



**Glasgow City Council**

**Net Zero City Monitoring Committee**

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

**Item 2**

**12th November 2024**

**Contact: Gavin Slater Ext: 78347**

**PUBLIC BODIES DUTIES ON CLIMATE CHANGE  
ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24**

**Purpose of Report:**

To present the Council's annual statutory report on action taken to combat climate change.

**Recommendations:**

It is recommended that the Committee:

- a) Notes Glasgow City Council's draft submission in response to Public Bodies Duties under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act.
- b) Notes the next steps outlined to ensure submission before the deadline.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

Local member(s) advised: Yes ☐ No ☐

consulted: Yes ☐ No ☐

## **1 Introduction**

- 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. All local authority reports can be found [here](#). The relevant guidance for completing the report is available [here](#).

## **2 Background**

- 2.1 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.
- 2.2 This paper appends the most recent 2023/24 annual report, due for submission by the 30<sup>th</sup> of November 2024, which provides detail on how Glasgow's 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 (Full report, [Appendix 1](#))
- 2.3 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's procurement activity more sustainable; and finally, work to support a reduction in City-wide carbon emissions.

## **3 Report Findings**

- 3.1 The completed reporting template provides a detailed response from the Council on its climate change work, using the required template for all public bodies. The full document can be found in [Appendix 1](#).

3.2 The main areas where progress has been made are outlined below, categorised by the key themes from the Public Bodies Climate Change Duty reporting template.

3.3 **Climate Governance:** In the past year climate change governance has been further embedded in the Council as follows:

- Continued formal reporting on carbon reduction, energy management, sustainability, and climate adaptation to Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City Policy Committee and to the City Administration Committee for strategic information sharing and decision making.
- Approval of the Climate Change Impact Assessment methodology in January 2023.
- Launch of a new Climate Literacy gold e-learning course which allows all council staff access to training on climate change. The course introduces climate science, mitigation and adaptation and helps to spread the knowledge and understanding needed to support action. Ensuring all staff in Glasgow City Council have access to climate training allows action to be embedded through all roles and departments.
- Creation of a Climate Investment Board to oversee work into the establishment of a Climate Delivery Vehicle and Climate Investment Vehicle to support the delivery of the City's climate ambition.

3.4 Plans and strategies which have been added to the report this year that include climate change are as follows:

- [Carbon Management Plan \(CMP3\)](#)
- [Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy \(LHEES\)](#)
- [Glasgow City Development Plan 2 \(CDP2\) - Evidence Report](#)
- [Forestry and Woodland Strategy](#)
- [Local Biodiversity Action Plan - Delivery Plan](#)
- [Community Renewable Energy Framework](#)

3.5 Glasgow City Council's top 5 priorities for climate change governance, management and strategy 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 delivery of the [Strategic Plan](#) which focusses on supporting communities in a just transition to net zero.
- Support the implementation of the Net Zero Routemap for the city.
- Continue the delivery of the model for Climate Investment which will help realise the Council's ambitions around heat decarbonisation and net-carbon zero through the governance of the Climate Investment Board.

### 3.6 The City Council's own emissions and projects:

- The City Council has achieved significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, with data showing progress against the 2005/06 baseline. The Council produced emissions of **98,150.79 tCO<sub>2</sub>e** in the 2023/24 reporting year, a reduction of **51%** from 2005/06 baseline.
- For the first time since reporting started, the council has also reported municipal waste within the scope 3 category. Emissions from waste total **33,474.59 tCO<sub>2</sub>e**. With these emissions included, the total emissions are **131,625.38 tCO<sub>2</sub>e**.
- Although waste is a significant source of emissions, comparable to one third of all other emission sources, it has not been incorporated into the total emissions or year on year comparisons. Although including emissions from waste in the report is not currently mandatory, it is expected to be in the coming years.
- There is an **3% decrease** in emissions compared to the 2022/23 reporting year. This comparison is based on the same emissions sources (i.e. does not include waste emissions from the most recent year dataset). This can be broken down into scopes as below.
  - Scope 1 emissions have decreased by 6% compared to 2022/23
  - Scope 2 emissions have increased by 3% compared to 2022/23
  - Scope 3 emissions have increased by 2% compared to 2022/23

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

- Lighting upgrades across estate, utilising high efficiency LED lighting.
- Building management System upgrades of Glasgow Life properties.
- Implementation of the Resource and Recycling Strategy.
- Refresh of the Staff Travel Plan to address commuting emissions. Although these emissions are not currently reported, the change will help support reduction in scope 3 emissions and behaviour change.
- Increasing use of electric vehicles in fleet, replacing existing internal combustion engines vehicles with electric vehicles and implementation of dual fuel diesel/hydrogen vehicles.
- Glasgow Low Emission Zone came into effect 31st May 2022, and enforcement of LEZ entry conditions began on 1st June 2023.
- In February 2023, the third iteration of Glasgow City Council Carbon Management Plan was approved at Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City Policy Committee. [CMP3](#) outlines the council's commitment to reducing carbon emissions, enhancing energy efficiency, and promoting sustainable practices across all facets of the Council family.

