

To: Council

On: 27 February 2020

Report by: Chief Executive

Heading: Climate Change Emergency

1. Summary

- 1.1. On 27 June 2019, Renfrewshire Council declared a climate emergency, with many other local authorities across the UK and Scotland also making this declaration. The actions that are required to respond to the climate emergency are potentially complex and multi-faceted, cannot be tackled in isolation and require full collaboration and support by organisations across all of society.
 - 1.2. This report provides an update to elected members on the activities undertaken to date, with specific focus on the activities of the cross-party working group which has been established to make recommendations to Council on the actions that must be taken to respond to the climate emergency in Renfrewshire.
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2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that elected members:
 - note the progress achieved to date in terms of responding to the declaration of a climate emergency by the Council in June 2019.
 - notes the progress Renfrewshire Council has made in terms of responding to climate change to date, as set out in section 5 of this report;
 - agree that the recommendations made by the Climate Emergency Working Group are taken forward by officers; and
 - agree that a Climate Change sub committee of the Leadership Board, should be established in line with the arrangements set out at section 7.2 of this report.

3. Background

- 3.1 On 27 June 2019, full Council approved two motions relating to the declaration of a climate emergency in Renfrewshire. A key action to be progressed was the establishment of a cross party working group, which would examine in detail the actions that could be taken by Renfrewshire Council to address the declared climate emergency. Recognising the Council's crucial role in this agenda, it was agreed that a report outlining key recommendations, would be provided to full Council by end of March 2020.
- 3.2 Following engagement with the Cross Party Sounding Board in September 2019, the Climate Emergency Working Group (CEWG) was established. The CEWG is chaired by the Leader of the Council and has cross party representation. The CEWG has met regularly to consider evidence and information in relation to climate change, with a specific focus on the Council's current and planned activities, and the subsequent actions that the Council can take to lead and drive change across all of Renfrewshire.
- 3.3 A key starting point for the group was to establish a baseline for Renfrewshire's carbon emissions, in order to identify the level and nature of change that would have to happen in Renfrewshire to achieve the 2030 net zero target agreed by Council in June 2019. Officers also undertook a mapping exercise and gave presentations to the group on the work being undertaken by the Council to both reduce and mitigate the impact of carbon emissions. A summary of the CEWG's work programme is attached to this report at Appendix 1 and 2, with section 4 of this report providing further context on the climate emergency and section 5 providing a summary of the CEWG's findings.

4. Context

- 4.1 Under the 2008 Climate Change Act, the UK Government committed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% by 2050 when compared to the level in 1990. In 2016, the UK Government ratified the Paris Climate Agreement which aims to avoid the most devastating effects of climate change by reducing carbon emissions. As a result of signing this agreement, a new more ambitious goal to achieve net zero greenhouse gases/carbon emissions by 2050 was set.
- 4.2 In Scotland, the Scottish Government has committed to reducing carbon emissions to net zero by 2045. In September 2019, the Scottish Government launched its Big Climate Conversation to discuss action on the climate emergency with communities, businesses and public sector organisations. Climate change action is a central priority within the most recent Programme for Government, which sets out the next steps in Scotland's journey to achieving net zero emissions by 2045.
- 4.3 International focus on climate change has continued to escalate in response to a number of factors such as growing public awareness and concern, the publication of linked research and data, as well as physical evidence relating to climate change. In

2019, a number of local authorities declared a climate emergency in order to focus on this issue strategically at a local level.

