Glasgow City Council

Operational Performance Delivery and Scrutiny Committee

Report by Chief Executive

Contact: Cormac Quinn   Ext:

Climate Change Impact Assessment

Purpose of Report:

To provide an update on the development of the Climate Change Impact Assessment tool and to outline next steps.

Recommendations:

Committee is asked to:

- note the continuing development of the Climate Change Impact Assessment tool and the preparation for Training roll out to Committee and key stakeholders
- note the developing link with the Equality Impact Assessment process.
- note the next steps

Ward No(s):   Citywide: ✓

Local member(s) advised: Yes ☐ No ☐   consulted: Yes ☐ No ☐

1. Background

1.1 In 2019, Glasgow City Council acknowledged the scale of the global climate challenge by declaring a Climate and Ecological Emergency. The city then published its Climate Plan in 2021 setting out key actions required to achieve our vision and targets for 2030.

1.2 The Plan includes an ambitious target for achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030, while also addressing key impacts of our changing climate, such as increased risk of flooding or overheating as a result of increased rainfall and increased temperatures. This was developed alongside the UN Sustainable Development Goals and includes a firm commitment to promoting a Just Transition to a net zero, climate ready city.

1.3 The Climate Change (Duties of Public Bodies: Reporting Requirements) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2020 was updated in 2022 to require that public bodies include in their annual climate change reports "how the body will align its spending plans and use of resources with emissions targets".

1.4. In order to allow the Council to readily align spending and resources as required it is necessary to identify impacts of each policy, project, strategy or budget option. This will enable improved decision making and recording of the potential Climate impact for each proposed policy and project.

2 Climate Change Impact Assessment: Approach

2.1 A key component of Glasgow's approach to addressing this requirement is the development of a Climate Change Impact Assessment (CCIA) Tool and associated training programme. In February 2023 this Committee reviewed the anticipated approach and framework for scrutiny. The Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring Committee was updated on the first stage development in January 2024.

2.2 The complexity of Climate Change is a challenge when developing a tool that needs to be easy to understand and accessible to services, whilst also addressing the key areas of Climate impact.

2.3 However work has been ongoing through 2024 to develop an appropriate decision tool that can assist in ensuring decisions and their Climate Impacts are understood clearly and concisely.

3   Climate Change Impact Assessment: Progress to date

3.1   An initial draft of the Climate Impact Assessment Tool was piloted to impact assess selected papers presented to the Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring Committee in May 2024. This allowed members to see how Climate Impacts could be reflected and highlighted in ongoing work.

3.2   Following feedback from the pilot the following actions have been taken:
- The CCIA tool has been linked into our Climate Literacy Training course on the council's internal e-learning platform GOLD. Before undertaking the CCIA training staff will be required to undertake the Climate Literacy Training module.
- User Guidance has been prepared and will be finalised based on stakeholder feedback and practice evidence, as the pilot training is rolled out in early 2025.

3.3   The embedding of Climate within the Evidence Matrix also represents a first step in the gradual integration of Climate and Equality Impact Assessments.

4   Climate Change Impact Assessment: Overview of the Tool

4.1   The tool is structured in around **five key evidence filters.**

4.2   These filters enable the assessment to identify where the burden of climate impact lies across in relation to the **five key evidence filters**:

- Energy
- Transport
- Built and Natural Environment
- Just Transition
- Biodiversity

4.3   Applying the filters to the process leads to a position; where the evidence gathered indicates areas where officers can take the next steps to understand the potential emissions from their work.

5   Climate Change Impact Assessment: Emissions Calculation

5.1   Within the CCIA, where evidence highlights the potential for an emissions impact, officers are also required to undertake the following steps:

➢ Step 1- consider and record what data is held which could show the impact of the project. For example, this could be changes in energy use, changes in travel patterns, change in cost. Consideration needs to be given to how the impact of the project will be monitored and what data is held.

- Step 2- consider and record whether this data may show an increase or decrease in emissions. For example, what might happen to travel requirements as part of the work.
- Step 3- if this data is available, contact the Sustainability Team to discuss whether emissions savings can be calculated and for support with the process.

5.2 The calculation of emissions is an area of work which is continually evolving. However, as we roll out the use of CCIA it will become clearer on whether additional support / guidance is required on this aspect of the tool.

5.3 It is anticipated that not every assessment will lead to the ability to calculate emissions. For example some aspects of work, such as that associated with behaviour change projects, there is no recognised approach to calculating emissions.

6   Climate Change Impact Assessment: Next Steps and Scrutiny Approach

6.1 Folliowing this Committee we will begin iterative testing as part of a training pilot, with prioritisation for Elected Members on key Committees.

6.2 We will then take on board any feedback and work to complete the final update of the Training tool, Supporting materials, and CCIA Guidance by the end of March 2025.

