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ADDITIONAL CIRCULATION



To: Councillor Yuill, Convener; Councillor Radley, Vice Convener; and Councillors Ali, Blake, Henrickson, Hutchison, Massey, Nicoll and van Sweeden.

Town House,
ABERDEEN, 30 August 2024

NET ZERO, ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

The undernoted item is circulated in connection with the meeting of the **NET ZERO, ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE** to be held in the Town House on **TUESDAY, 3 SEPTEMBER 2024 at 10.00am.**

ALAN THOMSON
INTERIM CHIEF OFFICER – GOVERNANCE

BUSINESS

DEPUTATIONS

- 4.1 Deputation for Item 9.1 - Air Quality Progress Report - Elizabeth Leslie (Pages 3 - 50)

Should you require any further information about this agenda, please contact
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Deputation Request for item 9.1 Air Quality Progress

The Clerk

Aberdeen City Council
Marischal College
Broad Street
Aberdeen AB10 1AB

Dear Steph,

Re: Deputation Request on Air Pollution Reduction Measures in Aberdeen

I am writing to formally request a deputation at the upcoming Sept 3rd, 2024 Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee meeting. My request relates to the report titled "2024 Air Quality Annual Progress Report (APR) for Aberdeen City Council" (June 2024) as published by Aberdeen City Council's Protective Services.

Purpose of Deputation

The purpose of my deputation is to seek clarification on the necessity and appropriateness of the air pollution reduction measures currently being implemented in Aberdeen, particularly in light of the findings presented in the 2024 Air Quality Annual Progress Report. The report highlights that there were no exceedances of key air quality objectives for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) across the city in 2023. This marks a significant improvement in air quality and raises questions about the need for further stringent measures.

Key Points of Concern

1. **Misalignment with Air Quality Statistics:** The report clearly indicates that air quality in Aberdeen has improved to the extent that certain Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) are being considered for revocation or amendment. Despite this, significant air pollution reduction measures, such as the enforcement of the Low Emission Zone (LEZ) starting in June 2024, are being rolled out. It is unclear why these measures are necessary when the air quality objectives are already being met.
2. **Voluntary Commitment to the Covenant of Mayors:** In 2008, Aberdeen City Council voluntarily signed up to the Covenant of Mayors, an initiative that aligns with the EU's climate and energy targets. This political commitment, as outlined in the Covenant of Mayors report by the Corporate Director for Strategic Leadership, was made independently of any Scottish Government directives. The Council committed to developing a Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) to achieve a 20% reduction in CO₂ emissions by 2020. However, this decision was voluntary and part of a broader EU agenda, rather than a direct response to local environmental conditions.
3. **UK's Departure from the EU:** Since the United Kingdom, including Scotland, has left the European Union, the continued alignment of Aberdeen City Council's policies with EU directives, such as those influenced by the

Covenant of Mayors, is questionable. Given that we are no longer bound by EU regulations, it is worth asking why Aberdeen continues to adhere to a voluntary EU initiative that may not be relevant to the current needs of the city and its residents. This raises serious concerns about the rationale behind these decisions and whether they reflect the post-Brexit landscape in which local policies should be tailored to the specific needs of the UK and Scotland, rather than being driven by outdated EU commitments.

4. **Merger with Mayors Adapt Initiative:** The Covenant of Mayors later merged with the Mayors Adapt initiative, creating a unified approach to climate change mitigation and adaptation. While this merger aims to streamline efforts and strengthen local action plans, it is important to note that participation in this initiative is still voluntary and not mandated by the Scottish Government. The Council's decisions to implement measures like the LEZ seem more influenced by this EU-aligned commitment than by local air quality data.
5. **Public Opposition to Climate-Based Travel Restrictions:** Surveys conducted in 2023 and 2024 overwhelmingly showed that the majority of Aberdeen's residents opposed the climate-based travel changes and restrictions being proposed or implemented in the city. A poll reported by Aberdeen Live in August 2023 indicated that 90% of respondents opposed the LEZ plans for Aberdeen. Similarly, a more recent survey reported by the Press and Journal in January 2024 revealed that the majority of respondents were against the LEZ implementation in the city centre. This opposition indicates that the measures do not have the support of the public, yet they continue to be pursued under the pretext of environmental necessity. The Covenant of Mayors is a voluntary political movement and should not be mistaken as a binding obligation from higher government authorities.
6. **Challenges to the Necessity of LEZ Enforcement:** In a letter dated 11th April 2024, Liam Kerr MSP (Conservative Party, North East Scotland Region) rejected the Council's claim that the LEZ enforcement is a compulsory order from the Scottish Government. Mr. Kerr clarified that the decision to introduce the LEZ in Aberdeen was not mandated by the Scottish Parliament but was a voluntary application by the City Council. This assertion raises further doubts about the appropriateness of these measures, especially in light of the improved air quality statistics and the public's opposition to such restrictions.
7. **Impact on Public and Economic Activities:** The implementation of these measures, particularly the LEZ, has been met with scepticism and criticism from the public and business communities, as acknowledged in the report. The continued enforcement of these measures could have adverse effects on local businesses and residents, especially when the air quality data suggests that such measures may not be as crucial as previously thought.
8. **Resource Considerations and Strategic Leadership:** According to the Covenant of Mayors report, there are significant resource implications associated with the development and implementation of SEAPs, which require strong strategic leadership. Given the challenges in resource allocation and the local opposition to these measures, it is critical that Aberdeen City Council reconsiders its commitment to these initiatives, ensuring that they are both financially viable and aligned with local needs.
9. **Request for Re-evaluation:** Given the positive air quality trends, the public's opposition to climate-based travel changes, and the clarification from both the Covenant of Mayors and the Scottish Government, I respectfully request that

the Council re-evaluate the necessity of these ongoing measures. A more data-driven and locally-focused approach may be required to ensure that public resources are being used efficiently and that the measures align with the current air quality realities and the wishes of the people of Aberdeen.

Questions for the Council

- Why does Aberdeen City Council continue to align with EU directives, such as those under the Covenant of Mayors, when the UK and Scotland are no longer part of the EU? Shouldn't local policies reflect the current post-Brexit environment and the specific needs of our community?
- Given the improved air quality in Aberdeen, as evidenced by the 2024 Air Quality Annual Progress Report, what is the justification for continuing with stringent air pollution measures like the LEZ?
- How does the Council reconcile the implementation of these measures with the overwhelming public opposition, as indicated by recent surveys?
- What are the specific benefits that Aberdeen expects to achieve by maintaining its commitment to the Covenant of Mayors, especially in light of the UK's departure from the EU?
- Is the Council willing to reconsider or amend these measures if they are found to be more aligned with a political agenda rather than the actual environmental and economic needs of Aberdeen?

Action Requested

I request that the Committee considers the following actions:

- Reassess the need for continued enforcement of the LEZ and other related measures in light of the recent air quality data.
- Reconsider the commitment to the Covenant of Mayors and its influence on local policy, particularly if it does not align with the specific needs and desires of Aberdeen's residents.
- Explore alternative strategies that could maintain or further improve air quality without imposing unnecessary restrictions or costs on the public and businesses.
- Provide a clear explanation to the residents of Aberdeen regarding the rationale behind these measures, especially when the air quality is reported to be within acceptable limits and considering the confirmation that the LEZ was not a Scottish Government mandate.

Thank you for considering my request. I look forward to the opportunity to present this deputation in person and engage in further discussion on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

Elizabeth Leslie

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The EU Covenant of Mayors and Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy

Purpose

1. To update Members on recent developments relating to the Covenant of Mayors.

Recommendation

2. The Executive Group is invited to:
 - i. Note the changes in scope and membership of the Covenant of Mayors;
 - ii. Note the main findings of the recent Covenant of Mayors Scotland event, and
 - iii. Discuss whether further help to local authorities is needed for those who may wish to sign the Covenant.

Introduction

3. The Covenant of Mayors is a voluntary political movement for Local Authorities to commit to EU climate targets, principally the reduction of CO₂ emissions over and above the EU targets for 2020. Since its creation in 2009, it has become the "world's biggest urban climate and energy initiative" with over 6,800 signatories. It has traditionally had a focus on climate mitigation through the implementation of a sustainable energy action plan (SEAP). Following political endorsement by the Local Authority, and formal signature, signatories agree to develop a SEAP and then to report back on progress after two years.
4. The Covenant of Mayors Office is managed by a consortium of five Local Authority networks including our EU umbrella organisation CEMR, and it is financed by the European Commission. In Scotland, the Covenant has to date been signed by Aberdeenshire, Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Dumfries and Galloway, Glasgow, and North Ayrshire with COSLA performing the role of official supporting organisation.
5. The Covenant of Mayors framework is constantly evolving. In October 2015 the Covenant of Mayors was relaunched to reflect new EU 2030 climate and energy targets and to merge with Mayors Adapt, a similar initiative dealing with climate adaptation. Glasgow, Edinburgh and Stirling Councils are party to Mayors Adapt having pledged to develop comprehensive adaptation strategies or to integrate adaptation to climate change into existing plans. Obligations made separately to either the Covenant of Mayors or Mayors Adapt by Scottish Councils still stand and there is no compulsion to update immediately existing commitments.
6. In practice the new 2030 Covenant of Mayors has meant that new signatories now commit to a 40% CO₂ emission reduction target by 2030 and to develop an integrated Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP). Existing Covenant of Mayors members are encouraged to update their plans in advance of 2020. At the same time, the Covenant increased its geographical scope to create a Covenant of Mayors for Sub-Saharan Africa and for the Americas and Asia. It also became an official data provider of NAZCA, a United Nations platform that showcases the commitments of non-state actors to international climate action.

The new Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy

7. Recently the EU Covenant of Mayors merged with the United Nations Mayors Compact to launch the new combined Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy. This similar (yet smaller) UN initiative was championed by the former New York mayor and media tycoon Michael Bloomberg acting as UN Special Envoy for Cities and Climate Change. The Compact was a coalition of Mayors and city representatives committed to decreasing carbon emissions and building capacity for climate resilience.
8. It is intended that the new merged UN-EU Covenant of Mayors will provide a common platform bringing together relevant data on cities' energy and climate actions currently reported to the platforms supporting the EU Covenant and Compact of Mayors. By creating the biggest global coalition committed to climate leadership, it is hoped that cities and Local Government will have more visibility within the UN climate negotiations. The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy is scheduled to go live at the start of 2017.
9. While this merge has some obvious synergies as it brings together the UN and the EU and includes not only energy but wider climate change commitments, there was little advance notice of this development and no discussion with either signatories or supporting organisations, hence COSLA will assess in coming months what are the practical implications of bringing this new agreement forward in Scotland as well as COSLA own continued engagement.

Covenant of Mayors Ambassadors

10. In June 2016, an inauguration ceremony was held at the Committee of the Regions for the newly appointed Covenant of Mayors Ambassadors. Not only will the ambassadors promote the initiative in their respective Member States but they will become climate ambassadors committing to promoting local and regional climate action. They will also have a role in representing the Covenant of Mayors at major events on national and international level such as the next UN Climate Summit (COP22) in Marrakesh this December. Indeed as part of that meeting the EU Committee of the Regions (COSLA nominates and supports four members) will organise a Cities Summit to discuss how partnership working across levels of government can expand and improve the membership of the Covenant. The UK Covenant Ambassadors are Cllr Kevin Peel, Member of Manchester City Council and Cllr Judith Wallace, Member of North Tyneside Council.
11. In addition to continue funding the secretariat of the Covenant the European Commission has indicated that as to deliver the Paris summit climate agreement specific support would be provided for the development of the integrated global Covenant of Mayors, but also the establishment of a "one stop shop" for Local Authorities. The aim will be to give Local Authorities further practical tools to contribute to the low carbon transition.

