

## COUNCIL CARBON FOOTPRINT & OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

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### 1.0 HEADLINES

- 1.1 At 16<sup>th</sup> January meeting of Climate Change Environmental Action Group (CCEAG) a paper was presented outlining the Council's environmental performance and overall Carbon Footprint. The information had just been released that week by Scottish Sustainable Network (SSN) and at that time not all Local Authorities had published their returns so a full picture was not yet clear.
- 1.2 This report seeks to provide the CCEAG with further information on the Council's Carbon Footprint in the Context of other Council's plus outline the specific actions departments of the Council are taking to address sources of emissions.

### 2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Group agrees to:-
  1. Note the 2019 Council Carbon Footprint in the context of other Local Authorities; and
  2. Note and consider the operational activities identified by the Council's Climate Change Board to directly improve environmental performance & Carbon Footprint; and

### 3.0 DETAIL

- 3.1 At the January meeting of CCEAG members requested additional information relating to the Council's environmental performance in relation to other Local Authorities. The information had not yet been published by Scottish Sustainable Network (SSN) at that time and it was agreed that it would be presented to future meeting.
- 3.2 This information is now presented at **Appendix 1**. The graph highlights that the Council are performing better than the national average and comparable with Local Authorities such as East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire and Perth & Kinross. It must be highlighted that this is not a comprehensive picture as not all Local Authorities have published

information via SSN and indicators highlight total tonnage as opposed to tonnage by capita. At present, indicators relating to Climate Change are being reviewed by the Scottish Government and as they evolve the CCEAG will be updated.

- 3.3 The Council's Climate Change Board is currently developing an operational list of actions to address the sources and emissions of our day to day business that contribute to our Carbon Footprint. The draft list of operational actions are presented at **Appendix 2**. We would encourage the CCEAG to consider and comment on these proposed areas of action and discuss with Officers as part of the Workshop to be held.
- 3.4 The focus of the list of operational actions has been guided by biggest contributing factors to our Carbon Footprint and grouped together into:-
- Municipal waste;
  - Fossil fuel & water consumption in buildings;
  - Electricity consumption;
  - Emissions from vehicles;
  - Renewable energy; and
  - Carbon capture.
- 3.5 Whilst there this is a list of operational activities that the Council is undertaking to address Climate Change of our business activities other steps such as education within schools, communications, engagement and dealing with impacts of climate change will also need to be given strategic consideration. It is therefore considered appropriate for the CCEAG to give direction to the form and scope of future Council policy or plan on climate change. This is the intention that this would be further discussed at Officer Workshop due to be held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

#### **4.0 CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 The CCEAG are asked to consider contents of this paper.

#### **5.0 IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Policy: Consideration given if the CCEAG wish to progress with a Climate Change Action Plan or Policy
- 5.2 Financial: Consideration given to how CCEAG wish to resource climate change adaptation, policy and efficiencies