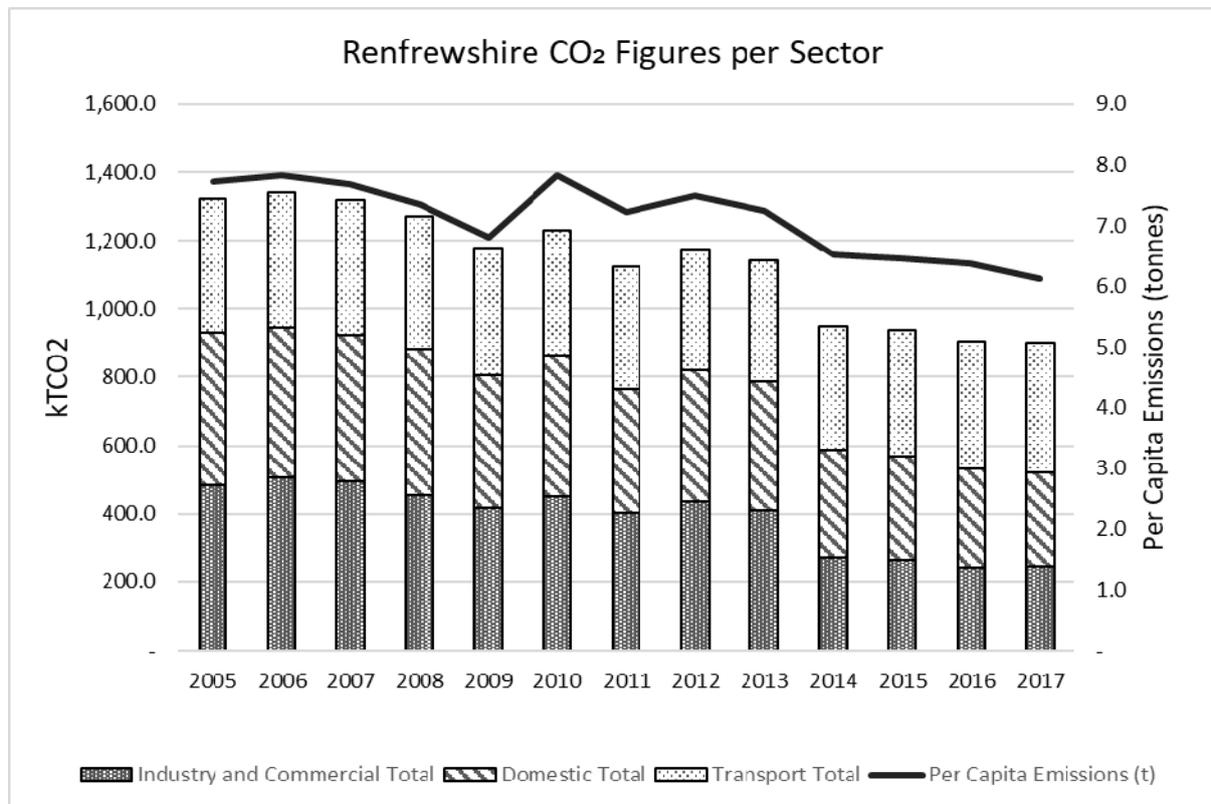
5. Summary of Findings

- 5.1 As part of the climate emergency declared in June 2019, Council agreed to work to ensure Renfrewshire was carbon neutral by 2030. Being carbon neutral means that organisations or places reduce the carbon that they emit to the lowest possible level, whilst offsetting or mitigating against the impact of these emissions.
- 5.2 Although all greenhouse gas emissions (such as methane) affect the rate of climate change, evidence indicates that long term global warming is mainly driven by CO₂ emissions which are active in the atmosphere for up to 100 years.

Baseline data

- 5.3 According to the most recently published data for Renfrewshire released by BEIS, 900,000 tonnes of carbon were emitted in 2017 (Table 1). In line with the national approach, published data does not include emissions relating to aviation, military or maritime activities, however evidence presented to the CEWG by officers estimated that carbon emissions would rise to in the region of 1.1m-1.2 million tonnes should aviation emissions linked to Glasgow Airport be included.

Table 1:



- 5.4 Carbon emissions are categorised in Table 1 into three main categories: - Domestic, Industry and Commercial and Transport.
- 5.5 Emerging practice in some local authorities is to calculate a carbon budget for the local authority area: - working back from the target date to map out the level at which emissions would have to reduce each year. The local authority with partners, would then require to identify the actions which would achieve this as quickly as possible. It should be noted that the level of reduction could be in the region of up to 20% each year, indicating a very steep reduction required in carbon emissions over a relatively very short period of time. The Council as an organisation takes this type of approach in terms of its Carbon Management Plan.
- 5.6 In terms of evidence considered by the CEWG, there was consensus that reduction of carbon emissions needed to be the principal focus, with measures to offset carbon emissions alone being unlikely to achieve the significant level of reduction required.

