

# Report

Report to:	<b>Climate Change and Sustainability Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>15 May 2024</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Housing and Technical Resources)</b>

Subject:	<b>Energy Demand Reduction Plan Update</b>
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## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to: -

- ◆ advise the Committee on an update on the work undertaken to date on the development of an Energy Demand Reduction Plan, contained within the motion approved by Full Council on 7 December 2022 entitled 'Cut Fuel Bills, Cut Carbon Emissions, Kick Start the Green Economy'

## 2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) note the update on progress made to date on the Energy Demand Reduction Plan, and the proposed action going forward; and
- (2) note the actions detailed on Appendix 1 of this report.

## 3. Background

3.1. At the Full Council meeting on 7 December 2022, a motion was passed titled 'Cut Fuel Bills, Cut Carbon Emissions, Kick Start the Green Economy'. This included a range of actions for the Council to progress including a requirement to consider how it could further reduce energy usage across its property portfolio.

3.2. In response to this, Housing and Technical Resources is currently working with relevant services from across the Council to prepare an Energy Demand Reduction Plan.

3.3. A full report, detailing the Council's response to the motion, was submitted to the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Committee on 14 June 2023, including the proposed approach of developing an Energy Demand Reduction Plan to align with the Property AMP and annual update.

## 4. Update on Actions Progressed in Repose to Council Energy Demand Reduction Plan

4.1. An analysis of the total energy use in the non-domestic estate was undertaken which identified the properties with the highest energy consumption.

4.2. Technical officers within Housing and Technical Resources have advised that it is not practical or feasible to implement a set point of 18 degrees across all buildings due to the differences in construction types, thermal efficiency, and orientation of the

Council's public building estate. It is therefore recommended that a temperature reduction of 1°C is implemented in the buildings where it is safe to do so.

- 4.3. Leisure facilities under the management of South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture have been omitted from this exercise. Secondary schools have also been omitted since these are not owned by the Council. Homes for the elderly and nursery schools were not considered due to the demographic of the users of these premises.
- 4.4. In order to test the concept, a pilot has commenced in 30 buildings across the Council's non-domestic buildings estate, selecting from the properties identified during the analysis undertaken at 4.1.
- 4.5. Where remote access to the heating controls was available, the temperature of the space heating was lowered by 1 degree before the end of December 2023. In the sites where it was necessary to engage the services of a contractor to change the heating controls, visits to the sites were arranged for the first week of January 2024.
- 4.6. The energy consumption in the pilot properties will be monitored across a six-month period, along with registering any operational or service issues, prior to rolling out to other facilities.

## **5. Other Action taken to Date**

### **5.1. Energy Champions**

Currently, there are around 28 members of staff in South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture who have volunteered to undertake training to become energy champions. This will be run as a pilot scheme undertaken in SLLC and rolled out to other Resources upon completion and review of the pilot. Training materials will be developed alongside SLC training section in the first half of 2024.

### **5.2. Energy Audits**

The number of energy audits have been increased with the focus on primary schools and leisure facilities. 68 audits have been completed to date this financial year comprising 45 schools, 19 leisure facilities, 2 social work properties and 2 corporate buildings.

Faults identified during the energy audits are reported to staff on site or the Maintenance Team for attendance. Recommendations from the audits are considered for inclusion in future CEEF programmes.

### **5.3. Vacant Properties**

To minimise the energy costs in vacant properties, procedures are in place to ensure that the utility supplies will be disconnected, water supply pipes drained down and meter readings taken so these can be monitored with the intention of reducing energy costs down to standing charges only.

### **5.4. Central Energy Efficiency Fund (CEEF)**

CEEF is a revolving fund for implementing energy efficiency projects, which was set up to achieve energy efficiency and carbon emissions reductions, in Council General Services' properties. Following the Scottish Government's decision to cease the requirement to report on CEEF, the Council agreed to continue in house with an annual programme of CEEF projects.

The 2023/24 programme was approved by CMT on 28 September 2023 and all projects are scheduled to complete by April 2024.

