

North Lanarkshire Council

Report

Environment and Transportation Committee

approval noting

Ref JMcK/LJ

Date 12/02/20

Act 2020 – Action on Climate Change Together

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Executive Summary

Corporate Management Team (CMT) will recall the report in December 2019 which presented the opportunity for the council to work in partnership with Engie (a major player in the world energy market) to deliver a series of events in the lead up to the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of Parties (COP26) to be held in Glasgow in November 2020. The COP26 is designed to provide an international response to climate change.

By playing a leading role and delivering a series of high impact thought provoking leadership events (around the broad themes of climate change and the transition to net zero), it is anticipated that the North Lanarkshire Council / Engie COP26 Partnership Programme can engage communities, businesses, schools, Elected Members, Scottish Government, and council staff in a positive, locally led vision for change.

This report provides CMT with oversight of the COP26 events planned in partnership with Engie.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Environment and Transportation Committee:

1. Note the content of this report,
2. Approve the outline programme of events, and
3. Approve the next steps as outlined in the report.

The Plan for North Lanarkshire

Priority All priorities

Ambition statement All ambition statements

1. Background

- 1.1 Members will be aware that the council declared a climate change emergency in June 2019 and made a commitment, where feasible, to reduce carbon emissions to zero by 2030.
- 1.2 Since 2015/16 the council has successfully reduced carbon emissions by 16.4% and continues to take further action in line with the climate emergency to reduce emissions year on year towards the zero target by 2030.
- 1.3 To support this ambition, Engie, a global leader in low carbon energy and services approached the council, to work in partnership, to deliver a programme of high impact awareness raising and thought provoking events in the run up to, and coinciding with, the United Nations (UN) 26th Conference of Parties to be held in Glasgow from 9 - 19 November 2020.
- 1.4 Engie is currently the council's contractor for facilities management within the 24 schools delivered under the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) programme: Transform Schools. In addition, Engie have also recently been appointed as the contactor for an extensive refurbishment programme on four sixteen-storey housing blocks in Coatbridge.
- 1.5 During the course of the proposed events, the broad themes of climate change and the transition to net zero will be explored. The programme is being designed to engage communities, businesses, schools, Elected Members, Scottish Government and council staff.

2. Report

- 2.1 The United Nations Climate Change Conference of Parties (COP26) is being held in Glasgow between 9 and 19 November 2020.
- 2.2 It is expected to be the single most important global climate change event since the Paris Agreement was signed in 2015. There are approximately 200 heads of government from around the world, as well as 30,000 delegates including climate experts, business leaders and citizens, meeting to draw up a new climate change strategy.
- 2.3 North Lanarkshire Council aims to play a leading role in the local authority response, in the lead up to the United Nations Climate Change Summit through the delivery of a planned partnership programme of events. In its field, ENGIE also aspires to lead the global transition to net zero and aims to play a leading role in this conference.
- 2.4 This is an opportunity to work with partners in local and national government, academia, business, and communities to provide high impact thought leadership, and examples of best practice, on how the transition to net zero can be delivered in a sustainable, inclusive and prosperous way.

2.5 Partnership Programme

The partnership programme proposal seeks to harness the unique roles of North Lanarkshire Council and ENGIE as 'international / national' and 'national / local' leaders of the transition to net zero in the United Kingdom, Scotland and specifically in North Lanarkshire.

By delivering a series of high impact, thought provoking leadership events around the broad themes of climate change and the transition to net zero, it is anticipated that a “North Lanarkshire Council/ENGIE – COP26 Partnership Programme” can engage communities, businesses, and schools. As well as government institutions and political leaders at all levels, in a positive, locally led vision for change.

The aims of the partnership programme are to:

- *Establish* North Lanarkshire as a focal point for progressive thought leadership amongst councils, businesses, and people interested in sustainability in Scotland
- *Showcase* North Lanarkshire as a national and international leader in the transition to achieving net zero
- *Promote* new opportunities for sustainable investment, growth and developments for North Lanarkshire

2.6 Joint Steering Group

A steering group jointly chaired by North Lanarkshire Council (Head of Asset and Procurement Solutions) and Engie (Integrated Solutions Director) has been set up to commission and deliver the events which will be broadly based around the UNs Sustainable Development Goals linking to The Plan for North Lanarkshire. The programme will focus on global sustainability, sustainable growth and quality education.

2.7 Events

The programme in the table below outlines the proposed events to take place during March to October 2020. Indicative programmes/overviews are detailed appendix 1 to this report - *Events Programme 2020*.

