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East Dunbartonshire Council

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PNCA/009/24/RS

**PLACE NEIGHBOURHOOD &
CORPORATE ASSETS
COMMITTEE**

THURSDAY, 25 JANUARY 2024

REFERENCE:

PNCA/009/24/RS

LEAD OFFICER:

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER - LAND PLANNING &
DEVELOPMENT**

CONTACT OFFICER:

**ROBERT SEALE, TEAM LEADER -
SUSTAINABILITY,**

SUBJECT TITLE:

**SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE CHANGE
FRAMEWORK ACTION PLAN PROGRESS
REPORT 2023 & CARBON MANAGEMENT
PLAN 2023/24 UPDATE**

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this Report is to update the Place Neighbourhood & Corporate Assets Committee with progress on delivery of the Sustainability and Climate Change Framework and Action Plan (SCCF), and to provide an update on the 2022/23 Carbon Management Plan (CMP) with greenhouse gas emission estimates and a target for the 2023/24 financial year.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Place Neighbourhood & Corporate Assets Committee:

2.1 notes the 2023 SCCF Progress Report and approves:

- the addition of a new action area;
- the removal of actions that are completed;
- and note the updates on the retained actions; and

2.2 approves the Council's short-term target for corporate emissions set out in the CMP for the 2023/24 financial year and to extend the CMP by one year to the end of 2023/24 financial year in the 2022/23 Carbon Management Plan update

**HEATHER HOLLAND
EXECUTIVE OFFICER – LAND PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT**

3.0 BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

Climate Change Impacts

- 3.1** Climate change impacts have been intensifying with June, July, August, September, October and November 2023 all breaking global temperature records,¹² temperatures being described as 'off-the charts' by the UN³ and September registering as 1.75°C hotter than pre-industrial levels – the hottest in 174 years of climate data keeping⁴. These observed temperatures put 2023 on track to be the hottest year on record.
- 3.2** Antarctic winter sea ice was the lowest on record for this time of year while the average sea surface temperatures for September over the ocean areas excluding the north and south poles (known as the extrapolar area - from 60°S to 60°N) reached 20.92°C – a record for September and the second highest across all months, only behind August 2023.⁵
- 3.3** Scotland's ten hottest years have all occurred since 1997 despite record keeping beginning in 1884,⁶ and Scotland's highest ever temperature of 34.8°C was registered in July 2022, almost 2°C higher than the previous record.⁷
- 3.4** A study published in December 2023 by the James Hutton Institute showed that Scotland' climate is changing faster than scientists predicted with changes that were expected to occur over the next three decades already happening.⁸
- 3.5** October 2023 saw exceptionally heavy rainfall across Scotland, with flooding across Greenock, Dumbarton, Aberfoyle and Grangemouth, and more recently Storm Babet has caused significant flooding to civic infrastructure and properties, mainly affecting the East coast. In East Dunbartonshire, key networks were disrupted by heavy rainfall which flooded roads and drainage systems. This fits into a trend of increased average annual rainfall in Scotland in the past few decades, with an increasing proportion coming from heavy rainfall events.⁹

Scottish Government Context

- 3.6** The Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019 sets a legally binding target for the Scottish Government to reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045.
- 3.7** The Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 created a driver for sustainability in Scotland, assigning local authorities a statutory duty of best value which requires that the Council demonstrates a contribution to sustainable development. The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 extended this to set a legal duty for local authorities and other public bodies to (1) contribute to Scotland's national mitigation

¹ See [Warmest September on record as 'gobsmacking' data shocks scientists - BBC News](#)

² See [Record warm November consolidates 2023 as the warmest year | Copernicus](#)

³ See [Temperatures off the charts, but more records imminent: WMO | UN News](#)

⁴ See [September smashes monthly temperature record by record margin | World Meteorological Organization \(wmo.int\)](#)

⁵ See [2023 shatters climate records, with major impacts \(wmo.int\)](#)

⁶ See Adaptation Scotland (2022) [Adaptation Scotland:: Climate trends and projections](#)

⁷ See Met Office (2022) [Record high temperatures verified - Met Office](#)

⁸ See [Scotland's climate changing faster than predicted | The James Hutton Institute](#)

