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Glasgow City Council

Environment, Sustainability and Carbon Reduction City
Policy Committee

Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhoods,
Regeneration and Sustainability

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Item 3

8th June 2021

COP26 LEGACY: ROLE OF COMMITTEE

Purpose of Report:

To provide an update on the role of the Environment, Sustainability and Carbon Reduction City Policy Committee in developing a legacy for COP26.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Committee notes the contents of the report.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

Local member(s) advised: Yes No consulted: Yes No

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 On [1 April 2021](#), members agreed a motion at the meeting of Full Council which committed to providing a progress report to each City Policy Committee reflecting on their role in developing a legacy for COP26 before summer recess.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to respond to this motion and provide an update on the role of the Environment, Sustainability and Carbon Reduction City Policy Committee (ESCR CPC) in developing a legacy for COP26.

2. Background

- 2.1 In November 2021, participants from nations and territories around the world will arrive in Glasgow for the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference – COP26.
- 2.2 Following postponement of the conference in 2020 due to Covid-19, COP26 is now due to run from 1–12 November 2021 at the Scottish Event Campus (SEC). The intent remains to hold the summit in person, whilst putting the health and wellbeing of local communities and delegations at the centre of decisions about how the event will take shape.
- 2.3 Glasgow's focus for COP26 is on supporting and delivering a safe and successful event by keeping the city moving, supporting the appropriate public health measures and delivering a legacy for the city.
- 2.4 Legacy is being delivered across the council family, with a particular emphasis on ensuring a just transition, and to encourage the behaviour change needed to reach the city's ambitious net zero target. Examples include:
 - Adding momentum to current ambitions, in particular through the Sustainable Glasgow partnership.
 - Working to forge international partnerships to ensure that Glasgow's exposure on the world stage can drive further global connections, in particular to other cities in relation to sustainability issues.
 - Using Glasgow's role as host city to support its promotion as a green and welcoming city and bring further events and green tourism to the city.
 - Working closely with the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce to ensure that the city's businesses can grasp the opportunities offered by the global connections.
 - Working with schools to engage and empower children and young people through existing programmes and those being developed due to COP being in Glasgow.
 - Using the People Make Glasgow brand to promote the city as an attractive destination across the globe to the international COP26 audience.

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- Using the People Make Glasgow Greener brand to engage citizens on climate issues and encourage behaviour change.
- Supporting and enabling cultural organisations to activate in response to, and during COP.

3. ESCR CPC and COP26 Legacy

3.1 All Committees across the Council have a role to play in developing a legacy for COP26, however the ESCR CPC has a unique role in that it leads on the development of sustainability and climate change policies within the Council.

3.2 The remit and Terms of Reference for the ESCR CPC is as follows:

'To fulfil the functions of policy development (including consideration of equalities issues) as they relate to Council policies and services for environment, sustainability and carbon reduction. These functions include:

- transport infrastructure;
- active travel strategy;
- transport for Glasgow;
- highway maintenance and improvements;
- sustainability;
- climate change;
- road safety;
- lighting strategy;
- parks regeneration and events;
- street environment;
- waste and recycling;
- energy management;
- environmental health;
- pollution;
- trading standards;
- scientific services;
- Nuclear Free Zones;
- low emission zone;
- flood risk management; and
- partnership engagement.'

3.3 Given the wide-ranging remit of the ESCR CPC as outlined above, there are several workstreams through which the Committee continues to play a critical role in developing a legacy for COP26. There is no doubt that the arrival of such a prestigious and significant event will add momentum to the current work being undertaken by the ESCR CPC; this report does not intend to discuss all of these and will instead focus on the key broad workstreams of the Committee which will contribute towards developing a COP26 legacy. These areas as follows:

- Climate and Ecological Emergency Plan.
- Sustainable Glasgow Partnership.

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- Green New Deal for Glasgow.
- Relaunch of Clean Glasgow Strategy and People Make Glasgow Greener.
- Circular Economy Routemap.

4. Key Workstreams: COP26 Legacy

4.1 The following workstreams will help to deliver a greener and climate smart COP26 legacy for future generations.

4.2 Climate and Ecological Emergency Plan (CEEP)

The CEEP is being considered by Committee on 8 June 2021. Some specific actions within the plan relevant to COP26 legacy include:

- To ensure that we build a successful and lasting legacy from COP26, we will develop a dynamic Climate Change Communications strategy for the city. This will be undertaken in collaboration with our Sustainable Glasgow Partners and will include a renewed presence on social media and encouraging participation and sharing best practice across all city stakeholders including our citizens (action 1).
- Through the City Development Plan 2 (CDP2), the City will continue to use the Placemaking Principle to build quality places in the city. Thus ensuring that neighbourhoods are pleasant to live in, resource efficient, and contain high quality buildings. By promoting connectivity, more sustainable and equitable communities can be shaped. This will be delivered through the new Locality Plans which will help build a healthy, better connected city, where citizens participate in the decisions that are made about their local area (actions 14 and 21).
- Helping to bring about Glasgow's ambition of becoming a cooperative city, a framework of engagement with local energy co-operatives will be established, enabling them to be set up and providing support (action 7).

A Climate, Resilience, and Sustainability Board is being built alongside a Programme Management Office (PMO) to ensure that the correct level of governance and resource is put in place, thus providing the framework upon which the Council and its partners in Sustainable Glasgow can achieve our ambitious targets set out in the CEEP, and evidence and maintain a suitable legacy from COP26.

4.3 Sustainable Glasgow Partnership

Sustainable Glasgow Partnership, formed in 2010, aims to make the City one of the greenest in Europe and will be one of the key platforms through which to develop COP26 legacy.

