

UK Cities Climate Investment Commission (UKCCIC)

Purpose of report

For information.

Summary

This paper provides members with a brief overview of the UK Cities Climate Investment Commission (UKCCIC) ahead of a discussion at the board with the Director of UKCCIC, Steve Turner (Appendix A).

Is this report confidential? Yes ☐ No ☒

Recommendation/s

1. Board members are asked to consider this short background briefing ahead of a further discussion with Steve Turner, Director of UKCCIC.

Action/s

1. Officers will use the meeting to shape our future work with UKCCIC.

Contact officer: Esther Barrott
Position: Policy Advisor
Phone no: 07464 652 906
Email: Esther.barrott@local.gov.uk

UK Cities Climate Investment Commission

Background

1. The investment case for local net zero programmes has historically been undermined by the difficulty of creating robust business cases that address issues of scale, longevity, and confidence.
2. Connected Places Catapult, the UK's 'innovation accelerator' for cities, transport, and places found that, through dialogue with the investment community, local business cases could be strengthened if the plans of cities were brought together generating greater scale, volume, and predictability, creating a more attractive and substantial proposition for investors.
3. In response to these findings, Core Cities, London Councils and the Connected Places Catapult jointly established the UK Cities Climate Investment Commission on 1 July 2021, during Climate Action Week, to tackle this challenge head-on. Using collective networks and capabilities, the Commission seeks to leverage the combined scale of cities to mobilise finance and drive investment into low and net zero carbon projects across all the UK's cities.
4. Ahead of COP26 in November 2021, the Commission conducted research to assess and analyse the low carbon investment that cities need, and the associated investment cases. In order to maximise the potential for private investment to support the transition to Net Zero the [final report](#) recommended: place-based investment demonstrators; incentivising public-private partnerships by building on existing structures; supporting advanced planning and the creation of investable propositions; and, accelerating specific policies to support delivery such as attaching financial disincentives to activities associated with higher greenhouse gas emissions.
5. The UKCCIC advisory board is chaired by Professor Greg Clark. Mayor Rees sits on the advisory board alongside Cllr Susan Aitken (Glasgow City Council), Mayor Philip Glanville (London Council's Transport and Environment Advisory Committee) and Keith Bottomley (Vice Chair, City of London Corporation Policy Committee). Cllr Kevin Bentley, the Leader of Essex and the Chairman of the LGA's People and Places Board has also been invited to join the board.
6. Steve Turner, UKCCIC Director was a key speaker at the LGA's Urban Summit on 9 March 2022 and discussed the role of the Commission in decarbonising cities. While the LGA's Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board leads on climate change issues, given that the challenges of climate change will primarily be met in cities and urban areas, Steve has agreed to attend the City Regions Board and provide an overview of the Commission's work.

Next Steps

7. The Board meeting is an opportunity for members to hear about the work of UKCCIC in greater detail from its director, Steve Turner. Steve will discuss the work of UKCCIC, including engagement with the sector to date, and comment on future opportunities for collaboration with the Board.
8. Members are invited to comment on the work of UKCCIC, noting the Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board's role in leading the LGA's wider work on climate change and net zero.

Implications for Wales

9. While many of the policy levers associated with addressing climate change are devolved, the exchange of knowledge between cities and urban areas across the UK can only benefit local leaders looking to transition to a more sustainable economy and build the case for local investment. The LGA will therefore continue to work with the Welsh LGA and other partners in Wales to share expertise in this area.

Financial Implications

10. Any financial commitments made as part of the actions identified in this report will be met from the Board's existing policy budget.

Appendix A

Steve Turner, Director of UK Cities Climate Investment Commission



Steve is a Director for the UK Cities Climate Investment Commission (UKCCIC). The UKCCIC seeks to convene local authorities and financial institutions to drive Net Zero investment. As a recognised leader in innovation and sustainability Steve has over 25 years of experience working in both the public and private sector. Prior to joining the Connected Places Catapult he was Digital Cities Leader for Arup where he delivered Smart City strategies for some of the largest developments in the UK, Europe and the Middle East, representing £billions of investment. As Head of Future Cities

at Manchester City Council he set up Manchester's widely admired Smart City innovation programmes, Triangulum and CityVerve securing over £50m of inward investment for the city, as well as establishing it as the UK's first Low Carbon Economic Area.