The Covenant of Mayors Scotland Event

12. COSLA organised a Covenant of Mayors Scotland awareness-raising event in February 2016 for participating Councils and those who may wish to consider membership and to scope the potential and challenges of current membership. It was a well-attended event that sought to support Councils in their low carbon sustainability work by exploring Scottish best practice and collaborative approaches with other authorities, public sector partners and academia. The Covenant of Mayors Office presented recent developments, outlined the methodological framework and detailed the integration of climate mitigation and adaptation activities through SECAP development. The City of Edinburgh Council outlined the extensive local sustainability agenda in the city and Dumfries and Galloway

Council discussed efforts to put environmental protection at the centre of Community Planning.

13. The Covenant of Mayors is both voluntary and flexible and there are options to join as a consortia. Neighbouring Councils can join as a group of signatories and submit a joint sustainable energy plan which either commits to the 40% CO₂ reduction target on individual or collective basis. Therefore, Intercommunale Leiedal, a regional development association, participated as event speakers to outline the collective approach of 13 Belgian municipalities working together. Furthermore, the Institute for Future Cities, based at Strathclyde University spoke to delegates about the role of academia and the possibility of working with students for data collection and analysis. COSLA officers are happy to provide the detailed minutes of the Covenant of Mayors Scotland to any Member that requests so.

Potential Issues for Scottish Councils

14. In Scotland, we of course do not have Mayors, and therefore it is important to stress that *to join the Covenant of Mayors you do not require a Mayor or to be a city authority*. The EU strongly stressed that the Covenant is open to all Local Authorities made up by democratically elected representatives, whatever their size or stage of implementation of their energy and climate policies. The name of the Covenant is merely presentational and just reflects that in most European countries there are mayors. In other European countries Mayors often perform a broad role with some similar duties to that of a Chief Executive, Council Leader and Lord Provost/ Provost. Following political endorsement by the Council, which is the crucial first step, any Elected Member in Scotland could take forward Covenant of Mayors engagements. In this regard, COSLA is able to acquire formal confirmation from the Commission on behalf of individual Scottish Councils.
15. Some UK Local Authorities have been outsourcing the development of SEAPs and therefore there is indication that additional know-how and capacity is required. In particular, SEAPs require a Baseline Emission Inventory that maps out CO₂ emissions, identifies main sources of emissions and details potential reductions. This can be a resource intensive activity. In the North of Scotland, four Local Authorities have come together to tender for the development of a North East Scotland Sustainable Energy Action Plan. It is intended to serve as a functional document for the North East region and for each individual Local Authority while being aligned to the EU Covenant of Mayors requirements. Some Local Authority officers have also been keen for a SEAP/SECAP support club to be developed in Scotland.
16. Through consultation with Members, COSLA Brussels Office identifies and advances issues experienced by Scottish Councils to the Covenant of Mayors Office. We are based in the same building as the Covenant of Mayors which facilitates things. For example, sometimes language used in the guidance can be quite technical and it has in the past been difficult for officers to develop a sound estimate of staff time and related costs, guidance for which is not provided. While our resources are limited we are keen to continuously ensure Scottish Local Authority representation, lobby for tailored consideration, while making the case that sustainable energy action planning is done by Scottish Local Authorities as part of a wider matrix of climate action.
17. Scottish Councils already undertake mandatory public climate change reporting (Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009) and voluntary reporting (Scottish Climate Change Declaration). Therefore a good deal for the reporting for the Covenant is already carried out by Councils. The benefit of joining the Covenant is that its reporting would bring together all available data and low carbon projects and activities into a single document allowing Councils to outline their long-term vision which can be useful in seeking wider political and community support. That said it is a resource intensive exercise so part of that

work can be shared between local authorities, CPP partners and environmental networks such as SSN.

18. In terms of capacity building for officers, the Covenant of Mayors Office provides technical advice, templates, online workshops, and allows for networking and peer-to-peer learning, and which COSLA can facilitate. However the Covenant does not automatically lead to EU funds, but increasingly it is becoming a requirement of applying to EU programmes (Intelligent Energy Europe for example). It is also at the forefront of new and innovative climate financing tools such as green bonds, CO₂ credits and crowdsourcing. Given that the new Covenant is both an EU and United Nations programme it is relatively unaffected by Brexit. Indeed there is the case to press the UK to provide sufficient funding for the UK Covenant signatories as they are delivering UN commitments that the UK has formally signed to.

Position for COSLA

19. The Covenant of Mayors is considered a great example of Local Authority lead innovation and leadership and a successful way to connect global ambition and local action. COSLA is the official Covenant of Mayors supporting organisation in Scotland because the Covenant framework supports local decision making and multi-level governance. COSLA is happy to work with Councils to support applications, facilitate meetings and feedback or troubleshoot issues. If members wish it COSLA could look to organise an event in cooperation with the Committee of the Regions and the Covenant of Mayors Ambassadors targeted specifically for Elected Members.

Conclusion

20. This report provides information on the Covenant of Mayors which is a voluntary political movement for Local Authorities to commit to EU climate targets, principally with the aim of reducing CO₂ emissions. This report provides information to members on developments related to the Covenant and seeks member views of whether COSLA should assist member's councils with the process of signing the Covenant. This could involve the organisation of an event in cooperation with the Committee of the Regions and the Covenant of Mayors Ambassadors targeted specifically for Elected Members.

Judith Macgregor

September 2016

The EU Covenant of Mayors and now new Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy

Purpose

To update Members on recent developments relating to the Covenant of Mayors.

Introduction

The Covenant of Mayors is a voluntary political movement for Local Authorities to commit to EU climate targets, principally the reduction of CO₂ emissions. Since its creation in 2009, it has become the "world's biggest urban climate and energy initiative" with over 6,800 signatories. It has traditionally had a focus on climate mitigation through the implementation of a sustainable energy action plan (SEAP). Following political endorsement by the Local Authority, and formal signature, signatories agree to develop a SEAP and then to report back on progress after two years.

The Covenant of Mayors Office is managed by a consortium of five Local Authority networks, supported politically by the Committee of the Regions and financially by the European Commission. In Scotland, the Covenant has to date been signed by Aberdeenshire, Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Dumfries and Galloway, Glasgow, and North Ayrshire with COSLA performing the role of official supporting organisation.

The Covenant of Mayors framework is constantly evolving. In October 2015 the Covenant of Mayors was relaunched to reflect new EU 2030 climate and energy targets and to merge with Mayors Adapt, a similar initiative dealing with climate adaptation. Glasgow, Edinburgh and Stirling Councils are party to Mayors Adapt having pledged to develop comprehensive adaptation strategies or to integrate adaptation to climate change into existing plans. Obligations made separately to either the Covenant of Mayors or Mayors Adapt by Scottish Councils still stand and there is no compulsion to update immediately existing commitments.

In practice the new 2030 Covenant of Mayors has meant that new signatories now commit to a 40% CO₂ emission reduction target by 2030 and to develop an integrated Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP). Existing Covenant of Mayors members are encouraged to update their plans in advance of 2020. At the same time, the Covenant increased its geographical scope to create a Covenant of Mayors for Sub-Saharan Africa and for the Americas and Asia. It also became an official data provider of NAZCA, a United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) platform that showcases the commitments of non-state actors to international climate action.

The new Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy

Recently the EU Covenant of Mayors merged with the UN Mayors Compact to launch the new combined Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy. The Compact of Mayors was launched in September 2014 by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Cities and Climate Change Michael R. Bloomberg with mayors from global city networks C40, ICLEI and UCLG. It is a coalition of Mayors and city representatives committed to decreasing carbon emissions and building capacity for climate resilience, essentially the UN version of the Covenant of Mayors.

The new single initiative is intended to create the largest global coalition of cities committed to climate leadership to demonstrate to national governments that cities and Local Government are leading climate action. It is intended that the new initiative will provide a common platform bringing

together relevant data on cities' energy and climate actions currently reported to the platforms supporting the EU Covenant and Compact of Mayors. By creating the biggest global coalition committed to climate leadership, it is hoped that cities and Local Government will have more visibility within the UNFCCC climate negotiations. The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy is scheduled to go live at the start of 2017.

There was little advance notice of this merger and further details are still to be understood. COSLA will monitor developments closely and analyse the potential impact on Councils. It is currently known that commitments made already through either the Covenant or the Compact will be upheld for at least 2 years. It has also been indicated that this new initiative will be more closely aligned to the Nationally Determined Contributions made by national governments at Paris.

Covenant of Mayors Ambassadors

In June 2016, an inauguration ceremony was held at the Committee of the Regions for the newly appointed Covenant of Mayors Ambassadors. Not only will the ambassadors promote the initiative in their respective Member States but they will become climate ambassadors committing to promoting local and regional climate action. They will also have a role in representing the Covenant of Mayors at major events on national and international level such as COP22 in Marrakesh. The UK Covenant Ambassadors are Cllr Kevin Peel, Member of Manchester City Council and Cllr Judith Wallace, Member of North Tyneside Council.

During COP22, the Committee of the Regions will organise a Cities Summit to discuss the implementation of the Paris Agreement, reinforce the call for multilevel governance on climate issues and encourage Mayors from other countries to join the Covenant of Mayors. Following the Paris Agreement, the European Commission indicated that city level and urban policies will be stepped up including the further development of the integrated global Covenant of Mayors, but also the establishment of a "one stop shop" for Local Authorities. The aim will be to give Local Authorities further practical tools to contribute to the low carbon transition.

The Covenant of Mayors Scotland Event

COSLA organised a Covenant of Mayors Scotland awareness-raising event in February 2016 for participating Councils and those who may wish to consider membership. It was a well-attended event that sought to support Councils in their low carbon sustainability work by exploring Scottish best practice and collaborative approaches with other authorities, public sector partners and academia. The Covenant of Mayors Office presented recent developments, outlined the methodological framework and detailed the integration of climate mitigation and adaptation activities through SECAP development. The City of Edinburgh Council outlined the extensive local sustainability agenda in the city and Dumfries and Galloway Council discussed efforts to put environmental protection at the centre of Community Planning.

The Covenant of Mayors is both voluntary and flexible and there are options to join as a consortia. Neighbouring Councils can join as a group of signatories and submit a joint sustainable energy plan which either commits to the 40% CO2 reduction target on individual or collective basis. Therefore, Intercommunale Leiedal, a regional development association, participated as event speakers to outline the collective approach of 13 Belgian municipalities working together. Furthermore, the Institute for Future Cities, based at Strathclyde University spoke to delegates about the role of academia and the possibility of working with students for data collection and analysis. **Please see the note of the Covenant of Mayors Scotland event attached to this update as Annex.**

Potential Issues for Scottish Councils

Through consultation with Members, COSLA Brussels Office identifies and advances issues experienced by Scottish Councils to the Covenant of Mayors Office. For example, sometimes language used in the guidance can be quite technical and it has in the past been difficult for officers to develop a sound estimate of staff time and related costs, guidance for which is not provided. We continuously ensure Scottish Local Authority representation, lobby for tailored

consideration, while making the case that sustainable energy action planning is done by Scottish Local Authorities as part of a wider matrix of climate action.

In Scotland, we of course do not have Mayors, and therefore it is important to stress that **to join the Covenant of Mayors you do not require a Mayor or to be a city authority**. The Covenant is open to all Local Authorities democratically constituted by elected representatives, whatever their size or stage of implementation of their energy and climate policies. In other European countries Mayors often perform a broad role with some similar duties to that of a Chief Executive, Council Leader and Lord Provost/ Provost. Following political endorsement by the Council, which is the crucial first step, any Elected Member in Scotland could take forward Covenant of Mayors engagements. In this regard, COSLA is able to acquire formal confirmation from the Commission on behalf of individual Scottish Councils.

