

**PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL**

**Environment Committee**

**9 November 2016**

**PUBLIC SECTOR CLIMATE CHANGE DUTIES REPORTING – YEAR 1**

**Report by Director (Environment)**

This report highlights progress made by the Council in accordance with the Scottish Government's public sector climate change reporting process. It also makes recommendations for further action following submission of the first mandatory report in November 2016.

**1. BACKGROUND / MAIN ISSUES**

- 1.1 Under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, the Council has a duty relating to climate change. In exercising its functions, it 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.
- 1.2 Since 2008, the Council has annually reported its climate change progress to COSLA through the Scotland's Climate Change Declaration reporting process. This has now been superseded by mandatory Public Sector Climate Change Duties reporting, introduced by the Scottish Government in 2016 for all public sector 'major players' (including Local Authorities and the majority of Community Planning partners).
- 1.3 In 2014/15, Perth & Kinross Council, along with a number of other public bodies, submitted a non-mandatory trial report as part of the Scottish Government pilot for Public Sector Climate Change Duties reporting.
- 1.4 From November 2016, the Scottish Government intends to centrally collate and assess mandatory reports submitted in future to monitor progress, promote best practice and inform future policy. If compliance with the duty cannot be demonstrated successfully through the Council's annual mandatory reports, or if there are significant gaps in requested information, the Council risks reputational damage.
- 1.5 This report summarises the key findings from the first mandatory report to be submitted by Perth and Kinross Council to the Scottish Government before 30 November 2016, for the period covering 2015/16.

## 2. PROPOSALS

- 2.1 The mandatory reporting template has been completed in accordance with the Public Sector Climate Change Duties Reporting Guidance. The guidance encourages organisations to 'only report relevant information'. If no relevant information is available, sections should be left blank or marked as 'no available information' or 'not applicable'. Report information should be drawn only from the reporting year. The information has to be submitted through a Scottish Government portal.
- 2.2 With specific reference to the questions and requirements of the mandatory reporting template, the Council has made some progress in its climate change duties, particularly regarding adaptation. However, together with the 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.
- 2.4 In the 2014/15 pilot, Perth & Kinross Council reported an overall CCAT score of 43%, with all five sections rated as amber for progress. This was above the overall average score (34%) for Scottish local authorities. Perth & Kinross Council also scored above the Scottish local authority average for each of the five CCAT sections.
- 2.5 In 2015/16, the overall score increased slightly to 46%, again with all five sections rated as amber for progress.

	Perth & Kinross Council 2015/16	Perth & Kinross Council 2014/15	Scottish Local Authorities 2014/15
1. Governance	57	50	40
2. Emissions	47	43	40
3. Adaptation	50	46	39
4. Behaviour	30	30	26
5. Procurement	44	44	24
<b>Overall Score</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>34</b>

- 2.6 Key CCAT progress to date:
- 1) The Council has good governance structures in place to assess the potential climate change impacts of current plans, policies, strategies and committee reports – through the Strategic Environmental Assessment process and use of the Integrated Appraisal Toolkit.

- 2) The Council is particularly strong within Scotland for adapting to the effects of climate change. Significant work has been done in producing plans and practical guidance for specific risks areas, including:
  - Local Flood Risk Management Plans;
  - Supplementary Planning Guidance for Flood Risk and Flood Risk Assessments, Forest & Woodland Strategy, Zero Carbon and Sustainable Construction, Green Infrastructure, and Zero Waste;
  - Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS)
  - Community Resilience Plans within Perth & Kinross;

## 2.7 Key issues and proposed action

To address the key issues highlighted by the CCAT evaluation and the mandatory reporting process, the following actions are proposed ahead of the second mandatory reporting deadline in November 2017.

- 1) **Review the need for a corporate carbon management plan.** This will determine the best way forward for establishing and monitoring the Council's annual carbon footprint, corporate carbon reduction target(s) based on business as usual forecasts, and an annual register of carbon reduction projects. There are significant resource implications associated with this, as it will require input and commitment from various Council teams, including: energy management, street lighting, waste management, fleet management, asset management, business and staff travel. A cross-service Low Carbon Working Group was established at the start of 2016 to facilitate joint working on issues such as heat mapping, district heating, renewables and a possible Perth and Kinross wide Energy/Low Carbon Strategy. This will support the development of a corporate carbon management plan as part of any future energy/low carbon strategy for Perth and Kinross.
- 2) **Assess the future risks and opportunities for the Council and our communities of predicted climate change scenarios and impacts, and take action to adapt accordingly.** Action is already planned for 2016/17 through the Sustainability, Research and Policy Team Plan 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.
- 3) **Improve climate change communication throughout the Council.** A detailed climate change communication plan will be developed as part of the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Risk Assessment.

- 4) **Develop methods for carbon appraisal of projects within existing procurement systems.** Statutory guidance was developed in December 2015 by the Scottish Government to assist public bodies in demonstrating compliance with their sustainable procurement duties. This includes a sustainability test designed to help embed relevant and proportionate sustainability requirements in the development of procurement frameworks and contracts. A gap analysis has already been undertaken to compare the sustainability test and the Council's Integrated Appraisal Toolkit (IAT). This resulted in the IAT being updated in 2016 to account for additional information contained within the sustainability test. The Council's Corporate Procurement and Sustainability, Policy and Research Teams will continue working together to incorporate the tools into existing Council processes.
- 5) **Establish a more detailed validation process for climate change reporting.** The Council will work with the other Scottish Local Authorities and the Sustainable Scotland Network to establish detailed peer and external validation following submission of the 2015/16 mandatory report.

2.8 On the basis of actioning the key issues highlighted in section 2.7 above, it is anticipated that an improvement will be shown for all five CCAT categories before the next round of mandatory reporting in November 2017.

### **3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.1 With specific reference to the mandatory reporting template, the Council has begun to make progress in its climate change duties, in particular towards adaptation. However, there is still some way to go. To continue to improve this performance, it is recommended that the specific actions outlined in section 2.7 of this report are addressed. This will also ensure the Council is better placed to complete the second mandatory climate change report due in November 2017.

3.2 It is recommended that the Environment Committee:

- (i) notes the key findings from the first Public Sector Climate Change Duties mandatory report
- (ii) notes the current position outlined in section 2.3 to 2.6 of this report.
- (iii) remits the Director (Environment) to take forward the specific actions outlined in section 2.7, and
- (iv) requests the Director (Environment) to submit another report to this Committee following the mandatory climate change reporting deadline in November 2017.

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**Approved**

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## 1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

<b>Strategic Implications</b>	<b>Yes / None</b>
Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement	<b>Yes</b>
Corporate Plan	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Resource Implications</b>	
Financial	<b>No</b>
Workforce	<b>No</b>
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	<b>No</b>
<b>Assessments</b>	
Equality Impact Assessment	<b>No</b>
Strategic Environmental Assessment	<b>No</b>
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	<b>Yes</b>
Legal and Governance	<b>Yes</b>
Risk	<b>No</b>
<b>Consultation</b>	
Internal	<b>Yes</b>
External	<b>No</b>
<b>Communication</b>	
Communications Plan	<b>No</b>

### 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.