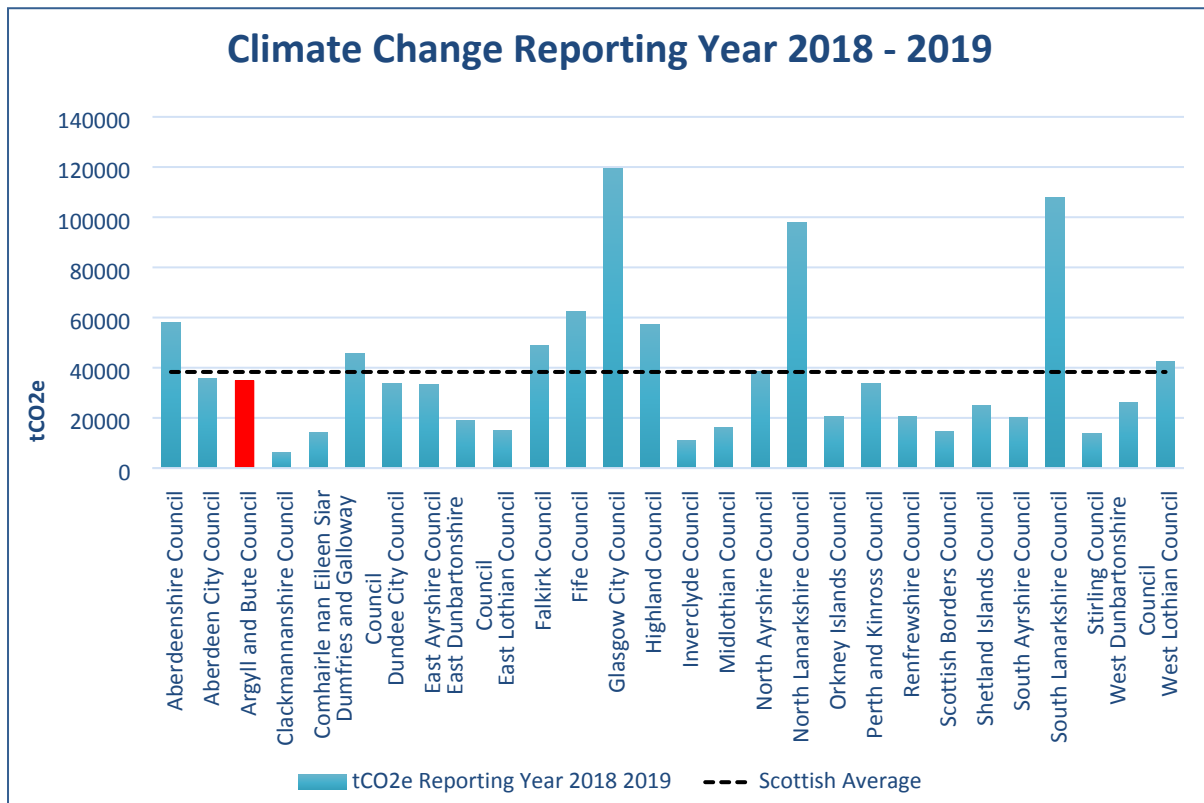
5.3 Legal:	None at present
5.4 HR:	None at present
5.5 Fairer Scotland Duty:	None at present
5.6 Equalities – protected Characteristics:	None at present
5.7 Socio-economic Duty:	None at present.
5.8 Islands	Certain climate change activities identified specifically for Island context
5.6 Risk:	Requirement to consider impacts of climate change and adaptation
5.7 Customer Service:	None at present.

**For further information contact:**

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 Douglas Hendry, Executive Director with responsibility for Commercial Services  
 Ross McLaughlin, Head of Commercial Services

24<sup>th</sup> February 2020

## Appendix 1: Carbon Footprint of Local Authorities



### PLEASE NOTE

- Please note that not all Local Authorities have published a Carbon Footprint via Scottish Sustainable Network(SSN);
- This is final year that information will be collated centrally via SSN on behalf of the Scottish Government and new indicators and reporting mechanisms are being developed nationally by Scottish Government;
- These figures are total tonnage of CO<sub>2</sub> – not per capita so hence City or High Population Authorities generally have highest tonnage;
- Population and treatment / disposal of municipal waste are amongst biggest contributors to overall footprint.

## Appendix 2: Operational actions to address climate change

CLIMATE CHANGE OBJECTIVE	OPERATIONAL ACTION	LEAD	TIMESCALE	COMMENTS
1. Reduce the total volume of waste generated through the use of technological and behavioural changes	Implementation of new Waste Strategy	Peter Leckie		
2. Reuse, reduce and recycle waste, use it for energy and eliminate	Implementation of new Waste Strategy	Peter Leckie		
3. Improve the efficiency of the water supply and water treatment to reduce water demand in Council buildings	Implementation of new Water Strategy	Duncan Black		
4. Investigate and implement solutions for all Council buildings to move to heating from low carbon and/or renewable heating sources where viable	Heat & Energy Efficiency Strategy	Duncan Black		
5. Effectively monitor, investigate and implement energy efficiency standards and improvements into Council buildings	Heat & Energy Efficiency Strategy	Duncan Black		
6. Reduced need to travel within Argyll & Bute for Council Business – reduction of Business Miles	ICT & Fleet Review			
7. Shift fleet to ULEVS and EV's	Fleet Review	John Blake		
8. Expand on renewable sources	Renewable Energy Sourcing Strategy (RSS) 2	Paul Gillies		

<b>of energy and heat within the Estate for both Council consumption and distribution</b>				
<b>9. Seek to offset Council emissions by developing carbon capture activities and partnerships</b>	Participate and actively encourage national research/investment into carbon capture and offsetting  Planting of trees, aquaculture and partnerships			
<b>10. Reduce risk of flooding to properties and infrastructure</b>	Local Flood Risk Management Scheme	Arthur McCulloch		