Some UK Local Authorities have been outsourcing the development of SEAPs and therefore there is indication that additional know-how and capacity is required. In particular, SEAPs require a Baseline Emission Inventory that maps out CO2 emissions, identifies main sources of emissions and details potential reductions. This can be a resource intensive activity. In the North of Scotland, four Local Authorities have come together to tender for the development of a North East Scotland Sustainable Energy Action Plan. It is intended to serve as a functional document for the North East region and for each individual Local Authority while being aligned to the EU Covenant of Mayors requirements (budget of £55,000). Some Local Authority officers have also been lobbying and gathering support for a SEAP/SECAP support club.

Recommendation

Scottish Councils already undertake mandatory public climate change reporting (Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009) and voluntary reporting (Scottish Climate Change Declaration). It is recommended that Councils consider joining the Covenant of Mayors because reporting requirements are similar and work required to develop a SEAP is often already carried out by officers. Bringing together all available data and low carbon projects and activities into a single document allows Councils to outline their long-term vision which can be useful in seeking wider political and community support. Such a document is not currently a legal requirement but given Scottish Government plans for a new Scotland Climate Change Act (with a new target of 50% emissions reduction by 2020) it may be beneficial to prepare. Scottish Local Authorities can work with other Local Authorities, CPP partners, environmental agencies such as SSN, the Covenant of Mayors support office and academia and research to collate this information and identify concrete actions that can be taken forward in partnership.

At political level, the Covenant of Mayors allows Elected Members to demonstrate their commitment to EU and international climate action and have a visible role in UN led negotiations. In the UN climate negotiations there is ongoing effort required to ensure non-state actors such as Local Authorities are not merely considered responsible for implementation. The Covenant of Mayors provides an ideal platform on which to lobby the EU and UN institutions.

For officers, the Covenant of Mayors Office provides technical advice, templates, online workshops, and allows for networking and peer-to-peer learning. The Covenant does not automatically lead to EU funds, but increasingly it is becoming a requirement of applying to EU programmes (Intelligent Energy Europe for example). It is also at the forefront of new and innovative climate financing tools such as green bonds, CO2 credits and crowdsourcing. COSLA Brussels Office will continue to make the case that Scottish Councils would benefit from additional financial resource to map carbon emissions, scope for EU funding opportunities related to SEAP development and ensure Scottish Councils have exposure to discussions on climate financing tools.

Conclusion

The Covenant of Mayors is considered a great example of Local Authority lead innovation and leadership and a successful way to connect global ambition and local action. COSLA is the official

Covenant of Mayors supporting organisation in Scotland because the Covenant framework supports local decision making and multi-level governance. Officers are keen to work with Councils to support applications, facilitate meetings and feedback or troubleshoot issues.

If at a future date there was demonstrable political interest, COSLA could look to organise an event in cooperation with the Committee of the Regions and the Covenant of Mayors Ambassadors targeted specifically for Elected Members.

Judith Macgregor
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July 2016

MINUTE OF COVENANT OF MAYORS SCOTLAND EVENT

COSLA Offices, Edinburgh

Friday 12th of February 2016

Present

Eric Wells	Aberdeenshire Council
Brenda Roddy	Falkirk Council
David Hopper	Stirling Council
Angela Harris	Perth & Kinross Council
Roz Smith	Stirling Council
Derek Jarvie	East Renfrewshire Council
Adam Florence	East Renfrewshire Council
Brian Forsyth	Midlothian Council
Aubrey Fawcett	Inverclyde Council
Cllr Robert Moran	Inverclyde Council
Gordon Ogilvie	Angus Council
James Garry	City of Edinburgh Council
David Hammond	North Ayrshire Council
Anthony Gurney	North Ayrshire Council
Cllr Will Dawson	Dundee City Council
Jan Falconer	Orkney Islands Council
Steven Bunch	City of Edinburgh Council
Bryan Harris	Dundee City Council
Ian Cochrane	Angus Council
Cllr Alastair Cooper	Shetland Islands Council
Cllr Malcolm Bell	Shetland Islands Council
Jennifer Kaczmarek	Keep Scotland Beautiful (representing SSN)
Ross Spalding	Fife Council
Carolyn Bell	Resource Efficient Solutions Fife Council
Cllr Audrey Sinclair	The Highland Council
Axelle Griffon	CEMR/ Covenant of Mayors Office
Dominiek Vandewiele	Intercommunale Leiedal
Richard Bellingham	Institute for Future Studies
Cllr Stephen Hagan	COSLA
Lorna Richardson	COSLA
Judith Macgregor	COSLA

ITEM 1: Welcome by COSLA Spokesperson on Sustainability - Cllr Stephen Hagan

COSLA Spokesperson for Development, Economy and Sustainability welcomed all to the meeting noting it was good to have a number of Councils and Councillors in attendance.

There were a few words of introduction, on the purpose of the event, on localism and collaboration. The main purpose of the event is to raise awareness of the Covenant of Mayors (COM) in Scotland. It is a movement for locally elected leaders to show their commitment to international climate action and has potential to offer support to officers in terms of knowledge exchange, technical support, networking and profile raising. The COM is supported finally by the European Commission and politically by the Committee of the Regions. The EU updated its

targets for climate and energy in 2014, and this coupled with the UN negotiations in Paris, lead the way for a new COM to reflect new targets for 2030.

There are currently six Councils signed up to the COM in Scotland. This event provides an opportunity to hear about that experience and look at the new elements to the COM introduced last year. In Orkney, the Committee had not approved joining because they lacked sufficient information. This event is to give greater awareness and we expect more Councils to join with more information. COSLA is keen that all members have the opportunity to make use of this exchange at EU level.

In regards to the Scottish context, global warming is a very clear threat at both global and local level. Reducing carbon emission and moving towards a low carbon economy is therefore crucial for the future of our local communities. In Scotland, we take climate change seriously with Scottish Local Authorities already commitment to statutory targets, public reporting and the mainstreaming of climate action across Council services. Each year Councils are continuing to show yearly emission reductions in their territories.

Councils have been demonstrating leadership in this area for several years, with all Scottish Local Authorities signing up to the Climate Change Declaration and voluntary submit yearly reports setting out of actions. The benefits of mainstreaming climate action, with not only significant carbon emissions saving but also financial savings but clear community engagement benefits. Councillors and their officials have already invested a lot of time, insight and innovation in this process and this event today aims to support Councils in your efforts.

The COM requires the submission of a Sustainable Energy Action Plan, and with Councils already undertaking this work, there are therefore significant crossovers between the work of Scottish Councils and COM. Today's event will therefore have relevance for Councils' wider work on the local sustainability agenda. The COM also relies on feedback from its members and this event is a necessary step in ensuring Scottish representation and ensuring activities are as streamlined and coordinated as possible.

On localism, COSLA supports the COM because fundamentally decisions that will impact local communities need to be taken at the local level. This is the same for climate action. While this may result in different solutions being implemented across Scotland, this is the reflection of the difference in local preferences and indeed in the complexity of the transition to the low carbon economy. This is a strength in our Local Government system in Scotland and a mantra that the COM embodies.

On collaboration, however we still need to build continuously on our successes. As Local Authorities we need to work together to understand where we can share knowledge. Climate change requires action across society and hence we need to work with other Councils, environmental organisations, CCP partners, others in the wider community and crucially with local communities themselves. This approach can for example be crucial in identifying the actions necessary for SEAPs, most likely to succeed and make an overall difference to environmental standards. Such collaboration continues to be crucial, especially due to the challenging economic climate. That is why the event will several cover collaborative approaches whether with other Local Authorities, academia, the business community or others agencies in the public sector.

Leadership is pivotal in making large scale changes necessary for the low carbon economy. The COM gives Elected Members the opportunity to demonstrate leadership to tackling climate changes and lead their Council going forward. The COM not only gives us the chance to shout about the great work going on here in Scotland, but also to demonstrate European solidarity by being part of a movement in which we can collaborate with others in Europe. I wish you an interesting and fruitful afternoon.

AGENDA ITEM 2: Axelle Griffon - CEMR and Covenant of Mayors Office

The COM was relaunched in October to reflect new EU targets so there was a good opportunity to discuss the movement again here in Scotland. COSLA therefore put the event together, in partnership with the COM office for both the existing signatories and those who may be interested in participating in the future. The event is hopefully as relevant to Scottish Councils as possible. Guests will hear about the new COM with targets for 2030, a joint approach taken by a consortium of Belgian municipalities, the potential contribution of academia and from Sustainable Scotland Network who will discuss the link to Community Planning.

The three new pillars of the strengthened COM were discussed the benefits for Councils outlined. The COM is happy that there are already six signatories in Scotland and hope the presentation will provide more information about it. The COM has entered a new phase so there is also opportunity for new signatories to update their commitments.

The COM is a European initiative launched in 2008 by the European Commission when the climate and energy package was launched. The aim of the package is to meet and exceed 20% CO2 reduction in Europe. The COM therefore wants to achieve this objective at the city level. Member States should achieve this target but cities can also contribute. The COM offers the opportunity for Councils to commit publicly to reduce emissions.

The COM first starts with the signatory, a political document signed by the Council. It is very important as a political endorsement and needed to implement action in the local area and initiate the process. Then an officer is assigned to prepare an action plan and try to have a network of stakeholders in the area to try and build the action plan. A long-term vision with objectives is prepared and when ready, an action plan is submitted, called a SEAP. This process should last two years. After two years the COM hope for some monitoring information with results on the ground and target achievements.

It has been a huge success, huge number of cities committing to action. More than 6000 signatories, villages to big cities, 200,000,000 citizens in Europe. There have also been some cities in Latin America and Africa that have joined the movement. In addition to signatories, there are also supporting organisations. There are 281 organisations party to the supporting structure; provinces, regions, local associations, such as COSLA.

There is now a new phase of the Covenant of Mayors. The Commission has published a new energy and climate package with a new framework for 2030. It has a new target of 40%. The opportunity was taken to extend the COM frame, for 2030. Now COM ask if the signatories want to prepare a SEAP with a target for 2030 with 40% emission reduction targets. Usually it corresponds to the national targets, for example in Scotland there is the objective of around 40% as well. COM ensures the objectives are achievable for the LAs and relevant within the national and EU frame.

The new approach also has a second innovation: the integration of climate mitigation with adaptation. Now COM wants to prevent disasters caused by climate change and new plans need to include adaptation activities. The third innovation is an international dimension with COM offices in different continents.

The COM has been a huge success because it has a very sound methodology. COM works in partnership with the Joint Research Council who assist in SEAP development. They have a scientific approach to and help signatories prove the implementation of actions and achievement of results. JRC can assist and want to provide good guidance, with many materials, so the methodology is sound.

There is a lot of support online with technical details, for example on how to prepare SEAP and what measures to include, how to monitor and calculate emissions. It also tries to adapt to the local level as much as possible. The COM is led by 5 networks of Local Authorities, and is a flexible approach. The networks know about the issues around SEAP – cautions and budgets. The

COM ensures a plan can be done as wished, with chosen measures and timeframes. It is very flexible.

The SEAPs show vision – the vision of the territory is important. This is done with the Baseline Emissions Inventory (evaluation of current situation) to compare. Different sectors can be included in a BEI, but it is up to LAs to choose and calculate current emissions.

After SEAP submission (2 years) the JRC accesses it. Firstly, JRC check it is eligible, has all data and the data is consistent. The plan will either be sent back or if consistent it will be published on the website. It is public and allows to show what is done at EU level. All SEAPs are available online providing transparency. After 2 years, monitoring takes place, reporting the progress that has taken place in the city.

The COM outlined the option for a collective joint SEAP submission, which can be helpful for smaller Local Authorities to commit together and prepare a SEAP, and join COM together. Can be useful for smaller LAs without capacity for sustainable energy planning.

