

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCILCABINET3 June 2021Report by Director of EnvironmentADOPTION OF GLASGOW CITY REGION CLIMATE ADAPTATION STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. The purpose of this report is to inform the Cabinet of the likely forthcoming adoption of the Glasgow City Region's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan by the Glasgow City Region Cabinet (subject to individual city region member authority approval) and indicate East Renfrewshire Councils early support. The report also provides an overview on how East Renfrewshire Council can play its part in its implementation throughout 2021/22.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. It is recommended that the Cabinet
 - a) Indicate early approval of and support for the proposed Glasgow City Region Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan;
 - b) Note that there will be a formal launch for the Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan on 29th June 2021, coordinated by Climate Ready Clyde, which will be supported by East Renfrewshire Council at a local level; and
 - c) Note that the delivery of the Strategy and Action Plan necessarily implies a greater allocation of resources to planning, financing and implementation in the years ahead, as well as additional policy and regulation.

BACKGROUND

3. Climate Ready Clyde is a cross-sector initiative funded by the Scottish Government and 15 organisations, including East Renfrewshire Council, to create a shared vision, strategy and action plan to prepare the Glasgow City Region for the inevitable impact of the changing climate. It was formed in 2018 and is managed by the sustainability charity, Sniffer.

4. Building resilience to the impacts of climate change is a key priority as the City Region, including East Renfrewshire, seeks a post-Covid, 'green recovery'. Whilst 'net-zero' is also an urgent priority, some climate impacts are already locked in due to the accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and therefore impacts and costs will increase in the years ahead. Frequent and extreme weather events are already impacting the Glasgow City Region.

5. East Renfrewshire Council is an active participant in Climate Ready Clyde, having a seat on the Board, Executive Sub-group and contributing through the Strategy and Action Planning and Impact, Influence and Engagement sub-groups.

6. The Adaptation Strategy has been developed in partnership over the past 3 years. Drawing on expertise and under-pinned by evidence, the first regional draft Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan for the City Region was issued for consultation for 6 weeks at the end of 2020, with consultees being asked for views on scale of ambition, scope, the extent to which it was fair, its environmental impacts, and how it could better include and involve communities and businesses. A Strategic Environmental Assessment, Habitat Regulations Assessment and Social Impact Assessment have considered the environmental and social dimensions of the Strategy to enhance its effectiveness and avoid negative impacts. A full overview of the development process is attached as Appendix 1.

7. Since the consultation ended, the Climate Ready Clyde secretariat revised the Strategy to take account of comments received and has also worked to develop an initial set of flagship actions and securing wider contributions to delivering adaptation across Glasgow City Region.

8. The launch of the regional Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan is timely given the Council's recent commitment to develop its own Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan. It is proposed that East Renfrewshire Council's Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan will wholly align the wider regional Adaptation Strategy and proactively pursue both adaptation and/or climate preparedness/proofing measures, as well as outlining steps to reduce future greenhouse gas emissions (climate mitigation).

REPORT

9. The Strategy's key objectives are to build the region's social, economic and environmental resilience to climate change and define what is needed to manage climate risks.

10. The Strategy covers the period 2020-2030 and contains 11 interventions, which provide a comprehensive programme of action. Each intervention contains a package of proposed activities. The interventions span a range of activities – from building capacity and enabling adaptation to delivery of physical changes. The full list is included as Appendix 2.

11. The Strategy has been developed to provide global leadership on adaptation given its prominence in the UN Climate Change Negotiations (COP26) taking place in Glasgow later this year.

12. There are also five place-based priorities for adaptation measures outlined in the Strategy. These are the Clyde River Corridor, new priority development sites (including Ravenscraig, Eurocentral/Mossend and the Forth & Clyde Canal), strategic economic investment locations, the coast, urban and town centres.

13. The Action Plan covers the period 2021-2025 and contains an initial set of 16 flagship actions, also listed in Appendix 2. These were set through invitation to all stakeholders to contribute, including East Renfrewshire Council. They are large scale, strategic and aligned with the vision of a city region that flourishes in a future climate.

14. This first list of flagship actions will develop in the years ahead and indeed new, and different actions may come to the fore.

