

## Edinburgh Climate Commission Minutes Thursday 8 April 2022

The meeting was conducted over MS Teams due to the current restrictions of Covid-19.

### Attendees:

- Sam Gardner (Chair)
- Alex Hilliam
- Andrea Nicholas
- Beth Hall (deputising for Andrew Kerr)
- Bridie Ashrowan
- Calum Murray
- Jane Hopton
- Kaisier Rayner
- Teresa Bray
- Sat Patel (for agenda item on Granton redevelopment)

Officers and staff from City of Edinburgh Council and University of Edinburgh in attendance

### Welcome and Update

Apologies from: Clare Foster, Dave Reay, Diarmaid Lawlor, Irene Beautyman, Cllr Adam McVey, Andrew Kerr.

Sam Gardner welcomed all the members of the Commission and made apologies for those not able to attend.

### Presentation

#### Granton regeneration and net zero: Sat Patel, Programme Director, City of Edinburgh Council

Sat Patel presented plans for the regeneration of the former industrial site and currently unused land at the Granton waterfront. The presentation covered what the project delivers, how the new development illustrates Edinburgh's commitment to net zero, and challenges and barriers to delivery.

The presentation highlighted:

- Its aim in creating a vibrant, well connected, new coastal community which can be used as a blueprint for a net zero development.
- During several phases, a total of 3500 net zero homes as well as public and commercial buildings will be built within the next 10 to 15 years.
- A coastal park will serve as natural flood defence, for recreation and local food production.
- The restored gasholder will be “the heart of Granton”, a place for people to meet and for community events.
- A focus on low carbon energy solutions (air source heat pumps, a heat network utilising waste water heat pump technology) as well as active travel infrastructure, sustainable transport and the promotion of low car ownership through 25% car parking provision.
- Alignment to local and national priority plans (e.g. 2030 Climate Strategy, City Mobility Plan, net zero Goals, 20 minute neighbourhood, place based investment).

- Challenges exist around funding, sourcing contractors/private sector partners with the right skillset and knowledge of new technologies.

## 2022 Climate Commission workplan - key progress updates 2021/22

Relevant commissioners provided updates on work streams.

### Election related work – Sam Gardner

All parties were contacted and asked for a statement to renew and make visible their support for the city's climate commitments as part of their election campaigning. The responses will be shared on the Climate Commission website.

### Scottish Government support for local government action – Sam Gardner

To highlight the challenges facing local government in moving at pace to meet their net zero targets. Discussions underway on funding PCAN and Scottish Cities Alliance with research starting as soon as possible.

### Delivery of Build Back Faster report - Kaisie Rayner

Kaisie reflected on the progress made since the report was published at the start of the pandemic. The report was adopted by the City of Edinburgh Council but the challenge is to follow up on the actions taken and ensure commitments are kept. Discussion was on future engagement with stakeholders to identify challenges and ensuring a legacy of the work.

### Finance – Kaisie Rayner

Scottish Government have set up a Financial Services Growth and Development Board (FISGAD) to drive action green and sustainable finance. Next steps will be to move from theory into action and identify potential case study investments and to use the commissions convening powers to engage with investors, companies, and financial institutions.

### Skills for Net Zero: Helping Edinburgh to develop the skills to deliver a climate neutral city by 2030 – Diarmaid Lawlor (covered by Jamie Brogan)

The aim of this workstream is to align the cities' skills provision using the commission's convening role. Skills transition needs to happen quickly but requires a lengthy process and coordination across the sector. The next step will be a mapping exercise, which will be supported by two students based in the University of Edinburgh from April 2022 onwards.

### Construction focus – Calum Murray

Calum gave an overview of the main challenge within the construction sector. The commissions' role should focus on consensus building among businesses and industry and policy recommendation to support, incentivise and regulate. The next steps will be to refine the focus of the work stream and to identify outputs, resourcing and timeframes.

### Climate Compact – Alex Hilliam/Clare Foster

Alex gave an update on the Climate Compact which has now a total of 23 members, with all organisations actively contributing. Quarterly meetings are held for members to showcase their work and stimulate discussions. There are several working groups on shared challenges, e.g. 20 minute neighbourhoods.

Compact members complete a questionnaire about their emissions and strategy at joining, with an annual follow-up. Currently this data is being analysed and will be presented in a progress report. A

master student from the University of Edinburgh is undertaking a dissertation on the compact this year providing further insight into the Compact's operation.

### Promote Vision of Net Zero Edinburgh – Alex Hilliam

An initial meeting was held to discuss aspirations and agree the approach on how to engage communities. Options of car free days or an event within the Climate Week are discussed, which should involve the Climate Compact members. Further discussions are scheduled to identify how the Commission can best take forward this work.

### Engagement with Poverty Commission/End Poverty Edinburgh – Bridie Ashrowan

Discussions on options to link the Climate Commission and the Poverty Commission are underway. Wider involvement from commission and compact members will be required to progress the work.

## Commission membership

Two members have recently stepped back from their roles at the commission. Options and approaches for the replacement and overall operation of commission was discussed. Further consideration will be given to this issue.

## AOB

### Evaluating the role of Climate Commissions in accelerating place-based climate action -Jamie Brogan

There will be an evaluation of the role of Climate Commissions within PCAN, done by an external consultancy. Members of the commission will be asked to give their reflections on what was done/learned/can be done better.

## Closing Remarks

Members were thanked for their time and encouraged to stay in touch between meetings.