



Glasgow City Council

**Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring
City Policy Committee**

**Report by George Gillespie, Executive Director of
Neighbourhoods, Regeneration & Sustainability**

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Item 5

7th November 2023

**PUBLIC BODIES DUTIES ON CLIMATE CHANGE
ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23**

Purpose of Report:

To present the Council's annual mandatory report on climate change to Committee.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Committee:

- a) Notes Glasgow City Council's submission in response to Public Bodies Duties under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

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

1. Background

- 1.1 Glasgow City Council has presented an annual report on climate change performance to Committee since 2009. Between 2009 and 2015, all Local Authorities signed up to the Scottish Climate Change Declaration and submitted a voluntary annual report to the Scottish Government, via the Sustainable Scotland Network.
- 1.2 In 2016, it became mandatory for all public sector bodies to provide an annual report on their actions to the Scottish Government in support of the Scottish Government's Public Bodies Climate Change Duties under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act (part 4).
- 1.3 This mandatory report aims to encourage continuous improvement and enable consistent information to be collected across public sector organisations. Annual reports are analysed by the Sustainable Scotland Network and made public. They can be found [here](#). The relevant guidance for completing the report is available [here](#).
- 1.4 Scotland's Climate Change Act requires that a public body must, in exercising its functions, act:
 - In the way best calculated to contribute to the delivery of national emissions reduction targets.
 - In the way best calculated to deliver any statutory adaptation programme.
 - In a way that it considers most sustainable.
- 1.5 This paper appends the most recent 2022/23 annual report, due for submission by the 30th November 2023, which provides detail on how climate mitigation action is progressing. It also provides updates on how the city is adapting to the challenge of local climate impacts brought about by global climate change.
- 1.6 The report also includes updates on key action taken by the council to reduce emissions from its own estate; efforts to make Glasgow City Council procurement more sustainable; and finally, area wide work to support a reduction in city wide carbon emissions.

2. Changes to Reporting

- 2.1 Since the last submission in 2022, the reporting scope has changed to include both a broader range of emissions and more accurate representation through changes to the emissions factors in the calculations.
- 2.2 The key areas of difference are:
 - Scope 2: the emissions factor used to calculate Scope 2 emissions has changed as part of the national guidance. The reduction seen in our

reporting is therefore due to changes in the emissions associated with grid electricity.

- Scope 3: the emissions from transmission and distribution of electricity and homeworking emissions have been included for the first time in the total for scope 3 emissions.
- 2.3 Through discussions with SSN, additional work is underway to incorporate waste statistics at a city wide level into our emissions analysis. However, there is significant work needed to align the data available and understand fully the implications on our emissions baseline. This will be a priority before the next reporting deadline in 2024. In addition emissions associated with water consumption are also not included; these will also be addressed and prioritised for inclusion within the reporting deadline for 2024.
- 2.4 Through applying like for like reporting to previous submission years, the emissions for the 2022/23 financial year are **95,230.96 tCO₂e** which is a **50%** decrease when compared to the baseline year. This demonstrates the City Council has achieved significant reductions in the greenhouse gas emissions, with data showing progress against the 2005/06 baseline.
- 2.5 The additional emissions (outlined above) which have been included within the reporting template, equate to 6221.03 tCO₂e. When these figures are included within the total emissions for 2022/23 financial year the value is **101,451.99 tCO₂e** which is a 46% reduction on the baseline year.

3. Report Findings

- 3.1 The completed reporting template, which is expected to be submitted by 30 November 2023, can be found in Appendix 1. It provides a detailed response from the Council on its climate change work, using the required reporting template for all public bodies.
- 3.2 The main areas where progress has been made are outlined below, under each of the key themes from the Public Bodies Climate Change Duty reporting template.
- 3.3 As outlined, there is an overall decrease in emissions compared to the baseline year. However when comparing 2022/23 to the 2021/22 financial year there are additional data nuances which should be acknowledged:
- Scope 1 emissions have increased by 3%. This includes a decrease in natural gas use but an increase in fuel use including diesel since the return from the pandemic.
 - Scope 2 emissions have decreased by 9%. These emissions savings are as a result of both our own electricity reduction activities and a reduction in the emissions factor used to calculate. Again this is activity which has been impacted on since the pandemic.
 - Scope 3 emissions have increased by 195%. This is due to the variance in emission sources described above. This year emissions from

transmission and distribution of electricity and homeworking emissions have been included in the total for scope 3 emissions.

3.4 Outlined below are some examples of projects which have contributed to reductions in emissions (a full list can be found in Appendix 1).