The Partnership was relaunched in 2019 following the Council's declaration of a state of climate and ecological emergency, and in response to COP26 taking place in the city. The relaunch of the partnership was informed by a public event, at which participants had the chance to listen and contribute to the goals

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and ambitions of Sustainable Glasgow moving forward. The key themes emerging from this event were around people, carbon, transport, climate, and the City.

Following on from this, four thematic hubs were created that sit underneath the board and are tasked with driving action in the run up to, and as part of the legacy of COP26. The four thematic hubs are as follows:

- Heating & Housing
- Greening the City
- Green Infrastructure and Transport, and
- Green Economy & Private Sector

The thematic hubs are already producing outputs that will contribute to the City and its targets, building a legacy from COP26, the first of which is the production of a Sustainable Glasgow Charter, which will invite organisations in the city to join and commit to playing their part in the race to Net-Zero Carbon.

4.4 Green New Deal for Glasgow

The Council has recently recruited a Green Economy Manager who will be based within Economic Development. The Green Economy Manager will provide a leadership role to develop a strong and robust Green New Deal and green recovery programmes for the city.

COP26 offers a unique opportunity for Glasgow to push itself harder to achieve its own ambitions on sustainability and to engage its communities in an ongoing civic conversation about carbon and climate – a central part of that will be the developing work around the Green New Deal. The ESCR CPC considered an initial report on the work towards a Green New Deal in Glasgow on [24 November 2020](#). Working alongside the Council's Sustainability team, the development and delivery of a Green New Deal for Glasgow will be a priority for the Green Economy Manager role. This will include building a portfolio of investable projects in the run up to COP26 that will support the City's ambitions to be net zero carbon by 2030 whilst simultaneously stimulating economic growth and job creation.

A Just Transition Skills Seminar is currently being planned for June 2021. The event will focus on the skills required to support the transition to a greener economy. It will bring together the colleges, universities, education and will include private sector representation to discuss the development of a 10 year skills plan for just transition.

4.5 Relaunch of Clean Glasgow Strategy and People Make Glasgow Greener

Clean Glasgow was relaunched and considered by Committee on [16 March 2021](#). It aims to prevent incidences of littering and general environmental dereliction through education, enhancement, engagement and enforcement. The strategy has been updated to take account of new and emerging issues

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and opportunities through COP 26 – the event is viewed as a catalyst for change in the City. The marketing of Clean Glasgow will be part of the People Make Glasgow Greener campaign to maximise the opportunities and attention that hosting COP26 will bring to the city. The campaign will bring together all relevant Council projects under one unifying brand. It will run in two main phases over this financial year, with the second phase planned for the immediate weeks after COP26 to capitalise on the profile and momentum generated by the event. People Make Glasgow Greener has a clear proposition of personal responsibility and a lifespan beyond COP26, building a positive legacy for citizens.

4.6 Circular Economy Routemap

The Circular Economy Routemap was approved by the CAC on [3 December 2020](#). The Route Map aims to guide a change in city-wide economic practices from the current linear system of the throwaway society. As a result, it addresses the need to move away from the “take-make-dispose” model to a circular system of quality, reuse and durability. It is intended that the Route Map’s ten year vision will enhance awareness of sustainable practices, promote a message of considered consumption and provide a challenge to the current wasteful consumerist practices that exist in society.

The City is already benefitting from this work, with Glasgow taking centre-stage amongst the leading lights in the field of circular economics, leading to the city being invited to join prestigious Ellen MacArthur Foundation, as well as becoming important and influential members of the C40 Group and Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance. Continuation of this work through the lens of COP26 will cement Glasgow’s place in the field of circular economics and the just transition and build a legacy from COP26.

4.7 Future Committee Workstreams

There are several future workstreams to be developed by the ESCR CPC which will contribute towards COP26 legacy and these will be incorporated into the new Committee workplan. Contained within these reports will be COP26 legacy statements to recognise the contribution the workstream will make to developing a COP26 legacy. Some examples of these workstreams include:

- Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy.
- Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan.
- Regional Adaptation Strategy.
- Glasgow Transport Strategy.

5. Post COP26

- 5.1 The key aim of COP26 is to seek global action to safeguard the future of the planet and its inhabitants from global warming and to ensure that the Paris

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commitments to keeping global temperature rises below 1.5 degrees centigrade are maintained.

- 5.2 Whilst section 4 outlines the key broad workstreams which are currently ongoing, the Committee will be required to reflect further upon its role in developing a COP26 legacy once the agreements/actions from the COP26 event itself are known.

6. Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

Financial: There are no specific financial implications.

Legal: There are no legal implications.

Personnel: There are no new personnel requirements.

Procurement: There are no procurement implications.

Council Strategic Plan: The work ongoing in developing COP26 legacy supports and enhances the Sustainable and Low Carbon City theme. The report supports strategic plan numbers 53-72.

Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2017-22 Yes, generally supportive.

What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report? Positive impact.
Climate change does not discriminate in its impacts, but our responses and ability to recover can unintentionally do so. As a result, through COP26 legacy work, we will endeavour to continually minimise the negative impact that climate change may have on the ability of our most vulnerable communities to recover, while also maximising their ability to participate and benefit from our transition to a carbon neutral city.

Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address An overarching focus of COP26 legacy is one of inclusion and justice in an effort to tackle the climate and ecological emergency while also

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socio economic disadvantage.

bridging the gap on deep socio-economic and health inequalities in the city.

Sustainability Impacts:

Environmental:

COP26 legacy seeks to enable the city to reduce its carbon emissions more rapidly and build resilience to the impacts of current and future climate change.

Social, including opportunities under Article 20 of the European Public Procurement Directive:

COP26 legacy is strongly linked to equality and social justice.

Economic:

Supports proposals for a Just Transition and greening the economic development agenda.

Privacy and Data Protection impacts:

No immediate impacts.

7. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee notes the contents of the report.