

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

Environment and Infrastructure Committee

31 January 2018

PUBLIC SECTOR CLIMATE CHANGE DUTIES – PROGRESS UPDATE

Report by Executive Director (Environment)

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report highlights progress made by the Council in accordance with the Scottish Government's public sector climate change reporting process, and makes recommendations for further action following submission of the second mandatory report in November 2017.

1. BACKGROUND / MAIN ISSUES

- 1.1 The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2009/12/contents> set ambitious targets to reduce emissions by at least 80% by 2050. Following the UN Paris Agreement 2015, which has strengthened global climate change ambition and aims to keep global temperature rises this century well below 2.5°C, the Scottish Government has taken the opportunity to review the targets set out in the 2009 Act.
- 1.2 A report outlining a draft Climate Change Bill and associated legislation and emerging duties was submitted to the Environment, Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee on 6 September 2017 (Report 17/275 refers).
- 1.3 Under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, the Council has a duty relating to climate change and, in exercising its functions must act:
 - in the way best calculated to the delivery of the Act's emissions reduction targets;
 - in the way best calculated to deliver any statutory adaptation programmes; and
 - in a way that it considers most sustainable.
- 1.4 Reporting progress under the Act became mandatory in 2016. As a result, Perth & Kinross Council submitted its first Public Sector Climate Change Duties Report (covering the period 2015/16) to the Scottish Government in November 2016, following submission of a report to the Environment Committee on 9 November 2016 (Report 16/489 refers).
- 1.5 This report summarises the key findings from the second mandatory report submitted by Perth and Kinross Council to the Scottish Government, for the period covering 2016/17.

2. PROPOSALS

- 2.1 The mandatory reporting template has been completed online via the Scottish Government ScotXed portal, in accordance with the Public Sector Climate Change Duties Reporting Guidance.
- 2.2 With specific reference to the questions and requirements of the mandatory reporting template, the Council continues to make good progress in its climate change duties. However, together with other Scottish Local Authorities, there is still some way to go.

Current position

- 2.3 The Climate Change Assessment Tool (CCAT) was developed by Resource Efficient Scotland in 2015 to assist public sector organisations in Scotland self-evaluate their capability and performance under the public sector duties of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009. Based on a matrix system, a score is given for five different categories of work, along with a traffic light rating of red, amber or green for progress. Section 2g of the Scottish Government reporting template relates specifically to CCAT findings.

CCAT Assessment Findings

- 2.4 In 2016/17, Perth & Kinross Council reported an overall CCAT score of 47%, with all five sections rated as amber for progress. This shows a slight improvement from the 2015/16 total of 46%.

	Perth & Kinross Council 2016/17 (%)	Perth & Kinross Council 2015/16 (%)
1. Governance	57	57
2. Emissions	50	47
3. Adaptation	50	50
4. Behaviour	35	30
5. Procurement	44	44
Overall Score	47	46

- 2.5 The current Perth & Kinross Council (2016/17) overall CCAT score of 47% compares favourably against the latest available Scottish Local Authorities (2015/16) average overall score of 32%. This shows the Council continues to make good progress in 4 out of the 5 CCAT sections.
- 2.6 The current Perth & Kinross Council (2016/17) CCAT score for 'Section 2 – Emissions' is 50%, improving from 47% in 2015/16. . This remains just below the latest available corresponding Scottish Local Authorities (2015/16) average of 54%. This is largely due to the lack of a carbon management plan or targeted process for carbon reduction within the Council. However, the recommendations in this report set out the positive steps being taken to address this issue.

