

To: Greener Renfrewshire Thematic Board

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Report by:

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Public Sector Climate Change Duties Reporting 2015/16

1. Summary

- 1.1 To comply with the requirements of the Climate Change (Duties of Public Bodies: Reporting Requirements) (Scotland), Renfrewshire Council is required to prepare an Annual Report, detailing progress in helping to mitigate and adapt to climate change.
- 1.2 Renfrewshire Council's Public Sector Climate Change Duties Reporting for 2015/2016 was submitted to Renfrewshire Council's Environment Policy Board in November 2016. A link to the Policy Board's papers can be found below. The report can be found at item 9.
<http://renfrewshire.cmis.uk.com/renfrewshire/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/1399/Committee/13/Default.aspx>

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Greener Renfrewshire Thematic Board note the contents of the Public Sector Climate Change Duties Reporting 2015/16 which was approved by Renfrewshire Council's Environment Policy Board In November 2016.

3. Background

- 3.1 In 2007, all 32 local authorities in Scotland signed up to Scotland's Climate Change Declaration. Signatories to the Declaration acknowledging the importance of climate change and were committed to:
- Mitigating their impact on climate change through reducing greenhouse gas emissions;

- Taking steps to adapt to the unavoidable impacts of a changing climate; and
 - Working in partnership with their communities to respond to climate change.
- 3.2 The Declaration recognised that Scottish local authorities play a key role in helping to tackle the challenges of climate change. Signatories to Scotland's Climate Change Declaration have been committed to preparing an Annual Report, detailing progress in mitigating and adapting to climate change. Importantly, it has provided a mechanism for the public sector to lead by example in addressing climate change.
- 3.3 In November 2015 the Climate Change (Duties of Public Bodies: Reporting Requirements) (Scotland) came into force. This requires all public bodies classed as 'major players' to submit a climate change report using a standard template by 30 November 2016 (for 2015/16) and each year thereafter.
- 3.4 The climate change report submitted in November 2016 for 2016/16 will be the first mandatory submission by Renfrewshire Council, as required by public bodies that are seen as 'major players'.
- 3.5 In previous years Renfrewshire Council's annual climate change report was made on a voluntary basis and submitted to the Planning and Property Policy Board for noting. As this is the Council's first mandatory submission the report requires to be submitted for approval by the Council's Environment Policy Board.
- 3.6 Renfrewshire Council's annual report for 2015/16 was submitted, following approval by the Environment Policy Board, to the Sustainable Scotland Network on 30th November, 2016.

4. Duties of Public Bodies Reporting – Overview

- 4.1 The introduction of required reporting is intended to help with Public Bodies Duties compliance, engage leaders and encourage continuous improvement. The Scottish Government, through the Sustainable Scotland Network, has developed a standardised reporting template which will assist in providing accurate and consistent performance information to inform the direction of future policy, legislation, funding and support services.
- 4.2 For public sector bodies, reporting on climate change activity is considered good practice as it:
- Increases accountability and transparency, making it easier for the public to understand how Renfrewshire Council is performing in climate change areas;
 - Assists with integrating climate change objectives in corporate business plans and embeds climate change action in all services; and
 - Assists with establishing a climate change reporting hierarchy and the mainstreaming of climate change within organisation decision making.

4.3 The reporting duties cover six main areas:

- A brief **Organisation Profile** covering the number of staff, budget and organisational context;
- A section on **Governance and Management** which explains how climate change is governed, managed and embedded in the organisation and identifies its key strategies and priorities;
- A section on **Emissions, Targets and Projects** which reports the key statistical data, performance targets and climate change projects;
- An **Adaption** section explains how risk is managed and assessed and the actions taken to adapt to climate change;
- The reporting requirements also cover the organisations **Procurement** policies and how they contribute to compliance with climate duties and how procurement activity contributes to compliance in climate change duties;
- A final section addresses the **internal and external validation** processes undertaken by the organisation in terms of its climate change duties.

5. Renfrewshire Council's Annual Report 2015/2016 - Summary

5.1 A summary of highlights from Renfrewshire's report is provided below.

Corporate Emissions, Targets and Project Data

5.2 The Council has prepared its 3rd Carbon Management Plan for the period 2014 – 2020. A challenging target of 36% emissions reduction based on the 2012/13 baseline has been set. A 14.1% reduction in corporate emissions has been achieved to date through a range of projects including: improved waste segregation; a reduction of waste to landfill; the installation of photovoltaic cells on primary and secondary schools as an alternative renewable energy resource using sunlight.

Adaptation

5.3 The Council's Risk Management process considers the risks associated with flood risk, waste management, energy and carbon management and planning for adverse weather.

5.4 The Council has continued to work closely with SEPA to improve Renfrewshire's flood data providing the basis for the emerging Clyde and Loch Lomond Flood Risk Management Plan. Renfrewshire's Local Development Plan provides a policy framework for the implementation of sustainable measures through the Local Green Network, River Basin Management Planning and promoting the use of sustainable urban drainage in developments.

5.5 Adaptation action has been delivered through the implementation of the final phase of the North Renfrew Flood Prevention Scheme and the improvements

in the energy efficiency of the Council's housing stock through the Home Energy Efficiency Programme for Scotland.

Procurement

- 5.6 The key policies that outline the commitment and key actions contributing to climate change duties include the Corporate Procurement Strategy, the Sustainable Procurement Strategy and the Corporate Social Responsibility Policy.
- 5.7 The Council specifies climate change adaptation contractual obligations in its Terms and Conditions for suppliers. A range of contracts awarded demonstrate an integrated approach to sustainability.

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