Review of existing activities

- 5.7 A mapping exercise was undertaken by officers to identify all existing activities being undertaken to both reduce carbon emissions and to manage the impact of climate change by Renfrewshire Council. Members of the CEWG noted the level of activity that had been undertaken or was underway, and viewed this as being a very positive basis on which to build the scale of future activities that would be required to address climate change issues. For example:
- The implementation of the new waste strategy has seen the area's recycling rate increase every quarter throughout 2019, with the latest figures showing 55.42% of waste was recycled, and this is further supported by the commencement of the Clyde Valley Residual Waste Project which now sees at least 90% of non-recyclable waste turned into energy rather than going to landfill.
 - A transformation of the street lighting in Renfrewshire has reduced energy consumption and carbon emissions by 64%, contributing to an 8% reduction in the council's overall emissions, while there are now 100 electric vehicles in council's fleet – part of a commitment to replace any vehicles with electric versions wherever possible.
 - Since 2013, the council has secured more than £15million in funding for improvements in home energy efficiency. More than 6000 homes have benefited so far and carbon emissions have reduced by 108,000 tonnes - the equivalent of removing 21,000 cars from the roads.
 - Recently, the council was awarded £1.8million by the UK Government to turn 75 properties into low energy or EnerPHit homes, which are low energy buildings that requires very little energy to heat or cool and will see annual energy bills reduced to £150 for residents.
 - Since 2012/13, Renfrewshire Council has reduced its carbon emissions by 55.7%, far exceeding the 36% target for the organisation. The 2019/20 target has been achieved early through a variety of methods including the installation of photovoltaic panels on 25 public buildings, the installation and effective management of public building heating systems, boiler replacements, internal LED lighting, electrification of Council fleet, the diversion of waste from landfill through increased recycling and heat from waste.

- 5.8 On 22 January 2020, an update was provided to the Infrastructure, Land and Environment Board on the progress achieved in terms of the Council’s Carbon Management Plan. A breakdown of CO2 emissions was provided and is attached below for information.

	2012-13 Baseline	2018-19 Actual	2018-19 Actual
	CO2 Emissions (tonnes)	CO2 Emissions (tonnes)	% Reduction
Electricity (buildings)	12,505	6,362	49.1%
Gas (buildings)	14,479	7,953	45.1%
Oil (buildings)	1,735	0	100.0%
Water (buildings)	395	396	-0.3%
Transport (Council Fleet)	3,521	3,837	-9.0%
Street Lighting	7,016	1,643	76.6%
Waste	13,348	3,110	76.7%
Staff Mileage	516	380	26.4%
Total CO2 Actual	53,515	23,681	55.7%

Moving beyond targets into action

- 5.9 Following consideration of all evidence heard and information gathered, the Climate Emergency Working Group agreed that there must be a Council and Renfrewshire wide focus on moving beyond target setting into action. Recommendations have subsequently been identified by the CEWG which are set out in section 6 of this report. Section 7 sets out proposed next steps for progressing these recommendations.

6 Key recommendations

- 6.1 Since its establishment, the Climate Emergency Working Group has considered a range of evidence on climate change:
- Analysing information on carbon emission levels across Renfrewshire and the impact of carbon emissions on the local area
 - Reviewing all activities currently undertaken by Council services to reduce carbon emissions and to mitigate the impact of climate change; and
 - Exploring options for the Council to accelerate its work in order to meet the 2030 net zero carbon target agreed by Council.
- 6.2 Based on current data indicating that the Council contributes to 3-4% of overall carbon emissions, the group has recognised that the 2030 target for net zero carbon emissions in Renfrewshire represents a **significant challenge**, and will only be achieved through the **collaboration and commitment of businesses, communities and citizens**. This will require a **step change**:- responding to the climate emergency will need to be seen by all stakeholders as one of our most significant priorities, with the Council providing **leadership to drive and influence**

this agenda at both a local and national level. There is also a requirement to ensure the Council's response is undertaken in a managed way, in order to mitigate any other aspects on communities, for example change to employment and sectors. This is increasingly being referred to as a “**Just Transition**” to a new way of working where communities or groups of people are not unexpectedly impacted in a negative way by the process of change.