- LED lighting, Insulation and Building Management System upgrades to Glasgow Life properties
- Replacement of diesel fleet vehicles with over 300 electric vehicles and installation of EV infrastructure to support this transition (91 units giving 157 spaces).
- Glasgow's Low Emission Zone came into effect 31st May 2022, enforcement of LEZ entry conditions began on 1st June 2023. This project aims to reduce levels of harmful vehicle emissions in our city centre. These can cause health problems, particularly for those most vulnerable.
- Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure – a tariff for consumption of electricity was introduced on the Council's public EV charging infrastructure in April 2023. It is expected that this will support the stability of the network as well as encourage market growth. During 2021/22, the city installed an additional 50 publicly available chargers for electric vehicles. This will bring the total number of publicly available EV chargers installed by the City Council to 292, with a further 80 planned for installation in the year ahead. The implementation of the tariff has led to a reduction in demand on the network.

3.5 Climate Adaptation:

- The Glasgow Climate Adaptation Plan was approved by Committee in August 2022. The report from the Net Zero Committee can be found [here](#). The plan includes more robust risk management strategies to give prominence to climate change issues and aid informed climate resilience planning. The plan can be found [here](#).
- The City, through its participation in EU project, Connecting Nature, developed co-impact app which can be accessed [here](#). This is being used within project development to identify outcomes across the nature-based solutions spectrum (health& wellbeing, social cohesion, environment, economy and biodiversity).

3.6 Sustainable Procurement through Corporate Procurement Unit:

- The new Sustainable Procurement Strategy (SPS) 2023-2027 became live in early 2023, this strategy replaces the previous Procurement Strategy 2018-2022 and can be found [here](#).
- There are 6 key objectives within the SPS were shaped following two public consultations' covering the following areas listed below:
 - Support the Council's Net Zero, Ecological and Adaptation Ambitions.

- Provide Effective and Efficient Procurement for our Stakeholders
- Shape and Drive Innovation.
- Support Local Wealth Building and Economic Growth.
- Procurement to be a Strategic Partner for Council Services.
- Support the Council Financial Challenges.
- Procurement is undertaken in line with all relevant procurement rules and regulations and includes the utilisation of various Scottish Government tools and applications such as the Sustainable Test and the Public Contracts Scotland Tendering portal.

3.7 Area of Wider Influence:

- Publication of the Cycle 2 Clyde and Loch Lomond (CaLL) Local Flood Risk Management Plan in December 2022 - <https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/clydeandlochlomond>
- Refresh of Glasgow's Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) for 2024-2029 to support the draft Scottish Biodiversity Strategy Delivery Plan, Nature Networks and 30x30 Framework.
- A cross-party Just Transition Working Group was established by the Council and reported its recommendations to committee on 8 August 2023, with the key aim of supporting communities, businesses and organisations in Glasgow to build a justice component into all activities around the shift to net zero and climate resilience.
- The Council has established a Green Business Support Fund, using UK Shared Prosperity Fund resources, to provide grant funding to local businesses in their work to decarbonise and take a more sustainable approach to resource use.
- A Climate Finance Senior Project Manager post has been appointed by the Council to support its thinking on how to acquire and pay back the significant capital investment needed to achieve the 2030 net zero carbon emissions target.
- The development of a City Portrait in alignment with C40's Thriving Cities Network and supporting the delivery of the circular economy through application of Doughnut Economics model to the City, developing a vision and recommendations for Glasgow as a thriving city.
- The Council has continued to work with the C40 Invest/Divest network, particularly in relation to its involvement with the local pension fund, and the City Treasurer is an ambassador for the Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance. Within the UK, Glasgow also works with the 3Ci collaboration to explore opportunities around climate finance and to ensure a strong urban voice to national government on this agenda.

3.8 Strategic and Governance Priorities proposed for the year ahead are as follows:

- Maximise the potential of Net Zero Committee and Just Transition Commission to ensure accountability and fairness in the transition to Net Zero.
- Maintain effective governance for climate and sustainability work through the Climate and Sustainability board and Project Management Office,

including working with The Sustainable Glasgow Partnership to enhance and drive change.

- Support the adoption of the recently published Strategic Plan which focusses on supporting communities in a just transition to net zero.
- Develop and support the launch of the Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy to support development of sustainable heating projects in the city. There is a significant opportunity for Glasgow City Council assets to be key anchor load sites for the development of any district heat networks.
- Glasgow City Council assets have also been prioritised for a programme of PV installations (approximate capacity 1000kWp) due for completion prior to the end of March 2024.
- Support the development of a Net Zero Routemap, which will provide prioritisation to the actions within the Climate Plan.
- Continue support of Glasgow's Low Emission Zone (LEZ) with the aim of removing the most polluting vehicles from Glasgow City Centre and improving air quality and public health within the city.
- Continued development of the Geothermal potential within the city, with subsequent benefit to GCC assets for use of heat.
- Continued work with Property Asset Management team on improving efficiency of estate through energy audits, project identification and development, and project delivery.

