

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Education Operational Delivery Committee
DATE	31 March 2022
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	COP event for children and young people
REPORT NUMBER	OPE/22/068
DIRECTOR	Rob Polkinghorne
CHIEF OFFICER	Eleanor Sheppard
REPORT AUTHOR	Stuart Craig
TERMS OF REFERENCE	1.1.2

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Education Operational Delivery Committee (EODC) of 26th January 2022 noted how children and young people across the city were keen to address climate change and instructed the Chief Education Officer and Chief Officer (Strategic Place Planning) to organise an adapted child friendly version of COP 26 for climate change pupil champions from Aberdeen City Schools. This report updates Committee on the findings of the COP event held on the 3rd March.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:-

- 2.1 note the findings of the COP event held on 3 March 2022;
- 2.2 congratulate and thank our Pupil Climate Change President and Vice Presidents for their commitment to helping the city work towards Net Zero;
- 2.3 instruct the Chief Education Officer to support the establishment of a monthly Pupil Climate Change Group to be chaired by Pupil Climate Change President and Vice Presidents;
- 2.4 instruct the Chief Education Officer to support the Pupil Climate Change President to lead the Pupil Climate Change Group to draft an Action Plan based on the findings of the event on 3 March 2022 and communicate plans with all children and young people across the city;
- 2.5 instruct the Chief Education Officer to support the Pupil Climate Change Group to allocate the £150,000 awarded to the Group at the Council Budget meeting on 7 March 2022 against their Action Plan;
- 2.6 instruct the Chief Education Officer to support the Pupil Climate Change President to report the impact of the £150,000 awarded to the Group within one calendar year; and

- 2.7 agree to establish a yearly event for secondary young people to help shape city strategy around Net Zero and Climate Change.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1.1 The report presented to EODC on 26 January 2022 reported a series of suggestions for change from city school pupils. Suggestions were broadly aligned with four core themes:

- Environmental improvements
- More recycling and a reduction in waste
- Greater investment in clean and renewable energy production
- Buying local produce and reducing consumption

3.1.2 The Committee instructed that a COP event be established in the Town House to help explore the themes raised by young people more fully. Members also requested that the event be presided over by a young person and that this young person be asked to share the thoughts of young people at a special meeting of EODC.

3.1.3 The Committee instructed all secondary schools to nominate a City Climate Change president. After pupils were nominated, they were asked to complete a 300-word application explaining their thoughts on the climate emergency and what they would like to see in their city of Aberdeen to improve the local environment. Following a robust application process Charles Turner, from Aberdeen Grammar School, was successfully appointed to the role.

3.1.4 Charles will also chair the proposed new monthly Pupil Climate Change Group. Accompanying Charles Turner in his role will be Best Abalaka, Harlaw Academy, and Aurora MacDonald, Aberdeen Grammar School, as Climate Change Vice Presidents. Further details on the appointment of the Pupil Climate Change President are included in Appendix A.

3.2 DEVELOPING THE PROGRAMME

3.2.1 After a series of successful Mock COP26 events in December 2021, involving S3 pupils, the programme for 3 March 2022 built on the positive feedback and experiences of this event to create a similar event for senior pupils from across the city.

3.2.2 Fifth and sixth-year pupils from Aberdeen secondary schools were invited to take part in this updated Mock COP26 event aimed at developing their leadership skills, ability to work in groups and teamwork, as well as providing a greater understanding of COP26 and the climate emergency. The materials were developed by our partners at Techfest, who adapted a series of materials provided by the Decarbonised Gas Alliance. There was also a look towards the demands and needs that will be debated at COP27 in Egypt.

3.2.3 A further aspect of the event was hearing from these senior pupils and what they would like to see in their city of Aberdeen based on the four core themes:

- Environmental improvements
- More recycling and a reduction in waste
- Greater investment in clean and renewable energy production
- Buying local produce and reducing consumption

3.3 FINDINGS FROM THE EVENT

3.3.1 The young people clearly displayed their commitment to Net Zero and desire to be integral to the Council's work to achieve this ambitious target. A full account of the event held on 3 March 2022 is available in Appendix A.

3.4 EVALUATION OF THE DAY

3.4.1 Nine schools took part on the day, with thirty-seven pupils involved from across the nine schools. Feedback from the even was very positive with 75% of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing with the statement: "I enjoyed today's event".

3.4.2 The specific feedback from the pupils is contained in Appendix A. Pupils demonstrated a willingness to participate in future events. There was also a desire to provide their feedback regularly to the council regarding their thoughts for their City.

3.4.3 In addition to a greater understanding of COP26 and the environmental emergency 68.4% of respondents felt that they had gained a greater understanding of the future skills and jobs that will be available to them when they leave school.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no financial implications. The Pupil Climate Change Group will be established using existing resources. The Group were awarded £150,000 at the Council Budget meeting of 7 March 2022 and will use this resource to implement their Action Plan.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

Category	Risk	Low (L) Medium (M) High (H)	Mitigation
Strategic Risk	Risk of not planning effectively for Net Zero	L	Working in collaboration with young people and enabling them to be heard in decisions which will impact them helps reduce the risk in this area.

Compliance	As we work to become a Child Friendly City there is a risk in not engaging young people in strategic decision making	L	Establishing the monthly Pupil Group will enable us to hear directly from young people and give them a direct opportunity to shape our plans
Operational	Risk of attendance at the group impacting negatively on pupil attendance at lessons	L	Timings will be agreed with the young people and their school to ensure that pupils face no detriment.
Financial	N/A		N/A
Reputational	Risk of not achieving Net Zero	L	The establishment of this Pupil Group will help us better realise our plans
Environment / Climate	Risk of not achieving Net Zero	L	The establishment of this Pupil Group will help us better realise our plans

7. OUTCOMES

<u>COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN</u>	
Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan	
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	The proposals within this report support the delivery of Children & Young People Stretch Outcome 7 in the LOIP: Child Friendly City which supports all children to prosper and engage actively with their communities by 2026.
Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes	The proposals within this report support the delivery of LOIP Stretch Outcome 14: Addressing climate change by reducing Aberdeen's carbon emissions by 42.5% by 2026 and adapting to the impacts of our changing climate.
UK and Scottish Legislative and Policy Programmes	<p>The Education (Scotland) Act 1980</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Duty to provide adequate and efficient education for our area. <p>The Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Duties regarding meeting the needs of children and young people with additional support needs. <p>The Equality Act 2010</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Duty to ensure we are not discriminating disabled learners <p>The Standards in Scotland's Schools Etc. Act 2000</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising standards • Requirement that education be provided in mainstream schools <p>The National Improvement Framework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education Authorities are under a duty to endeavour to secure improvement in the quality of education of school education which is provided in the schools managed by them and to carry out the duty with a view to achieving the strategic priorities set out in the National Improvement Framework.
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8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Impact Assessment	Not required
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

10. APPENDICES

Appendix A – COP Event for young people

11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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