- 6.3 The Working Group has heard evidence that the response to the climate emergency should predominantly focus on reducing carbon emissions, whilst also introducing mechanisms to offset emissions in the sort to medium term eg tree planting, peat bogs etc.
- 6.4 A key finding of the Climate Emergency Working Group is that the Council demonstrates leadership and works towards meeting the net zero target by 2030, whilst activating all of the arrangements required now to drive this agenda at a Renfrewshire wide level.
- 6.5 The Working Group has identified a number of recommendations to inform this programme of work, and actions to be taken to both reduce and offset carbon emissions, with a primary focus on the reduction of carbon emissions. The key recommendations are set out below and focus on the actions that the Council can take to:
 - Adapt its existing practices to reduce carbon emissions eg transport, waste, energy.
 - Offset carbon emissions from its activities
 - Engage with businesses, communities and citizens
 - Support required changes to culture and behaviours; and
 - Innovate and develop expertise to maximise external investment opportunities.

CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP : KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

<p>ENERGY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work with national and local partners to explore alternative energy options for Council buildings such as solar panels, battery storage, energy from waste and district heating, ensuring the Council has robust business cases in place ready to attract significant levels of national funding.• Implement pilot initiative to turn 75 local homes into low energy homes and develop investment proposals to reduce carbon across the Council's housing stock.• Review the lifecycle replacement programme for Council buildings to consider how changes to current specifications could improve energy efficiency, piloting innovative materials and developing business cases to roll these out where appropriate.	<p>WASTE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work with staff and communities to maximise opportunities to reduce unnecessary single use plastic use within the organisation and throughout Renfrewshire.• Continue to promote recycling awareness and availability of recycling facilities across Council buildings including schools and consider opportunities in relation to the reduction of food waste.• Develop options for the promotion of the circular economy in Renfrewshire, which could provide opportunities to reuse and recycle surplus or end of life items.
<p>TRANSPORT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work with partners at a local, City Region and national level to consider low carbon integrated transport solutions – trains, buses, cycling and walking and the uptake of electric vehicles.• Promote the use of low carbon travel within the Council's workforce through the provision of electric pool vehicles and cycle to work schemes.• Develop an electric vehicle plan for Renfrewshire, targeting opportunities to lever in additional funding to secure EV infrastructure, such as charging points, equipment and fleet.• Consider approaches being rolled out across other local authorities in relation to the promotion of better air quality, including the development of low emissions zones, which are also aiming to improve public health	<p>ENGAGEMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduce new mechanisms for engaging with citizens and businesses on potential responses to the climate emergency such as through citizens assemblies or climate forums, including consideration of how to report the Council's progress on climate change.• Actively engage with young people through the annual Youth Assembly, and involve young people in the Council's decisions on our climate change actions.• Engage at a regional and national level with other local authorities and agencies on these issues, including in relation to the delivery of the COP 26 event in November 2020.

PLACE	GOVERNANCE / INNOVATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put climate change at the heart of the new Economic Strategy and Skills Plan, working with businesses to lead by example and to demonstrate real change. • Use effective spatial planning to address climate change in line with legislation, the National Planning Framework and associated guidance, with a focus on adapting to and mitigating the impact of climate change through the planning process. • Develop a Carbon Offset Plan for the Council, clearly articulating opportunities for activities such as additional tree planting and carbon sinks such as peat bogs and utilising Renfrewshire’s rich biodiversity across areas such as Clyde Muirshiel. • Consider proposals to introduce wildflower areas in Renfrewshire, and engage with local communities on initiatives which promote the awareness and use of green space. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a Carbon Budget for Renfrewshire with community planning partners, gaining agreement on shared responsibilities and actions, recognising the presence of an international airport within the local authority area. • Establish a new partnership forum to drive Renfrewshire-wide change on climate. • Use the Council’s sustainable procurement duties to consider all opportunities to reduce or offset carbon, including where possible through community benefits. • Develop a detailed adaptation plan for climate change, and ensuring the organisation has the capacity, skills and expertise to deliver a programme of work which will attract external investment/funding wherever possible. • Engage with industry and with academic institutions to develop possible opportunities to pilot new/emerging technologies in Renfrewshire.

