
To: Planning and Climate Change Policy Board

On: 1 November 2022

Report by: Chief Executive

Heading: Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Reporting 2021-22

1. Summary

- 1.1 The Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019 committed Scotland to become net zero by 2045, with the Public Bodies Climate Change Reporting Duties placing a legal requirement on public bodies to set target dates for zero direct emissions and indirect emission reductions; report on how spending and resource will contribute to these targets; and report on the body's contribution to Scotland's Climate Change Adaptation Programme.
- 1.2 To comply with the requirements of the Climate Change (Duties of Public Bodies: Reporting Requirements) (Scotland) Order 2015 as amended by the Climate Change (Duties of Public Bodies: Reporting Requirements) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2020, Renfrewshire Council is required to prepare an Annual Report detailing progress in mitigation and adaptation to climate change.
- 1.3 Reporting year 2021-22 sees updates to the statutory reporting template as a result of the Climate Change (Duties of Public Bodies: Reporting Requirements) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2020, specifically new reporting requirements on:
- emissions targets
 - how spend and resources are aligned with targets
 - publishing progress on meeting targets, and
 - delivery and contributions to adaptation programme outcomes.
- 1.4 Reporting year 2021-22 outlines total emissions for Renfrewshire Council for 2021-22 were 23,564.6tCO₂e – an increase of 389tCO₂e from 2020-21. There was a reduction in both scope 1 and scope 2 emissions from the previous year, but an increase in scope 3 emissions. The total emissions for 2021-22 was made up of 11,642.4tCO₂e of scope 1 emissions; 5,404.1tCO₂e of scope 2 emissions; and 6,518.1tCO₂e of scope 3 emissions.

- 1.5 The COVID-19 pandemic has had a major impact on Council operations; service delivery; and ways of working across the Council, as well as impacting the behaviour of households and businesses during 2020-21 and 2021-22. This disruptive impact has made it difficult to compare values across years in some cases. This can be seen particularly in the rise in Scope 3 emissions in 2021-22 as a result of homeworking (and the subsequent rise in overall emissions). 2021-22 is the first year that Renfrewshire Council have reported homeworking emissions - an increase of 524.6tCO₂e as a result of changes in ways of working (in the context of an overall increase of emissions of 389tCO₂e from 2020-21 when homeworking emissions were not reported).
- 1.6 Impacts of the pandemic can also be seen in:
- the increase in petrol and diesel consumption in 2021-22 compared to 2020-21 as a result of increased vehicle requirements due to social distancing (but worth noting that both consumption and associated emissions in 2021-22 were lower than 2019-20 pre-pandemic petrol and diesel consumption and emissions); and
 - the appearance of a significant spike in commercial and industrial waste to landfill in 2021-22 compared with 2020-21 (when many businesses were shut and/or operating very differently for large parts of due to lockdown and ongoing impacts of measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, therefore artificially reducing 2020-21 figures significantly).
- 1.7 The impacts on emissions as a result of the pandemic are expected to be temporary and Renfrewshire Council remain committed to reducing emissions as an organisation across all areas of operations and service delivery, as well as for the Renfrewshire area as a whole. Overall, Renfrewshire Council's total emissions have reduced by 29,964tCO₂e since the baseline year of 2012-13 – a reduction of 56%.
- 1.8 The Council's climate change report for 2021-22 is due to be submitted to the Scottish Government by 30 November 2022 and is a statutory requirement for all public bodies.
- 1.9 Renfrewshire Council's Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report for 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 is attached as Appendix 1 for approval by Board members - outlining details on the Council's emissions; activities, plans and strategies undertaken in 2021-22 in relation to climate change and adaptation; and priorities for the year ahead in relation to climate action.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that members of the Planning and Climate Change Policy Board:
- approve the content of Renfrewshire Council's Public Bodies Climate Change Duties report for 2021-22 as appended to this report
 - note this will be submitted to Scottish Government by 30 November deadline