4 Next Steps

4.1 The Public Bodies Duties report under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act will be submitted prior to the deadline of 30th November 2023.

4.2 The report for the 2023/24 financial year will be prepared next year.

5 Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

Financial: There are no direct implications. This report provides an update on activity during financial year 2022/23.

Legal: There is a legal obligation on all Public Bodies to report annually on their local progress in addressing climate change. In submitting the appended return, the Council is complying with their legal duty under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act.

Personnel: There are no immediate impacts on human resources from this annual update on climate

change action.

Procurement:

The return includes an update on Sustainable Procurement, specifically relating to sustainable and circular practices and the procuring of low carbon goods and services.

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

Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

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

Yes. Our action on Climate Change is supportive of the Council's equality outcomes, specifically equality outcomes 8, 9 and 10;

8. Service users with protected characteristics are provided with targeted, improved and more accessible information about the services provided by the council family.

9. Barriers to participation in arts, learning, physical activity, learning and culture have been reduced for people with protected characteristics.

10. People with protected characteristics are more regularly and systematically involved in service delivery design by the Council family. (no significant impact, positive impact or negative impact)

What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?

Climate Change impacts all of society however this can disproportionately impact women, the very young, the very old, and those in most vulnerable communities, both geographically and socio-economically. We must ensure that our actions minimise the negative impacts that climate change has on our most vulnerable, whilst also maximising their ability to participate and benefit from a just transition to a low carbon economy.

Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-

Addressing Climate Change often means addressing socio-economic inequalities, in particular when committing to achieving the 17

economic disadvantage.

UN Sustainable Development Goals and supporting a Just Transition to a Low Carbon Economy.

Climate Impacts:

Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify:

Yes, the submission relates to all actions within the climate plan. It includes a report on progress achieved by the city council in addressing the climate emergency and fulfilling the public bodies duties on climate change, including reducing carbon emissions, adapting to the impacts of climate and conducting its business in a sustainable way.

What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal?

The report relates to evidence of action addressing carbon reduction, building resilience to climate change and embedding sustainable development principles across the organisation.

Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target?

The report includes an update on progress relating to achieving the city's net zero carbon targets.

Privacy and Data Protection Impacts:

None.

Are there any potential data protection impacts as a result of this report
Y/N

If Yes, please confirm that a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) has been carried out

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 It is recommended that the Committee notes Glasgow City Council's submission in response to Public Bodies Duties under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act.

Appendix 1: GCC Project Examples

Outlined below are a selection of projects which have contributed to reductions in emissions.

- LED lighting upgrades to Glasgow Life properties
- Insulation upgrades to Glasgow Life properties.
- Building Management Systems upgrades to Glasgow Life properties
- Replacement of diesel fleet vehicles with over 300 electric vehicles and installation of EV infrastructure to support this transition (91 units giving 157 spaces).
- Campaign with GCC and waste, electrical and electronic equipment contractor Valpak to promote collection of (WEEE), donated items tested and re-distributed to Glasgow charities and Glasgow tool libraries.
- Glasgow's Low Emission Zone came into effect 31st May 2022, enforcement of LEZ entry conditions began on 1st June 2023. This project aims to reduce levels of harmful vehicle emissions in our city centre. These can cause health problems, particularly for those most vulnerable.
- The City approved the Climate Change Impact Assessment methodology in January 2023. This continues to build awareness of the impact strategic decisions have on our ability to meet climate targets and aspirations, and, importantly, ensure that both the city council and city-wide emissions reduction efforts are accelerated.
- The City Council continued to roll out of Climate Literacy Training across the Council family. To date, the training has been offered to elected members, Corporate Management Team, Senior Management Team, Police Scotland, COP 26 Volunteers, and more recently Business Advisers and other staff within Economic Development participated in the training and received accreditation.
- Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure – a tariff for consumption of electricity was introduced on the Council's public EV charging infrastructure in April 2023. It is expected that this will support the stability of the network as well as encourage market growth. During 2021/22, the city installed an additional 50 publicly available chargers for electric vehicles. This will bring the total number of publicly available EV chargers installed by the City Council to 292, with a further 80 planned for installation in the year ahead. The implementation of the tariff has led to a reduction in demand on the network.

6.2 Climate Adaptation:

- The Glasgow Climate Adaptation Plan was approved by Committee in August 2022. The report from the Net Zero Committee can be found [here](#). The plan includes more robust risk management strategies to give prominence to climate change issues and aid informed climate resilience planning. The plan can be found [here](#).
- The Council worked with SEPA and other local authorities to develop and publish the Cycle 2 Clyde and Loch Lomond (CaLL) Local Flood Risk Management Plan (LFRMP) in December 2022. This Plan can be found [here](#).
- The Council continued to support the MGSDP and collaborative working to deliver water resilient places.