Today, the COM has increasing signatories. Now 5000 SEAPs have been received. In total it adds up to 25%, above the 20% threshold initially identified. The UK has 34 signatories, 32% of total population covered and 32 submitted SEAPs.

When joining the COM LAs are never alone. When joining there is support of the COM Office with technical support, and support of the European institutions (European Parliament and COR). Regarding implementation at the local level, national coordinators can help prepare SEAP and identify national actions and funding. Supporting organisations can help promote the initiative in detail and local and regional energy agencies can add skills and expertise. Another benefit is when applying for European projects and technical support, scientific and methodology support, in addition to EU funding and networking, to exchange experience, awareness raising and capacity building, they organise many events at EU level. There is a document available for local financing tools and calls for projects and the website shows good practice which is useful for finding good ideas. The website also has communication function to network online.

New challenges will include developing the new methodology and guidebook. COM currently busy monitoring the results and overall how has it contributed to EU objectives. Busy expanding COM to other continents. Local Authorities should contact COM by email for any further details on funding tools or technical support to develop SEAPs.

AGENDA ITEM 3 Dominiek Vandewiele - Intercommunale Leiedal

Programme Director for climate neutral regions at the intermunicipal association Leiedal, an association of cities and municipalities situated around the city area of Kortrijk explained the approach taken there. There are thirteen different members ranging from Kortrijk city of 70,000 inhabitants to small 5000 inhabitants, the total is 300,000 inhabitants. It is not a government but an association improving cooperation on regional development, established 55 years ago. In the beginning it focussed on economic development but now focusses on future proving Research and Development, for example business parks integrating sustainable energy and how to deal with water management. There is need to future prove, because RD must look to the future to create a region that is attractive and good to live in. In spatial planning, Leiedal create things, like new housing zones and business parks, and help cities and mayors with their policies, bringing partners together for collaboration.

The concept of a climate neutral region was discussed. What has climate to do with regional development, why not a global or national level? It is about carbon reduction. At EU level it is clear that there is dependence on the import of fossil fuels (although Scotland exports). Energy is a geopolitical issue. The EU is dependent on the stability of other regions, for example Middle Eastern security. Therefore, Europe needs to be more energy independent. Municipalities will feel the local impact for example in terms of fuel poverty and housing quality, improving energy performance, and air quality, in addition to local jobs and economy needs. There are many overall

benefits for decreasing energy use. There is no established link between economic growth and carbon use, in 2011 GDP grew by more than 20% but carbon use stayed the same. Economic growth and economic development are not in conflict.

What can be done at local level, where we do not have access to all policy levers? The COM offers a great methodological framework. Leiedal signed the COM in 2013, a basic planning method to measure local carbon emissions, set a target and actions how to achieve it. The report does not say if you are doing good or bad, it just outlines what are the challenges, for example industrial and housing sectors are often important. But different municipalities have different challenges for example traffic or industry. And where emitters have been identified they are often asked to invest and build renewable technologies. In SEAPs very common sectors are targeted – housing, transport, sustainable energy, public lighting. Business has been challenging but still should not be missed.

Why should a joint SEAP be created? The approach started with a task force following a monthly mayors meeting to find the right balance between the contribution of the mayor and that of the region within COM. The task force came up with a proposal to do something on a collective and individual municipal level with efficiency effectiveness the main theme of cooperation. After this cost reduction was identified as a reason to cooperate further.

The COM does not reinvent the wheel, many authorities in Flanders were already doing the same but saw benefits for regional cooperation especially for knowledge exchange. Other actors must be involved too. Municipalities are in the drivers' seats with links to decision makers. The idea was to bring everyone up one gear higher, through peer to peer learning, but with flexibility for each to grow as appropriate. After this process, the association looked at how the COM fitted their domestic objectives.

The process of a joint SEAP was outlined. It started by attending the Covenant of Mayors event in Brussels. At a monthly meeting between the Mayors, it was discussed further. The Mayors considered how they would identify themselves within the process, given that it is the Covenant of Mayors, not of regions. The right balance needed to be found. So it was decided to do something together, but also independently. The COM is a planning process and the Mayors did not want to spend much time of planning, but rather focus on making changes on the ground.

The advantages of creating a group was to share knowledge. Thirteen local partners are ideal and makes the sharing arrangement possible for all the municipalities to join. The overall benefit of the SEAP is that other actors can carry forward the actions. Mobility for example, which can be challenging. The municipalities have joined an INTERREG project on shared mobility in business park location.

Local government needs to be a frontrunner on sustainability. The Covenant of Mayors is a great planning process. A joint submission can allow you to tackle challenges together. A benefit is that the mayor is central to it. However, it should be recognised that developing a SEAP is overall difficult.

Q: On increased consumption, has your population risen? A: Not a big increase in population (3000), while housing sector emissions were successfully reduced. Industrial and mobility sectors have the biggest impact; but local level cannot deal with all issues.

Q: Would the mayors consider a congestion charge? It could be an idea.

Q: On a practical level, were teams set up to tackle each sector. A: Yes, not fixed teams, but sessions around several topics. It is overall a learning process and it is good to share cross-border and cross-departmentally. But is in an individual approach within each municipality, shared to do the bulk of the emissions baseline. In certain projects, there are fixed teams made up from across the municipalities.

AGENDA ITEM 4: Janice Pauwels - City of Edinburgh Council

Edinburgh's approach to the sustainable action planning was outlined, and it was said that there were already political commitments in place and a track record on existing commitments on the low carbon agenda. Originally the Council saw many other benefits particularly on the social side e.g. fuel poverty, jobs and growth, so the Council started to look at it strategically. The biggest driver however was around carbon prices and make savings, but also possibly to have other revenue streams coming in. Approval for the SEAP should be done through committee to get that Elected Member buy in.

For the Covenant of Mayors, there are templates to follow and the Council did struggle to complete them in the beginning. The language and the information required is not the easiest.

Edinburgh's approach was about being strategic and ensuring from a political perspective that Elected Members were engaged and supporting. Edinburgh's SEAP is not a plan for the Council, it is a plan for the city. Neither is it a carbon management plan. It was important to take a strategic approach and create an energy masterplan for the city.

Robust data is necessary, which can be time-consuming and challenging. Projects that were deliverable and realistic was key to the approach. Objectives need to be set out, why you are doing and what you want to get out of it. For Edinburgh, it was key to work towards transformational projects, a change in the way energy is generated and used in the city. Ambitious target of 42% by 2020 is the target agreed in Edinburgh.

In terms of baseline, it is important to fully consider the contribution of carbon emissions from the different sectors - of the area's biggest emitters. DECC data is used. From that, officers looked at where there could be reductions from different sectors. There were three main ones – transport, industry and commercial and domestic. Other Council available data should be fed in. It is important to look and understand the data: fuel types for example. Ultimately Councils should try to develop an action plan, which can be quite difficult and resource intensive. Councils should try and bring in any external help – for example the universities or other sectors. Pulling in additional resource can be very helpful in developing the baseline inventory.

From the baseline inventory, 5 programme areas were identified for the action plan:

- 1) Energy efficiency – existing buildings domestic/non-domestic
- 2) District heating
- 3) Renewables
- 4) Resources efficiency
- 5) Sustainable transport

Under each area is a series of projects. This allowed the Council to look for synergies. In looking to develop projects, it can be helpful to ascertain if small scale projects can be scaled up. Accessing carbon reduction in projects depends on the project, for building projects it is fairly straightforward with engineers looking at industry standards, however, other awareness type projects it is more challenging. Some projects rely on a best guess. University students have been very keen to engage.

Programmes for energy efficiency include non-domestic which has been broken down to public sector building and non-operational estate. It also covers commercial, the private sector, where there are a whole host of EPCs legislation. Important to look for projects that could perhaps tap into the commercial property side. The Council participates in the London refit scheme – 9 largest public buildings currently going through the programme to delivery guaranteed energy savings.

Scottish Government is due to release its own non-domestic retrofit framework in the spring, which allows for a readymade framework to be used for retrofitting buildings. The Council of Edinburgh plans to use the scheme to expand into other domestic settings.

On district heating, there are a number of schemes underway. Edinburgh is currently developing a strategy for district heating and will likely rebrand it to focus more on renewable heat. Officers will look at the potential for renewable heat and capturing waste heat. Private developers are becoming more interested in this agenda especially because of efficiencies and savings.

The Council is using the Scottish Government heat map to identify where there may be scope to expand existing networks and looking to create new local heat maps. It is important to bring in other public sector bodies where there is much room for cooperation. One park in Edinburgh received Heritage Lottery Funding and ground source heat pumps were able to be put in at the same time. Currently scoping a large scheme that would heat a primary school, a nursery, a library and a care home. Micro-hydro in Leith would provide the power for the heat pumps and a MoU has been signed with a new solar cooperative in the city.

On sustainable transport, the focus is on decarbonising transport. Electric vehicle strategy has been started and are piloting a scheme for on street vehicles and charging points. OLAF application has been submitted looking at taxis and the link in with electric vehicles. Lothian buses also have ambitious plans, and in city car club there is potential there. Ecostars project is an awareness raising scheme for drivers, and has led to significant savings.

Partnership working and collaboration is central to the approach. Issues around the SEAP will mapped out in a matrix, setting out key criteria and working through different ideas. This has allowed the Council to build on existing initiatives and incorporate into the plan.

In establishing where carbon reduction may come from, it is important to have a handle on all policy measures in place. Substantial input to the plan was provided by other policy measures. After an audit, the Council was surprised to see so many other projects being delivered by other agencies and were able to include in the plan. Silos still very much exist, but finding out what is going on and escalating it to a higher level may help to make those synergies.

Resource is an issue. It took about 18 months to deliver the plan and a lot of staff time. 2.5 members of staff, mainly not full time developed the plan. Other initiatives (such as the STEP UP) project were also beneficial, especially to test ways of thinking. It is recommended to use other resources and speak with others that have went through the process.

Edinburgh SEAP approved by Feb 2015, in September by the Covenant of Mayors. Much time was spent trying to get it right the first time. The Council is not yet looking to adopt the SECAP that has become part of the new Covenant of Mayors. The Councils' internal auditors did a check of the plan, which raised some risks, costing and resource issues, which was also helpful.

The Council developed a SEAP pledge, which allowed 9 of the city's biggest employers (representing 18% of the city's carbon footprint) to sign up and commit to endorse the SEAP and to making reductions, in collaboration. This approach has been very successful. The Council is now looking to establish a MoU with Heriot Watt University, who host an energy academy to formalise a relationship.

The Covenant of Mayors is much more flexible than it once was and it is likely that in future European funding applications that we will be asked about the Covenant of Mayors. Edinburgh is very willing to share information with colleagues in other authorities.

Q: North Ayrshire is a COM signatory with a July deadline for the SEAP. Is there advice for Councils that were originally preparing a SEAP based on the previous commitments? Should they just extend the original plan? A: Yes, now is a good opportunity to do that. The Covenant of Mayors advises if you already have a plan, you should submit it, however there must be long-term vision and would support that you adapt your plan to 2030. It is also possible to include 2020 as a milestone in the plan.

Q: The resource implications seem high, and it was asked if there are projected economic benefits? It was also asked if the Council is working with other CPP partners? Highland currently considering using CPP partners. A: Yes, many ongoing discussions with CPP partners on a project by project basis. CPP partners often have a specific interest. Resource is undoubtedly an issue. More resource was possibly allocated because of the high level of commitment. Much of the time was spent on project delivery.

Q: Falkirk asked about the baseline emissions inventory. In the view of Edinburgh is there anything that can be done to streamline the process to make it easier going forward for the Council. A: DECC data is a starting point. Baselineing was about trying to drill down into some sectors – for example finding out from Housing colleagues what the emissions are. There is no right or wrong way – the template needs completed – but you have flexibility.