3. Background

- 3.1 The Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019 committed Scotland to net zero by 2045, with the Public Bodies Climate Change Reporting Duties placing a legal requirement on public bodies to set target dates for zero direct emissions and indirect emission reductions; report on how spending and resource will contribute to these targets; and report on the body's contribution to Scotland's Climate Change Adaptation Programme.
- 3.2 All 32 local authorities in Scotland are signed up to Scotland's Climate Change Declaration, acknowledging the importance of climate change and the key role Scottish local authorities play in helping to tackle the challenges of climate change. Signatories are committed to:
- providing leadership on climate change
 - reducing the local authorities' own greenhouse gas emissions from their estate, services and operations and taking action to reduce emissions from the local authority area as a whole
 - assessing the risks of climate change and working with others to take the steps to adapt to the unavoidable impacts of a changing climate, and
 - developing effective partnerships with communities and stakeholders to respond to climate change.
- 3.3 To comply with the requirements of the Climate Change (Duties of Public Bodies: Reporting Requirements) (Scotland) Order 2015 as amended, Renfrewshire Council is required to prepare an Annual Report detailing progress in helping to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Detailed information about the Council's emissions is submitted annually to the Scottish Government through the Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report.
- 3.4 The Scottish Government developed the reporting framework to assist in providing accurate and consistent performance information across all public organisations. It provides an important mechanism for the public sector to lead by example in addressing climate change, but also a mechanism to inform the future direction and development of policy, legislation, funding and support services.
- 3.5 Reporting year 2021-22 sees updates to the statutory reporting template as a result of the Climate Change (Duties of Public Bodies: Reporting Requirements) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2020, specifically new reporting requirements on:
- emissions targets
 - how spend and resources are aligned with alignment
 - publishing progress on meeting targets, and
 - delivery and contributions to adaptation programme outcomes.
- 3.6 The Council's climate change report for 2021-22 is due to be submitted by 30 November 2022 and is a statutory requirement of all public bodies. The Report is intended to assist with monitoring Public Bodies Duties compliance and encourage continuous improvement.
- 3.7 The publication of Renfrewshire's Plan for Net Zero Plan, following approval at the Planning and Climate Change Policy Board in August 2022, describes the context for our strategic direction in Renfrewshire. It highlights the importance of working together across the Council and beyond, to ensure projects, programmes and approaches complement each other, make the best use of expertise and experience,

and maximise resources while closely aligning with our Council and Community Plans, and national and local policies and strategies. This aligns with the updated statutory public bodies reporting requirements.

4. Renfrewshire Council's Annual Report 2021-22: Key Highlights

Corporate Emissions, Targets and Project Data

- 4.1 The reporting year runs from 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022 and so the targets set out in Renfrewshire's Plan for Net Zero do not apply to the current reporting year, although targets are outlined in the report in line with the increased reporting requirements.
- 4.2 An error was identified in the submission for 2020-21 in relation to the figure for municipal waste to landfill and the total emissions figure has been amended for 2020-21 on this year's report in Section 3a. This has led to an increase of 2,670.4tCO₂e in emissions for 2020-21, giving an emissions total of 23,175 tCO₂e for that year.
- 4.3 The total emissions for Renfrewshire Council for 2021-22 were 23,564.6tCO₂e – an increase of 389tCO₂e tCO₂e from 2020-21. The total emissions for 2021-22 was made up of 11,642.4tCO₂e of scope 1 emissions; 5,404.1tCO₂e of scope 2 emissions; and 6,518.1tCO₂e of scope 3 emissions.
- 4.4 Scope 1 emissions are from sources owned or controlled by the Council (e.g. natural gas use; petrol and diesel in Council fleet); Scope 2 emissions are indirect emissions from purchased electricity (including electricity for buildings, streetlights, CCTV and electric vehicle fleet); and Scope 3 emissions are those emissions that we are indirectly responsible for as a consequence of our activities but sources are not owned or controlled by the organisation (e.g. business travel, electricity transmission and distribution losses and household and waste collection and disposal).
- 4.5 The COVID-19 pandemic has had a major impact on Council operations; service delivery; and ways of working across the Council, as well as impacting the behaviour of households and businesses during 2020-21 and 2021-22. This disruptive impact has made it difficult to compare values across years in some cases. This can be seen particularly in the rise in Scope 3 emissions in 2021-22 as a result of homeworking (and the subsequent rise in overall emissions). 2021-22 is the first year that Renfrewshire Council have reported homeworking emissions - an increase of 524.6tCO₂e as a result of changes in ways of working (in the context of an overall increase of emissions of 389tCO₂e from 2020-21 when homeworking emissions were not reported).
- 4.6 Impacts of the pandemic can also be seen in:
 - the increase in petrol and diesel consumption in 2021-22 compared to 2020-21 as a result of increased vehicle requirements due to social distancing (but worth noting that both consumption and associated emissions in 2021-22 were lower than 2019-20 pre-pandemic petrol and diesel consumption and emissions); and
 - the appearance of a significant spike in commercial and industrial waste to landfill in 2021-22 compared with 2020-21 (when many businesses were shut and/or operating very differently for large parts of due to lockdown and ongoing impacts of measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, therefore artificially reducing 2020-21 figures significantly).

