

## Members' Library Service Request Form

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Document Title	Scottish Government Consultation on Proposals for a new Climate Change Bill

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Designation	Head of Development
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**REPORT TO:** Members' Library Service

**MEETING DATE:**

**BY:** Head of Development

**SUBJECT:** Scottish Government Consultation on Proposals for a new Climate Change Bill

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## **1 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To advise Cabinet of the proposals being consulted on by the Scottish Government, which seek to set targets based on actual emissions, increase the 2050 target from 80% emissions reduction to a 90% reduction and make provisions for a net-zero greenhouse gas emissions target to be set at a future date, when a credible and costed pathway can be demonstrated.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the contents of this report and the Council's response to the proposals set out in the Consultation Paper. A link to the response can be accessed at the link at 7.1 of this report.

## **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Scottish Government published a consultation on 30 June 2017 on a new **Climate Change Bill**. This is available using the following link:  
<https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/energy-and-climate-change-directorate/climate-change-bill/>
- 3.2 The Consultation acknowledges that action to mitigate climate change is key component of the Scottish Government's aim to create a growing, sustainable and inclusive economy. The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 set world-leading greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets, including a target to reduce emissions by 80% by 2050.
- 3.3 The Scottish Government now intends to introduce a new Climate Change Bill with even more ambitious targets. Proposals include setting targets based on actual emissions, increasing the 2050 target to 90% emissions reduction and making provisions for a net-zero greenhouse gas emissions target to be set when a credible and costed pathway can be demonstrated.

- 3.4 A number of technical amendments designed to improve the transparency of the targets and functioning of the Act are also being considered. The Bill will re-affirm the Scottish Government's commitment to focusing Government and public services on creating a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through increasing sustainable economic growth.
- 3.5 The intention is that the Bill will strengthen the ambition and strategic framework for action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Scotland under which specific delivery policies are, and will continue to be required. The proposed Climate Change Bill will amend only those parts of the 2009 Act that relate to emission reduction targets and associated reporting duties. It will not amend any parts of the Act relating to climate adaptation.
- 3.6 The Council's response welcomes the proposals being consulted on by the Scottish Government. The Bill recognises the positive sustained progress made nationally in the last two successive reporting years, 2014 and 2015, with official statistics showing emissions being 41% below baseline level at June 2017. Accordingly, the Council considers it is critical to build on this success to date with more ambitious targets, however challenging those targets may be to deliver.

## **4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no policy implications directly arising from the Consultation.
- 4.2 The Council will develop an East Lothian Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Strategy during 2018, which will take cognisance of any new duties or powers arising from the Consultation.

## **5 EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 5.1 The Scottish Government proposes to assess the impacts of the proposed Bill on different groups of people through a combined process of Equalities Impact Assessment (EQIA), Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment (CRWIA) and Socio-economic assessment. A stage one template for the CRWIA aspect of the process can be accessed at the following link:  
[https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/energy-and-climate-change-directorate/climate-change-bill/supporting\\_documents/Climate%20Change%20Bill%20%20CRWIA.pdf](https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/energy-and-climate-change-directorate/climate-change-bill/supporting_documents/Climate%20Change%20Bill%20%20CRWIA.pdf)

## **6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Financial – None
- 6.2 Personnel - None

6.3 Other - None

## 7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 The East Lothian Council response can be accessed at the following link:

[https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/energy-and-climate-change-directorate/climate-change-bill/consultation/my\\_response?user\\_id=ANON-HDHX-1TYQ-U&key=fc1a797710e1dbd5dca8b4da840d6a2f907ae8df](https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/energy-and-climate-change-directorate/climate-change-bill/consultation/my_response?user_id=ANON-HDHX-1TYQ-U&key=fc1a797710e1dbd5dca8b4da840d6a2f907ae8df)

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