

**CONSULTATION ON THE ROLE OF PUBLIC SECTOR BODIES IN TACKLING
CLIMATE CHANGE**

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Climate Change and Environmental Action Short Life Working Group (thereafter referred to as SLWG) of current Scottish Government Consultation titled 'The role of public sector bodies in tackling climate change'.
- 1.2 The closing date for submissions for this consultation is 4th December 2019. The Council's Climate Change Board will be discussing and finalising the consultation response at the next planned meeting of the Board on 11th November.
- 1.3 Any Members of the SLWG who wish to contribute or submit feedback to this consultation via the Climate Change Board are encouraged to do so.

Recommendation

That the SLWG:-

- 1.3.1 Note and consider this live Scottish Government consultation;
- 1.3.2 Agree that the Climate Change Board will submit a response on behalf of the Council before the 4th December deadline;
- 1.3.3 Are encouraged to feedback any comments relating to the consultation to the Climate Change Board before their meeting on 11th November so they can be considered; and
- 1.3.4 That the finalised consultation response will be presented to the SLWG at future meeting.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Climate Change and Environmental Action Short Life Working Group (thereafter referred to as SLWG) of current Scottish Government Consultation titled 'The role of public sector bodies in tackling climate change'.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

That the SLWG:-

3.1.1 Note and consider this live Scottish Government consultation;

3.1.2 Agree that the Climate Change Board will submit a response on behalf of the Council before the 4th December deadline;

3.1.3 Are encouraged to feedback any comments relating to the consultation to the Climate Change Board before their meeting on 11th November so they can be considered; and

3.1.4 That the finalised consultation response will be presented to the SLWG at future meeting.

4.0 DETAIL

4.1 In 2009, The Climate Change (Scotland) Act was passed which set a target to reduce Scotland's greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% by 2050 from a 1990 baseline. The target was based on evidence that global greenhouse gas emissions reductions of between 50% and 85% by 2050 would be required to minimise the chances of a global temperature rise in excess of 2°C.

4.2 In December 2015, the United Nations Climate Change Conference was held in Paris. At the conference, a global agreement was made to limit the global temperature rise to 2°C by the end of the century and pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5°C. This was termed the UN Paris Agreement and came into force on 4 November 2016.

- 4.3 In May 2019, the UK Committee on Climate Change published its report entitled 'Net Zero – The UK's contribution to stopping global warming'. The report was a response to a request from the Governments of the UK, Wales and Scotland to reassess the UK's long-term emissions targets. One of the report's recommendations was that Scotland achieves net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045. The Scottish Government has agreed with this recommendation and, along with a number of other Public Sector Bodies, has declared a 'climate emergency'. On 26 September 2019, the Scottish Parliament passed the Climate Change (Emissions Reductions Targets) (Scotland) Bill accepting the new 2045 net zero target.
- 4.4 The Scottish Government considers the public sector to have a key role to play in tackling climate change. The Scottish Government is, therefore, consulting on the role that Public Sector Bodies can play in tackling climate change. Part 4 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, entitled 'Public Bodies Duties' places a duty on Public Sector Bodies to take action with respect to climate change mitigation and adaptation. In 2015, the Scottish Government implemented the part of the Act that requires Public Sector Bodies to report annually on their emissions and action taken to tackle climate change.

and Land Reform, and supported by a Senior Officials Group from across the bodies involved. It would be focussed on making strategic connections at the highest levels across the most ambitious public bodies.

4.9 The key consultation questions are considered to be:-

Q1. What additional training, information or s s

6.4 HR:	None at present as consultation
6.5 Fairer Scotland Duty:	None at present as consultation
6.6 Equalities – protected Characteristics:	None at present as consultation
6.7 Socio-economic Duty:	None at present as consultation
6.8 Islands:	None at present as consultation
6.9 Risk:	None at present as consultation
6.10	