

ANGUS COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 29 SEPTEMBER 2020

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AND CLIMATE ACTION PLAN (SECAP) - UPDATE

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITIES

ABSTRACT

This report provides an update on work being carried out on Angus Council's Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP) and associated Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Communities Committee:

- (i) note the content of this report on the ongoing work to produce the SECAP.
- (ii) authorise the Director of Communities to carry out all the required steps under SEA for the SECAP up to the point of its adoption by the Council to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS COMMUNITY PLAN PLAN/COUNCIL PLAN

- 2.1 This report contributes to the outcomes contained within the Angus Community Plan and Council Plan, which focus on Economy, People, Place and Our Council.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The overall objective of the SECAP is to support Angus in its commitment to sustainable development, environmental management and the transition to a low-carbon economy. The SECAP will cover the entire county and provide a roadmap demonstrating how Angus can meet its climate commitments. The SECAP will concentrate on measures to reduce Green House Gas emissions, potential adaptation actions in response to the impacts of climate change and measures to provide sustainable, affordable and secure access to energy.
- 3.2 A Baseline Emissions Inventory (BEI) based on the previous North East Scotland Sustainable Energy Action Plan and Climate Change Risk and Vulnerabilities Assessment (RVA) will form part of the evidence base for the SECAP.
- 3.3 The SECAP will be arranged according to four themes: Energy, Mobility, Waste and Resilience. It will cover a variety of sectors and defines concrete measures for both climate mitigation and adaptation, with timeframes, finance options and assigned responsibilities, translating the long-term strategy into potential actions.
- 3.4 Following approval by the Climate Change MOG in October 2019 a quick quote procurement exercise was carried out and quotations were received from two of the three consultants invited to quote and these were evaluated by officers under a price/quality criteria. The successful consultant Urban Foresight was appointed under delegated authority.

4. CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 Consultants Urban Foresight were appointed in March 2020, to develop and produce the SECAP and associated documents.

4.2 The commission is to be carried out in six phases -

- Phase 1 – Project Set-Up
- Phase 2 – Background Research
 - SECAP Baseline Review
 - SEA Scoping
- Phase 3 – Visioning and Planning
 - Stakeholder Interviews
 - Road mapping Workshop
 - Project Identification
 - Developing recommendations & draft SECAP
 - Interim Report
- Phase 4 – Refinement and Scenario Testing
 - Identifying a suite of hard & soft interventions
 - Prioritising interventions
 - SEA Environmental Assessment
- Phase 5 – Consultation
 - SEA Consultation
 - Member and Officer Consultation
- Phase 6 - Dissemination

4.3 Given the impacts of Covid-19 on the programme and the ability to carry out stakeholder engagement exercises as per the original proposals, the consultant has provided an alternative route to deliver the project as per the original scope of works. The SECAP was due to be delivered by the end of December 2020 but, this has now been delayed until end of January 2021.

4.4 Urban Foresight are now currently carrying out internal stakeholder interviews and it is intended to carry out a workshop with members of the Climate Change MOG on the 20th October 2020.

5.0 STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SEA)

5.1 The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 applies SEA to the SECAP. The process requires consideration of whether the SECAP is likely to have no or minimal environmental effect (called "pre-screening") or is unlikely to have significant environmental effect (called "screening"). The latter requires prior consultation with the Scottish Government's "SEA Gateway" (SEPA, SNH and Historic Scotland). Authorisation for the Director of Communities is sought to carry out all the required steps under SEA for the SECAP up to the point of its adoption by the Council to ensure compliance with the requirements of the 2005 Act.

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The total cost of this commission to Urban Foresight is £31,200 and is funded by the Change Fund linked to Change Programme.

NOTE: No background papers, as detailed by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.

REPORT AUTHOR: Stewart Ball, Director of Communities
EMAIL DETAILS: Communities@angus.gov.uk