

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	City Growth and Resources
DATE	10 November 2021
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Climate Change Report 2020-21
REPORT NUMBER	COM/21/252
DIRECTOR	Gale Beattie
CHIEF OFFICER	David Dunne
REPORT AUTHOR	Alison Leslie
TERMS OF REFERENCE	2.1.3 & 2.1.6

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval of the statutory Climate Change Report (CCR) covering the period 2020/2021. The report is required to be submitted to the Scottish Government, to ensure compliance with the requirements of Part 4 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee:-

- 2.1 Approve the statutory Climate Change Report 2020/21 and instruct the Chief Executive to sign and date the Required Report, prior to the submission deadline of 30 November 2021, (Appendix 1); and
- 2.2 Instruct the Chief Officer - Strategic Place Planning to publish the Climate Change Report on the Council's website, as per reporting requirements.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Council along with other public sector organisations, have a statutory duty to report annually on progress against Public Bodies Duties under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009. These duties are to act:
- In the best way calculated to contribute to the Act's emission reduction targets, these are Net Zero emissions by 2045;
 - In the best way calculated to deliver any statutory adaptation programme; and
 - In a way that it considers is most sustainable.
- 3.2 Reports must be produced on a set excel template and follow a standardised reporting methodology to allow for consistency and accuracy in data collection.
- 3.3 The CCR consists of two sections, "Required" and "Recommended" reporting.
- Required reporting (*Appendix 1*) requires evidence of:
 - Profile of the Reporting Body
 - Governance Management and Strategy relating to climate change.

- Emissions, targets and projects: information on the Council's "corporate" emissions, including those from internal waste, fleet, business travel, street lighting, energy and water from council building and projects focusing upon efforts to reduce emissions at a corporate level
 - Adaptation: assessment and management of climate related risks
 - Procurement; policies and activities relevant to climate change duties.
 - Validation and Declaration
- The "Recommended" section (*Appendix 2*) reflects the scope of influence the Council has in supporting city wide climate change mitigation and adaptation. It includes:
 - Area-wide and per capita emissions
 - Targets
 - Strategies, plans or policies outlining ambition to influence emissions beyond your corporate boundaries
 - Policies and Actions to Reduce Emissions
 - Partnership Working, Communications and Capacity Building
- 3.4 The CCR must be made publicly available and provide information in a transparent and accountable manner, in line with the relevant guidance.
- 3.5 Reports cannot be submitted unless sign-off is evident in section 6 of the Required Report, for the relevant reporting period.

Council emissions

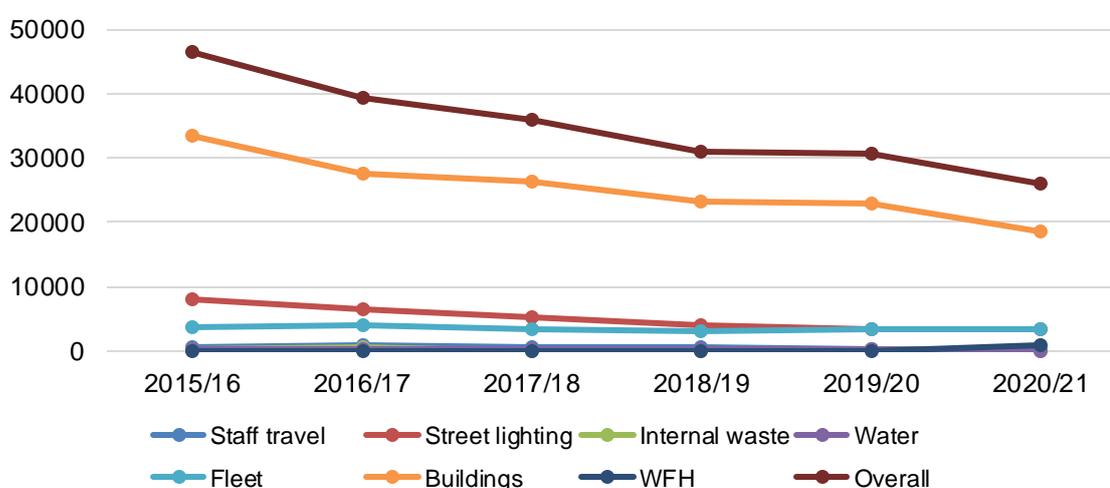
- 3.6 The Council's emissions data, collated for the Required Reporting section of the CCR. Overall annual emissions data is set out in Figure 1, with a break down of emissions in Figure 2. This shows an overall reduction of 4,635 tCO₂e in 2020/21 when compared to 2019/20.
- 3.7 However, it should be noted that due to Covid-19 restrictions, 2020/21 was not a representative year for emissions. Electricity, gas, oil and water consumption from buildings was lower than 2019/20 due to the reduced use of buildings during the pandemic. Similarly, there was also a reduction in emissions from staff travel, air, rail, car hire and grey fleet. Covid presented exceptional circumstances and it is anticipated that emissions will increase in subsequent reporting years, where restrictions ease and activity resumes. A summary of information from the report is shown in *Appendix 3*.
- 3.8 Emissions are calculated based on consumption data i.e. km and converted using emission factors released annually by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. Emissions are categorised into groups of scope 1, 2 & 3 emissions. Scope 1 are direct emissions from sources owned or controlled by the Council, Scope 2 are indirect emissions from purchased electricity and Scope 3 other indirect emissions.
- 3.9 It should also be noted that over and above the impact of Covid, there are external factors which can influence emissions year to year such as changes in annual emissions factors; colder winter weather and changes in estate.
- 3.10 This year, in addition to the annual emissions data, guidance on reporting for the 2020/21 year, has requested data on emissions from staff working from