15. The first action plan assigns targets that by 2025, the City Region will have:

- Increased the resilience of over 140,000 of the region's most vulnerable people to the impact of climate change;
- Closed the region's adaptation finance gap of £184m a year; and

- Involved 125 new organisations, community groups and businesses supporting the City Region to adapt.

16. A first concrete action to take shape is the development of a Clyde Climate Forest, which aims to increase tree canopy across many pockets within the City Region for carbon sequestration purposes. Inaugural plantings took place in Barrhead on 14th May with a number of trees planted with further research planned to explore how to maximise carbon sequestration opportunities.

FINANCE AND EFFICIENCY

17. Delivering the Strategy and Action Plan will require increased funding in the years ahead and will be addressed on an individual project basis. It is important to note that any identified costs, whilst significant, may well be significantly less than the costs of climate impacts and will be presented in this context.

18. East Renfrewshire Council will continue to work as a partner of Climate Ready Clyde to develop Flagship Actions and turn them into concrete, costed proposals and support their delivery, as well as to create new ones.

19. At present, East Renfrewshire Council makes an annual contribution of £9,500 to Climate Ready Clyde. A five-year commitment to the partnership (to 2025/26) from East Renfrewshire Council as part of the Glasgow City Region allows CRC to move to a more strategic footing which aligns with the Action Plan period.

CONSULTATION AND PARTNERSHIP WORKING

20. Climate Ready Clyde is a partnership organisation consisting of the eight local authorities within the City Region (Glasgow City, West Dunbartonshire, East Dunbartonshire, Renfrewshire, East Renfrewshire, North Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire and Inverclyde) and the following other organisations: Scottish Government, Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Transport Scotland, Strathclyde Passenger Transport (SPT), NHS Great Glasgow and Clyde, Scottish Gas Networks (SGN), University of Glasgow and University of Strathclyde.

21. All partners have engaged with each other throughout the development of the Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan and supported the public consultation process as outlined above and in Appendix 1.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSALS

22. There are no implications of the proposals in terms of staffing, property, legal, IT, State Aid, equalities and sustainability.

CONCLUSIONS

23. East Renfrewshire Council has contributed to the development of the Glasgow City Region Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2030, as a member of the partnership organisation Climate Ready Clyde. The Strategy and Action Plan was recently adopted by the City Region's Cabinet and a new funding arrangement approved in principle to ensure the support required to deliver the Strategy and Action Plan is in place for the next five years. This

is a critical period with respect to moving to climate preparedness and resilience as the frequency and intensity of climate change impacts are set to increase.

RECOMMENDATIONS

24. It is recommended that the Cabinet
- a) Indicate early approval of and support for the proposed Glasgow City Region Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan;
 - b) Note that there will be a formal launch for the Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan on 29th June 2021, coordinated by Climate Ready Clyde, which will be supported by East Renfrewshire Council at a local level; and
 - c) Note that the delivery of the Strategy and Action Plan necessarily implies a greater allocation of resources to planning, financing and implementation in the years ahead, as well as additional policy and regulation.

Director of Environment

Further information can be obtained from: Phil Daws, Head of Environment (Strategic Services) phil.daws@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk

Convener contact details

Councillor Alan Lafferty
(Convener for Environment)

