



Glasgow City Region

Cabinet

Report by Leader of East Dunbartonshire Council

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Item 9

4th June 2019

Climate Ready Clyde – creation of a Climate Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan for Glasgow City Region

Purpose of Report

- provide an overview of Climate Ready Clyde and the work that has been undertaken to date
- brief Cabinet on the climate risks and opportunities facing the city region and the work underway to develop the City Region's first Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan, and
- propose arrangements for working with Glasgow City Region on the development of the Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan

Recommendations

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- notes the contents of the report; and
- endorses the creation of a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan, led by Climate Ready Clyde.

Introduction

1. There is a growing imperative for Glasgow City Region to adapt to the impacts of climate change. Whilst efforts to accelerate emissions reductions are underway (notably through the recent 'net zero' emissions target for Scotland), the City Region should also be preparing for the impacts of climate change. Reducing emissions and adapting to climate change is a strategic issue for city regions around the world with most adopting comprehensive climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies.
2. This paper briefs Cabinet on the:
 - strategic case for adaptation
 - key risks and opportunities Glasgow City Region faces from climate change, and
 - emerging approach to developing Glasgow City Region's first Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan being progressed by Climate Ready Clyde.

Background

3. Climate Ready Clyde is a partnership of the region's eight Local Authorities, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, SEPA, SGN, SPT, Transport Scotland, University of Strathclyde, and University of Glasgow. The initiative focuses solely on climate change *adaptation* i.e. preparing the city region for future impacts of climate change. Climate Ready Clyde was formed in 2016 with initial support from Scottish Government, it is now funded by the partners to support the Climate Ready Clyde secretariat which is delivered by the Scottish sustainability charity, Sniffer. Climate Ready Clyde attends the Glasgow City Region Land Use and Sustainability Portfolio to update on Climate Ready Clyde-related activity.

Benefits of climate adaptation in inclusive growth and place making

4. Effective adaptation offers a range of benefits for Glasgow City Region:
 - **promoting and protecting economic growth and prosperity** – financial markets and global investment flows are beginning to take account of climate risks with Glasgow City Region ranked on various international indices of risk used to inform ratings agencies and institutional investors. This process is also affecting domestic finance. As of April 2019, lenders and insurers are required to report to their Boards on their exposure to the climate risks, in turn this influences lending and financing. Ensuring Glasgow City Region is adapting to current and future climate risks will ensure it remains an attractive place to do business
 - **contributing to high-quality place-making** – adaptation can play a successful role in making Glasgow City Region a great place to live, work and play such as through the provision of green networks, or sustainable,

resilient transport systems. In turn, this contributes to vibrant communities, a strong labour market and high quality environment

- **supporting inclusive growth** - climate impacts can disproportionately affect those who are more socially vulnerable, due to age, health or socio-economic status. Adaptation offers the potential to promote a fairer, more just transition which reduces this impact on communities
 - **ensuring value for money and minimising additional cost** – planning activities with the future climate in mind ensures they deliver their intended social and economic benefits. Effective adaptation also reduces the unplanned costs from disruption to services or assets from extreme weather.
5. Adaptation is also a statutory requirement. Section 44 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 requires public bodies, including Local Authorities to exercise functions in the way best calculated to deliver the Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme.

Climate Risk and Opportunities for Glasgow City Region

6. Climate Ready Clyde has worked with over 100 stakeholders to develop an evidence base on the risks and opportunities Glasgow City Region faces. The [Risk and Opportunity Assessment](#) will help prioritise regional action, setting out where more action is needed now to manage climate risks to 2100.
7. The Risk and Opportunity Assessment has identified a 67 risks and opportunities relevant to all stakeholders operating in Infrastructure, the Built Environment, Society and Health, Natural Environment and Economy and Business and Industry. The assessment also considered risks associated with international climate change, and factors which enable GCR's institutions to adapt.
8. Around a third to a half of risks would benefit from further action in the next five years either in relation to building capacity and understanding or through more tangible action on the ground. Areas where more action is needed and where Local Authorities can play a key role in the next five years include risks to:
- **transport infrastructure** - from erosion and storms
 - **existing infrastructure, homes and businesses** - from surface water and river flooding and coastal flooding and sea level rise
 - **new residential and commercial development** - from surface water and river flooding
 - **infrastructure, buildings and green space** - from rising temperatures and more frequent and extreme heatwaves
 - **business from disruption to supply chains and distribution networks** – both in the City Region and beyond, and
 - **social care facilities** - from flooding and overheating.

9. The assessment also identified a much smaller number of opportunities stemming from climate change. These included:
- **reduced infrastructure disruption** - from reduced extreme cold events;
 - **reduced heat demand for buildings**;
 - **increased health and wellbeing** - from reduced cold and increased use of greenspace;
 - **opportunities to provide adaptation goods and services**, and
 - **increased viability for small scale renewable generation and food growing**.

The economic implications are significant, with a conservative estimate suggesting the aggregate cost to Glasgow City Region to be £400m a year by the 2050s. These are average figures and in any one year, figures could be much higher due to extreme events.

10. Whilst adapting will entail new action with cost implications, early adaptation is more cost effective than responding to the impacts. Failing to do so will result in higher cost pressures from climate impacts.

Towards an Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan for Glasgow City Region

11. Climate Ready Clyde is developing an Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan, with a draft due at the end of the financial year (March 2020). This will provide the framework for our collective preparedness and will focus on two aspects:
- ensuring Glasgow City Region's organisations and individuals have the collective capacity to plan for and manage future climate impacts and
 - managing priority risks and opportunities.
12. Climate Ready Clyde will be undertaking workshops and one-to-one discussions with organisations to develop the plan. It will also ensure that those who are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change are specifically engaged to focus action on those most likely to be disproportionately affected.

Implications for climate change mitigation

13. To play its full part on climate action, Glasgow City Region will also need to develop an ambitious and urgent approach to reducing emissions alongside the adoption of an adaptation strategy and action plan.
14. The Scottish Government has declared a 'climate emergency' and signaled its intention to adopt a net-zero emissions target in Scotland by 2045. The Chief Executives' Group may wish to consider the most appropriate regional response, through mechanisms such as a shared target on emissions

reduction supported by regional coordination to develop new projects and programmes to meet it. Any such work is not within the remit of Climate Ready Clyde and would need to be separately resourced, however, its secretariat has experience in this space and would be more than willing to help scope this.

Recommendations:

15. In light of the above, it is recommended that Chief Executives' Group:
 - Notes the contents of the report; and
 - endorses the creation of a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan, led by Climate Ready Clyde.