

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee
DATE	31 October 2023
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Climate Change Report 2022-23
REPORT NUMBER	COM/23/329
DIRECTOR	Gale Beattie
CHIEF OFFICER	David Dunne
REPORT AUTHOR	Jenny Jindra
TERMS OF REFERENCE	2

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 2022/23. 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. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:

- 2.1 Approve the Climate Change Report 2022/23, as detailed in Appendix 1 and, instruct the Chief Officer - Strategic Place Planning to submit the report prior to the deadline of 30 November 2023 and;
- 2.2 Instruct the Chief Officer - Strategic Place Planning to publish the Climate Change Report on the Council's website.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

About The Climate Change Report

- 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 buildings 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 is collated for the Required Reporting section of the CCR and reported as tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e).

3.7 Overall annual emissions data is set out in Figure 1, with a breakdown of emissions in Figure 2. In comparison with the 2021/22 reporting period, emissions have increased by 1,345 tCO₂e (5%). However, compared to 2019/20 (pre-pandemic emission levels), our emissions have reduced by 3,059 tCO₂e (10%).

Overall, this is a 41% reduction against the 2015/16 baseline. Emissions are still on track to achieve the interim target of a 48% reduction by 2025.

3.8 However, it should be noted that in the 2022/23 reporting period, following improved data collation and monitoring of energy use (buildings), emissions from District Heating of Council public buildings were added to scope for the first year. This added an additional 1,497 tCO₂e to the overall annual emissions data. Without this addition, total emissions would have reduced by 0.6% compared to 2021/22.

Factors out with our control also contributed to an increase in emissions:

- A temporary change to management of some waste due to a fire at the Altens East Materials Recovery Facility. This increased emissions from

internal waste for this reporting period, however, the tonnage of waste reduced by 5%.

- A change in the Home Working calculation method set by the Scottish Government resulted in an increase of 305.6 tCO₂e (62%) compared to 2021/22. This increase is due to a calculation change only to increase accuracy, and does not reflect an increase in staff Home Working arrangements.

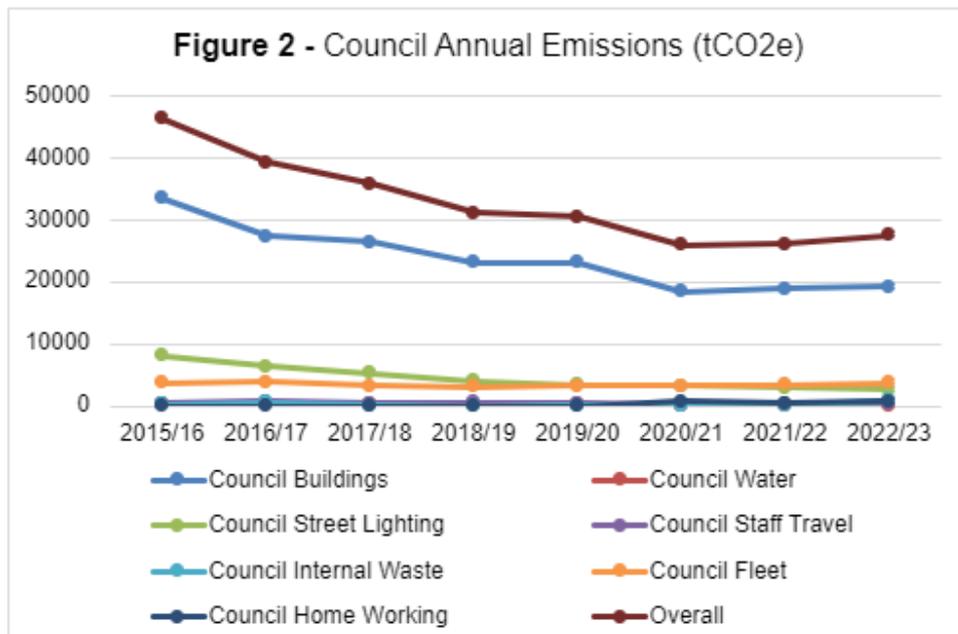
There are additional external factors which can influence emissions year to year such as changes in annual emissions factors; colder winter weather and changes in estate. Figure 2 reflects data from the 2022/23 report period.