7. Next steps

- 7.1 The Climate Emergency Working Group has recognised the range of activities already undertaken by Renfrewshire Council, however the group is clear that the recommendations it has made require to be taken forward at pace. It is further recommended that early priorities for the Council should be:
- Establishment of a sub committee of the Leadership Board which would allow the work of the CEWG to continue.
 - Ensure climate change has a mainstream focus within the Council, linking to the Placeshaping review as part of Right for Renfrewshire programme and ensuring that the Council has aligned staffing resource and developed the required expertise to deliver on this agenda.
 - The development of an adaptation plan for Renfrewshire Council within the next 6 months which sets specific targets for carbon emissions across transport, waste, housing and includes key actions to be taken to achieve net zero by 2030.
 - The establishment of a citizens forum or assembly to engage with local people and communities on this agenda in a meaningful way, specifically identifying opportunities to engage with young people around this agenda.
 - Engage with key partners and with the wider business community to collaborate and make impactful change across the whole of Renfrewshire.
 - Engaging with Scottish Government and more widely to identify potential funding streams which could be used to invest in and accelerate the Council's activities.
- 7.2 In terms of the Leadership Board sub-committee, it is recognised that further discussion on the membership and remit is required. It is therefore proposed that the Climate Emergency Working Group continues to meet to discuss these matters, with a further report on the sub-committee proposals including its membership and remit, being submitted to Leadership Board on 28 April 2020.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – The Council's response to the Climate Change agenda may impact the Council's cost of service delivery, and may require a shift in the focus of investment. There is potential to lever in external funding to support the agenda from national funds.
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – none.
3. **Community Planning** – the local response to the climate change will require a significant change in behaviours and activity, with a key focus on engaging with communities, partners and businesses to make the required level of change happen.

4. **Legal** - none.
5. **Property/Assets** – The Council has been active in terms of its Carbon Management Plan and the focus on energy efficiency of public buildings. This will be a continued area of focus for the Council going forward
6. **Information Technology** – none.
7. **Equality & Human Rights** – none.
 - (a) 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 & Safety** – none.
9. **Procurement** – The Council may be required to review its purchasing decisions to ensure these support the carbon neutral target and to drive its sustainable procurement duty.
10. **Risk** - none.
11. **Privacy Impact** – none.
12. **COSLA** - none.
13. **Climate Risk** – As per the content of this report.

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Appendix 1 – Climate Emergency Working Group

Membership of the Climate Emergency Working Group
Cllr Iain Nicolson (chair) Cllr Cathy McEwan (Cllr Natalie Don – substitute) Cllr Bill Brown (no substitute) Cllr Tom Begg (Cllr John McIntyre – substitute) Cllr Eileen McCartin Cllr Paul Mack (Cllr Andy Doig – substitute)

Meeting Programme

Date of meeting	Agenda items
24 October 2019	Policy context – Head of Policy and Commissioning Identification of key areas to explore
14 November 2019	Mapping of current Council activities- Head of Policy and Commissioning Establishing Baseline data on carbon emissions – Craig Thorpe Role of Planning authorities in climate change and Building Standards – Sharon Marklow Green Travel – Stephen Heron
5 December 2019	Biodiversity / Carbon capture – Steve Edwards Sustainable Procurement - Bridget Lambert Circular Economy – Karen Anderson
23 January 2020	Identification of opportunities
30 January 2020	Agree key recommendations

Appendix 2 – Key Messages from Evidence Considered by the Climate Emergency Working Group