There seemed to be more guidance when Councils were developing carbon management plans. Edinburgh brought in consultants to help with some of baselining, in particular the estimates around the potential carbon reduction from policy measures. Baselineing process is also useful to relate back to the main priorities and prioritise. If several authorities experience issues with preparing a baseline inventory, the Covenant of Mayors could organise a joint event with COSLA via skype to provide guidance specific for Scottish Councils.

Q: Aberdeenshire Council asked if Edinburgh would recommend further involvement of an external consultant? A: It would most likely have been completed faster, but the end result would be different. In Manchester, the SEAP was outsourced to ARAPs and the result was over 130 pages of very technical information. Consultants are helpful and require a clear brief, but not always affordable. With the SG non-domestic retrofit framework there will also be a project development unit. The Covenant of Mayors Office also gives advice and support. Maybe it is possible to look to identify common SEAP issues and offer a support workshop.

Q: Fife Council said they were right at the beginning of the process and are encouraged to see adaptation included. When will the guidance be released? And have any other European cities successfully adopted the integrated approach? Is there possibility of more support for integrating adaptation measures? A: Given that the Covenant of Mayors has been so successful, DG CLIMA wanted to replicate the model to deal with adaptation. The result was the Mayors Adapt initiative and with it many technical materials. Cities were invited to join in the same way as the Covenant. It was then decided to merge the initiatives. The guidance is currently under preparation and it is hoped it will be released by the end of the year.

COM value the methodology, and because the data needs to be reliable there has been a lot of effort put into developing useful and serious guidance. There have been 15 signatories have signed the integrated Covenant of Mayors. There were previously 100 cities signed up to Mayors Adapt. Fife Council said it would be interested in any pilot testing projects.

AGENDA ITEM 4: Richard Bellingham – Institute for Future Cities - Strathclyde University

Cities are important in the energy transition as they are massive concentrators of people, resources and responsible for most of the world's energy consumption and carbon emissions, and home to the majority of the world's economy. This will only continue to grow, especially in the developing world. Cities suck in a whole range of resources, beyond the city boundary and it is important to look more widely in developing policies for cities. The Institute draws in expertise and talent from across academia and Europe to respond to the complicated challenges that cities are faced with. The objective is to improve quality of human life across the world.

The Institute focusses on sustainability, resilience, well-being, urban design and migration, business and public services. Underlining everything is data to help understand the cities and try new methods. The STEP UP programme was established which looked at how you can do better sustainable energy action planning for cities. Four cities across Europe participated – Glasgow, Gothenburg, Riga and Ghent, which are all port cities with similar climates, population sizes and socio-economic issues. In each city a research institution and a key commercial partner was

drawn in – the triple helix approach. The programme looks to develop better SEAPs and create a pipeline of integrated low-carbon projects. Europe 2020 targets around greater energy efficiency and reducing carbon emissions are connected.

In order to get political, financial and stakeholder support there was need to hit other goals such as urban regeneration, economic growth, fuel poverty and energy security. It is an integrated approach, with not a single focus on renewable electricity, but also electricity, heat, transport, and not just production but efficiency. In order to reach Europe 2020 goals, it is important to build on existing initiatives because it takes a long time to get a big new project off the ground. It is a holistic approach, looking at the whole of the city and is technology neutral with a focus creating partnerships.

The STEP UP project was designed at the same time as the Covenant of Mayors, and follows a similar route – looking at potential savings and then seeking political support. It was noted that European funding sources seek cross-sector innovative approaches.

Scenario analysis is also part of the project – to develop a number of views of future possibilities and incorporate this. This can help feed into an enhanced SEAP. Additionally, new COM members will need to do a stakeholder engagement plan to fully understand the baseline. Stakeholder engagement is fundamental. Existing measures on energy efficiency measures and projects should be incorporated into SEAP. Sometimes cities can get over focussed on a particular area and SEAP can act as a sort of check list.

GSI mapping is encouraged to understand different types of energy, which can help guide investments. If you follow the carbon emissions, you can see economic activity and in turn can make projects more likely. It is very important to get high-level endorsement, and seek political vision. It was suggested that politicians are involved at all stages of the project.

Strategies need to be tested against future scenarios – for example in Glasgow looked at the following: 1) population and economic growth way beyond what is anticipated, and 2) then the opposite. Try to see if the policies make sense in these possibilities – a tool to test your strategy. There are also lighthouse initiatives on energy, transport and ICT projects. In Glasgow the regeneration of the Clyde waterfront for example.

Learning networks were established – for example for Baltic countries and Flemish Cities. Scottish Cities Alliance funded the Institute to run workshops in Scottish cities. The STEP UP programme has created a new Masters programme at Strathclyde University and it was said that there are many students who would do work with Local Authorities.

Key messages:

- Understand the city
- Partnership
- Identify the key stakeholders
- Draw in the relevant people
- Go for the win/win approach that also produce positive socio-economic outcomes
- Communication
- Monitoring Plan
- Skills and training
- Grasp windows of opportunity

AGENDA ITEM 5: Chris Wood – Gee Dumfries and Galloway- SSN

The work of SSN, SEAPs and of Dumfries and Galloway on local sustainability was discussed. Within SSN there has been much discussion around sustainable energy action planning. There is opportunity, especially within Community Planning, to do more and tie into the public reporting which is taken place in Scotland.

SSN ran a SEAP workshop at June 2014 SSN conference to which AETHER participated who already do work with the Covenant of Mayors in terms of analysing the data in the BEI. Glasgow City Council is looking at a sort of SEAP club which could be led through SSN, as is Aberdeen City Council's that developed its SEAP in partnership with AETHER, SSN and KSB.

The Climate Change Scotland Act has been a major driver in the public sector beginning to tackle climate change. The Scottish Government reports through its report on Policy and Procedures, but the targets have been missed every time. BEI are getting bigger, but the data is also better. Therefore, there is better understanding of our regions.

In the future, the approach will be wider and more involving. One thing that has already emerged is the Public Bodies Climate Change Reporting Duty, which all Councils have been involved in for several years through the Climate Change Declaration Report. This year there was a first pilot of the mandatory reports, and next year it will become fully mandatory. There are two elements: what is your carbon footprint within the organisation and then there is recommended reporting, which is where SEAPs fit in. The SEAP might in fact be the right vehicle to decide what goes into the recommended reporting. And that is where there is a link to Covenant of Mayors and similar initiatives is. There is a link up on reporting under RPPP3 and SEAPs.

While stating that the reporting requirements are similar, some differences were highlighted, for example the Covenant requires megawatt hours and in Scotland, kilowatt hours. Reporting on the same things is important and help make the process easier. Also, big organisations have to do CRC reports and these are fed into the SEAPs, and it ideally should be the same for Councils. There are common capacity needs, and SSN has been discussing how to get SEAPs working more effectively. Are there other areas for collaboration and joint resourcing for example?

Dumfries and Galloway, the third biggest authority in Scotland, has many small communities and a problem with fuel poverty (second worst in Scotland). Business, agriculture and farming, forestry, tourism are important sectors, there is no major industry. Industrial use is not too high compared to the rest of Scotland, domestic transport is a big issue because there are so many roads.

The Local Authority has political desire to tackle fuel poverty, and address affordability. There is a legal duty on climate change and a statutory planning role and the Council is interested in seeking economic benefits through renewables investment. Planning policy states there is potential for communities and SMEs in urban areas to invest in renewables, which will be fed into the local plan in future.

Community planning process in another key area. Community planning formalises the relationship between Local Government, NHS and emergency services. The Single Outcome Agreements set out strategic aims, and Dumfries and Galloway have included 'protecting and sustaining our environment'. Dumfries and Galloway wants to be a carbon reducing region, with accessible transport, resource efficient and sustainably managing the landscape and built environment.

In regard to SEAP, the Council was approached by Community Energy Scotland to work on a European project looking at developing renewable energy for communities using Intelligent Energy Europe money and to access this fund it was necessary to join the Covenant of Mayors. In a partnership project, the Council was twinned with a municipality in Hungary. The aims and objectives included SEAP development, working with communities (16-20) and addressing fuel poverty. There was a need to simply information for small communities, so they could map out plans for the local area. But there was some difficulty noted in submitting the information to the Covenant of Mayors website.

The next steps will include using the Local Outcome Improvement Plan to bring communities together. For example, there will be a workshop in spring to bring stakeholders together to invest energy in the SEAP process and look at how we can capture the information. The SEAP is a good way to bring activities together and can help encourage communities to make change. There is key opportunity to do something together through SSN, and indeed to work with our communities.

COMMITTEE Economic Development Sub DATE 30/03/09

CORPORATE DIRECTOR Abigail Tierney

TITLE OF REPORT Covenant of Mayors

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report seeks approval for Aberdeen City Council to become a formal signatory to the “Covenant of Mayors”. The Covenant of Mayors is an ambitious initiative of the European Commission to bring together the mayors of Europe's most pioneering cities in a permanent network to exchange and apply good practices across these cities and to improve energy efficiency significantly in the urban environment. The Covenant of Mayors involves a formal commitment to go beyond the EU objectives of reducing CO2 emissions by 20 percent by 2020. This is to be done through enhanced energy efficiency and cleaner energy production and use. Up to now some 375 towns and municipalities have signed up, with an aim to have 1000 by February 2010. 12 signatory cities are from the UK; as yet there are no Scottish participants.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the sub-committee:

1. Approves that Aberdeen City Council becomes a signatory to the Covenant of Mayors.
2. Approves travel for Lord Provost and an officer to attend the annual meeting in Brussels.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- Costs for the Lord Provost to attend the annual meeting of the Covenant of Mayor will be met from the Lord Provost’s travel budget.
- Costs for an officer accompanying the Lord Provost will be met from the relevant Service budget.
- Costs associated with work on Climate Change will be met by relevant services from within exiting budgets or spend to save budgets.

4. SERVICE & COMMUNITY IMPACT

Activities and Actions of Covenant of Mayors

The overall requirement for participation is that Aberdeen City Council signs up to a commitment, that it will look to go beyond the objectives set by the EU for 2020 to reduce CO2 emissions by 20%. This commitment will be outlined within a “Sustainable Energy Action Plan” (SEAP) that will be developed by signatory cities to ensure that there are real practical strategies in place to ensure this commitment is acted upon and achieved.

In principle, it is anticipated that most SEAPs will include actions in the following sectors:

- Built environment, including new buildings and major refurbishment;
- Urban equipment;

- Transport and urban mobility;
- Citizen and, in general, civil society participation;
- Intelligent energy behavior by citizens, consumers and businesses;
- Land planning.

The target set by the Covenant of Mayors is for a SEAP to be submitted within the year following the formal act of signing up to the Covenant of Mayors.

Preparation of a baseline emissions inventory is seen as one of the main areas of work for the sustainable energy action plan, with the baseline year for this calculation being left open to the individual city. It will be the baseline that is used to measure performance, in meeting the 2020 targets.

As part of Aberdeen City Council's Carbon Management Programme for the Council's own operations, a baseline emissions inventory was created based on a 2002/3 baseline. This will be revised later in 2009 as a routine review of the Programme. Aberdeen City Council will also exceed the European target of a 20% reduction in CO2 emissions from its own activities. This inventory would be suitable for a SEAP and acceptable to the Covenant of Mayors.

Other Commitments relating to Covenant of Mayors

- Adapt city structures, including allocation of sufficient human resources, in order to undertake the necessary actions
- Submit an implementation report at least every second year after submission of the Action Plan for evaluation, monitoring and verification purposes;
- Share our experience and know-how with other territorial units;
- Organise Energy Days or City Covenant Days, in co-operation with the European Commission and with other stakeholders, allowing citizens to benefit directly from the opportunities and advantages offered by a more intelligent use of energy, and to regularly inform the local media on developments concerning the action plan;
- Attend and contribute to the annual EU Conference of Mayors for a Sustainable Energy Europe;
- Spread the message of the Covenant in the appropriate Fora and in particular, encourage other Mayors to join the Covenant;

Links to Existing Council Activities

The activities of the Covenant of Mayors tackle most of the 14 challenges outlined in Aberdeen Cities "Community Plan". It is in the areas of the Community Plan relating to Land Use and Environment, Clean City, Transport and Connections, and Aberdeen Image that are the most obvious areas linking with the Covenant of Mayors.