	Perth & Kinross Council 2016/17	Scottish Local Authorities Average 2015/16
1. Governance	57	41
2. Emissions	50	54
3. Adaptation	50	31
4. Behaviour	35	31
5. Procurement	44	30
Overall Score	47	32

Key issues and proposed action

- 2.7 The following key issues have been highlighted for action by both the mandatory reporting process and CCAT evaluation:
1. Develop corporate carbon management plan.
 2. Improve climate change communication throughout the Council.
 3. Raise awareness of climate change in the communities of Perth and Kinross.
 4. Develop a strategic process for assessing future climate change risk and opportunity.
 5. Develop a climate change risk assessment process for all projects subject to financial appraisal.
- 2.8 A report highlighting the low carbon and energy planning issues and opportunities within Perth and Kinross was submitted to the Environment, Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee on 6 September 2017 (Report 17/275 refers), with the following recommendations being approved:
- (i) the Director (Environment) to establish and chair a cross Council Project Board, with a view to overseeing, developing and co-ordinating a sustainability framework to ensure the alignment of all relevant plans, programmes and policies in the climate change, low carbon, energy planning, air quality, transport planning and land use planning fields.
 - (ii) the Director (Environment) to engage with elected members during the development of the sustainability framework.
 - (iii) the Director (Environment) to bring back a report outlining proposals to deal with new legislation and duties to support the Scottish Government's Climate Change agenda.
- 2.9 In addition to the above recommendations, the report also highlighted the following key issues for Perth & Kinross Council in preparing for the future climate change agenda:
- Maximising the potential contribution of current work by ensuring that activity across all the Council's functions is aligned;
 - Creating a corporate group to drive forward the emerging climate change agenda;
 - Assessing the full resource implications of the emerging legislation and duties along with the funding opportunities available; and

- Preparing and implementing a plan to deliver the new duties and address skill shortages and gaps.

In view of the above, it is proposed to further investigate the need for a cross-service resource to help deliver the low carbon and energy planning agenda.

- 2.10 On 6 September 2017, the Scottish Cities Alliance (SCA) Leadership Group approved a proposal to join the Under2 MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) in support of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. As a signatory, each local authority commits to limit emissions to below 80 to 95 percent of 1990 levels, or below two annual metric tons per capita, by 2050. They also agree to collaborate on actions to promote adaptation and resilience, in order to maximise the benefits for both Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission reduction and climate adaptation.
- 2.11 There is close alignment between the Under2 MoU and the 'Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy' initiative where there is already some Scottish engagement, including amongst some SCA members. Under2MOU, signatories must submit an 'appendix' detailing the area profile and a summary of key emission reduction policies and measures that form the basis of the contribution. Covenant of Mayors signatories must submit a Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP) within two years following the formal signing. A proposal was made by COSLA at a SECAP workshop on 10 August 2017 for interested local authorities to work together to prepare SECAPs. This would be through an EU LIFE European funding bid to secure resources for a programme manager and possibly regional staff to work directly on SECAPs. Perth and Kinross Council expressed an interest along with Aberdeenshire, Dundee, Fife, Inverclyde, Western Isles, Highland and Stirling. It is hoped that this can be progressed in time for the the next European deadline of April 2018.
- 2.12 In terms of climate change risk and assessment, action is planned through the Planning and Development Division's work programme to develop a climate change adaptation strategy and risk assessment. This will also address the need for a process to review, monitor, evaluate and report the impact of climate change adaptation actions. In the event that the Council decide to progress with developing a SECAP, future climate change risks and opportunities will be addressed as part of this process through an integrated action plan.
- 2.13 On the basis of actioning the key issues highlighted in section 2.7 above, it is anticipated that the Council will continue to make progress in its climate change duties in accordance with the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.

- 2.14 A climate change week was held in 2017 which was a national initiative to raise awareness and promote action and behaviour change on climate change across Scotland. As part of this, Perth and Kinross Council supported the Whole Earth exhibition at Perth College and the Dunkeld climate café, both events being for a week. There will be a week of events in Scotland again from 10 – 20 September 2018 and it is intended the Council takes part once again.