- 3.9 Whilst Staff Travel is a small percentage of overall emissions, 2022/23 saw emissions increase from this source (air, rail, car hire and grey fleet) compared to the previous year (21/22). This may be due to increased activities, as some COVID 19 restrictions were in place during this time. However, compared to pre-pandemic emission levels (2019/20), 2022/23 emissions from staff travel have reduced by 105.72 tCO₂e (28%). A continued reduction in Streetlighting emissions can be noted as a result of the roll out of the LED Streetlighting Replacement Programme, alongside decarbonisation of the grid, this counteracted some of the total emission increases. This programme is now complete, therefore going forward, emission reductions from Streetlighting may slow.
- 3.10 Emissions are calculated based on consumption data e.g., km travelled and converted using emission factors released annually by the UK Government, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. 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.

Figure 1: Overall Carbon Emissions

Reporting Period	Overall emissions (tCO ₂ e)
2022/2023	27,504*
2021/2022	26,159
2020/2021	25,929
2019/2020	30,563
2018/2019	31,090
2017/2018	35,892
2016/2017	39,225
2015/2016	46,371

**This figure includes 1,497 tCO₂e District Heating emissions from Council Buildings added to scope for the first year. Without this addition, the 22/23 figure would show as 26,007 tCO₂e, a 0.6% reduction compared to 21/22.*



Council Climate Change Plan

- 3.11 Council approved the 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.
- 3.12 A summary of progress from the second year of implementation of the Council Climate Change Plan (1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023) is included in Appendix 3. This sets out activity under key themes of buildings; mobility; other operations; leadership and governance; and awareness and behaviour change.
- 3.13 Delivery of the plan, and subsequent iterations, is essential to reduce the emissions required to meet targets. Challenges to delivery of the plan which could impact emission reductions include:
- Any delays in project delivery and the roll out of enabling infrastructure including from supply chains, skills, capacity and financial constraints. This is particularly relevant to the transition to renewable and low carbon heating/cooling solutions for Council buildings, including schools & housing; and to the fleet transition.
 - Gaining ‘buy in’ and collaboration from Organisation and Council Tenants. Training and guidance will be required.
 - The scale of the challenge within the time frame. For example, the vast majority of Council homes to be decarbonised and the public sector target for all new light commercial vehicles as zero emission by 2025; replacing all larger new vehicles in the fleet with zero emission alternatives, no later than 2030.
 - Resources and training to enable compliance of new statutory guidance and standards, such as:

- Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES)
- Energy Efficiency for Social Housing (EESH2) and the
- Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM).
- Scottish Government is currently developing new statutory guidance on public sector climate duties, with consultation on this anticipated in 2024.

Further resources and training across Council teams to enable maintenance of electric and hydrogen fleet, as well as to apply for funding and source investment.

- Securing funding, which is dependent on availability and successful applications.
- As data gathering improves and scope widens greater action required to stay on target.

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 Failing to report would put the Council in breach of a legal duty under part four of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

7. RISK

Category	Risks	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level	*Target Risk Level (L, M or H) *taking into account controls/control actions	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
Strategic Risk	Climate risks and opportunities not being recorded and regularly monitored.	Climate risks are reported through the risk registers and updated regularly. Includes risk on compliance with climate duties.	L	Yes

		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	Climate Change Report is completed, published and submitted within the mandatory timeframe.	L	Yes
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.	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.	L	Yes
Financial	There is no financial implication as a result of this report.	The annual CCR is achieved through existing budgets.	L	Yes
Reputational	Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019 set targets for emission reduction in Scotland of net zero by 2045 and requirements on Public Sector bodies on setting Net Zero targets.	Governance established for the Council Climate Change Plan – covering actions required to meet climate duties.	M	Yes
Environment / Climate	Failure to meet emission reduction target year.	Continue the monitoring and reporting of corporate emissions.	M	Yes

8. OUTCOMES

<u>COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN</u>	
Impact of Report	
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement	The report contributes to providing CO2 emission statements and supports the reduction of the carbon footprint of the council's building estate and vehicle fleet.
<u>Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan</u>	
Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes	This report does not contribute to Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes
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. 14. Increase sustainable travel: 38% of people walking and 5% of people cycling as main mode of travel by 2026 15. Addressing the nature crisis by protecting/managing 26% of Aberdeen's area for nature by 2026.
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 and Net Zero Routemap for the City.

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	Stage 1 Assessment has been completed
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required
Other	N/A

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 COM/22/253 - Climate Change Report 2021/22
- 10.2 COM/21/047 - Council Climate Change Plan 2021-2025

11. APPENDICES

- Appendix 1 – Climate Change Report 22/23: Required Reporting
- Appendix 2 – Climate Change Report 22/23: Recommended Reporting
- Appendix 3 – Summary of Climate Change Report 22/23 and 2nd Year Progress of the Council Climate Change Plan 21-25

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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