Many of the aims of "Vibrant, Dynamic & Forward Looking", particularly in the area of Economic Development, Transport and Environment have a direct link to the activities of the Covenant. This can be seen more explicitly in the following actions quoted from Vibrant, Dynamic & Forward Looking:

Economic Development

- Continue to promote Aberdeen as the Energy capital of Europe and seek to lead in the field of renewable energy

Transport

- Work to improve public transport in and to our city, including supporting Aberdeen Crossrail and the introduction of appropriate bus priority measures
- Encourage walking and cycling in our city, including introducing more safe routes for cyclists and introducing more mandatory 20mph speed limits in residential areas

Environment

- Minimise the impact of council activities on the environment, including a target of being carbon neutral overall by 2020 and a commitment that all new council developments will be carbon neutral
- Support the use of small scale renewables and make appropriate use of small scale renewables in all new council developments
- Support the use of innovative methods of treating wastewater, including reed beds, and make appropriate use of such treatment methods in new council developments
- Adopt ambitious targets for recycling and composting, including a target of 40% of household waste being recycled by 2011
- Introduce at an early date the collection of recyclables from tenements, extend the network of 'bring' sites', extend the range of material which are collected for recycling and improve recycling services for small business

Single Outcome Agreement

- National Nos 14 - We reduce the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production.

Delivery of Improvement Plan

No 2 SL - Reduce the local and global environmental impact made by Aberdeen City and Aberdeen City Council

5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Due to the actions primarily being carried out or intended to be carried out by the Council through existing activities it is felt that while there would be a need to re-orientate existing work, to be packaged in a SEAP and thus appropriate for participation in the Covenant, there would be minimal additional demands on existing human resources.

Aberdeen City Council is part of the North East Climate Change Partnership - The partnership comprises Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray Councils, NHS Grampian, other north-east public sector organisations, universities and representatives of the business community. A key role for the partnership is to raise awareness of the opportunities, as well as the responsibilities, for all residents and organisations in the north-east in tackling the challenges presented by climate change.

6. REPORT

Aberdeen City has and continues to be a leader nationally in the area of mitigating and adapting to the effects of Climate Change. It was because of this reputation that it was asked to be involved in the Carbon Trust's pilot scheme in 2002 to develop a "Local authority Carbon Management Programme". This Carbon Management Programme is one that has already created the necessary infrastructure within the local authority to carry out the activities of the Covenant with little new demands on the Councils activities.

European Union Added Value

To understand what the Covenant can offer to Aberdeen City we need to take into consideration the thinking of the EU institutions. The EU is increasingly focused on using as many of its fiscal and legislative powers to accelerate the transition of the EU to a low carbon economy.

This relates to the EU institutions seeing the transition to a low carbon economy as not only helping in the fight against climate change but also as an integral part of boosting the continents competitiveness in the world economy and securing future energy supply. The EU institutions therefore increasingly see its role as pushing for a green industrial revolution that will have real economic benefits. For this to happen it needs a holistic approach with direct support from local actors.

The Covenant of Mayors is The Commissions ambitious initiative to have EU cities working together in a more cooperative manner to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy uptake at a local level. The Covenants focus is to be cities, due to urban area being where most carbon emissions are produced and because they are generally the areas that have the resources and expertise to act and where action will have the biggest impact. While other initiatives and declarations have had the same objectives such as Local Agenda 21 and indeed Scotland's own "Declaration on Climate Change", where this one differs is that it has the direct backing of the EU Commission both politically and financially.

The support that will be offered by the Commission can be seen to present multiple benefits for the City and the motivating factor behind participation. This can be seen in the following areas:

- Funding and policy
- Networking and Benchmarking
- Recognition
- Wider Civic Action
- Development In the Renewable and Green Technology Sector

Funding and Policy

The most visible offer of support can be seen in the Commission financing the creation of the Covenant Secretariat as well as the allocation of resources to the Joint Research Centre to offer Scientific and technical advice to all signatory cities. While part of this support will be for the development of SEAPs it will also be to participate in innovative pilot schemes to support Covenant activities.

There is also mention in the actual Covenant document that cities and supporting structures will be informed and be involved in the preparation of future policies and funding schemes. With strong political will behind the Covenant from the Commission there is every indication that future funding programmes will look to directly relate to the activities of the Covenant. Thus being a signatory city will offer advantages in being able to seek funds for complimentary activities and influence EU policy that will have a direct bearing at a local level.

Networking and Benchmarking

Participation offers the opportunity to be part of a network of leading EU cities that offers huge potential to develop partners for other EU funded activities, learn from the best practice and to benchmark against them.

Recognition and Wider Civic Action

The Commission realises that cities are strategically placed to offer local leadership. Fundamental to this is wider recognition for their activities in the fight against climate change so as to allow for wider civic participation and buy in. This year the Mayors of 375 town and municipalities formally signed the Covenant in a glittering event held in Brussels during the EU Sustainable Energy Week. Events such as these allow for media attention and similar events and activities the Commission feels will highlight the work of the Covenant, bring it into the public domain and thus offer scope for wider civic participation.

By looking to increase wider recognition of the Covenant and the leadership role of individual cities it is felt that there is real potential to stimulate involvement from the wider community and autonomous action from business, schools, universities, community groups etc.

Economic Development in the Renewable Sector

Promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy uptake and use, intrinsically creates demand and a market for green technologies which could stimulate local business opportunities and skills in this area. It also presents opportunities for tech transfer being harnessed in local research centers.

Aberdeen is working towards being a renewable energy hub due to the potential in offshore energy resources. Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group which promotes Aberdeen in this area has as its aim to make Aberdeen as well known for renewables as it is for oil. It is by taking a holistic approach to supporting the renewable sector Aberdeen that the City can work towards being as well known for renewables as it is for oil.

7. AUTHORISED SIGNATURE



8. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Vibrant, Dynamic & Forward Looking
- Carbon Management Plan
- Community Plan
- Core text of the Covenant of Mayors found at:

http://managenergy.net/download/com/covenant_en.pdf

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ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Council
DATE	29th June 2011
DIRECTOR	Gordon McIntosh
TITLE OF REPORT	Energy Cities Network
REPORT NUMBER:	EP&I /11/180

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report seeks approval for Aberdeen City Council to join the Energy Cities Network.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Council:

1. Approves the Council joining the Energy Cities network
2. Notes that this may involve future travel for the Lord Provost and an officer to represent the City and attend relevant meetings, conferences, events, draft and candidate projects, etc. and that such travel arrangement will be approved in the normal manner, once the detail of any such travel requirements become apparent.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The annual subscription is based on the population size of member cities, in accordance with the following table.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION (in euros)

Population	Fees Special Fees*	
Less than 100,000	1250	625
Between 100,000 and 300,000	2500	1250
Between 300,000 and 500,000	3750	1875
More than 500,000	5000	2500
Associations of local authorities	2500	1250

**New Member States (until 2011), other East-European countries, non EU cities.*

The annual subscription of Euros 2,500 (£ 2,197.00 approximately) will be met from the Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure budget (Projects, Partnerships and Funding)

The costs for the Lord Provost to attend relevant meetings will be met from the Lord Provost's travel budget.

The costs for an Officer accompanying the Lord Provost or attending relevant membership meetings will be met by the E P & I budget (Projects, Partnerships and Funding)

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- **Travel**
The Director of Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure or a nominated Officer by the Director will represent Aberdeen City initiatives and projects. As far as possible, measures relevant to the destination will be taken to reduce any risks in line with Council Policy.
- **Risk Management**
It is important that Aberdeen is fully represented in all European matters; especially those dealing with energy issues, and that all opportunities for influencing policy and the development of transnational projects for the City's benefit are grasped in order that opportunities are maximised. This level of participation will help to increase the understanding of the new programmes and will assist in developing the capacity to successfully develop new projects and work with other European cities that will benefit Aberdeen City.
- **Human Rights/Equalities/Diversity**
European Policy takes full account of the Equal Opportunities Policy of the Council.
- **Sustainability**
Aberdeen City Council has a clear contribution to make to sustainable development with an emphasis on enhances productivity through improved resource efficiency, new business opportunities in the developing market for sustainable technologies and delivering better and more efficient Council services. By attending these events, it will give us the opportunity to look at the possibilities of best practice and drawing down more funds from EU programmes to raise the quality of life through increasing economic opportunity for all on a socially and environmentally sustainable basis. Also, this membership will help Aberdeen to be internationally recognized as an energy efficiency hub and pool for generating innovative solutions.

- **Environmental**
European activities are implemented in line with the aim of achieving a quality and sustainable environment.
- **Social**
The principles of Social inclusion underpin European cohesion policy.
- **Economic**
European representation and inter-regional networking contributes to the City's overall effort to maximize opportunities and to promote its interests, both at home and overseas with the aim of creating sustainable economy and energy efficient environment.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

A. Energy Cities

Energy Cities is the **European Association of local authorities** inventing their energy future. The association created in 1990 represents now more than 1,000 towns and cities in 30 countries. Close to 200 local authorities among them are individually Members of Energy Cities. There are 284 actions and 272 projects within the Energy Cities members. From April 2009 to April 2011, Energy Cities is under the Presidency of the City of Heidelberg (DE) with a Board of Directors of 11 European **cities**: Bielsko-Biala (PL), Braşov (RO), Cork County (IE), Delft (NL), Heidelberg (DE), Helsinki (FI), Leicester (UK), Pamplona (ES), Paris (FR), Salerno (IT), Växjö (SE). Energy Cities' premises are located in Brussels (BE) and Besançon (FR). The full list of members can be found at http://www.energy-cities.eu/cities/members_in_europe_en.php

Energy Cities has succeeded in building expertise, both at political and operational level, in its sphere of activity and is now recognized as an indispensable partner by an increasing number of organisations. Its co-operation with the EU institutions since the early beginning has enabled Energy Cities to acquire a sound knowledge of Community mechanisms.

The network is driven by a team of 18 people representing 7 nationalities with multidisciplinary skills in energy, environment, geography, local administration, economics, sociology, logistics, communication, documentation and information.

Main objectives are:-

- To strengthen members' role and skills in the field of sustainable energy,
- To represent members' interests and influence the policies and proposals made by European Union institutions in the fields of energy, environmental protection and urban policy and

- To develop and promote members' initiatives through exchange of experiences, the transfer of know-how and the implementation of joint projects.

Why should Aberdeen City Council join Energy Cities?

- Discover new practices and enlarge our partnership with other local authorities
- Input opinion on European Community proposals and future policy directions
- Be involved in projects supported by the European Commission (almost 400 municipalities have been involved in various projects aimed at improving their energy efficiency)
- Disseminate information regarding the City on an international scale
- Benefit from exclusive services: individual assistance in the preparation of projects, general and current awareness and information researches upon request, organization of study tours, conferences, etc.
- Obtain a greater chance of securing EU programme support in relation to the funding of energy related projects and programmes, due to the fact that membership of Energy Cities is one of the factors taken into account when determining successful funding applications.

As 75% of all energy consumption in Europe occurs in urban areas, local authorities more than ever have a pivotal role to play. Taking action at local level will help cities to reduce the energy consumption and energy bill whilst reducing local emissions and effluents, stimulate local growth by making use of locally available resources, and be recognized as an innovative town or city.

Benefit from European innovative initiatives and projects!

