

## Climate Commission Quarterly Meeting: 27<sup>th</sup> May 2021

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Due to ongoing social distancing regulations, the meeting was held on Microsoft Teams.

### Attendees

- Dr Sam Gardner (Chair)
- Irene Beautyman
- Teresa Bray
- Alex Hilliam
- Jane Hopton
- Dairmaid Lawlor
- Sinead McNulty
- Andrea Nicolas
- Professor David Reay

### Welcome: Dr Sam Gardner

Apologies from Sophie Eastwood, Clare Foster, Kaisie Rayner, Bridie Ashrowan, Andrew Kerr and Adam McVey.

Dr Gardner welcomed the new Commissioner, Irene Beautyman (Place & Wellbeing Partnership Lead at Place & Wellbeing Scotland and NHS), who is replacing Daisy Narayanan.

To begin the meeting, the Commission reflected on priorities for 2021:

- Creating supporting environment for climate policy & action
- Business engagement – Climate Compact
- Citizen engagement ahead of COP 26
- Workforce and skills
- Research

This work is supported by Alix Davies, Jamie Brogan and Dr Sam Gardner. Commissioners were encouraged to join these groups and propose any other areas of work.

### Updates

#### Citizen Engagement

Mapping & Networks – Charlotte Otter (Council) has been working with Bridie Ashrowan and EVOC to map community activity on climate change (particularly projects receiving CCF funding). They are going to analyse where the gaps in current climate action and identify possible partners to work with Commission.

Sustainability Strategy Engagement – this work, led by Sinead McNulty, is aiming to support the Council's Sustainability Strategy consultation by engaging with local groups, actively consulting certain groups and potentially holding listening sessions. Sinead McNulty will build on reflections from this session and link with the Strategy Workstream (led by Alex Hilliam).

The working group will also be looking at specific action areas for city residents. Led by Andrea Nicolas.

### **Climate Compact**

Changeworks and Edinburgh International Festival have both joined the Compact.

The Commission will be presenting at Scottish Cities Alliance meeting to see if other cities in Scotland want to replicate the Compact.

The working group will also be adapting document to ensure its applicability to SMEs.

### **Workforce & Skills**

The working group is going to focus on identifying skills needs and potential collaboration opportunities to pursue. This will be linked to the Scottish Regional Deal Network.

### **Research**

Professor Dan van der Horst (PCAN lead) and Sam Gardner with the support of Alix Davies have been discussing how the University can support the Commission through research. Research projects will be published on the Commission's website.

### **Update from Sustainability Strategy: Alex Hilliam**

Dr Alex Hilliam (who has been coordinating the Commission's feedback on the Council's Sustainability Strategy) gave an update on what has happened so far.

The Commission provided feedback on the Strategy, covering a number of topics.

The first draft of the Strategy will be presented to the Policy & Sustainability Committee on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June and will be published for consultation on 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> June.

The Commission's next task will be supporting meaningful Strategy engagement.

Charlotte Otter then described process for Strategy being approved for publication to public and how to engage as many different people on the Strategy as possible. There will be workshops with certain groups on different aspects of Strategy (including Poverty Commission).

The Commissioners were then able to ask questions about the next steps, such as engaging with Scottish Government on their climate commitments, support implementation of the Strategy, engaging different city stakeholders and the role of carbon offsetting.

### **Break Out Groups**

The Commission then formed break out groups to discuss developing criteria or a framework to assess the Strategy that could be implemented across the different working groups.

Ideas included the importance of the Commission's leadership role, creating the right conditions for success, articulation of co-benefits and supporting a just transition.

The next steps for the secretariat are the collation of this feedback and sharing it with the working groups.

### Thanks and Close

Dr Gardner thanked everyone for their time, questions and suggestions. The secretariat will be in touch with updates on the Strategy and its publication.