### 3.8 Details on how Glasgow City Council align its spending plans and use of resources to contribute to reducing emissions are outlined below.

- Following extensive research two specific workstreams are being investigated, a Delivery Vehicle and a Climate Investment Vehicle. The [Model for Climate Investment Committee report](#) provides further details on this work.

- The Council continues to drive forward it's thinking on climate finance. Following the appointment of the Climate Finance Manager and the approval of funding for the project an internal team has been established in Summer 2024.
- As part of the internal process for budget reviews, carbon impact assessments are completed for all budget considerations.

### 3.9 **Climate Adaptation:**

- The [Glasgow Climate Adaptation Plan](#) was approved by Committee in August 2022. The plan includes robust risk management strategies to give prominence to climate change issues and aid informed climate resilience planning. It is currently being reviewed with the intention to incorporate the Climate Adaptation Plan into the [Climate Plan](#) to create one integrated plan. Key aspects of delivery highlighted within the report include:
  - The Council working with SEPA and other local authorities to develop and publish the Cycle 2 [Clyde and Loch Lomond \(CaLL\) Local Flood Risk Management Plan \(LFRMP\)](#).
  - The Council continuing to support [the Metropolitan Glasgow Strategic Drainage Partnership](#) and collaborative working to deliver water resilient places.
  - The City, through its participation in the EU project, Connecting Nature, developed the co-impact app which can be accessed [here](#). This tool helps to identify outcomes across the nature-based solutions spectrum (health& wellbeing, social cohesion, environment, economy, and biodiversity), and is being used within project development.
  - Glasgow City Council has also contributed to the Public Sector Climate Adaptation Network Adaptation Capability Framework Task and Finish group organised by Adaptation Scotland to review the [framework](#).

### 3.10 **Sustainable Procurement through Corporate Procurement Unit (CPU):**

- The Sustainable Procurement Strategy (SPS) 2023-2027 was approved 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 covering the following areas listed below. These were shaped following two public consultations.
  - 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 continues 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.

3.11 **Area of Wider Influence:** The appended report includes full details of projects reported under area of wider influence. Key highlights include the below.

- [City Change Makers](#) is a collaborative programme as part of the Thriving Cities Initiative led by GCC's [Centre for Civic Innovation](#) with support from GCC Sustainability, GCC Green Economy and C40 Cities. With funding from C40 Cities and the Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance, we are supporting two organisations to prototype, test and scale their ideas and support neighbourhood action that builds resilience to the impacts of climate change, while improving the wellbeing of people and planet.
- Glasgow City Council has continued to support the ongoing work of the Thriving City Portrait in alignment with C40's Thriving Cities Network through the development of the city-wide vision and recommendations for Glasgow.
- Glasgow City Council has developed a Net Zero Route Map which will produce a science-based Routemap to achieving net zero by 2030.
- Glasgow's [Local Biodiversity Action Plan](#) (LBAP) has been refreshed for 2024-2029 to support the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy Delivery Plan.
- The Just Transition Implementation Plan was published in February 2024 to support delivery of the recommendations from the Just Transition Working Group. The plan can be accessed [here](#).
- Glasgow City Council has continued implementation of the [Circular Economy Route Map](#) for the city, including capacity building and collaboration with corporate procurement.. A recent update can be found [here](#).
- The Scottish Government allocated funding for 20 climate action hubs during 2023-24 and Glasgow secured funding for its own hub. Glasgow Council for the Voluntary Sector is the lead partner in the Glasgow Climate Action Hub and will continue to work with Glasgow City Council as the hub develops. More information can be found here <https://gcvs.org.uk/introducing-gcah/>.

## 4 Next Steps

- Following agreement from Committee, the Public Bodies Duties report under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act will be submitted prior to the deadline of 30th November 2024.
- The report for the 2024/25 financial year will be prepared next year and brought to the Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City Policy Committee prior to submission.

## 5 Policy and Resource Implications

### Resource Implications:

<i>Financial:</i>	There are no direct implications. This report provides an update on activity during financial year 2023/24.
<i>Legal:</i>	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.
<i>Personnel:</i>	There are no immediate impacts on human resources from this annual update on climate change action.
<i>Procurement:</i>	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:** Contributes to Grand Challenge 3 - Fight the Climate Emergency in a Just Transition to a Net Zero Glasgow and Mission 2 - Become a net zero carbon city by 2030.

### Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

<i>Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25? Please specify.</i>	<p>Yes. Our action on Climate Change is supportive of the Council's equality outcomes, specifically, equality outcomes 8, 9 and 10;</p> <p>8. Service users with protected characteristics are provided with targeted, improved and more accessible information about the services provided by the council family.</p> <p>9. Barriers to participation in arts, learning, physical activity, learning and culture have been reduced for people with protected characteristics.</p> <p>10. People with protected characteristics are more regularly and systematically involved in service delivery design by the Council family.</p>
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(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-economic disadvantage.*

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

No immediate impacts

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



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

## **6 Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Committee:

- a) Notes Glasgow City Council's draft submission in response to Public Bodies Duties under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act.
- b) Notes the next steps outlined to ensure submission before the deadline.