hazards, risks and vulnerabilities.
- set measurable emissions targets at least as ambitious, and preferably more ambitious, than their respective government's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement.
- set ambitious climate adaptation goals, in line with National Adaptation Plans (where these exist).
- set sustainable energy access goals consistent with the principles around energy access and urban sustainability embodied in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- establish an action plan to meet stated targets setting out how to implement the commitments on climate mitigation, adaptation and access to sustainable energy.
- measure and monitor the impact of the implemented action over time, making key data and plans publicly available.

Glasgow Food & Climate Declaration

2.3 The Glasgow Food & Climate Declaration is a commitment by local and regional governments to tackle the climate emergency through integrated food policies and a call on national governments to act. It brings together all sizes of local authorities to speak with a unified voice in renewing their commitments to develop sustainable food policies, promote mechanisms for joined-up action and call on national governments to put food and farming at the heart of the global response to the climate emergency.

- (i) Local authorities that sign the Glasgow Declaration renew their commitment to take a food system approach to the climate emergency and continue to work on adopting and implementing sustainable integrated food policies. In doing so, signatories also add their voice behind the call to action targeted at national and international policymakers at COP26.
- (ii) The specific commitments associated with signing the Glasgow Declaration include:
 - developing and implementing integrated food policies and strategies as key tools in the fight against climate change; and ensuring that these instruments adopt a food systems approach that involves actors across all parts of the food chain; include metrics to assess greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction targets from food systems, as well as opportunities for cooperation and best practice sharing between subnational governments.
 - reducing GHG emissions from urban and regional food systems in accordance with the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals and building sustainable food systems that are able to rebuild

ecosystems and deliver safe, healthy, accessible, affordable, and sustainable diets for all.

- calling on national governments to establish supportive and enabling policy frameworks and multi-level and multi-actor governance mechanisms, allowing coordinated decision-making on food systems.

The Edinburgh Declaration on post-2020 global biodiversity framework

- (iii) As part of the development of the Edinburgh Declaration on post-2020 global biodiversity framework, the Scottish Government led the 'Edinburgh Process' a collaboration process with regional and local partners. The Edinburgh Declaration sets out the aspirations and commitments of the Scottish Government, as well as the wider local and regional government constituency of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in delivering for nature over the coming decade.
- (iv) The Edinburgh Declaration commits devolved governments, city councils and other local authorities to continue to build upon our previous efforts, to deliver transformative actions by:
- recognising the overall value of nature and integrating it into subnational, city and local planning, management and governance instruments
 - implementing appropriate actions that deliver on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework goals and action targets
 - aligning biodiversity strategies and actions, and our monitoring and reporting efforts with National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), within our subnational, city and local competencies
 - increasing resource mobilisation for investment in biodiversity action at subnational, city and local levels, and providing incentives to ensure positive outcomes
 - mainstreaming biodiversity across public, private, and business sectors to achieve greater environmental, societal, and economic resilience
 - communicating, educating, and raising public awareness with specific efforts to make knowledge available in several languages
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- strengthening capacity building in order to implement nature-based solutions (NBS) and green and blue infrastructure, particularly through ecosystem-based approaches and as a contribution to a green recovery from COVID-19
 - providing opportunities for knowledge exchange across subnational, city and local levels, and between all sectors of society
 - sharing best practices across subnational, city and local levels, to efficiently implement transformative actions

3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 By joining these initiatives, it recognises that the Council is committed to taking its responsibilities seriously, which will be further demonstrated by the

Climate Change Action Plan to be presented to Council on 15 December 2021. It will also help meet the Paris Agreement objectives.

3.2 It is recommended that Perth and Kinross Council commit to the following initiatives:

- (i) The Global Covenant of Mayors
- (ii) Glasgow Food & Climate Declaration
- (iii) Edinburgh Declaration on post-2020 global biodiversity framework

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1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Strategic Implications	Yes / None
Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement	Yes
Corporate Plan	Yes
Resource Implications	
Financial	None
Workforce	None
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	
Assessments	
Equality Impact Assessment	None
Strategic Environmental Assessment	None
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	Yes
Legal and Governance	None
Risk	None
Consultation	
Internal	Yes
External	None
Communication	
Communications Plan	None

1. Strategic Implications

Community Plan and Corporate Plan

1.1 The outcomes associated with delivering the commitments associated with the declarations will support all five of the Council's Community Plan and Corporate Plan Outcomes:

- (i) Giving every child the best start in life
- (ii) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens
- (iii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy
- (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives
- (v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations

2. Resource Implications

Financial

2.1 While there are significant financial resources required for taking action on climate change and biodiversity, these commitments do not pose additional resource requirements beyond those already required to meet our legislative duties. These will be outlined in the Climate Action Plan due at Council in December 2021.

Workforce

- 2.2 These commitments will require limited additional reporting duties that can be incorporated into current officer workloads. Similar to financial resources, additional staff will be required to meet our legislative duties.

Asset Management (land, property, IT)

- 2.3 N/A

3. Assessments

Equality Impact Assessment

- 3.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council is required to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between equality groups. Carrying out Equality Impact Assessments for plans and policies allows the Council to demonstrate that it is meeting these duties. The Equality Impact Assessment undertaken in relation to this report can be viewed clicking [here](#).

- (i) Assessed as **not relevant** for the purposes of EqIA

Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 3.2 The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 places a duty on the Council to identify and assess the environmental consequences of its proposals.

This section should reflect that the proposals have been considered under the Act and:

- Option 1* However, no action is required as the Act does not apply to the matters presented in this report. This is because the Committee are requested to note the contents of the report only and the Committee are not being requested to approve, adopt or agree to an action or to set the framework for future decisions.

Sustainability

- 3.3 Under the provisions of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 the Council has to discharge its duties in a way which contributes to the achievement of sustainable development. Under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 the Council also has a duty relating to climate change and, in exercising its functions must act:
- in the way best calculated to delivery of the Act's emissions reduction targets;
 - in the way best calculated to deliver any statutory adaptation programmes; and
 - in a way that it considers most sustainable.

Legal and Governance

3.4 N/A

Risk

3.5 N/A

4. Consultation

Internal

4.1 The Council's Officer Climate Change Board was consulted and is supportive of this decision.

External

4.2 N/A

5. Communication

5.1 N/A

2. BACKGROUND PAPERS

2.1 N/A

3. APPENDICES

3.1 N/A