Event	Venue	Date
1 – Climate Emergency Response	Motherwell Theatre	17 March 2020
2 – Business Reception	Drumpellier Park Visitors Centre	June 2020
3 – Voluntary/Community event	TBC	August / September 2020
4 – Business Seminar	TBC	September 2020
5 – Children and Young People	Ravenscraig Regional Sports Facility	October 2020

The first event scheduled for 17 March 2020 will take place in Motherwell Theatre and will be an opportunity for Elected Members and staff across the organisation to hear from a panel of experts in the field of climate change. The keynote speaker, Will Day is a Fellow of the University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership. Will has worked with sustainability leaders from the private sector including Sainsbury’s, The World Bank and Tata Group. Will has also chaired the UK Government’s Sustainable Development Commission. A panel discussion on the action North Lanarkshire Council could take on its journey to zero emissions will be debated.

2.8 Campaign and Branding

A working title of Act 2020 – Action of Climate Change Together has been applied to the campaign to spearhead change in North Lanarkshire. This campaign is driven by a series of events that will prompt discussion and debate and develop a roadmap for councils, businesses and communities to take realistic action to curb climate change locally.

2.9 Press and Media

A full communication plan for the project is under development through the Corporate Communications team.

2.10 Next Steps

The event's programme will continue to be developed and firmed up during February with further updates submitted to Committee as appropriate.

The branding and campaign will be developed through the Joint Steering Group.

A Children and Young People subgroup will be convened with a specific remit to develop the summit scheduled for October 2020.

Preparations for the event on 17 March 2020 are underway and elected members will be invited to book their place through the Eventbrite system which went live at the end of January.

3. Equality and Diversity

3.1 Fairer Scotland Duty

There are no impacts in relation to Fairer Scotland Duty

3.2 Equality Impact Assessment

Equality impact assessment not required

4. Implications

4.1 Financial Impact

Financial arrangements for the programme of events is the responsibility of both the council and Engie. Costing details for the programme of events will be developed.

4.2 HR/Policy/Legislative Impact

There are no implications.

4.3 Environmental Impact

Events will be developed to be carbon neutral.

4.4 Risk Impact

Risk register will be developed.

5. Measures of success

5.1 There are two clear areas where success will be measured as a result of implementing the programme of events:-

- The development of mitigation measures in response to the climate change emergency.
- And the development of a programme of practical changes that everyone can action which will have a positive impact in addressing climate change.

6. Supporting documents

6.1 Appendix 1 – Events Programme 2020

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James McKinstry". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

James McKinstry
Head of Asset and Procurement Solutions

NLC Climate Change - Events Programme 2020

Event	Venue	Date	Audience	Proposed Programme / Overview
1 – Climate Emergency Response	Motherwell Theatre	17 March 2020	NLC and Engie staff Elected Members Young People representatives	Refreshments <i>Light lunch to be provided</i> Welcome – Councillor McPake, Convener of Environment and Transportation Committee Climate Change Overview – CE NLC Des Murray, CE Engie UK Nicola Lovatt or Engie Isabella Kocher Response from Young Climate Change Activists from North Keynote Speaker – Will Day, Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership Panel Discussion – CE Engie, Will Day, Robert Steenson, Cllr Lynn Anderson Compere/facilitator – to be confirmed Closing remarks – Councillor McNally – Convener of Education and Families Committee
2 – Business Evening Reception – large businesses based in North Lanarkshire	Drumpellier Park Visitors Centre	June 2020	Large organisations (10% of all businesses in North Lanarkshire)	The evidence is in. The Government has acted. The Council has declared a climate emergency and intends to achieve net zero by 2030. But how can large business successfully transition to a net-zero future and how can it work with the council to achieve clean growth? This will be a private seminar for c-suite representatives of major businesses based in North Lanarkshire to explore these issues in the run up to COP26. The event will be hosted by NLC and ENGIE and will be supported by Mike Barry, the UKs leading expert on business sustainability, and former main board level Director of Sustainability at Marks and Spencer.
3 – Voluntary/Community event	TBA	August / September 2020	Communities	Vvoluntary/community event to be developed and led by Maddy Halliday, Chief Executive of Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire (Vanl)
4 – Business Seminar - SMEs	TBA	September 2020	SMEs	Practical seminar to engage SMEs around climate change requirements and funding sources.
5 – Children and Young People	Ravenscraig Regional Sports Facility	October 2020	Children and young people	A summit developed through a sub-set of the steering group focussing on engaging with children and young people about climate change. Empowering them to connect with the declared climate emergency. Providing children and young people with the tools and information to embark on climate change initiatives and encouraging them to be a voice in local and global issues.