

## CLIMATE CHANGE ROUTE MAP

### PROJECT INITIATION/SCOPING OF HIGH LEVEL ADVISORY GROUP

#### 1. PURPOSE OF PROJECT

To establish and maintain a high-level Advisory Group to provide external oversight and review of the Scottish Borders Climate Change Route Map (CCRM) and to consider additional interventions and actions required to achieve net-zero GHG emissions by 2045, or sooner.

#### 2. BACKGROUND

The establishment of a high-level Advisory Group is a specific commitment of the CCRM agreed by SBC on 17 June 2021 with the objective of establishing a clear relationship between key regional strategic stakeholders in assuring collaboration and clear and joined up strategic agenda in delivering a pathway to net zero GHG for the Scottish Borders, together with an appropriate programme of adaptation across the local authority area to address the effects of climate change which cannot be mitigated by emissions reduction.

#### 3. PROJECT GOVERNANCE AND STRUCTURE

Scottish Borders Council

Council

Sustainable Development Committee

Community Planning

High-level Advisory Group

Citizens Assembly

It is proposed that the membership of the HLAG shall include: SBC, SOSE, SW, SEPA, Forestry Scotland, Forestry and Land Scotland, Nature Scot, and Historic Environment Scotland, SPEN, Borders College, RSLs, NHS Borders, Chamber of Trade, Citizens Assembly. The chair role and secretariat will be a shared responsibility between members.

#### 4. PROJECT DEFINITION

Scoping of proposal

Identification of members

Preliminary discussion with key partners/members (to include agreement of remit, secretariat arrangements and cycle of meetings)

Secretariat

Inception meeting/agreement of remit

Meetings cycle and dates

#### 5. BUSINESS CASE - Financial and Carbon Savings (Net Zero Pathway)

Detailed financial and carbon savings do not emerge from the establishment of the HLAG itself, but (together with the Citizens Assembly) the HLAG is a critical element of the governance and collaboration across partners which will be needed to deliver both the Council's organisational drive to net zero and the Scottish Borders' drive to net zero as a

region. Within the Council as well as across the region, progress can only be achieved/optimised through shared endeavour and joint action. For example -

- Organisationally, the Council cannot deliver the required outcomes in its estate without co-operation with partners including Scottish Government, Hub SE, and SPEN.
- Regionally, we cannot plot a successful pathway to net zero unless private business and Registered Social Landlords, among others, are party to solutions in housing, or if farmers and landowners, among others, are not central to addressing emissions from land use and sequestration and storage opportunities.

#### 6. PROJECT COSTS

No specific project costs are identified. However, working with partners, the Council will require to support the secretariat necessary to the HLAG providing effective oversight and review of the CCRM. For the Council, it is anticipated that this would be supported through existing establishment, including the new Climate Change Officer. Note adequate clerical/administrative support is essential (please see 8. Risk and Issues).

#### 7. TIMESCALE

Scoping of proposal

Identification of members

Preliminary discussion with key partners/members (to include agreement of remit, secretariat arrangements and cycle of meetings)

- **The above to concluded by 30 October 2021**

Inception meeting/agreement of remit

Secretariat

Meetings cycle and dates

- **Agreement of the above to be concluded by 15 December 2021**

#### 8. RISKS AND ISSUES

- a) That partners do not commit or buy into the HLAG and its intended purpose in co-ordinating and driving a shared approach to a CCRM for the Scottish Borders so that, in short, the governance model and the objective of co-ordinated leadership fails.
- b) That, despite partners nominally participating, the HLAG and its contribution to delivering the CCRM is poorly or insufficiently supported with sub-optimal consequences for progress against the CCRM, for Council progress against its Climate Change responsibilities and with detrimental impacts also on the plans of partners.
- c) That the Council and partners apply insufficient resources to support the secretariat and the essential job of administration and co-ordination which will be needed if the HLAG is to be effective.
- d) That the HLAG is simply ineffective whether through its membership, or its ability to influence and promote action within partner organisations and across the region.