

Report

Report to:	Executive Committee
Date of Meeting:	6 November 2019
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	Sustainable Development Update - Statutory Climate Change Duties Report 2018/2019
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ request approval of the Council's Statutory Climate Change Duties Report for 2018/2019

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Executive Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the submission of the Council's Statutory Climate Change Duties Report for 2018/2019, attached as appendices 1 and 2 to the report, be approved.

3. Background

- 3.1. The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 commits the government to reduce Scotland's greenhouse gas emissions by 42% by 2020 and by 80% by 2050, compared to 1990 levels. It also places a requirement for Scotland to develop long-term measures to adapt to changes in the climate.
- 3.2. A new Climate Change Bill with more challenging carbon reduction targets was passed by the Scottish Parliament on 25 September 2019 committing Scotland to meeting or exceeding a net-zero greenhouse gas emissions target by 2045, with interim targets of 75% reduction by 2030 and 90% by 2040, based on 1990 levels.
- 3.3. The new Bill replaces the targets in the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009. The requirement to adapt to changes in the climate and act sustainably still continue.
- 3.4. Section 44 of the Act places duties on all public bodies in Scotland to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, adapt to a changing climate, and act sustainably.
- 3.5. Section 46 of the Act contained provision for Scottish Ministers to require specified public bodies to prepare annual reports on their compliance with these duties. On 23 November 2015 a statutory order, under section 46 of the Act, came into force requiring public bodies to report on compliance of the climate change duties.

- 3.6** The 2018/2019 report is the fourth report prepared under the statutory provision, however prior to this date the Council has been reporting action on climate change on a voluntary basis since 2007 as signatories of Scotland's Climate Change Declaration.

4. Climate change duties report 2018/2019

- 4.1. The report requires approval by the Executive Committee and to be published on the Council's website prior to submission to the Scottish Government by 30 November 2019.
- 4.2. There are two elements to the annual report; the 'required' section and 'recommended' section. The required section of the report is statutory and comprises of six parts:-

1	Organisational Profile	Provides a better understanding of the scale of activity of the body in addressing climate change in relation to its size
2	Governance and Management	Seeks to establish how governance of climate change is recognised within the organisation. Also the reporting and review structure and the level of engagement between leaders, department managers, practitioners and staff generally
3	Corporate Emissions	Provides data on corporate emissions relating directly to the organisation's assets and activities
4	Adaptation	Seeks to establish if the body has assessed the risks that both current and future climate change presents to its assets, infrastructure, service provision and business continuity. Also to identify actions that will reduce risk both now and in the future
5	Procurement	Clarify how sustainable procurement policy has had an impact on climate change reduction, reporting and compliance issues
6	Validation	It is expected that validation of quantitative and qualitative information is regarded as good business practice and risk management of any inaccuracies or inconsistencies that could result in legal challenge or reputational damage

- 4.3. The 'recommended' section is non-statutory, however it is expected that this is completed and submitted along with the 'required' section. The 'recommended' section allows public sector bodies to report on their wider influence in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and document relevant achievements not reported within the 'required' section of the report. This includes activities designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and also other sustainability activities such as biodiversity, food and drink and resource use. There is a possibility that in future years this section will be incorporated into the 'required' reporting section.
- 4.4. Copies of both the 'required' and 'recommended' sections of the Council's draft climate

change duties report for 2018/2019 can be found as appendix 1 and appendix 2 respectively.

- 4.5. An evidence pack has been prepared to support of the data and information gathered from services in the preparation of the annual report and the methodologies used within the report. The evidence pack is an internal document and will be held by Community and Enterprise Resources should it be required.
- 4.6 Some highlights for 2018/2019 in the report include:
- ◆ Carbon reductions of 5.5% were made in 2018/2019 compared to 2017/2018, and reductions of 31% since the baseline year of 2005/2006
 - ◆ The final year of the LED street lighting replacement programme has achieved further savings of 15.8%. The ambitious project which started in June 2015 has achieved significant savings of over 60%.
 - ◆ The emissions from waste in 2018/2019 reduced by 7% when compared to 2017/2018. This is because the long-term residual waste contract enabled a proportion of our non-recyclable waste in the latter half of 2018/2019 to be sent to the Energy from Waste plant in Dunbar
 - ◆ 23 schools received air quality and active travel workshops. In total 80 workshops have been delivered to 2,000 pupils. Data indicates that there was a 20% increase in the proportion of children parking and striding, and a 5% increase in walking, scooting and cycling following the workshops.

5. Employee Implications

- 5.1. The Council's Sustainable Development Officer and Carbon Management Officer currently prepare the annual climate change report in conjunction with all Council Resources that provide the relevant information. The statutory reporting regime has elevated the importance and accountability of climate change reporting within the Council.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. Collection of climate change information is a core management task and therefore is absorbed into the daily business operations.

7. Other Implications (Including Environmental and Risk Issues)

- 7.1. The annual statutory reporting requirements have implications for all Resources however the following services will have more involvement: –
- ◆ Community and Enterprise Resources - Carbon Management, Fleet Services, Environmental Services, Roads and Transportation, Flood Risk Management, Street Lighting, Waste Services, Resilience Support, Countryside and Greenspace, Planning and Building Standards.
 - ◆ Finance and Corporate Resources – Procurement, Finance (Capital Investment), Risk Management
 - ◆ Housing and Technical Resources - Energy and Water Management, Asset Management and Property Services.

The Sustainable Development Officer and Carbon Management Officer will continue to work with all Resources to collate the relevant information in an appropriate format to meet the statutory timescales.

- 7.2. Climate Change and carbon reduction targets are included in the Council's top risks.
- 7.3. The Council's Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy outlines the action to meet our climate change duties and has undergone a full strategic environmental assessment (SEA). This can be found on the Scottish Government's SEA Gateway database.
- 8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**
- 8.1. An equality impact assessment was carried out on the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy 2017-2022.

Michael McGlynn
Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

10 October 2019

Link(s) to Council Objectives and Values

- ◆ Develop a sustainable Council and communities

Previous References

- ◆ None

List of Background Papers

- ◆ The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009
- ◆ Climate Change Duties 2017/18 annual report for South Lanarkshire Council

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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