7 Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

Financial:	None
Legal:	None
Personnel:	None
Procurement:	None

Council Strategic Plan: Enable staff to deliver essential services in a sustainable, innovative and efficient way for our communities.

The assessment supports the grand challenge 3: Fight Climate Emergency in a Just Transition to Net Zero and Mission 2: Become a net zero carbon city by 2030 empowering the city council to both envisage the transformative action required, and to take meaningful action to achieve it, developing a shared language for a systems-based approach. The assessment also supports grand challenge 4: Enable staff to deliver essential services in a sustainable, innovative and efficient way for our communities and Mission 2: Run an open, well governed council in partnership with all our communities.

Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25? Please specify.

Yes, the proposal seeks to operationalise the principles of the 2030 agenda, reflecting how as an organisation and a city we are representing the world's diversity in terms of gender, geography, ethnicity, disability and other categories, enabling a reflection about the way we work - how we identify priorities, how we engage with our partners; how we implement activities and how we measure and report on progress

What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?	The proposal will have a positive impact as it seeks to include climate justice considerations across all assessments.
Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-economic disadvantage.	The proposal aligns with the UN sustainable Development Goals, particularly the implementation of its three guiding principles: to take a human rights-based approach, leaving no one behind, supporting gender equality and women's empowerment

Climate Impacts:

Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify:	The proposal supports the overall implementation of the city's Climate Plan, including its vision for a fairer, greener and healthier city. The proposal particularly supports the commitment to develop and implement a Climate Change Impact Assessment for the city
What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal?	The proposal seeks to address the climate and ecological emergency by encouraging a reflection on how a given proposal can impact on global climate change, but also how local impacts of global climate change can impact on the success of local projects and proposals
Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target?	The proposal includes four key missions, one of which proposes to support the city's net zero target, and outlines an approach to Carbon Calculation

Privacy and Data Protection Impacts:

	Data collated with be handled in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation.

8   Recommendations:

The committee is asked to:

- note the continuing development of the Climate Change Impact Assessment tool and the preparation for Training roll out to Committee and key stakeholders
- note the developing link with the Equality Impact Assessment process.
- note the next steps

Appendix 1: Climate Change Impact Assessment Tool

The CCIA approach will be supported by the CCIA training module.

- The training module will provide context and support staff to take account of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Climate Plan and the City Portrait Framework; while aligning to the Strategic Plan.
- The CCIA tool focuses on reviewing the **Policy, Project, Service Reform or Budget Option** through the 5 Evidence filters, undertaking an impact assessment and highlighting the proposal for monitoring, reporting and review of impacts.

A successful CCIA screening will look at 4 key areas:

1. **Identify the Policy, Project, Service Reform or Budget Option to be assessed**
   A clear definition of what is being screened and its aims

2. **Using the 5 key Evidence Filters**
   Looking at Energy, Transport, Built Environment, Biodiversity and Just Transition as way of gathering evidence and determining outcomes

   ➢ **Gathering Evidence & Stakeholder Engagement**
      Collect data to evidence the type of barriers people face to accessing services (research, consultations, complaints and/or consult with equality groups)

   ➢ **Determine outcome of Assessment & Differential Impacts**
      Reaching an informed decision using the 5 evidence filters on whether or not there is a differential impact on Climate, and at what level

3. **Outcomes, Assessment Ranking, Action & Reporting**
   Develop an action plan to make changes where a negative impact has been assessed. Ensure that both the assessment outcomes and the actions taken to address negative impacts are reported. Ranking of Assessment level.

4. **Monitoring, Evaluation & Review**
    Stating how you will monitor and evaluate the **Policy, Project, Service Reform or Budget Option** to ensure that you are continuing to achieve the expected outcomes for all groups.

Use of Evidence Filters and Strategic Lenses

Where appropriate it can also be helpful for officers to consider the **four strategic lenses** to determine the strategic outcome focus of the decision being considered, and if it strategically consistent with the following:

➢ The Council Strategic Plan
➢ The Climate Plan
➢ The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
➢ The City Portrait

These lenses; though not essential for the completion of the CCIA, can help us understand how and where the burden of impact can be understood across our five key evidence filters highlighted within the CCIA tool
However, for the completion of the CCIA the following **five key evidence filters** ARE essential:

1. **Energy**
2. **Transport**
3. **Built and Natural Environment**
4. **Just Transition**
5. **Biodiversity**

These filters then lead to a position; where the evidence gathered can lead to a deeper understanding of the impacts of the project. Projects are then encouraged to consider whether a quantifiable impact on emissions can be understood also.