Energy Cities coordinates a number of ongoing initiatives and projects involving local authorities from EU Member States as well as Candidate countries, such as:

DISPLAY: This is the campaign currently supports around 400 local authorities in their efforts to make public buildings more energy efficient. Since 2003, Display® encourages its participants to display the energy performance of their buildings and to initiate awareness-raising amongst the building users.
www.display-campaign.org

IMAGINE: In 2006, Energy Cities launched the "*IMAGINE the Energy Future of our Cities*" initiative to help local authorities prepare for their future. This initiative gives local authorities a framework to initiate a participative multi-stakeholder dialogue process around the territorial energy future issues. Also, an exhibition, a series of thematic workshops and an annual seminar allow

exchange and discussion to take place around the concept of low energy cities with high quality of life for all.

www.energy-cities.eu/imagine

MODEL: This initiative aims at helping local authorities to become models for both the citizens and the other European municipalities. Its main objective is to improve the practical capacities of local authorities and/or local energy management agencies from 10 New Member States plus Croatia to better deal with intelligent energy issues at both individual (municipalities) and collective (national networks or embryos of networks) levels.

www.energymodel.eu

Free services (exclusive to members):

Members receive the following services for free as part of their membership:

- The bi-annual **magazine** Energy Cities Info
- **Information** on European policies, programmes, calls for proposals on a regular basis via the twice monthly NEWS and through personalized contacts
- Support and **personal advice** from the association's staff for the realization of projects
- **Promotion of your local actions thanks to Energy Cities' numerous communication supports:** Energy Cities' website, blogs, best practice database, magazine, newsletters and social networking websites, etc.
- **Participate for free** at the Annual Rendezvous, in the Display® Campaign, in European projects and in other partnership-building opportunities

Discounted services for members

The following services are available to members at discounted rates:

- Participate with Energy Cities' tailor-made **study tours:** use others' practices as a source of inspiration for implementing projects, whether at European level or in your own city (<http://www.energy-cities.eu/-Study-Tours->)
- Get the **IMAGINE exhibition** in the language of your choice (www.imagineyourenergyfuture.eu/exhibition)
- Have a **permanent representation in our Brussels' office** as well as the use of a meeting room
- Benefit from our expertise and assistance in **organising international conferences** in your city

Energy Cities members commit to?

As a member of Energy Cities you engage:

- To make energy efficiency, renewables and sustainable planning an integral part of **your local policies**
- **To carry out initiatives** and actions on your territory so as to (contribute to) reach the EU 2020 objectives
- **To give your opinion** on European decisions (in consultation processes, etc.)
- **To share your experiences**, ideas and information with the network
- **To provide support** to other members upon request
- **To inform our personal contact** at Energy Cities about our initiatives & projects by sending one or more local action(s) using the template we will provide you; these will be promoted via our communication channels such as EC website, EC INFO, etc.
- **To establish a link** between Aberdeen City website and the Energy Cities website www.energy-cities.eu
- **To promote our Energy Cities membership** when talking about your sustainable energy activities
- **To participate in Energy Cities' Annual Rendezvous** and the General Assembly

Justification

Energy Cities is leading, in cooperation with **Climate Alliance, CEMR, Fedarene** and **Eurocities, the Covenant of Mayors Office** and is an official Supporting Structure. **Moreover, 90 Energy Cities members are involved as signatories in the Covenant of Mayors** which will provide a multiplying effect of the membership Aberdeen City has in other networks (the Covenant of Mayors) by strengthening partnerships, increasing the influence and importance of Aberdeen City and by joining and applying the most advanced projects and policies especially in the new initiatives coming out of the European Union such as the SMART CITIES / REGIONS Initiative.

As leader of the Covenant of Mayors Office, Energy Cities is committed to facilitate networking activities within the Covenant, support the promotion of the Covenant of Mayors, monitor the implementation of the Covenant by signatories, provide technical support, support liaison with other actors in the Covenant, and support liaison with other relevant EU initiatives and policies.

As a supporting structure, Energy Cities is committed to encourage the highest possible number of its members to join the initiative, enhance the exchange of experiences and know-how on tools and methodologies helping cities to put in place their SEAP's (**Sustainable Energy Action Plan**), promote its members' activities and SEAP's as to inspire and show the way to other European cities, set up a "Covenant Task Force" within its Board of Directors aiming to better respond on the cities' expectations and formulate the proposals for improvements, and promote the Covenant of Mayors in Europe and beyond.

In relation to this, "Aberdeen City Council has a strong track record of tackling carbon emissions. The council was one of the first to sign up in 2004 to the Carbon Trust Local Authority Carbon Management Programme (LACMP), which aims to reduce emissions from our buildings, vehicles, street lighting and landfill sites. We committed ourselves at that time to a carbon reduction target of 10% by 2010, and a further 15% by 2015. We surpassed that four years ago in 2006, when we achieved a 31% CO2 reduction. We now want to build on our impressive achievements so far and strive even harder to do all we can to combat climate change. Last year the council signed up to the LACMP programme again, setting an ambitious target of further cuts of 23% by 2015 and 42% by 2020", as stated in the **Carbon Management Plan (2010-2015)**.

On the Energy Cities website one can find a list of projects, conferences, study tours, cities actions, events and the newsletter. Energy Cities benefits from its experienced team's project management skills and participates in numerous European campaigns and projects in the framework of programmes such as **INTERREG, CONCERTO or Intelligent Energy Europe (IEE)**. Aberdeen City will certainly take advantage of this membership in order to establish new partnerships and receive practical information when applying projects to these programmes. Also, Aberdeen City can really promote itself as the Capital of Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy or Urban Mobility projects and events.

Although Aberdeen belongs to the **World Energy Cities Partnership (WECP)** which represents collaboration of 18 "energy cities" around the world, Energy Cities offer more than 200 local authorities as individual members which will give way for the new partnerships and projects.

Having in mind that it is very difficult to reduce energy consumption and to increase energy efficiency by standing alone by working with other local authorities and stakeholders and by exchanging best practices, debating our successes and failures, pooling our resources and our ideas Aberdeen City would multiply the effect of the local projects, activities, events and policies. Energy Cities regularly publishes opinions on the various Community legislative documents in relation with its fields of action. Whereas a municipality alone has little influence, Energy Cities is able to combine the forces of all to take more appropriate action. Since Energy Cities knows the work, targets and initiatives of each member city and the targets of different European Union programmes, and directives, it is easy for them to organise or help to organize fruitful joint projects which will benefit as many member cities as possible. We are aware of the fact that the City is investing itself, but external funds should also be used as much as possible by establishing stronger and broader partnerships with the pioneers in this field. This will provide Aberdeen City with new know-how and expertise in this field and also raise Aberdeen's international profile. Energy Cities can be a very good channel for dissemination of our own experience which means that our work will not have effects only locally. When speaking about Energy Cities one cannot forget extremely well organized Annual Conferences and meetings. These occasions offer all members a possibility to hear about highly topical

issues, good experience of other cities and have interesting discussions with others working with the same issues and deepen relationship with other cities.

B. Sustainable Energy Europe Campaign

Energy Cities is an Official Associate of the **Sustainable Energy Europe Campaign** which showcases activities dedicated to energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions. The focus is on spreading best practice in sustainable energy technology, build alliances and inspire new energy ideas and actions. Any activity, be it a project or event carried out to encourage the use of renewables or energy efficiency is welcome. There are no limits except to support the overall goal: to spread inspiring stories and be coordinated from Europe. More than 250 new projects join each year and the Campaign promotes around 450 events. Also, more than 1, 200 organizations across Europe are involved in the activities of Campaign and their membership has no financial implications.

Fore example, one of the projects Sustainable Energy Europe Campaign promotes is the **Energy Day**, organized in order to promote renewable energy or energy efficiency. Moreover, by signing up to the Covenant of Mayors, local authorities commit to reduce their CO2 emissions by at least 20% across their territories. Covenant signatories pledge to organize local Energy Days once a year to promote the support of citizens and local stakeholders needed to meet this challenge. Therefore, Aberdeen City, already being one of the **Covenants of Mayors signatories**, can get additional visibility to energy efficiency projects by organizing such an event.

Aberdeen City Council can join Sustainable Energy Europe Campaign by submitting projects which **must make a significant and demonstrable contribution to the EU 2020 objectives with regards to energy efficiency and renewable energy sources**. This implies the need to present concrete facts and figures which demonstrate the energy savings and/or the increased use of renewable energy sources which are a direct result of the project. Also projects should be an outstanding example in its area. Once accepted, the project summary will be edited and published on the Campaign website but there are more communication tools in place to promote truly inspiring stories – for example the monthly media news alert, the Awards Competition and featured articles.

Thus, by joining the Sustainable Energy Europe Campaign Aberdeen City will improve the visibility of all energy projects implemented in the City, receive information about the best practices and most daring breakthroughs worldwide and enlarge the number of partnerships.

6. IMPACT

European policy, representation and best practice supports the Council's objective of representing the interests of the people and organizations of

Aberdeen within North East Scotland, the UK, and Europe. The Europe 2020 Strategy aims for a Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Europe which is reflected in the Council's 2011-2016 5 Year Business Plan.

Energy Cities takes note of the Public consultation on **Smart Cities and Communities** which is of particular interest of Aberdeen City. Energy Cities welcomes Smart Cities and Communities, and will actively contribute to its success, for instance by promoting the upcoming Call for Proposals and accompanying its members in their project preparation and implementation.

Several of the challenges of the Community Plan identified in the Single Outcome Agreement are also supported, such as: Leading the City, Being Informed, Getting Involved, Land Use and the Environment and Clean City, Transport and Connections, Prosperity and Jobs, and Aberdeen's Image.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Energy Cities Membership pack 2010

8. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Enterprise, Strategic Planning & Infrastructure
DATE	3 rd June 2014
DIRECTOR	Gordon McIntosh
TITLE OF REPORT	Hydrogen Fuel Cells and Electro-Mobility in European Regions (HyER) and Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) Annual Meetings and EU Funding update
REPORT NUMBER:	EPI/14/117
CHECKLIST RECEIVED	Yes

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report is to give elected members an update on EU funded projects and approval for future EU projects as well as an update on the North Sea Commission and the Covenant of Mayors.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the committee:

1. Approves the travel for the Convenor of EP&I Committee and one Officer to attend the HyER AGM in Copenhagen, Denmark.
2. Approves the request to nominate a member of the EP&I Committee to the HyER Board. Their role would be to support decision-making on the actions of HyER.
3. Approves the travel for an Officer to attend the Fuel Cell Hydrogen Joint Undertaking (FCHJU) Communication Campaign workshop on the 23rd June, 2014 and to attend the FCHJU Info Day for New Call for Proposals on the 10th July, 2014, Brussels, Belgium.
4. Approves the travel for the Council Leader, or whom failing another elected member, and two officers to Umea, Sweden to attend the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) General Assembly Meeting.
5. Approves the request to participate in the North Sea Region Programme project Digital Agenda for the North Sea: Orientation

towards New Innovation (DANS ON) if the funding application is successful and approve officer travel for the project.

