

Report

Report to:	Executive Committee
Date of Meeting:	21 November 2018
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	Sustainable Development Update – Statutory Climate Change Duties Report 2017/2018
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ♦ approve the Council's Statutory Climate Change Duties Report for 2017/2018

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) approve the submission of the Council's Statutory Climate Change Duties Report for 2017/18, as detailed in appendices 1 and 2 to the report.

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. 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.

3.3. 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 Scottish Ministers announced the introduction of statutory reporting, of the public sector climate change duties, following Scotland missing its fixed annual emission reduction targets for three consecutive years.

4. Climate change duties report 2017/2018

4.1. The year's report will be the second year of statutory reporting and will require publishing on the Council's website and submitted to the Scottish Government by 30 November 2018.

- 4.2. There are two sections to the 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, service 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, which is non-statutory, provides information on where the Council has a wider influence of reducing area-wide emissions, for example, energy efficiency in our housing stock, infrastructure and support for active travel, decisions about our land use, and capacity building. It also includes other sustainability activities such as biodiversity, food, water and resource use that isn't already captured elsewhere in the report. Although this section of the report is non-statutory, there is an expectation that the larger public bodies submit this along with their required section.
- 4.4. Some highlights for 2017/2018 in the report include:
- ◆ The publication of the Council's new sustainable development and climate change strategy covering the period 2017 to 2022
 - ◆ Continued roll out of the LED street lighting programme saving a further 2,085 tonnes of carbon during 2017/2018. In total the programme has reduced carbon emissions by approximately 8,000 tonnes since it began in 2015/2016

- ◆ Additional climate control factors adopted at the design stage of City Deal construction projects, which includes sustainable drainage designed to treat, slow and attenuate the flow of surface run-off - Cathkin relief road and A726 East Kilbride (Greenhills Road to Strathaven Road).
- ◆ 89.6% of our housing stock complies with the energy efficiency standard for social housing (EESH)
- ◆ The continued restructure of woodland at both Chatelherault and Mauldslee has seen the felling of over 25.5 hectares of non-native conifers. Both areas are now being managed for regeneration of native woodland
- ◆ A further 28 schools received air quality and active travel workshops which raises the awareness of air pollution from vehicles powered by fossil fuels and promotes a more sustainable and active method of travel

4.5. An evidence pack has been prepared to support 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. Copies of both the 'required' and 'recommended' sections of the Council's draft climate change duties report for 2017/18 can be found at appendix 1 and appendix 2 respectively. A copy of the draft report has been made available in the Members' areas for inspection prior to Committee.

4.7. The report must be approved and published on the Council's website prior to submission to the Scottish Government by 30th November 2018.

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 new statutory reporting regime will elevate 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

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 strategy outlines the action required 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 Strategy.
- 8.2. South Lanarkshire Council submitted a response to the consultation on statutory reporting which closed 29 May 2015.

Michael McGlynn
Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

16 October 2018

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ◆ 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
- ◆ Climate Change Duties 2016/2017 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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