home, as a result of the pandemic. The data included is based on the estimated figure of 40.18% of FTE Council staff working from home during this period.

Figure 1: Overall Carbon Emissions

Reporting Period	Overall emissions (tCO2e)
2020/2021	25,929
2019/2020	30,563
2018/2019	31,090
2017/2018	35,892
2016/2017	39,225
2015/2016	46,371

Figure 2 - Council Annual Emissions (tCO2e)



3.11 Full Council approved a Council Climate Change Plan in March 2021. This set a net zero emission reduction target; as well as emission reduction and climate resilience measures for Council assets and operations, with the Council “baseline” year for reporting as 2015/16. Data from actions under this plan will be reflected in subsequent reporting years.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report. The report simply illustrates a point in time as to how the Council is performing.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Council has a statutory duty under 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) Order 2020, to submit an annual Climate Change Report.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

Category	Risk	Low (L) Medium (M) High (H)	Mitigation
Strategic Risk	Climate risks and opportunities not being recorded and regularly monitored.	L	Climate risks are reported through the risk registers and updated monthly. Includes risk on compliance with climate duties. Project Register and Dashboard established to monitor progress on Council Climate actions.
Compliance	Non-compliance of the Public Bodies Duties under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009	L	Climate Change Report is completed, published and submitted within the mandatory timeframe.
Operational	Risk that reporting does not meet the required format. Risk that systems to collate data are inefficient. Risk that incorrect emission factors are used.	L	Reporting guidance is followed. Information and data is entered on the standard reporting templates. Set scope of data is collated annually for consistency. Up to date emission factors are used. Improvements to data collation are taking place.
Financial	There is no financial implication as a result of this report.	L	The annual CCR is achieved through existing budgets.
Reputational	Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019 set new targets for emission reduction in Scotland of net zero by 2045 and the anticipated requirements on Public Sector bodies on setting Net Zero targets.	M	Governance established for the Council Climate Change Plan – covering actions required to meet climate duties.
Environment / Climate	Failure to meet emission reduction target year.	M	Establish a robust approach to support the monitoring and reporting of corporate emissions.

7. OUTCOMES

COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN	
Impact of Report	
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement	The proposals in the report have no direct impact on the Policy Statement.
Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan	
Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes	The report relates to emissions from the Council's own assets and operations. Actions to reduce carbon emissions, protect and improve the environment will indirectly support stretch outcome 1 by having a positive impact on food, life sciences, health and wellbeing.
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	The proposals in this report support the delivery of stretch outcome 11 - Healthy life expectancy (time lived in good health) is five years longer by 2026. Actions to reduce carbon emissions; protect and improve the environment can have a positive impact on health and wellbeing.
Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes	The proposals in this report support the delivery of stretch outcome 13 - Addressing climate change by reducing Aberdeen's carbon emissions by at least 61% by 2026 and adapting to the impacts of our changing climate.
Regional and City Strategies	The CCR highlights the climate targets and objectives in a range of regional and city strategies including: Regional and Local Transport Strategies, Strategic and Local Development Plans, Local Outcome Improvement Plan, Aberdeen Adapts, Local Housing Strategy.
UK and Scottish Legislative and Policy Programmes	The proposal within this report supports the Council's compliance with Part 4 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 and Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019.

8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Impact Assessment	Full impact assessment not required
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

COM20152 - Climate Change Report 2019/20
 COM21047 - Council Climate Change Plan 2021-2025

10. APPENDICES

- Appendix 1 – Climate Change Report 2020/21: Required Reporting
- Appendix 2 – Climate Change Report 2020/21: Recommended Reporting
- Appendix 3 - Summary of Climate Change Report 2020/21

11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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