

Step Up to Net Zero programme – Funding approved.

2 Councillor Aitken, Leader of the Council and City Convener for Inclusive Economic Growth, presented a report regarding the delivery of a circular economy demonstrator as part of the Council's commitment to delivering a COP26 legacy and funding for the Step Up to Net Zero programme, advising

- (1) that over the last 6 months the Council had made significant progress in addressing the climate emergency and had developed a clear vision in realising its green ambitions through the development of the Glasgow Green Deal and the creation of a Greenprint for Investment and that 1 of the 8 areas of focus outlined in the Glasgow Green Deal was ensuring competitive industry and a circular economy;
- (2) that Glasgow's business community had a significant role to play in supporting the city's ambitions to become net zero carbon by 2030, and a circular city by 2045 and the council had made a commitment to green its wider business support offer and work was ongoing to put in place a comprehensive support programme which would play a key part in informing the Council's longer-term approach to green business support and that on 17th June 2021 (Print 3, page 171) this committee had agreed that 6 projects be submitted to the UK Government for funding from the UK Community Renewal Fund;
- (3) that the Step Up to Net Zero project proposed by the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce and delivered through Circular Glasgow, was the highest scoring application received and the receipt of national employability funding had created some resource within the wider Economic Development budget for a one-off investment which would enable the Council to proceed with this demonstrator project and begin addressing the climate emergency through direct support of initiatives that would positively impact on the business community, individuals and the climate.
- (4) that the programme would see SMEs assessed through a Circle Assessment tool with an action plan developed, encouraging the business to adopt more circular practices within their organisation, which would, in turn, aim to support a reduction in their carbon footprint and business would also be supported by an individual through a business placement to drive this action plan forward, as detailed in the report;
- (5) that this 12-month project would create 40 job placements in Glasgow and provide up-skilling and re-skilling opportunities for those not yet in the workplace, as well as those already in work and looking for re-skilling opportunities as detailed in the report; and
- (6) of the 3 key beneficiary groups for the Step Up to Net Zero programme.

After consideration, the committee

- (a) approved funding of £628,676 to deliver the Step Up to Net Zero programme; and

- (b) noted that an evaluation report would be submitted to committee at the conclusion of the project.