## **6. Other Actions Recommended**

- 6.1. The current heating season, while dependent on various factors, can range from September to May. It is recommended that the heating season be reduced to commence from 1 October and run until 31 March (weather dependent) each year.
- 6.2. Extend the current pilot to identify an Energy Champion on each site with responsibility for ensuring that energy use is limited wherever possible and promoting changes in behaviour within the services occupying the buildings. We intend implementing this once we have feedback from the SLLC pilot.
- 6.3. Work with teachers and pupils on school sites regarding education on energy, how to save energy, and how they can contribute to this.
- 6.4. Develop staff behavioural change programme in relation to energy awareness including development and promotion of Learn Online training.
- 6.5. Engage with ICT Services to ensure that PC shutdown software is in place across the Council's estate.
- 6.6. Continuous monitoring and management of energy use. Making sure that meaningful reports are available monthly. Monitoring to be carried out on a weather corrected basis. Prepare quarterly reports for all properties in each resource and prepare a monthly report for top 20% of energy users. These reports will be passed to a senior nominated energy champion within each Resource.

## **7. Employee Implications**

- 7.1. There are no current employee implications associated with this report, however additional volunteers will be sought to act as Energy Champions and staff will be encouraged to undertake the Learn Online training.

## **8. Financial Implications**

- 8.1. The Council motion instructed officers to look at no/low-cost ways to reduce bills therefore there are no financial implications from the implementation of the measures described above.
- 8.2. Any financial savings will be dependent upon the costs of utilities. The focus of the actions proposed by this report are on consumption savings which the Council can influence, rather than cost savings as we have no control over the cost of energy.

## **9. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications**

- 9.1. 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.
- 9.2. This assessment identified that these priorities could make a positive contribution to local and national sustainability and climate change targets.

## **10. Other Implications**

- 10.1. 'Failure to meet sustainable development and climate change objectives' is one of the top risks for the Council. Without a plan in place and a financial plan to support it then this risk will continue to be one of the Council's top risks.

## **11. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

- 11.1. Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) processes were undertaken throughout the development of the key strategies aligned to this agenda, including the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy and Local Housing Strategy. These assessments aimed to identify and mitigate any negative impacts and seek opportunities to promote equality and found that the strategies would have no negative impacts on any protected characteristics groups and will have significant positive impacts in relation to age and disability.
- 11.2. There was no requirement to undertake any consultation in terms of the information contained in this report.

**Stephen Gibson**

**Executive Director (Housing and Technical Resources)**

24 April 2024

### **Link(s) to Council Values/Priorities/Outcomes**

#### Values

- ◆ Focused on people and their needs
- ◆ Accountable, effective, efficient and transparent
- ◆ Fair, open and sustainable

#### Priorities

- ◆ We will work towards a sustainable future in sustainable places

#### Outcomes

- ◆ Good quality, suitable and sustainable places to live
- ◆ Caring, connected, sustainable communities

### **Previous References**

- ◆ South Lanarkshire Council motion, 7 December 2022, 'Cut Fuel Bills, Cut Carbon Emissions, Kick Start the Green Economy'
- ◆ Housing and Technical Resources Committee report, 31 May 2023, Annual Update on the Property Asset Management
- ◆ Climate Change and Sustainability Committee report, 14 June 2023, Update on South Lanarkshire Council Motion to 'Cut Fuel Bills, Cut Carbon Emissions, Kick Start the Green Economy'

### **List of Background Papers**

- ◆ The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009
- ◆ South Lanarkshire Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy 2022-27
- ◆ South Lanarkshire Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2023-28
- ◆ South Lanarkshire Council Corporate Asset Management Plan 2021

### **Contact for Further Information**

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

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## Appendix 1 – Action Plan

Measure	Action	Start Date	Completion Date	Status
Identify properties with the highest energy consumption	An analysis of the total energy use in the non-domestic estate was undertaken to identify properties with the highest energy consumption	November 2023	December 2023	Complete
Implement a pilot of a 1-degree temperature reduction in suitable properties	Commence a pilot in 30 buildings across the council's non-domestic buildings estate.	December 2023	January 2024	Complete
Commence energy monitoring of properties	Monitoring to take place across a six-month period, along with registering any operational or service issues.	January 2024	June 2024	Ongoing
Energy Champions Training	Training materials will be developed alongside SLC training section in the first half of 2024.	January 2024	June 2024	Yet to start
Energy Audits	To be continued throughout 2024	-	December 2024	Ongoing