- 4.7 The slight increase in litres of diesel and petrol consumed was offset by slight decreases in kWh of natural gas; and a significant decrease in LPG and gas oil consumption, resulting in an overall decrease in scope 1 emissions of 190.0tCO₂e in 2021-22 compared with 2020-21.
- 4.8 Although grid electricity consumption rose slightly (from 23,817,273kWh in 2020-21 to 25,451,513kWh in 2021-22), scope 2 emissions fell by 148.9tCO₂e in 2021-22 due to the increased decarbonisation of the grid.
- 4.9 In 2021-22, scope 3 emissions rose by 728tCO₂e in comparison with 2020-21, largely as a result of homeworking emissions being included this year, which totalled 524.6tCO₂e. There was also an increase in waste emissions of 182tCO₂e compared with 2020-21. Tonnages of recycling of all materials generally increased – recycling has fewer emissions than sending waste to landfill, but there are still emissions associated with recycling waste and so increases in levels of recycling leads to an increase in emissions for these reporting categories. There was also a slight increase in municipal waste to landfill and a significant increase in commercial and industrial waste to landfill compared with 2020-21 (as set out in 4.6).
- 4.10 The impacts on emissions as a result of the pandemic are expected to be temporary and Renfrewshire Council remain committed to reducing emissions as an organisation across all areas of operations and service delivery, as well as for the Renfrewshire area as a whole. Overall, Renfrewshire Council's total emissions have reduced by 29,964tCO₂e since the baseline year of 2012-13 – a reduction of 56%.

Adaptation

- 4.11 Renfrewshire Council has a proactive approach to managing current and future risks associated with climate change. Climate related risks and vulnerabilities are recorded in the Corporate Risk Register as well as being reflected within the relevant service plans.
- 4.12 The Council has a range of adaptation strategies and action plans outlined within the Public Bodies report, including:
- **Flood Risk Assessment and Resilience:** the Council is a member of the Clyde & Loch Lomond Flood Risk Management Local Plan District which addresses sustainable flood risk management; and emergency response arrangements are in place for severe weather events to protect people and properties across Renfrewshire
 - **Renfrewshire Local Development Plan 2021:** supported by a number of documents including New Development Supplementary Guidance, Environmental Report, Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and Habitats Regulation Appraisal. These documents aim to ensure that the protection and enhancement of the environment is central to the plan and that policies, proposals and strategies to support measures to adapt to the likely effects of climate change, resilience and avoidance where possible
 - **Renfrewshire Biodiversity Action Plan:** provides a framework for range of actions which support the protection and enhancement of species and habitats
 - **Climate Ready Clyde:** a cross-sector initiative to develop a clear strategic approach to allow the Glasgow City Region to become climate ready in response to the future climate changes

- **Forestry and Woodland:** Renfrewshire Council worked with the other Clydeplan authorities to develop the Forestry and Woodland Strategy for the Glasgow City Region to guide woodland expansion and management of woodlands in the Glasgow City Region providing a policy and spatial framework to optimise the benefits for the local economy, communities and the environment
- **Renfrewshire Planning and Development Tree Policy:** published in 2022 which aims to protect and enhance areas of trees and woodland in line with the Scottish Government's Control of Woodland Removal Policy and Clydeplan's Forestry and Woodland Strategy