⁹ See [New Climate Projections Summary for Scotland \(historicenvironment.scot\)](#)

target, (2) support Scotland's climate change adaptation programme, and (3) embed sustainable development as a core value.¹⁰

- 3.8** The Scottish Government is currently consulting on a proposed Wellbeing and Sustainable Development Bill which is intended to further promote sustainable development, promote the achievement of the National Outcomes, and ensure the interests of future generations are taken into account in decisions made today.¹¹

East Dunbartonshire Context

- 3.9** Council approved the CAP Evidence and Options Report on 28 September 2023 (EDC/011/23/NU), including agreement on a net zero target of 2036 for Council's direct emissions (including emissions from the fleet of vehicles and buildings) and energy that the Council purchases (such as electricity), in addition to a target of 2045 for all other emissions including area wide.
- 3.10** During 2022/2023, work progressed on the development of the Climate Action Plan (CAP) which is due to be taken to Council in draft form in the first half of 2024. The CAP will contain an action plan to support the delivery of these ambitious targets and is intended to supersede the existing climate change policies and actions contained in the SCCF and Action Plan. It will also encompass and extend the scope of the CMP. In the intervening period, the SCCF and CMP will continue to guide Council policy for working towards net zero emissions, sustainability and climate change adaptation.
- 3.11** The SCCF has set the context for a strategic, cross-Council approach to sustainability since 2016 which builds on existing good practice achieved through a wide variety of past activities. It contains a wide range of strategic commitments beyond climate change mitigation and adaptation, such as targets to improve sustainable development and enhance biodiversity. The SCCF will be replaced with a 'Sustainability Framework' to cover non-climate change related aspects of sustainability once the CAP is approved. This will be the strategic driver of sustainability ambitions while the CAP will set out actions on climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- 3.12** The SCCF Progress Report in Appendix A contains actions that are completed and are to be removed, along with on-going actions set out in the following areas:
- Natural Environment
 - Sustainable Economic Growth
 - Mugdock Country Park
 - Procurement
 - Built Environment
 - Community Capacity Building
 - Education
 - Finance
 - Sustainable Transport & Travel
 - Corporate Support Functions (includes a new action)
 - Single Use Plastic

¹⁰ See <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2009/12/contents>

¹¹ See [Wellbeing and Sustainable Development \(Scotland\) Bill - Scottish Government consultations - Citizen Space](#)

- 3.13** A commitment to annual greenhouse gas emission reporting was introduced in the 2015 Carbon Management Plan (CMP) with the 7th report published in November 2023 (PNCA/095/23/RS). The CMP focuses on corporate emissions arising from the use of electricity, natural gas, other fuels and transport (fleet and business travel), and those arising from waste disposal.
- 3.14** In previous iterations of the CMP, Council established a 2012/13 baseline of 32,420 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent ('tCO₂e') and set a target of 20% carbon reduction by 2019/20, which was subsequently revised to 44% by the same deadline then extended to 49% by 2021/22. All of these targets were met or exceeded.
- 3.15** An Interim Carbon Management Plan ('Carbon Management Plan 2021-23,' PNCA/100/21/SG) was approved by Council in early 2022 introducing a new baseline year of 2019/20 alongside the existing one of 2012/13 and new targets in relation to each baseline. By the end of 2022/23, the Council aims to have reduced its carbon footprint by 51% in relation to the original baseline year, and 13% in relation to the new one.
- 3.16** The 2022/23 Carbon Management Report, reported to the Place Neighbourhood & Corporate Assets Committee in November 2023 (PNCA/095/23/RS), outlined how the percentage reductions of 18% and 55% significantly exceeded the targets for 2022/23 of 13% and 51% relative to the 2019/20 and 2012/13 baselines respectively. The Council's carbon emissions in 2022/23 were 12% lower than the emissions recorded in 2021/22.
- 3.17** A standardised emissions factor is provided to all public bodies in Scotland to estimate emissions associated with different types of energy and fuel usage. These factors can change based upon relevant developments such as an increase in the proportion of renewable energy that is used to generate electricity.
- 3.18** A short-term increase in the emission intensity of electricity, from 0.19338 kg CO₂e per kWh in 2022/23 to 0.20707 kg CO₂e per kWh in 2023/24, followed by a significant decrease in 2024/25 is likely to drive an increase in the Council's carbon footprint in 2023/24 followed by a significant decrease in 2024/25. More specifically, a **38% reduction** in the emission intensity of electricity is expected between 2023/24 and 2024/25 while further decreases are expected in each of the three financial years after this to reflect on-going work to decarbonise the electricity grid.
- 3.19** A realistic target for the Council's carbon footprint in this context would be to keep levels below **14,900 tCO₂e** in 2023/24. This would be **1.7%** higher than emissions in 2023/24, however, it would be 3,357 tCO₂e, or around an 18% reduction on the 2019/20 baseline and a 18,024 tCO₂e, or 54% decrease in emissions compared to the 2012/13 baseline.
- 3.20** The update report in Appendix B will extend the CMP by one year to the end of 2023/24. A further extension for 2024/25 will be brought to Committee later in 2024. It is anticipated that the CMP will then be incorporated into the approved CAP from 2025/26 onwards.