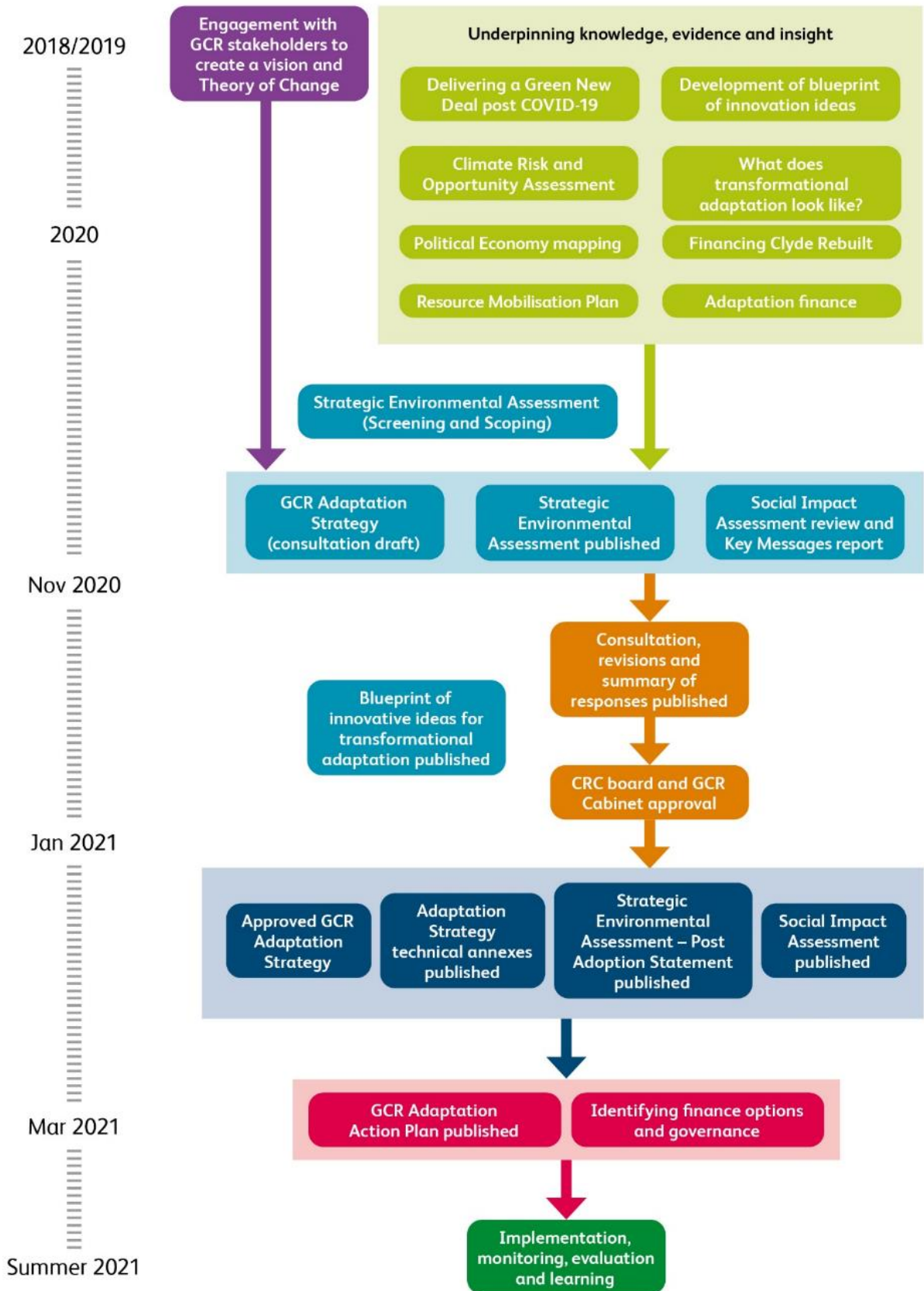
Home: 0141 621 1113
Mobile: 07812 214366

May 2021

BACKGROUND PAPERS

[Glasgow City Region Climate Adaptation Strategy 2020-2020](#)

Appendix 1: Strategy and Action Plan Development Process



Appendix 2: GCR Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan Interventions and Flagship Actions

Interventions:

1. Reform and reshape governance mechanisms so they respond to adaptation needs, nurture new leadership and create expectations in society
2. Develop the ability of organisations, businesses, and communities to adapt
3. Increase adaptation finance through leverage and innovation
4. Enable and equip communities to participate in adaptation, focusing on the most vulnerable
5. Embed reflection, monitoring, evaluation, and learning into adaptation action
6. Adapt the Clyde Corridor for the twenty-second Century
7. Enhance early warning and preparedness for floods and heatwaves
8. Ensure everyone’s homes, offices, buildings, and infrastructure are resilient to future climate impacts
9. Deliver nature-based solutions for resilient, blue-green ecosystems, landscapes, and neighbourhoods
10. Enhance regional decision making and establish Glasgow City Region as a global research and knowledge hub for adaptation
11. Begin the transition to an economy resilient to future climate impacts

Flagship Actions

