**Item 3**

**9th March 2023**

**Glasgow City Council**

**Education, Skills and Early Years City Policy Committee**

**Report by Executive Director of Education Services**

**Contact: Lorna Goldie , Head of Resources Ext: 74224**

# UPDATE ON USE OF CO2 MONITORS WITHIN EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENTS

**Purpose of Report:**

To update members on the use of CO2 Monitors in all Education Services Classrooms, Playrooms and Teaching Spaces.

**Recommendations:**

Committee is asked to note the position on the use of CO2 Monitors in all Education Services Classrooms, Playrooms and Teaching Spaces

Ward No(s): Citywide: ✓

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

***PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING**:*

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The aim of this report is to update members on the use of C02 monitors in all Education Services Classrooms, Playrooms and Teaching Spaces.

1.2 During COVID monitoring was set up to review the CO2 levels within school classrooms. The level of CO2 in a room is an indicator of the levels of an increased risk of airborne viruses in the air. Lower levels of CO2 help to create an optimal learning environment. The original monitoring system involved manual logging of CO2 levels on a daily basis with returns being made to the Scottish Government. The monitors were also transferred between teaching spaces to obtain readings. The Scottish Government then made further funding available for a more permanent, and less labour-intensive monitoring system**.**

1.3 A working group was set up to ensure compliance with the Scottish Government (SG) requirements for all Local Authorities to provide fixed CO2 monitors within classrooms, playrooms and teaching spaces. This working group consisted of staff from Neighborhoods Regeneration and Sustainability, and Education Services Health and Safety. The group sourced and procured approximately 5,500 CO2 Monitors to accommodate all classrooms, playrooms, and teaching spaces across the Education estate.

1.4 The monitors procured are able to provide real time updates on CO2 levels, room temperature and room humidity levels.

1.5 All appropriate staff received guidance documents detailing the operation of CO2 monitors within classrooms/playrooms and how to raise and address concerns in relation to ventilation and thermal comfort issues. These documents were issued via Education's Health and Safety department.

1.6 The guidance documents covered the appropriate placement of the monitors and how to interpret the readings. The guidance documents ensured aced, and that Heads of Establishment knew what to do when CO2 levels were consistently high, detailing who to contact for further support.

1.7 This guidance covered practical mitigations for room users to ensure adequate levels of ventilation and ensuring thermal comfort.

## 2. CURRENT UPDATE

2.1 4,752 of the 5,500 have been fitted within the Education Estate and are operating effectively.

2.2 The department was aware of concerns with regards to ventilation from the earlier manual programme and although some were addressed at the time, some instances may involve remedial works to improve ventilation measures.

2.3 Since the new monitors have been fitted there have been five instances which have been escalated to NRS. Three of these have been addressed through application of the guidance, with one of the three being in relation to faulty meter readings. A fourth requires design changes to the building to improve ventilation around a block within the building. A longer term strategy is being developed by NRS to address those concerns. The fifth instance is still being checked.

## 3. POLICY AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

**Resource Implications:** N/A within current planning

*Financial:*

*Legal:*

*Personnel:*

*Procurement:*

**Council Strategic Plan:** Specify which Grand Challenge (s) and Mission (s) the proposal supports. Where appropriate the relevant Commitment can also be listed.

**Grand Challenge 1** - Reduce poverty and inequality in in our communities

**Mission 2** – Meet the learning and care needs of children and their families before and through school

**Grand Challenge 2** - Increase opportunity and prosperity for all our cities

**Mission 3** - Raise attainment amongst children and young people

**Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:**

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

| | |
|---|---|
| *What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?*<br><br>*Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-economic disadvantage.* | |

**Climate Impacts:**

| | |
|---|---|
| *Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify:* | N/A |
| *What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal?* | N/A |
| *Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target?* | N/A |

**Privacy and Data Protection Impacts:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Are there any potential data protection impacts as a result of this report | N/A |
| If Yes, please confirm that a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) has been carried out | |

## 4 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Committee is asked to note the position on the use of CO2 Monitors in all Education Services Classrooms, Playrooms and Teaching Spaces.