

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.

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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 voluntarily 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 baselineing, 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.