

**To: Infrastructure, Land & Environment Policy Board**

**On: 27 January 2021**

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**Report by: Director of Finance & Resources**

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**Heading: Renfrewshire Council Carbon Management Plan 2014/15 – 2019/20,  
Update 2019/20**

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## **1. Summary**

- 1.1. Reducing carbon emissions has been one of the principle measures to address climate change and remains a key priority for all Local Authorities.
  - 1.2. The Council's Carbon Management Plan was approved by the Planning & Property Policy Board on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2014. The Plan set a target reduction of 36% carbon emissions from the 2012/13 baseline by March 2020. The Plan covered a number of sectors across the Council. Renfrewshire Council has subsequently declared a climate emergency and plans to develop a climate change adaptation plan in Renfrewshire that will guide any future associated plans.
  - 1.3. This Report provides the final update on the achievements of the Carbon Management Plan measured to March 2020. Future plans and initiatives will be set as part of Renfrewshire's aspiration to become carbon neutral by 2030.
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## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Infrastructure, Land and Environment Policy Board note the Report.
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### **3. Background**

- 3.1 Renfrewshire Council recognises that climate change will have far reaching effects on Renfrewshire's economy, its people and its environment and is determined to lead by example in tackling the causes of climate change. As such, Renfrewshire have declared a Climate Emergency (Council – 27 June 2019), with a view to working towards Renfrewshire being carbon neutral by 2030.

The Cross Party Sounding Board met on 12 September 2019 to discuss the climate emergency and to agree proposals for the establishment of a Climate Emergency Working Group. Membership of the working group was subsequently agreed with the first meeting held on 24 October 2019.

A timetable of meetings and a programme of work is now underway. A climate sub-committee has been established with key priorities developed to March 2021, including an adaptation plan, engagement etc.

- 3.2 The Council's Carbon Management Plan (CMP), quantifies the Council's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from an established baseline for the financial year 2012/13. In the baseline year 2012/13 the Council generated carbon emissions of 53,515 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> from buildings, fleet, waste, street lighting and staff travel.
- 3.3 The Council identified a target to reduce these carbon emissions by 36% by March 2020, which equates to 19,397 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> over the same period. All services contribute to the achievement of the carbon reduction targets.
- 3.4 The programme of carbon reduction activities contained within the Plan not only deliver carbon reductions in line with the Climate Change Declaration and deliver significant cost savings for the authority, but also positioned the council well for the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) – Energy Efficiency Scheme. The CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme is a mandatory UK scheme aimed at improving energy efficiency and cutting carbon dioxide emissions in large public and private sector organisations and came to an end on 31 March 2019.

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### **4. Update**

- 4.1 As detailed in the CMP, Renfrewshire Council's 2019/20 target equated to a reduction of 36% from the baseline position. The final figure shows a reduction of 32,118 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>, which equated to 60%, considerably more than anticipated.

4.2 A full breakdown of the target is provided below:

	2012-13 Baseline	2019-20 Actual	2019-20 Actual
	CO2 Emissions (tonnes)	CO2 Emissions (tonnes)	% Reduction
Electricity (buildings)	12,505	5,054	59.6%
Gas (buildings)	14,479	8,349	42.3%
Oil (buildings)	1,735	0	100.0%
Water (buildings)	395	437	-10.6%
Transport (Council Fleet)	3,521	3,427	2.7%
Street Lighting	7,016	1,374	80.4%
Waste	13,348	2,439	81.7%
Staff Mileage	516	317	38.6%
<b>Total CO2 Actual</b>	<b>53,515</b>	<b>21,681</b>	<b>60.0%</b>

4.3 This target has been achieved through a variety of measures, including:

1. Building Management Systems and plant room controls have been installed to provide a greater control over the operation of our heating systems within public buildings and provides remote access to the majority of our larger 'consuming' properties.
2. Additional investment has been made to increase the energy performance of the new build Early Years Estate.
3. Photovoltaic Panels have been installed on the roofs of a number of buildings. Installations have been undertaken to date at the following buildings:

Castlehead HS,  
Johnstone HS,  
Renfrew HS,  
Montrose Care Home,  
Weaver Linn Respite,  
St James PS,  
St Peters PS,  
Williamsburgh PS,  
Ralston PS,  
West PS,  
Inchinnan PS,

Gryffe HS,  
Trinity HS,  
Park Mains HS,  
Renfrew Care Home,  
Hunterhill Care Home,  
Houston PS,  
Heriot PS  
St Charles PS,  
St Marys PS,  
St Pauls PS

4. Boiler upgrades have been installed at various properties such as a biomass boiler at Underwood Rd.
5. LED internal lighting has been installed at East Fulton PS, Houston PS, Thorn PS and Wallace PS. LED lighting is now standard specification in our re-wiring programmes.

6. Carbon emissions from the council's transport fleet increased on the baseline. This is partly due to an increased number of vehicles being purchased and the roll out of pool vehicles. This increase in pool cars is reflected in a reduction in CO2 attributed to staff mileage with a reduction of 68 tonnes of CO2 (18%) from the previous year.
  7. The council has achieved its target to provide 5% of its fleet from electric vehicles.
  8. The diversion of waste from landfill has greatly reduced the tonnage of carbon from waste and is presently exceeding target by creating energy from waste through combustion.
  9. The council have invested on the replacement of our street lighting with energy efficient LED's. This has resulted in significant reductions in electricity consumption and carbon emissions.
- 4.4 Officers are now engaged, through the Climate Change Officers Working Group, in preparation of proposed projects aimed at helping Renfrewshire's aspirations to become carbon neutral by 2030.
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## Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – The Energy Investment Fund is used to implement initiatives within our public buildings. Reducing our energy consumption will result in lower fuel costs (although, this is dependent on the utility tariffs agreed through the Scottish Procurement Contract).
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – *none*
3. **Community Planning** - *the Carbon Management Plan will reduce carbon emissions.*
4. **Legal** - *none*
5. **Property/Assets** - Projects were identified and implemented throughout our public buildings portfolio.
6. **Information Technology** - *none*
7. **Equality & Human Rights** - *none*
8. **Health & Safety** - *none*
9. **Procurement** - *none*
10. **Risk** - *none*
11. **Privacy Impact** - *none*

12. **Cosla Policy Position** – None

13. **Climate Risk** –The Carbon Management Plan helps to reduce Renfrewshire Council's carbon emissions.

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### **List of Background Papers**

(a) Background Paper 1 – Carbon Management Plan 2014/15 – 2019/20

The foregoing background papers will be retained within Finance and Resources for inspection by the public for the prescribed period of four years from the date of the meeting. The contact officer within the service is Craig Doogan, Energy Manager, Tel. 0141 618 6198, e-mail address: [Craig.Doogan@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:Craig.Doogan@renfrewshire.gov.uk)

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