

Report

Report to:	Climate Change and Sustainability Committee
Date of Meeting:	4 November 2020
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	Statutory Climate Change Duties report 2019/2020
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ request approval for the Council's annual Climate Change Duties report for 2019/2020, as required under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the Council's statutory Climate Change Duties report for 2019/2020 be approved for submission to the Scottish Government.

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 Council has complied with the statutory reporting requirement every year since its introduction in 2015, however it has also 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 2019/2020

- 4.1 The report requires approval by the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee and to be published on the Council's website prior to submission to the Scottish Government by 30 November 2020.

- 4.2 The report 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

- 4.4 A copy of the climate change duties report for 2019/2020 can be found at appendix 1. The format of the report is a set template issued by the Scottish Government for all public bodies to use for annual reporting. Part of the statutory provision is that public bodies publish this report on their websites; this will be made available on the Council's website following approval. A summarised info-graph will also be prepared to allow members of the public see the progress that the Council made in relation to complying with the climate change duties.
- 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 2019/2020 include:
- ◆ Carbon reductions of 56.9% were made in 2019/2020 compared to the baseline year of 2005-06
 - ◆ The final year of the LED street lighting replacement programme has achieved further energy savings of 7%. The ambitious project which started in June 2015 has achieved significant savings of 68%
 - ◆ The new long-term residual waste contract has enabled a large proportion of our non-recyclable waste to be sent to the Energy from Waste plant in Dunbar, not only reducing landfilled waste but generating electricity
 - ◆ Further renewable energy sources across the estate with the installation of photovoltaics at Mount Cameron Primary and Chatelherault Primary schools
 - ◆ A new climate change and sustainability governance structure which includes the establishment of the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee
 - ◆ The former landfill site of Glen Esk, East Kilbride was rejuvenated as a community greenspace, using the Scottish Government Vacant and Derelict Land Fund. It was opened in December 2019 and now includes new native woodland and wildflower planting, paths, art-work, an outdoor classroom and junior mountain bike track
- 4.7 The information contained in section 3 of the report details the Council's own carbon footprint which is measured from five sources: energy consumption from buildings, household waste, energy consumption from street lighting, fleet and staff travel. The Council, however, also has a role in influencing the reduction of South Lanarkshire's area wide carbon emissions.
- 4.8 The UK's Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) publishes carbon emission statistics for all local authority areas. The Council reports this information within the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy and the Annual Performance Report. The most recent figures for 2018 were published in June 2020 (two-year lag on data). The emissions identified as under the scope of the Council's influence are Domestic, Industry and Commercial, and Transport (excludes large industrial sites, railways, motorways and land-use). The statistics have shown that South Lanarkshire's emissions have reduced 2.2% when compared to the previous year. This compares favourably with Scotland's overall reduction of 1.71% for the same sources.

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 There are no direct financial implications from the preparation of the report however activities recorded in the report will have positive financial outcomes. Collection of climate change information is a core management task and therefore is absorbed into the daily business operations.

7. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 7.1 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. Other Implications

- 8.1 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

- 8.2 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.

- 8.3 Climate Change and carbon reduction targets are included in the Council's top risks.

9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 9.1 An equality impact assessment was carried out on the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy 2017 to 2022.

Michael McGlynn

Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

19 October 2020

Link(s) to Council Objectives/Values/Ambitions

- ◆ Work with communities and partners to promote high quality, thriving and sustainable communities

Previous References

- ◆ None

List of Background Papers

- ◆ The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009

Contact for Further Information

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

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