- The City, through its participation in EU project, Connecting Nature, developed co-impact app which can be accessed [here](#). This is being used within project development to identify outcomes across the nature-based solutions spectrum (health& wellbeing, social cohesion, environment, economy and biodiversity).

6.3 Sustainable Procurement through Corporate Procurement Unit:

- The new Sustainable Procurement Strategy (SPS) 2023-2027 became live in early 2023, this strategy replaces the previous Procurement Strategy 2018-2022 and can be found [here](#).
- There are 6 key objectives within the SPS were shaped following two public consultations' covering the following areas listed below:
 - Support the Council's Net Zero, Ecological and Adaptation Ambitions.
 - Provide Effective and Efficient Procurement for our Stakeholders
 - Shape and Drive Innovation.
 - Support Local Wealth Building and Economic Growth.
 - Procurement to be a Strategic Partner for Council Services.
 - Support the Council Financial Challenges.
- The CPU continued to be a key contributor to the Glasgow City Region Sustainable Procurement Strategy.
- Procurement is undertaken in line with all relevant procurement rules and regulations and includes the utilisation of various Scottish Government tools and applications such as the Sustainable Test and the Public Contracts Scotland Tendering portal.

6.4 Area of Wider Influence:

- Publication of the Cycle 2 Clyde and Loch Lomond (CaLL) Local Flood Risk Management Plan in December 2022 - <https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/clydeandlochlomond>
- Refresh of Glasgow's Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) for 2024-2029 to support the draft Scottish Biodiversity Strategy Delivery Plan, Nature Networks and 30x30 Framework:
 - LBAP notable action: Over 6300 trees were planted; 88063 records were added to the city's biological audit database, managed by Glasgow Museums Biological Records Centre, which included 59 new species; 6 meadow sites were managed by contractor covering 17 Hectares with volunteers managing a further 5 sites; across the city unmown grassland was enhanced by planting 22260 bulbs, 16500 wildflower plugs over 5500 m2 and 250,000 daffodils planted city-wide over 10,000m2
- Glasgow Food Growing Strategy. Notable Actions:
 - Current allotment provision 1657 plots available citywide covering 27 hectares (27000m2) including 72 additional plots delivered in year 1 of the strategy, with a further 99 plots to be delivered in year 2, 76 plots in year 3, 78 in year 4, and 30 in year 5.
- A cross-party Just Transition Working Group was established by the Council and reported its recommendations to committee on 8 August 2023, with the key aim of supporting communities, businesses and organisations in Glasgow to build a justice component into all activities around the shift to net zero and climate resilience.

- The Council has established a Green Business Support Fund, using UK Shared Prosperity Fund resources, to provide grant funding to local businesses in their work to decarbonise and take a more sustainable approach to resource use.
- A Climate Finance Senior Project Manager post has been appointed by the Council to support its thinking on how to acquire and pay back the significant capital investment needed to achieve the 2030 net zero carbon emissions target.
- Continued development of on-street electric vehicle charging points and adoption of the electric vehicle charge point policy.
- Continued Implementation of the Circular Economy Route map for the city. Including capacity building and collaboration with corporate procurement.
- The development of a City Portrait in alignment with C40's Thriving Cities Network and supporting the delivery of the circular economy through application of Doughnut Economics model to the City, developing a vision and recommendations for Glasgow as a thriving city.
- Glasgow Transport Strategy final policy framework approved by Committee to set out a comprehensive framework to reduce car dependency, car vehicle kilometres travelled, and a shift towards sustainable travel choices.
- The Council has continued to develop its thinking on climate finance and its engagement with the investor community. In 2023 it benefited from the insights of a Global Risk and Resilience Fellow, a senior seconded officer from the insurance sector, who worked across the organisation to support its thinking on the climate finance agenda. A report on developing a proposed climate finance framework has been presented to Council committee, with an update on this work to be taken to committee in early 2024. Subsequently, the Council has enhanced its capacity to engage in this agenda through establishing a new climate finance manager post and a corresponding internal Climate Investment Board, chaired by the Leader of the Council.
- The Council has continued to work with the C40 Invest/Divest network, particularly in relation to its involvement with the local pension fund, and the City Treasurer is an ambassador for the Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance. Within the UK, Glasgow also works with the 3Ci collaboration to explore opportunities around climate finance and to ensure a strong urban voice to national government on this agenda. On a local basis, the Council is engaged with its partner local authorities through Glasgow City Region to look at carbon accounting and build it into business cases.