

ISLE OF MAN CITIZENS' FORUM ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Background

In May 2019 the Chief Minister recognised the global climate emergency and made a commitment for the Isle of Man to reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. A subsequent motion in Tynwald led to the creation of the Climate Emergency Transformation Team and the appointment of Prof James Curran to produce an independent report on how the Isle of Man could achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

In January 2020 the Isle of Man Government Climate Action Plan – Phase 1, which was informed by Prof Curran's independent report, was unanimously agreed by Tynwald. Work is now underway to deliver the 60 actions outlined in this report and to urgently implement emissions-reducing measures to set the Isle of Man on the pathway required to meet the net zero target.

Climate change is changing the world and our efforts to mitigate its effects will require us all to change the way we live. Climate change is not a niche environmental topic, but something that everyone in our community needs to understand and engage with. Actively involving people from across our community in thinking about how to reach net zero by 2050 will be the best way to ensure that we find viable solutions that are effective in reducing emissions and leave no one behind.

The Climate Change Transformation Board (CCTB) has agreed that a Citizens' Forum will be the best way to effectively engage a representative group of people and to ensure that their work is informed by the experiences of our community.

Constitution

The Citizens' Forum will constitute a sub-group of the CCTB, and the deliberations of the group will be reported to the CCTB on a regular basis.

Membership

The Forum will be chaired by Ralph Peake MHK and with Jane Poole-Wilson MLC as Vice Chair, in their capacity as members of the CCTB. The Chair and Vice Chair will provide leadership to the group and a clear line of communication with the CCTB.

The Forum will have up to 36 places, recruited through three different routes to maximise representation and diversity:

(a) Invited membership

These 12 members are intended to be representative of key groups and sectors and thus will be identified through further stakeholder analysis, building on work that was done to inform the Phase 1 Action Plan and Prof Curran's report. Selection will also take into account the work and priorities of the Transformation Team and the CCTB, and horizon scanning for upcoming challenges.

(b) Advertised membership

Adverts will be put out in the local media and on social media for community representatives, with the aim of interviewing and selecting 12 representative citizens. The selection process would need to ensure a balance of appointments, including perspectives on business, the economy, the community and the environment, and representing diverse age groups, social groups and gender.

(c) Randomly selected members

These members will be identified using randomly generated names from the electoral register. This approach will require an initial selection of names and then if any selected individuals do not wish to take up the invitation, subsequent selections will take place until all 12 places are filled. In recruiting members in this way, there will be an emphasis on the opportunity to influence the future of our community.

Using these three approaches, appointment of members to the Forum would aim to represent the Isle of Man's community and encompass its diversity as effectively as possible, and some flexibility is permitted in this recruitment to facilitate this.

Members will initially be appointed for a one year term, with the option for the CCTB to end the appointment if a member does not attend meetings or otherwise actively participate for a period of 6 months.

Vacancies created by members leaving will be filled in accordance with the category of membership of that member.

Remit

The remit of the forum is as follows:

1. To provide insight and feedback to the CCTB and Climate Change Transformation Programme on climate action work from a community perspective.
2. To provide views and information on specific topics as requested.
3. To provide a representative from the Citizens' Forum to attend the CCTB, as required.
4. To provide the basis for focus groups to inform climate change research and policy, depending on the issue and the input required.
5. To engage input and participation from the wider community via the networks and influence of the members.

Meetings and Minutes

Meetings will normally take place quarterly, with the option for more frequent meetings as required. Meetings can be held in person or using internet conferencing options, as appropriate.

The Secretariat for meetings will be provided by the Climate Change Transformation Team. Where appropriate, minutes will be issued in accordance with the minute taking guidance issued by the Cabinet Office.

Given the voluntary nature of membership, the duties of members will largely be limited to participating in meetings and occasional focus groups or sub-group meetings.

Technical training and support will be provided as appropriate by the Climate Change Transformation Team.

Remuneration

Members will not be paid, but claiming of reasonable expenses will be possible in accordance with the Payment of Members Expenses Act.

Inclusivity

Because of the far-reaching significance of climate change, it is particularly important that this Forum is accessible for all in our community and every effort will be made to accommodate those who may have barriers to participation – e.g. caring responsibilities, mobility issues, financial limitations, language or communication issues. For example, some of the meetings may be held using internet conferencing software to avoid the need to travel. Timing of the meetings will be carefully considered too to avoid inadvertently discouraging or limiting the participation of some members.

Timescales

Recruitment of the Forum will commence in August 2020, with a view to holding the first meeting in the autumn of 2020. A review of these Terms of Reference and the function of the Forum will be held by June 2021 to ensure that the Forum is effectively delivering its stated function.