4.0 IMPLICATIONS

The implications for the Council are as undernoted.

- 4.1 Service to Customers – N/A
- 4.2 Workforce (including any significant resource implications) – Due to the wide-ranging nature of the SCCF and CMP, the level of cross council collaboration and stakeholders involved in each commitment and action, existing council resources will be required to deliver said commitments and actions.
- 4.3 Legal Implications – The Council would fail to comply with statutory requirements under the Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019; The Local Government in Scotland Act 2003, and the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 without the production of the CAP and SCCF.
- 4.4 Financial Implications – There are no direct financial implications arising from the SCCF Report and CMP, however, the strategic commitments and actions to reach net zero emissions require transformative change which will require significant Capital Expenditure and also has implications for Revenue budgets.
- 4.5 Procurement – There are numerous targets related to reducing supply chain emissions set out in the SCCF which will require officer time and strategic collaboration to achieve.
- 4.6 ICT – N/A.
- 4.7 Corporate Assets – there will be implications for corporate assets in regard to the necessary changes that will be required to be undertaken in order to align them with the Council’s recently agreed net zero targets, such as building stock and vehicle fleet.
- 4.8 Equalities Implications – N/A
- 4.9 Corporate Parenting – N/A.
- 4.10 Sustainability – The SCCF and CMP contribute to the achievement of sustainability, in line with national and local requirements and policies.
- 4.11 Other – N/A.

5.0 MANAGEMENT OF RISK

The risks and control measures relating to this Report are as follows:

- 5.1 The Council would fail to comply with statutory requirements under the Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019; The Local Government in Scotland Act 2003, and the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 without the production of the CAP and SCCF.

6.0 IMPACT

- 6.1 **ECONOMIC GROWTH & RECOVERY** - while the development of the SCCF and CMP are not expected to promote economic growth directly, through Council and area wide measures to achieve net zero, this is expected to increase the attractiveness for investment due to provisions of climate resilient infrastructure.

Additionally, the cost benefit ratio of investing in climate resilient infrastructure has been well detailed, and is outlined in the emerging CAP, demonstrating strong economic impacts.

- 6.2 EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS** - as new measures are rolled out across the East Dunbartonshire, such as the adoption of non-polluting heating systems and low-emission vehicles, a new pipeline of labour skills such as trained engineers will be required to meet the changing economy and for the increased demand for these technologies.
 - 6.3 CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE** - N/A
 - 6.4 SAFER & STRONGER COMMUNITIES** - The provisions of climate resilient infrastructure and wide-ranging sustainability targets in the SCCF are conducive to improving climate resilience.
 - 6.5 ADULT HEALTH & WELLBEING** - N/A
 - 6.6 OLDER ADULTS, VULNERABLE PEOPLE & CARERS** - N/A
 - 6.7 CLIMATE CHANGE** - this report supports climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as broader sustainability commitments in line with national and local requirements and policies.
 - 6.8 STATUTORY DUTY** - there is a need to comply with the Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019; The Local Government in Scotland Act 2003, and the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.
- 7.0 POLICY CHECKLIST**
- 7.1** This Report has been assessed against the Policy Development Checklist and has been classified as being an operational report and not a new policy or change to an existing policy document.
- 8.0 APPENDICES**
- 8.1** Appendix 1: SCCF Action Plan Progress Report March 21 - December 23
 - 8.2** Appendix 2: Carbon Management Plan Update Report 2023-24