3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 With specific reference to the mandatory reporting template, the Council is making good progress in its climate change duties, in particular towards adaptation. However, in line with other local authorities, there is still some way to go. To continue to improve this performance, it is recommended that specific actions outlined in sections 2.7 to 2.9 of this report are addressed. This will also ensure the Council is better placed to complete the third mandatory climate change report due in November 2018.
- 3.2 It is recommended that the Environment and Infrastructure Committee:
- (i) notes the key findings from the second Public Sector Climate Change Duties mandatory report
 - (ii) notes the current position outlined in sections 2.3 to 2.6 of this report.
 - (iii) remits the Executive Director (Environment) to take forward the specific actions outlined in sections 2.7 to 2.9, and:
 - instruct the Head of Planning to participate in developing a regional SECAP with adjoining authorities, Sustainable Scotland Network and CoSLA as appropriate; and,
 - instruct the Head of Planning to develop an activity for Climate Action Week from 10 - 20 September 2018, to raise climate change awareness and promote the actions taken by the Council.
 - (iv) requests the Executive Director (Environment) to submit a further report to this Committee, following the mandatory climate change reporting deadline in November 2018.

Authors

Name	Designation	Contact Details
Nick Brian	Head of Planning	01738 475000 TESCommitteeReports@pkc.gov.uk
Angela Harris	Sustainable Development Officer	

Approved

Name	Designation	Date
Barbara Renton	Executive Director (Environment)	24 November 2017

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1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Strategic Implications	Yes / None
Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement	Yes
Corporate Plan	Yes
Resource Implications	
Financial	None
Workforce	None
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	None
Assessments	
Equality Impact Assessment	None
Strategic Environmental Assessment	None
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	Yes
Legal and Governance	Yes
Risk	
Consultation	
Internal	Yes
External	None
Communication	
Communications Plan	None

1. Strategic Implications

Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement

- 1.1 The proposals relate to the delivery of the Perth and Kinross Community Plan/Single Outcome Agreement by:

(v) *Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations*

Corporate Plan

- 1.2 The proposals relate to the delivery of the Perth and Kinross Community Plan/Single Outcome Agreement by:

(v) *Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations*

2. Resource Implications

Financial

- 2.1 There are no implications arising from this report.

Workforce

- 2.2 There are no implications arising from this report.

Asset Management (land, property, IT)

- 2.3 There are no implications arising from this report.

3. Assessments

Equality Impact Assessment

- 3.1 Following an assessment using the Integrated Appraisal Toolkit, it has been determined that the proposal is **not relevant** for the purposes of EqIA.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 3.2 The report has been considered under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 and no further action is required as it does not qualify as a PPS as defined by the Act and is therefore exempt.
- 3.3 Any future work undertaken in line with the proposed actions within this report will undergo screening for SEA.

Sustainability

- 3.4 Following an assessment using the Integrated Appraisal Toolkit, it has been determined that the report may have future implications regarding the following corporate sustainable development principles:
- Efficient use of resources now and in the future in the built environment and service provision (e.g. energy efficiency, land, water resources, flood defence, waste minimisation) (*Principle 2*)
 - Mitigation and adaptation to manage the impact of climate change & reduce the production of greenhouse gases (*Principle 3*)
 - Living in a way that minimises the negative environmental impact and enhances the positive impact act (e.g. recycling, walking, cycling) (*Principle 4*).
- 3.5 The report also has implications under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, in that the Council has a duty relating to climate change and, in exercising its functions must act:
- in the way best calculated to delivery of the Act's emissions reduction targets;
 - in the way best calculated to deliver any statutory adaptation programmes; and
 - in a way that it considers most sustainable.

Legal and Governance

- 3.6 There are no implications arising from this report

Risk

- 3.7 There are no further risks associated with the report which are not already addressed in the report.

4. Consultation

Internal

- 4.1 The Council's strategy and policy, energy, waste and fleet teams have all been consulted in the compilation of this report.

5. Communication

- 5.1 There are no implications arising from this report.

2. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 2.1 No additional background papers have been relied on in preparing the report.

3. APPENDICES

- 3.1 None.