Who have we heard from	What are the key messages
Policy context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of Council declaration – commitment to make Renfrewshire carbon neutral by 2030 • Understanding the IPCC report – key concern is the predicted 1.5c increase in global temperatures • Overview of Scottish Government Policy with commitment to achieve net zero status by 2045 • Research and recognised publications indicate key contributors to climate change are: - fossil fuels, single use plastics, high emission vehicles, air pollution, landfill, frequent flying, not recycling, food/farming • Summary of key Scottish Government Commitments: - Green City Deals, investment in green transport infrastructure, all new housing must use renewable or low carbon energy by 2024, workplace parking levy, decarbonisation of flights by 2040, promotion of electric vehicles, and considering how procurement can unlock green benefits • Action groups have already published reports which outline key actions local authorities can take – Council are undertaking a number of these actions already. • APSE Briefing on Local Authority Climate Declarations – clear message to local authorities to establish baseline data and set clear targets, to agree scope of what will focus on ie local authority or Renfrewshire wide action, to develop skills and capacity and to develop financial expertise in this area.
Overview of priorities / areas of exploration	<p>Elected members in the group confirmed key priority areas for immediate and longer term exploration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First step to be the development of an adaptation plan for Renfrewshire Council – what are we doing now and what do we want for the future (goals and targets) and how we get there • Undertake a mapping exercise to ensure there is awareness of all existing activities • Undertake discussion and agree how we will measure progress eg carbon neutral, net zero. Develop baseline – agree what measure and who is responsible for measuring impact of actions • Oversight of national policy • Consider governance arrangements • Explore grant and funding opportunities • Consider partnership opportunities for addressing climate change – community groups, communities of interest, stakeholders and other organisations and businesses • Consider communications to be undertaken - how do we raise awareness about what already do and what needs to be done • Planning and building control considerations (including local development planning and vacant and derelict

	<p>land)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public transport as key area of interest • Traffic management • Potential developments within the Council fleet and car parking • Low carbon heat solutions eg Passivhaus standards • Opportunities to promote the circular economy • Woodland management (including town centre and 'street trees')
Audit of existing activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed summary considered
Carbon emissions – overview of local data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available data on carbon emissions published by BEIS (Business Energy and Industrial Strategy) is at least 2 years in arrears – 2017 figures most recent available. • In 2017 it is estimated that Renfrewshire emitted around 900,000 tonnes of Co2 (excludes aviation, maritime and military use) • We plotted aviation emission data available for Glasgow Airport against our own data and estimate emissions would increase to be between 1.1m and 1.2 m tonnes per annum of cO2 emitted. • Although all greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, such as methane, affect the rate of climate change, long term warming is mainly driven by CO₂ emissions eg methane has a life of circa 20 years and if considered short life. Co2 is long-term and is active in the environment for circa 100 years. As such the global carbon emissions in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on 1.5°C , relate to CO₂. • We compared our local data to that released through Tyndall Centre for Climate Research, which is part of Manchester University. The centre produced a report on Emissions in the UK that is split down per local authority. This allowed us to verify local calculations. • Emerging theory is around development of carbon budgets across geographies. That is each local area has a budget or amount of carbon which it can emit over say a 10 or 20 year period – this budget is set by working out how much carbon must reduce to achieve the targets set out in the Paris Climate Change agreement – ie to minimise the increase in global temperatures to 1.5 degrees. • Net zero is the definition adopted by Scottish Govt – that is a process whereby we reduce carbon emissions whilst also taking action to take emissions out of the atmosphere. • Group agreed majority of focus must be on reducing direct emissions and to look at options for offset where appropriate. • The carbon budget approach as per the Tyndall report confirms significant intervention is required to “live within our means”, and to reduce carbon emissions to such a level as to meet the minimum temp increase of 1.5 degrees.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To stay within the recommended carbon budget Renfrewshire will, from 2020 onwards, need to achieve average mitigation rates of CO₂ from energy of around 13.3%-20% per year. This will require that Renfrewshire rapidly transitions away from fossil fuel use.
Role of Planning Authorities in Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current Planning Act – requires local development plans to include policies requiring all developments to be designed to ensure new buildings avoid “specified and rising proportion of greenhouse gas emissions” Scottish Planning Policy updated to reflect climate change legislation – “the need to help mitigate the causes of climate change and the need to adapt to its short and long term impacts should be taken into account in all decisions throughout the planning system”. New Planning Act 2019 - The Purpose of Planning in the new Act has been changed in the New Act: - ‘<i>The purpose of planning is to manage the development and the use of land in the long term public interest.</i>’ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the ‘long term interest’ includes anything which contributes to sustainable development. Certain developments no longer requiring planning permission such as local renewable energy and electric vehicle charging. Range of statutory environmental processes and assessments underpin planning process eg landscape assessment, flooding assessment LDP under finalisation will further seek to address climate change in terms of land use.
Building standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The current energy standards in building regulations were introduced in October 2015. They set targets that deliver a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of 21% for new homes and 43% for other buildings over the previous 2010 standards. Emissions from new buildings constructed to current building standards are, on average, 75% lower than those constructed to the equivalent standards in force in 1990. New houses now require multiple Low Zero Carbon Technologies to allow them to meet these standards. These technologies include photovoltaics, shower waste water heat exchangers, boiler gas heat exchangers etc. The Scottish Government are examining elements of the Planning and Building Standards systems which address greenhouse gas emissions to ensure greater alignment between the two systems to provide clarity for developers. Given the robustness of current energy standards and further proposed improvements for 2021, it not envisage that the planning system will require building owners to build to higher energy efficiency levels than those required under current building regulations.
Travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scottish Government commitment to phase out the need for new petrol and diesel cars and vans by 2032 Local authorities contributing to this by developing Electric Vehicle (EV) Strategies, EV workplace and public charging and promotion of low carbon transport Renfrewshire Council will reach 100 Electric Vehicles in its fleet in January 2020. Over 20% of Council Fleet is

