



**REPORT TO: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE
SERVICES COMMITTEE ON 8 FEBRUARY 2022**

SUBJECT: PUBLIC SECTOR CLIMATE CHANGE REPORTING

**BY: DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (ECONOMY, ENVIRONMENT AND
FINANCE)**

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of the Council's Public Sector Report on Compliance with Climate Change Duties 2020-21 and updates to the reporting methodology and statutory requirements.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section III (F) (33) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to providing, developing and monitoring the Council's Economic Development and Infrastructure Services.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that Committee:

- (i) **notes the Council's Public Sector Report on Compliance with Climate Change Duties 2020/21;**
- (ii) **notes updates made to the Council's reporting methodology for 2020/21;**
- (iii) **notes the latest guidance from the Scottish Government on best practice and timescales to reflect updated statutory requirements set out in '*Public Sector Leadership on the Global Climate Emergency*'.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Climate Change (Duties of Public Bodies: Reporting Requirements) (Scotland) Order 2015 requires public sector bodies to publish annual climate change reports. This is intended to demonstrate compliance with public sector bodies' climate change duties, to engage leaders and encourage action to be taken to reduce carbon emissions.

- 3.2 Moray Council has a duty under Section 44 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 to contribute to reducing Scotland's greenhouse gas emissions, contribute to helping Scotland adapt to a changing climate, and to act in a way it considers most sustainable.
- 3.3 Moray Council submitted its first mandatory report on its compliance with climate change duties to the Scottish Government in November 2016, covering the period 2015/16, and has subsequently submitted annual reports each November.

4. PERFORMANCE AND UPDATES

- 4.1 A copy of the Council's Public Sector Report on Compliance with Climate Change Duties submitted to the Scottish Government in November 2021 has been uploaded to CMIS along with the agenda.

- 4.2 The reporting template covers the following mandatory topics:

- Profile of reporting body;
- Governance, management and strategy;
- Corporate emissions, targets and project data;
- Adaptation;
- Procurement; and
- Validation.

Profile

- 4.3 An initial overview of the Council's scale sets the context for the wider report. The highest number of full time equivalent (FTE) staff employed during the 2020-21 financial year was 3,577, an increase of 85 FTE since the previous report. This increase in FTE includes a large number of temporary positions associated with the Covid-19 pandemic.

Governance, management and strategy

- 4.4 Since the previous report, Moray Council's Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan has been approved and a new series of governance structures introduced. 3 full time officers have been employed on a permanent basis to support and progress the Climate Change Strategy.

Corporate emissions, targets and project data

- 4.5 In 2020/21, the Council's carbon emissions were 22,475 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e) – a decrease of 4,602 tCO₂e (17.0%) compared to reporting year 2019/20. A summary of changes by emissions source between the reporting years is provided in **Appendix 1**.
- 4.6 The decrease in the Council's carbon emissions during 2020/21 occurred as a result of changes to waste management arrangements as well as other operational changes necessitated by the Covid-19 pandemic. The decrease occurred despite reporting year 2020/21 reporting on more emissions sources than in previous years (see para 4.10).
- 4.7 Increased recycling across several waste streams, and a reduction in waste to landfill has led to a decrease in the Council's carbon emissions. Across all

landfill waste emissions, a decrease in emissions occurred which represented a carbon saving of 3,618.2 tCO₂e.

- 4.8 The following changes to the Council's operations due to the Covid-19 pandemic led to a decrease in carbon emissions:
- Lower consumption (and reduced carbon intensity) of grid electricity;
 - Lower consumption and treatment of water;
 - Lower consumption of fuels; and
 - Lower consumption of biomass and most heating fuels.

These changes represented a carbon saving of 1,969.5 tCO₂e.

- 4.9 Emissions resulting from homeworking formed a new emissions source for the 2020/21 reporting year. This source represented carbon emissions of 1,073.1 tCO₂e. This total is calculated using the Scottish Government's proxy homeworking emissions multiplier of 0.3 tCO₂e per FTE.

- 4.10 The following emissions sources were not included in the previous reporting submission:
- Marine fuel oil;
 - Clinical waste – other (medical pads/nappies);
 - Clothing – closed loop recycling;
 - Battery electric vehicle – van;
 - Battery electric vehicle – car;
 - Hybrid car; and
 - Landfill gas.

These emissions sources were reported in the 2020/21 submission and represent carbon emissions of 110.9 tCO₂e.

- 4.11 6 individual energy saving projects and initiatives were carried out in 2020/21:
- Introduction of electric vehicles;
 - LED lighting replacement;
 - Water main replacement;
 - Roof insulation;
 - Draught proofing; and
 - Miscellaneous insulation projects.

These changes represented an estimated carbon saving of 44 tCO₂e.

Adaptation

- 4.12 The Moray Local Development Plan (MLDP) 2020 provides the policy framework for promoting climate change adaptation and sets out the statutory policies against which new development proposals are considered.
- 4.13 The MLDP includes specific policy requirements on:
- Coastal erosion;
 - Biodiversity enhancement;
 - Compensatory planting;
 - Active travel;
 - Food growing areas;
 - Use of brownfield sites;

- Promoting green and blue networks;
- Surface water management; and
- Avoiding areas at risk of flooding.

There is scope to further embed climate change into the Council's Quality Audit process for considering proposals against Policy PP1 Placemaking.

