

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Enterprise, Planning & Infrastructure
DATE	24 May 2011
DIRECTOR	Gordon McIntosh
TITLE OF REPORT	North East of Scotland Climate Change Partnership Elected Member Representation
REPORT NUMBER:	EPI/11/142

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

On 24 March 2010, Full Council agreed to the appointment of an Elected Member to the North East of Scotland Climate Change Partnership.

Following this recommendation this report seeks the selection of a named Elected Member to the Partnership.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee:-

- (i) Appoint an appropriate Elected Member to represent the Council's interests on the North East Scotland Climate Change Partnership, with officer support from Planning & Sustainable Development.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

The Climate Change Scotland Act 2009 has set targets for a 42% reduction in CO2 emissions by 2020 and an 80% reduction by 2050. Part 4 of this act covers Public Bodies Duties which came into force on 1 January 2011.

These state that –“The Scottish Government wishes to see Scotland's public sector playing a key role and setting an international example through:

- Leading and contributing to the achievement of Scotland's ambitious climate emissions reduction targets. Scottish public bodies have a key role to play in championing climate change action and ensuring their own emissions are reduced as far as possible.
- Building a resilient Scotland prepared for the challenges of the changing climate.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

The North East Scotland Climate Change Partnership was established in 2008 and brings together a range of public and private sector organisations working together to address the implications of climate change in the north east. This is achieved through joint working and sharing best practice.

Membership of the Partnership currently consists of 17 public and large private sector organisations including; Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeen and Grampian Chamber of Commerce, Aberdeen University, Aberdeenshire Council, Cairngorm National Park Authority, Federation of Small Businesses, Forestry Commission Scotland, Grampian Fire and Rescue Service, Grampian Police, Macaulay Institute, Moray Council, National Farmers Union Scotland, NHS Grampian, Robert Gordon University, Scottish Enterprise, Scottish Environment Protection Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage.

The Partnership aims to add value to the work of individual organisations and enable a wider influence on carbon reduction and addressing climate change within the north east. A key role of the Partnership is to raise awareness of the opportunities as well as the effects of climate change, both now and in the future, on the economy, environment and quality of life in the north east of Scotland.

On 21 May 2008, the Council agreed to approve and adopt the North East Scotland Climate Change Partnership declaration and remit.

Following this, on 24 March 2010, Full Council “agreed to the appointment of an Elected Member to the North East Scotland Climate Change Partnership”. This report seeks a nominated Elected Member to the role.

Active participation as a Partnership member supports Council commitments to addressing climate change and carbon management and meeting climate change responsibilities. Elected Member representation demonstrates leadership on climate change and ensures Council interests in this group are effectively represented.

The Partnership appoints a new chairperson annually. Currently the

Chair is held by The James Hutton Institute (formerly Macaulay Land Use Research Institute), Secretariat is held by Aberdeenshire Council and Vice-chair is currently held by an Elected Member at Aberdeenshire Council. Partnership meetings are held quarterly.

6. IMPACT

Membership of the North East Scotland Climate Change Partnership supports the environmental priorities within 'Vibrant, Dynamic and Forward Looking', which aims to 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.

The report also supports the commitment in the Single Outcome Agreement: 14 -"We reduce the local and global environmental impact of our production and consumption."

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Report to Full Council, 24 March 2010 - Carbon Management Plan.

Report to Full Council, 21 May 2008 - North East Scotland Climate Change Partnership Declaration.

8. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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