	<p>Electric</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Savings Trust support – Feasibility Study to determine next phase of locations • 30 Electric Vehicles in Staff Travel Pool Fleet / 23 Charging Bays • Awaiting final confirmation of the proposal to install solar PV at Underwood Rd, Biomass System installation • Importance of active travel routes eg cycling, walking
Biodiversity / carbon capture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee on Climate Change analysis outlines that 32,000 hectares annually of net woodland increase is required for the next 30 years to make the UK carbon neutral by 2050, moving the UK from 13% to 17% woodland cover. This equates to a million new hectares of woodland cover, and some 1.5 billion trees. • Twin approach to reducing CO₂ concentrations in the atmosphere – reduce emissions and increase “sponge” mechanisms which absorb carbon eg: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Minimise woodland felling, bog and wetland drainage and other habitat destruction. ○ Restore peat bogs so they retain water and lock away more CO₂. ○ Plant trees and woodlands. ○ Conserve soils so they accumulate organic matter. • The Woodland Trust’s website estimates that the average UK citizen generates 5.5 tonnes of CO₂ emissions per annum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Planting 100m² of woodland stores an additional 13.68 tonnes CO₂ ○ Therefore, each person needs to plant 40m² of woodland per year to be carbon neutral. ○ Therefore, we need to plant 715 ha woodland per year to be carbon neutral = 2.73% of our land area each year. • Is locking up carbon in trees a sensible way of mitigating the greenhouse effect? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It is a limited, short term measure. ○ It may be used as an excuse not to cut (the use of) fossil fuels. ○ If no technical solution is found, it may be storing up trouble for the future. • Peatlands are the largest natural terrestrial carbon store • Damaged peatlands are a major source of greenhouse gas emissions • Projects underway locally community gardens work / tree planting requests.
Procurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 public bodies are required to consider in their procurements how they will improve the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of their areas. • Sustainable procurement is embedded into Renfrewshire Council’s procurement processes. The procurement team utilise the Sustainable procurement duty tools provided by Scottish Government and work closely with key stakeholders to ensure that risks are identified, and all opportunities are explored. • A sustainability test is completed for all relevant contracts and this helps to identify social, economic and environmental factors which must be considered throughout the entire procurement process.