4.13 Adaptation projects in 2021-22 have included:

- developing proposals as part of the Clyde Peatlands initiative at Glenniffer Braes and Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park;
- planting of locally propagated and rare native Juniper shrubs within protected areas within the Renfrewshire Heights Special Protection Area;
- renovation of new ponds at Gleniffer Braes Country Park, Barshaw Park and Jenny's Well Local Nature Reserve, improving habitats for amphibians; and
- delivery of initial phases of the Clyde Climate Forest within Renfrewshire at Barwood Park, Erskine and Glenniffer Braes, Paisley.

Procurement

- 4.14 Renfrewshire Council as a contracting authority has developed a range of policies and strategies to ensure compliance with the sustainable procurement duty under section 8 (2) of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014, the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 and the Climate Change (Duties of Public Bodies: Reporting Requirements) (Scotland) Order 2015. The Sustainable Procurement Strategy (approved on 8 June 2016 by the Procurement Sub Committee) aligns to statutory requirements as well as the key strategic priorities of the Council.
- 4.15 The Council's Corporate Procurement Strategy aligns to the Council's aspiration to contribute to reducing our impact on climate change to make Renfrewshire's economy and communities as sustainable as possible. Our policies take account of the Programme for Government's recognition that public procurement in Scotland can drive change and build responsible supply chains, helping to tackle the climate emergency, reduce emissions, minimise waste and allow for re-use or recycling wherever appropriate.
- 4.16 Each individual procurement contract strategy for a tender helps to support spending decisions based on sustainable choices and directly contributes to climate change duties by including the requirement to assess the resource being purchased, consider whole life costing, origins of materials, operating costs and disposal and end of life implications; all contributing to minimising impact on the environment. The five environmental aspects embedded in the contract strategy are:
- Reduction in emissions to air, water, impact on climate change and the impact on population's health;
 - Waste reduction in solid wastes, liquids, hazardous packaging and landfill;
 - Reduction in energy use and business travel;
 - Loss of biodiversity and the impact on habitat; and
 - Promotion of energy efficient products, renewable energy and sustainable resources.

- 4.17 In order to ensure that Suppliers are fully aware of the commitment to climate change duties, clear instructions and clauses are incorporated in the Invitation to Tender documents.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 Following approval, Renfrewshire Council's annual Public Bodies Climate Change Duties report for 2021-22 will be submitted to the Scottish Government ahead of the 30th of November 2022 deadline as per statutory requirements.
- 5.2 Regular updates will be provided to the Board on the further development of the Plan for Net Zero and its ongoing implementation as we progress the delivery phase of the Plan.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – updated statutory obligations require the Council to report how spending and resources will help us reduce our emissions and contribute to our emissions targets. This will require us to develop our approach to ensure climate considerations underpin our long term financial planning.
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – none.
3. **Community/Council Planning** – the report details a range of activities which reflect the refreshed community planning themes and also the new Council Plan 2022-2027.
4. **Legal** - none.
5. **Property/Assets** – section 3 within the report in Appendix 1 details carbon emissions related to the Council estate.
6. **Information Technology** – none.
7. **Equality and Human Rights** - the Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report because it is for noting only. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.
8. **Health and Safety** – none.
9. **Procurement** – sections 4.5 – 4.8 highlight the important role of sustainable procurement practice in helping to meet the organisation's climate ambitions and this is further evidenced in the appendix under section 5.
10. **Risk** – as noted in section 4.2, climate related risks and vulnerabilities are recorded in the Corporate Risk Register as well as being reflected within the relevant service plans.
11. **Privacy Impact** – none.
12. **COSLA Policy Position** – this work aligns with COSLA's current work alongside the Scottish Government in response to the climate emergency.

13. **Climate Risk** – this report details progress made by Renfrewshire Council in response to the climate emergency during 2021-22.
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Appendix 1: Renfrewshire Council Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report 2021-22

List of Background Papers:

None

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Chief Executive's Service