1. IDENTIFY THE POLICY, PROJECT, SERVICE REFORM OR BUDGET OPTION:

a) Name of the Policy, Project, Service Reform or Budget Option to be screened

b) Reason for Change in Policy or Policy Development

2. Using the Five Evidence Filters to Determine Impact

The following filters can assist in determining the areas of activity your decision may impact:

Energy
What are the energy implications of the decision; is there likely to an increase in energy consumption as a result of the decision? Is the energy produced sustainably?

Transport
What are the travel and transport implications of the decision. Will it require more or less travel or the same travel, and what will be the mode of transport? Will this decision change the mode of transport as per the Sustainable Travel Hierarchy?

Built and Natural Environment
What are the implications for the Built Environment of the decision? What type of construction work will be undertaken (roads, buildings, public infrastructure). Are the materials sustainable? Is the construction process itself sustainable? What is the anticipated climate benefit of the work undertaken?

Biodiversity
Does the decision impact the biodiversity of the area in scope of the decision? Does it increase the diversity of natural life (plant and animal) in the area under decision? Does it positively impact the complex interactions of the natural environment?

Just Transition
The decisions we take may have financial impacts on our citizens; in what way do we mitigate those impacts to support those who are more vulnerable to socio-economic impacts of decisions on climate?

(i) GATHERING EVIDENCE & STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The best approach to find out if a policy (etc) is likely to impact positively or negatively is to look at existing research, previous consultation recommendations, studies or consult with representatives of those groups. You should list below any data, consultations (previous relevant or future planned), or any relevant research or analysis that supports the Policy, Project, Service Reform or Budget Option being undertaken.

Please name any research, data, consultation or studies referred to for this assessment:	Please state if this reference refers to one or more of the 5 Evidence Filters 1. Energy 2. Transport 3. Built & Natural Environment 4. Biodiversity 5. Just Transition	Do you intend to set up your own research / consultation? If so, please list the main issues that you wish to address if the consultation is planned; or if consultation has been completed, please note the outcome(s) of consultation.

(ii) ASSESSMENT & DIFFERENTIAL IMPACTS

SUMMARY OF IMPACTS (Does your Policy, Project, Service Reform and/or Budget Option have positive and / or negative impacts on each of the 5 evidence filters). What data to do hold which helps with your understanding of impact? Further information about the Councils strategic goals can be found in the Council Strategic Plan, the Glasgow Climate Plan, City Portrait and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Evidence Filter	Positive Impact (please note in brief how your decision will impact the following positively)	Negative Impact (please note in brief how your decision may impact the following negatively	Mitigations/ Enhancements possible in Decision	Emissions Impact (what data is held / known / what process exists to gather this data). (link to section 4ii)
1. Energy				
2. Transport				
3. Built & Natural Environment				
4. Biodiversity				
5. Just Transition				

(iii) **Expanded Summary of Climate Change Impacts:**
(using the 5 key Evidence Filters)

(iv) **Area(s) of interest to consider for Emissions Calculation**
(using the 5 key Evidence Filters)

4. Outcomes, Emissions Calculation, Action, & Public Reporting

(i) CCIA Outcome

Burden of Impact	Yes /No Or / Not At This Stage
Was a significant level of negative impact arising from the decision identified?	
Does the decision require to be amended to have a positive impact?	
Does a more detailed Climate Change Impact Assessment need to be undertaken?	

(ii) Emissions Impact

Within the CCIA, where evidence highlights the potential for an emissions impact, officers are also required to undertake the following steps:

- Step 1- consider and record what data is held which could show the impact of the project. For example, this could be changes in energy use, changes in travel patterns, change in cost. Consideration needs to be given to how the impact of the project will be monitored and what data is held.
- Step 2- consider and record whether this data may show an increase or decrease in emissions. For example, what might happen to travel requirements as part of the work.
- Step 3- if this data is available, contact the Sustainability Team to discuss whether emissions savings can be calculated and for support with the process.

The calculation of emissions is an area of work which is continually evolving. However, as we roll out the use of CCIA it will become clearer on whether additional support / guidance is required on this aspect of the tool.

(iii) Actions: Next Steps

(i.e. is there a strategic group that can monitor any future actions)

Further Action Required/ Action To Be Undertaken	**Lead Officer and/or Lead Strategic Group**	**Timescale for Resolution of Negative Impact (s) / Delivery of Positive Impact (s)**

(iv)   Public Reporting

All completed CCIAs are required to be publicly available on the Council's Webpage once they have been signed off by the relevant manager, and/or Strategic, Policy, or Operational Group.

Please include approving Manager's signature and date of approval here:

Name:………………………………...

Date: …………………………………

5.   Monitoring, Evaluation & Review

Please state how you will monitor and evaluate the **Policy, Project, Service Reform or Budget Option** to ensure that you are continuing to achieve the expected outcomes for all 5 evidence filters.