- 4.14 Draft National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) has recently been published for consultation and will be reported to the Planning and Regulatory Services Committee meeting in March 2022. Draft NPF4 requires significant carbon reductions through the planning system.
- 4.15 Flood protection schemes are currently designed with a variable (location-based) percentage allowance for climate change, in line with current SEPA guidelines. The Council develops catchment based flood risk management plans, which identify flood risk and proposed mitigation factoring in climate change. These plans adopt an integrated catchment based approach to flood risk management including links to River Basin Management Plans.
- 4.16 The Council's top 5 climate change adaptation priorities for the 2021/22 were identified within the 2020/21 submission as:
- Developing the Moray Council Climate Change Strategy routemap to net zero by 2030, informed by consultancy studies on hydrogen, fleet and buildings;
 - Exploring methods of reducing carbon and achieving net zero in Moray Growth Deal projects;
 - Exploring methods of reducing carbon and achieving net zero in a Levelling Up Fund submission;
 - Approving our new active travel strategy; and
 - Wildflower planting and woodland management plans developed through the Nature Restoration Fund.

Procurement

- 4.17 The Council's annual procurement report now highlights the number of contracts with environmental/climate change conditions attached. This included 13 contracts in the reporting year, broken down by conditions as follows:
- 5 x energy;
 - 3 x greenhouse gases;
 - 4 x waste; and
 - 1 x sustainable construction.

This represents a decrease of 8 contracts since the previous reporting period. However, it should be noted that procurement was suspended for some time due to Covid-19 restrictions. Therefore, there was a broadly proportionate reduction in the number of competitive tenders for the year.

- 4.18 The Council has made several procurement-related updates to better consider climate change. It has:
- reviewed its standard (weighted) sustainability tender question. This has allowed evaluation of the contractor's approach to sustainability. The outcome is recorded as a procurement non-cash benefit. Outcomes can now be reported as a categorisation;

- reviewed and developed further the sustainable procurement section of the Annual Procurement Strategy. This ensures that goods and services are procured responsibly, and with due consideration to ethical, carbon and sustainability factors – including through the supply chain and sub-contractors; and
- further developed its Sustainable Procurement Guidance (and training module) and embedded this within the Council's tender process to reflect the priorities and actions of our Climate Change Strategy. This supports and informs departmental lead officers through the new process, and improves sustainability aspects and responses within the tendering process.

Validation

- 4.19 All of the data used within the submission was obtained from previous compliance reports and from sections within the Council which collect data as part of their operational functions. In some cases, data used within the submission has been the basis for papers accepted by Council committees.

5. FUTURE REPORTING

Statutory duties

- 5.1 The Council will continue to be required to publish annual climate change reports per the Climate Change (Duties of Public Bodies: Reporting Requirements) (Scotland) Order 2015.
- 5.2 The Climate Change (Duties of Public Bodies: Reporting Requirements) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2020 states that all future reporting (from reporting period 2021/22) must include:
- the Council's target date for achieving zero direct emissions of greenhouse gases, or such other targets that demonstrate how the Council is contributing to Scotland achieving its emissions reduction targets;
 - the Council's targets for reducing indirect emissions of greenhouse gases (where applicable);
 - details regarding how the Council will align its spending plans and use of resources to reducing emissions and delivering its emissions reduction targets;
 - details regarding how the Council will publish, or otherwise make available, its progress to achieving its emissions reductions targets; and
 - details of any contributions made by the Council to helping deliver Scotland's Climate Change Adaptation Programme.
- 5.3 Officers working across the Council therefore have a responsibility to provide all necessary information required for submission as part of the Council's annual climate change reporting.

Guidance

- 5.4 The latest Scottish Government guidance, '*Public Sector Leadership on the Global Climate Emergency*', was published in October 2021 and is [available online](#).

6. **SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

(a) Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP))

This reporting demonstrates the Council's progress in contributing to Scotland's ambitious greenhouse gas emissions targets.

The Council's Corporate Plan 2019-2024 identifies the environment as a key principle in the delivery of the Council's priorities:

"Environment – look after the world we live in to protect it for our future"

and for Moray Council to be:

"A resource efficient, carbon neutral council that works with partners to mitigate the worst effects of Climate Change, to create a resilient, fair and more sustainable future for everyone within Moray".

(b) Policy and Legal

The Climate Change (Duties of Public Bodies: Reporting Requirements) (Scotland) Order 2015 introduced mandatory reporting on climate change.

The Climate Change (Duties of Public Bodies: Reporting Requirements) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2020 places a requirement on public bodies to provide further details about their climate change actions.

(c) Financial implications

There are no financial implications.

(d) Risk Implications

There are no risk implications.

(e) Staffing Implications

There are no staffing implications.

(f) Property

There are no property implications.

(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact

There are no equalities/socio economic impact implications.

(h) Consultations

Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance), the Head of Economic Growth and Development, the Corporate Management Team, Paul Connor (Principal Accountant), the Legal Services Manager, the Equal Opportunities Officer, and Tracey Sutherland, Committee Services Officer.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The submission of the Public Sector Report on Compliance with Climate Change Duties 2020-21 by the Council to the Scottish Government in November 2021 fulfilled its statutory reporting obligation.**
- 5.2 Changes to the reporting methodology for 2020/21 provided further detail on the Council's carbon emissions.**
- 5.3 Reporting on the Council's climate change duties will require greater detail in future reporting years to continue to meet its statutory obligation.**

Author of Report:	George Gunn, Climate Change Strategy Officer
Background Papers:	As referred to in this report.
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