Item 3

16th January 2024

Glasgow City Council

Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City Policy Committee

Report by Alan Burns, Executive Director of City Building

Contact: Ext:

City Building Update

Purpose of Report:

To provide an update to the Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City Policy Committee of activities within City Building including City Building (Glasgow) LLP and City Building (Contracts) LLP

Recommendations:

The committee is asked to:

- Note the contents of this report

Ward No(s):	Citywide: ✓
Local member(s) advised: Yes ☐ No ☐	consulted: Yes ☐ No ☐

1 Introduction

1.1. City Building contributes to Glasgow's Climate Plan and the ambition to be net-zero carbon by 2030, Wheatley Housing Group's Your Home, Your Community, Your Future strategy, and the ambitions of all other Clients. The accountability and responsibility for climate change governance, management and strategy sits with the City Building (Glasgow) LLP and City Building (Contracts) LLP Boards.

1.2 The Committee has requested an update of City Building's activities that contribute to the above ambitions.

1.3 This report will provide an update on our organisational actions as well as our ambitions in upskilling our workforce.

2. Organisational actions

2.1 City Building has published its business aims and Strategies as a Statement of Intent with all our strategies prioritising three pillars: economic, social, and environmental, as well as contributing to the aims of Sustainable Glasgow and being signatories to the Sustainable Glasgow Business Charter, we are members of GCC's Climate and Sustainability Scoping Group, Climate Adaption / Climate Emergency Liaison Group and GCC's Just Transition and Circular Economy Working Group

2.2 We manage our organisation in a sustainable way that reduces Greenhouse gas emissions and improves resource efficiency and have a well-established working group that ensures we reduce our own carbon footprint and introduce more cleaner greener ways of working as part of our improvements to resource efficiencies.

2.3 At the heart of our plans, we promote fairness, equality, opportunity, and innovation to bring greater economic success alongside sustainable inclusive growth.

2.4 We annually publish our statement of carbon emissions in compliance with Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting. Our aim is to reduce our carbon footprint to as low a level as is reasonably possible through effective management and identification of improvements within the organisation, all of which are in line with our BSI ISO 14001:2015 accreditation.

2.5 Our Strategic Health, Safety and Environmental Committee which is a sub-committee of our Boards, monitors our activities and those of our dedicated environmental team. They also monitor assessments of our Waste Management Licence (Waste Transfer Station) and our Scottish Water Discharge Authorisation (Vehicle Wash Bay).

2.6 Our Environmental team undertake duty of care audits with our waste sub-contractors which are all completed in line with our Environmental Management Plan against agreed Targets/KPIs.

2.7 City Building has a duty to ensure there is clean drinking water available on all sites. Where there is no running water, previously bottled water was supplied. In preparation for the Deposit and Return Scheme being implemented in Scotland we sourced other alternatives. Therefore whilst the Deposit and Return Scheme (DRS) for Scotland has been pushed back, boxed water is now operational on all City Building sites and has been operating well which will negate the requirement for collection systems to be in place when DRS does becomes operational.

2.8 Through our resource consumption monitoring there has been a decrease in both gas and electricity use and related carbon however with increased prices this does not always translate into financial savings. Water and diesel prices have both increased. This is attributable to additional office presence and the widening of working locations to areas throughout the City Region. Monitoring as set out in table below:

	Gas / kWh	**Electricity / kWh**	**Water / m^3**	**Diesel / litres**	**White Diesel/ litres**
Apr 2022–Sep 2022	793,225	1,478,057	3832	666,145.15	2695
Apr 2023-Sep 2023	443,293	1,176,586	3608	550,776.64	1057
% Difference	44.12% Decrease	20.4% Decrease	5.85% Decrease	17.32% Decrease	60.78% Decrease
Carbon Footprint difference (tonnes CO_{2eq})	44.11% Decrease	14.62% Decrease	12.2% Increase	18.93% Decrease	61.53% Decrease
Total Carbon Decrease: 438.75 tonnes CO_{2eq}					
Financial difference (£)	£30,062 Decrease	£174,068.00 Increase	No data available	£293,250.61 Decrease	£3287.31 Decrease
Total Financial Decrease: £152,521.92 (Not including Water)					

2.9 In terms of our Waste and Recycling area we have achieved the following during 2022/23:

- Waste handling area segregated 53% of incoming waste.
- The re-use/ recycling rate was 69%
- 6,522.97 tonnes of waste were produced which is a significant decrease on the previous annual total for 2021/22.

2.10 We have installed EV charging points at Darnick Street and piloting the use of electric vehicles around the city.

2.11 We have completed a downsizing and rightsizing of our fleet to not only reduce the number of vehicles to improve productivity, but also as a measure of reducing costs. Following a fleet utilisation audit we believe we have optimised the number of our vehicles which has resulted in a reduction of just over 9%.

