

Appendix 2

Proposals for establishment of Dumfries and Galloway Council Climate Emergency Cross Party Working Group

Role

The role of the Climate Emergency Cross Party Working Group is to oversee the implementation of Dumfries and Galloway Council's 12-point Climate Emergency Plan.

Guiding Principles

Dumfries and Galloway Council (the Council) declares a Climate Emergency and recognises the impact this will have on quality of life. The Council recognises its responsibility to tackle climate change and fully commits to taking effective action to limit the impact on our region and its people. (*Climate Emergency Declaration Action Point 1*)

The Council recognises the challenges ahead to tackle climate change and, whilst it has already made significant strides towards achievement of a regional net zero carbon status, the Council will seek to achieve this outcome by the year 2025 and, wherever possible, embrace opportunities to accelerate its target date. (*Climate Emergency Declaration Action Point 2*)

The Council recognises its critical strategic leadership role to tackle climate change and will create a new and specific Council Priority from which its strategic objectives and outcomes will flow. (*Climate Emergency Declaration Action Point 3*)

With the magnitude of the task ahead, it is important to note that the Declaration, 12-point plan and establishment of the Cross Party Working Group represent a radical and comprehensive step change in the Council's approach over the last decade to climate change. Consequently, a collegiate cross-party alliance is crucial, and indeed is the reasonable expectation of the communities the Council represents. The Council must therefore adopt an ethos that ensures in the years ahead, nothing should be off the table in its commitment to protecting quality of life for generations to come.

Membership

The requirement is for a Cross Party Working Group. An Elected Member from each political group or grouping would be nominated to form the Working Group. A nominated substitute from each political group or grouping would also be provided.

The meetings will be chaired by an Elected Member. The appointment of a Chair and Vice-Chair should be confirmed at the initial meeting of the Working Group.

Approach

To derive the maximum benefit from the proposed arrangements the following approach would be applied to the workings of the Working Group:

Due to the nature of the business to be discussed, maximum benefit will be obtained from the Working Group through a full and frank exchange of views.

In accordance with the above, it is proposed that the discussions of the Working Group are minuted, setting out the actions to be taken as a result of debate for the purposes of ensuring that agreed actions are tracked and progressed.

The Working Group has no decision-making powers and the Council's Standing Orders do not apply to the Group. Members of the Working Group would participate on a co-operative and constructive basis.

Frequency of Meetings

An eight week cycle of meetings would be established.

Administrative arrangements

Meetings of the Working Group will be scheduled by Democratic Services. An officer will attend to minute the Working Group's discussions and agreed actions. The minutes of meetings (MoMs) and meeting papers will be distributed to all Elected Members.

Information for all members of the Working Group will be provided electronically, five days in advance of scheduled meetings. Hard copy papers will also be distributed by Democratic Services if requested.

A rolling list of actions agreed at each meeting will be available for consideration and will form a standing agenda item for meetings of the Working Group.

Senior officers, along with policy and service leads, will be in attendance as required.

Reporting

Regular updates on progress will be reported to the Economy and Resources Committee and will be scheduled based on the work and recommendations of the Working Group.

Other reporting to Service Committees in relation to specific delegations and responsibilities will be scheduled as matters arise or decisions are required.