6. Approves the participation of Aberdeen City Council in the Energy Technology Institute (ETI) and Heat Programme project.
7. Nominates the Convenor of EP&I for the position of Vice President of North Sea Commission and approves associated travel costs for North Sea Commission work.
8. Notes the success of the Aberdeen City Hydrogen Energy Storage (ACHES) project in drawing down £757,630.78 in external grant funding.
9. Approves the request, subject to the approval by the Head of Legal & Democratic Services of the relevant documentation, for the Council to sign up to the Covenant of Mayors climate change adaptation initiative, Mayors Adapt and overseas travel that will be undertaken.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- Costs for the Convenor of EP&I and Officer's attendance at the HyER AGM will be met from the current service travel budget. Approximate costs £1,500.
- Costs for an Officer's attendance to the FCHJU Information Days will be met from the current service travel budget. Approximate costs are £700 total.
- Costs for the Council Leader and Officers attendance at the CPRM General Assembly will be met from the current service travel budget. Approximate costs £2,000.
- Aberdeen City Council will provide equivalent €27,000 match funding to the DANS ON project in staff costs and travel to project meetings from current service budget.
- If the Council is successful in its bid to the Energy Technology Institute (ETI) a further report will be brought to Council for the approval of match funding.
- The position of vice-president would require travel to four meetings per year by Elected Member plus one officer. These costs are estimated at £400 per person per meeting.
- Travel that will be undertaken for the Covenant of Mayors will be met from current service budgets. It is estimated at £750.00

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Travel

As far as possible, measures relevant to the destination will be taken to reduce any risks in line with Council Policy.

Risk Management

It is important that Aberdeen is fully represented in all European matters, especially those dealing with energy issues, and all opportunities for influencing policy and the development of transnational projects for the City's benefit are grasped in order that opportunities are maximised. This level of participation will help increase the understanding of the new programmes and will assist in developing the capacity to successfully develop new projects and work with other European cities that will benefit Aberdeen City.

Human Rights/Equality/Diversity

European Policy takes full account of the Equal Opportunities Policy of the Council.

Sustainability

Aberdeen City Council has a clear contribution to make to sustainable development with an emphasis on enhancing productivity through improved resource efficiency, new business opportunities in the developing market for sustainable technologies and delivering better and more efficient Council services. By attending these events, it will give Aberdeen City Council the opportunity to look at the possibilities of best practice and drawing down more funds from EU programmes to raise the quality of life through increasing economic opportunity for all on a socially and environmentally sustainable basis. Attendance at this event will help ensure Aberdeen promotes awareness as an internationally recognised energy efficiency hub and pool for generating innovative solutions.

Environmental

European activities are implemented in line with the aim of achieving a quality and sustainable environment.

Social

The principles of Social Inclusion underpin European cohesion policy.

Economic

European representation and inter-regional networking contributes to the City's overall effort to maximise opportunities and to promote its interests, both at home and overseas with the aim of creating sustainable economy and energy efficiency environment.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

5.1 HyER AGM in Copenhagen, Denmark, 24th to 25th June 2014.

It is proposed the Convenor of EP&I Committee and 1 Officer of Aberdeen City Council attend the Hydrogen Fuel Cells and Electro-Mobility in European Regions (HyER) AGM in Copenhagen, Denmark between the 24th and 25th June 2014.

HyER is an association which was established in collaboration with the EU Commission in 2008 and supports the deployment and uptake of hydrogen and fuel cell technologies and electro-mobility in Europe. This is in order to contribute positively to the carbon dioxide emissions reduction, environmental protection as well as economic growth and employment. HyER represents over 30 regions and cities in Europe. The association seeks to develop fact-based policy at EU, national and local level to establish robust local deployment channels and a first customer base. HyER is currently facilitating development European wide electro-mobility monitoring facility to collect data and experiences of electro-mobility projects.

The benefits of HyER are that it provides its members with a representative body that can be coherent, distinguishable and influential towards all relevant stakeholders and decision-makers at public and private level. It allows members to play a key role in the implementation of strategies which aim at increasing the uptake of hydrogen, fuel cells and electric-mobility.

The Aberdeen City Council delegation will attend the AGM, which follows the Green Capital Award Ceremony 2014 which was won by Copenhagen. Following the AGM there will be an exclusive symposium on the integration of fuel cell vehicles in specific fleets. This will be useful information for the Aberdeen City Council delegation to learn from as we try to encourage transport fleets to deploy hydrogen fuel cell vehicles.

5.2 Nomination of Aberdeen City Council Elected Member to HyER Board

To ensure Aberdeen's influence and demonstrate our lead by example approach in the hydrogen and fuel cell sector, we seek approval to nominate the Convenor of EP&I Committee to sit on the HyER Board.

The HyER Board meets three times a year in Brussels, or another member location, as well as once a year via teleconference. There are also informal Board update calls every Wednesday in which the latest HyER and relevant regional, national and EU activities are discussed.

Given Aberdeen City Council's leadership in Hydrogen Fuel Cells, for example the recent arrival of the hydrogen bus to the city, it is appropriate to consider the nomination of the Convenor of EP&I Committee to the HyER Board to observe the actions of other member countries as well as decision making for the running of HyER. Their nomination to the Board can also possibly lead to hosting the HyER AGM where the city can demonstrate its forward-looking vision and further promote our international and business links. Participation on the board can further lead to join Taskforces such as Smart Cities and Communities and Ten T as examples. It also allows Aberdeen City Council to disseminate information on Aberdeen City on an international scale. It will ensure Aberdeen remains at the forefront of research and innovation, continuing to make the city an internationally recognised energy and sustainability hub.

5.3 Fuel Cell Hydrogen Joint Undertaking (FCHJU) Information Sessions

It is proposed that an Officer from Economic Business Development attends two information sessions which have been organised by the FCHJU.

The first of these sessions is 'Communication Campaign' which takes place on the 23rd June, 2014 in Brussels. The purpose of the workshop is to explain common financial issues related to the FCHJU Grant Agreement and to improve the costs' reporting and assessment process. The main points which will be discussed include the following;

- Rules
- Eligibility of Costs
- Ex ante certificates
- Ex post audits
- Most common errors

Aberdeen City Council is a grant receiver of the FCHJU. The workshop would provide invaluable information which can be disseminated to colleagues on the Officer's return to office to ensure we comply within the financial rules of the funding granted, as well as make efficient use of resource time by avoiding errors.

The second workshop takes place on the 10th July, 2014 in Brussels and it is proposed an Officer also attends this session. The session is an Information Day on the new Call for Proposals and is the first call under the new funding programme Horizon 2020. It would be beneficial if an Officer attends as to understand the funding opportunities available to bring inward investment to Aberdeen City and further Aberdeen City Council's work in a Hydrogen Economy.

5.4 Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) 42nd General Assembly Meeting, Umea, Sweden, 24th to 26th September 2014

It is proposed that the Council Leader and two Officers attend this Conference.

The CPMR exists to target action towards ensuring the needs and interests of the Member Regions are taken into account in all policies with a high territorial impact. The General Assembly is organised once a year for the member regions to come together for a meeting to adopt the Conference's policy guidelines and budget.

The Council Leader and Officers will attend the General Assembly to ensure the needs and interests of Aberdeen City are being met, as well as have the opportunity to meet and network with other member regions. The networking opportunity is particularly important as the calls for Horizon 2020 and Interreg have or will be launched soon. As the members attending the General Assembly are all maritime regions there will be similar research and innovation problems and solutions which members can act through the aforementioned funding programmes.

5.5 DIGITAL AGENDA FOR THE NORTH SEA: ORIENTATION TOWARDS NEW INNOVATION (DANS ON)

An application has been submitted by Aberdeen City Council to the Interreg North Sea Region Programme to approve the DANS ON project. Aberdeen City Council hope to be a partner in this Swedish led project involving 6 European partners from across the North Sea Region.

The DANS ON project aims at disseminating how the DANS model stimulates innovation in the North Sea Region by demonstrating how the DANS model has been applied and implemented in practice. The DANS model is a Quadruple Helix model suitable to innovation processes where citizens needs are central in the area of digital innovation in open data. The partnership will communicate the DANS Model via a range of media channels and show how regions in the North Sea Region can adapt the model to increase society's capacity for innovation.

If successful the project will draw down €27,500 in EU funds which is a sum of the external funding granted to Aberdeen City Council through its successful application. The Council shall be required to provide equivalent funding in staff and travel costs. This shall be met from current Service budgets.

5.6 ENERGY TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE – SMART SYSTEMS AND HEAT PROGRAMME

The Energy Technology Institute (ETI) ETI is focused on accelerating the deployment of affordable, secure low-carbon energy systems for 2020 to 2050 by demonstrating technologies, developing knowledge, skills and supply-chains and informing the development of regulation, standards and policy.

This programme has a projected budget of up to £100m, which is solely financed by ETI, and will run in two phases:

Phase 1 (2012-2016): Toolkit Development

Phase 1 will develop software tools to design location-specific smart energy systems. ETI will work with Local Authorities to create a small number of designs specific to their communities. Aberdeen City Council will also undertake a number of consumer behaviour, technology development, business modelling and supply-chain activities to create heat supply and demand management products and services that meet consumer needs.

Phase 2 (2016 onwards): Demonstration and Validation

Phase 2 will see a demonstration of the designed local smart energy system to prove the concept and methodology, importantly proving that the capability and approach can be adopted nationally and providing an evidence base for future supportive policy.

As a shortlisted local authority for the funding bid to ETI Smart Heat and Systems, Aberdeen City Council is working with the ETI to advance Phase 1 of the programme by refining the software under development. To this end, input from the local authority partners in energy delivery is being solicited in order to collate a fuller picture of the issues and potential applications of the tool. Finalist cities are to be announced in the fourth quarter of 2014. Should Aberdeen be selected, further collaboration with partner organisations would be outlined against Phase 2 of the project.

5.7 NOMINATION FOR VICE-PRESIDENT OF NORTH SEA COMMISSION

The North Sea Commission political leader is the President, who is supported by two vice-presidents. From on-going discussions, it is anticipated that one of the existing vice-presidents will take up the vacant president role and that a new vice-president will be sought. A nomination for this post would help to increase the level of influence that Aberdeen City Council has on the future direction of the organisation and our ability to raise local issues at a European level through a recognised body. Councillor Crockett is currently the only ACC elected member involved in the work of the North Sea Commission. The role would also help Aberdeen City Council to

further raise its profile on the EU stage as a leading region with strong relations across northern Europe.

5.8 ABERDEEN CITY HYDROGEN ENERGY STORAGE

Notes the success of the Council in drawing down £757,630.78 in external monies to be utilised in the ERDF project Aberdeen City Hydrogen Energy Storage (ACHES) over the period of one year.

The ACHES project will look to demonstrate the commercial viability of this innovative storage technology. In addition there will be a strong focus on supporting local SMEs to develop products and services which can take advantage of the deployment of the technology here in Aberdeen.

5.9 MAYORS ADAPT

Aberdeen became a signatory of the Covenant of Mayors, a European emissions reduction initiative in 2009. A new Covenant of Mayors initiative, Mayors Adapt, has now been established by the European Commission to engage cities in taking action to adapt to climate change. It recognises that major centres of population and infrastructure are particularly vulnerable to extreme weather events and other effects of climate change.

The initiative offers a platform for communication among cities and between local and European-level authorities. This increases capacity for sharing best practice, learning from each other, sharing expertise and offering and finding support.

To sign up to Mayors Adapt a local authority must agree to complete and sign the commitment document. This document shall require prior approval by the Head of Legal & Democratic Services. By signing up to the initiative, local authorities commit to: either developing a comprehensive local adaptation strategy or integrating adaptation to climate change into relevant existing plans.

The development of an Adaptation Plan will ensure the Council addresses climate change adaptation, a statutory requirement under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, public bodies duties.

6 IMPACT

Several of the challenges of the Community Plan identified in the Single Outcome Agreement are also supported, such as: Leading the City, Being Informed, Getting Involved, Land Use and the Environment and Clean City, Prosperity and Jobs, and Aberdeen's Image.

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

There will be inevitably be some risks associated with overseas travel. As far as possible, measures relevant to the destination will be taken to reduce any risks in line with Council Policy.

It is important that Aberdeen is fully represented in all European matters and that all opportunities for influencing policy and the development of transnational projects for the City's benefit are grasped in order that opportunities are maximised. If this is not done the Council could be at risk of not being able to draw down European grant monies.

8 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

9 REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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