2.12 We have installed vehicle telematics via the Lightfoot System which delivers a smarter approach for our employees to actively improve their own performance. The system revolves around real-time in-cab driver coaching to achieve elite performance meaning fuel savings, high carbon efficiency, and a superior safety record.

2.13 Comparing our fuel costs from the same time in 2022 against the current period of use of the telematic system our fuel usage has reduced by just under 40%.

2.14 We are continuing the installation of energy-efficient lighting and appliances throughout the organisation; replacement of older air-conditioning unit systems with more energy efficient systems and have on-going monitoring of building energy performance and identifying potential for new technology to be implemented.

3. Renewable Technologies

3.1 To ensure we boost productivity, diversify into new markets whilst benefiting the local communities in which we live and work we have delivered expertise in the following areas:

(a) Construction of energy efficient sustainable housing.
(b) Combined Heat and Power systems.
(c) Ground source heat pumps.
(d) Led Lighting.
(e) Triple glazed windows manufactured at RSBi.
(f) External Wall Insultation (EWI) approved PAS2030 installer.
(g) Photovoltaics installation.
(h) Technology to optimise storage heating.
(i) Rainwater harvesting.
(j) Building Energy Management Systems (BEMS) to optimise and monitor energy consumption.

3.2 Our workforce is being upskilled and our product specifications improved to ensure, along with our supply chain, we can continue to deliver emerging carbon reducing technologies, whether within new build construction, or the retrofit of current properties.

3.3 We have currently upskilled 10% of our workforce on installation, inspection, servicing, and maintenance of Air Source Heat Pumps (ASHP) and Ground Source Heat Pumps (GSHP). In addition, Photovoltaics, which includes design, installation, testing of domestic PV systems, electrical vehicle charging including installation, testing, and commissioning of domestic electric vehicle charging points. Our intention is to upskill more of our workforce but to ensure

the success of investing in this training, there needs to be a pipeline of work to hone these skills.

3.4 The opening of our new College in March 2023, from an in-house design, was a significant investment for our city and will form the basis of our skills agenda for decades to come. Leading the movement towards sustainability within construction practice is one of our top priorities. We are proud to set the example by implementing and developing practices within our own training college site which not only upskills our tradespeople on emerging technologies but also creates awareness of green construction methods.

3.5 Whilst there is not yet a standard qualification for trades people in Scotland, we have created our own so that our workforce is futureproofed for the next wave of development.

3.6 We have developed our position as a pioneer of green construction by incorporating sustainability into all apprentices' curriculums. Our new, custom built training college is being utilised in our plumbing and electrical areas with the installation of facilities for Solar PV, Battery Storage and EV charging alongside Air Source Heat Pumps.

4. Conclusion

4.1 City Building recognises the significant impact our activities have on environmental issues such as climate change, resource depletion and water quality and how they affect us all.

4.2 We continue to prioritise engagement in communities through our apprentice community projects, volunteering and charity work supporting community wealth building.

4.2 Although we have an excellent recycling rate, we continue to incorporate the circular economy principles into our business strategy and have implemented several waste minimisation policies. We work with social enterprises to ensure we continue to develop our ambitions to support the circular economy route map published in 2020 supporting a more inclusive and resilient city ensuring the continuous circulation of products and materials across Glasgow and Scotland. Examples include Home Comforts who reuse and re-sell furniture and pristine white goods, as well as the Govan Appliance Project, which not only has created a community focused shop selling affordable appliances to low-income families but also training programmes in refurbishing goods allowing for the local community to find alternative employment particularly for those experiencing social isolation.

4.3 City Building are perfectly placed to deliver the needs of everyone in the City including Glasgow City Council, Wheatley Group, Client groups generally and City Region partners when opportunities arise. Our unrivalled in-house craft and technical skilled workforce is a fantastic asset for the City to have as we embark on a genuine just transition journey and carbon free future.

5. Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

Financial:	None
Legal:	None
Personnel:	None
Procurement:	None
Council Strategic Plan:	Grand Challenge 1 – Reduce poverty and inequality in our communities Grand Challenge 2 – Increase Opportunity and prosperity for all citizens Grand Challenge 3 – Fight the Climate Emergency in a just transition of net zero Glasgow

Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25? Please specify.	Yes
What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?	No significant impact
Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-economic disadvantage.	By upskilling our workforce and providing sustainable employment this will have a positive impact on our apprentice opportunities for young people and employees who live with disabilities

Climate Impacts:

Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify:	Elements noted in this report both contribute to and are informed by key aims of the climate plan.

What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal?	This report details City Building's activities to reduce energy consumption, reduce CO2 emissions and provide skilled labour
Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target?	This plan supports the delivery of skilled labour to deliver the net zero target.
Privacy and Data Protection Impacts:	There are no requirements for potential data protection.

6. Recommendations:

The committee is asked to:

- Note the contents of this report