

Public bodies progress in meeting climate change duties

I am pleased to tell you that Glasgow City Council was one of the original voluntary responders to the Scottish climate change duties and has been submitting annual reports on this area for a number of years. These reports have been presented to the Executive Committee of the Council and have therefore been considered and agreed by elected members prior to submission. The Council welcomed the decision by the Scottish Government to make these duties mandatory for all public sector bodies, with annual reporting having commenced in 2016.

Taking your three points in turn, I can respond as follows:

1. The steps your organisation has taken to embed consideration of climate change issues strategically and at a leadership level in the organisation

Glasgow City Council hosts the Sustainable Glasgow partnership, which is the city's principal multi-sectoral approach to addressing and tackling climate change. It brings together public bodies, the private sector and academia. Sustainable Glasgow is chaired by the Leader of the Council, thereby ensuring the Council's strong leadership role in progressing both the mitigation and adaptation agendas. The partnership has driven a number of green energy initiatives with a focus on affordable warmth and emissions reduction targets. This work has aimed to deliver major investment, help regenerate communities and tackle fuel poverty, as well as improve environmental quality.

The Council's corporate management team fully supports the implementation of the Council's own carbon management plan and the Energy and Carbon Masterplan (ECMP) for the city. The ECMP was published in 2014 and sets out a blueprint for how Glasgow can reduce its carbon dioxide emissions by 30% by 2020. It presents over 30 actions that aim to contribute to the city meeting this target. The main actions focus on reducing the total energy the city uses and ensuring that the city uses energy efficiently. Coupled with this, a series of actions aim to increase the proportion of energy consumed from low carbon and renewable sources. The expansion of wind energy, solar photovoltaic panels, geothermal energy and energy recovery from waste are all technologies that are being used and expanded in Glasgow - generating cheaper, clean energy and creating jobs.

The latest figures for the city's carbon dioxide emissions (for the calendar year 2014) show that we are 90% of the way towards our reductions target. We acknowledge the need to drive our ambitions even further and the Sustainable Glasgow partners will therefore consider further reduction targets for 2025, 2030 and beyond. The city continues to play an active role in the Covenant of Mayors with other European peer cities on the mitigation agenda and also in the Mayors Adapt network on adaptation.

The Council has also taken a key role in addressing the local weather impacts of global climate change. It has helped to establish the regional adaptation initiative Climate Ready Clyde and provided funding towards the early development of the partnership. The city also plays a leading role in the Metropolitan Glasgow Strategic Drainage Partnership, which is also directed to the challenges of excess rainwater and flooding. Sustainable Glasgow continues to be committed to addressing climate change adaptation and agreed to establish a workstream to progress it within the Council and across partners. The Board receives regular update reports on adaptation, alongside those presented to Council committees.

The Council's senior management and elected members backed a successful bid for the city to be part of the Rockefeller Foundation's prestigious 100 Resilient Cities network. This bid was very much focused on the long-term challenges of addressing local climate change bids. The Council published the UK's first ever resilience strategy in September 2016, with climate change adaptation being a key aspect of it.

2. Specific examples of how and where this has been done and where this has influenced strategic decision

Climate change is a key aspect of Glasgow's new City Development Plan, which was adopted earlier this year. It is the principal land use and spatial strategy for the city and it addresses the following areas which directly relate to climate change:

- Flooding is named as a key challenge/influence on land-use planning (p14), and adaptation (mainly of the natural environment) features in the Green Place Strategic Outcome (p23).
- In the two overarching policies, the Placemaking Principle (CDP1) refers to mitigation and adaptation, and the Sustainable Spatial Strategy (CDP2) refers to adaptation.
- Mitigation is presented as the key context for the Resource Management policy (CDP5).
- Adaptation is one of many functions required by the Green Network policy (CDP6) and is presented as the key context for the Water Environment policy (CDP8).

In the city centre strategy, the key trends identified include adaptation (city greening) and mitigation (under the benefits of city density and ease of accessibility). Adaptation is embedded in the Districts Strategy and its placemaking focus on retrofitted 'Avenues', including active travel and integrated green infrastructure. Green infrastructure and reduced waste and emissions form priority actions under the respective themes of Infrastructure and

Management. This was a result embedding climate change mitigation and adaptation considerations across corporate policy in the council. As well as reflection of a collaborative and joined up approach within the council family.

Work is currently taking place with Council services and key stakeholders from other city partners to develop a climate change adaptation strategy and action plan for Glasgow. It is expected that this will be drafted by the end of this year, with consultation and formal approval being sought in 2018. Investment from the City Deal programme in surface water management for key development sites has also been announced in order to support Glasgow's housing ambitions and to ensure that its regeneration ambitions for areas such as Sighthill can be realised. This includes the use of SUDS (Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems) and, for Sighthill, an innovative approach to rainwater run-off into the nearby canal system.

The Council's low carbon agenda has also driven a wide range of mitigation activities in its own estate, including (but not limited to):

- A replacement programme of 10,000 street lights with energy efficient LED lanterns.
- Energy efficiency measures across its buildings, such as PC shut-off software in the education estate and the introduction of building management systems which optimise energy usage and reduce waste.
- Increased investment in on-street electric vehicle charging facilities.
- The new Glasgow Recycling & Renewable Energy Centre, which will remove 90,000 tonnes of municipal emissions each year and generate renewable electricity and heat.

3. Your views on any barriers or challenges the organisation faces in demonstrating climate change leadership and on the support the Scottish Government could provide that might assist you.

The Council is fortunate to be able to draw upon a broad consensus of agreement for the city's green ambitions through the Sustainable Glasgow partnership, which includes Scottish Government representation. The collective will of these partners is an invaluable asset for this agenda, without which much of the city's action on sustainability would be hampered. There is always room to embed key sustainability principles further in the mainstream policy and practice of our organisations and communities, but equally Scotland has now earned an international reputation for its progressive approach towards this vital agenda.

In this light, the areas where the support of the Scottish Government can particularly help the Council are around:

- Greater devolution of powers to the city so that action can be taken on key issues of local concern such as transport.
- Continuing support for the city-regional approach to climate change adaptation through the Climate Ready Clyde partnership.
- Exploration of the potential for more up-to-date data on carbon emissions (which are currently supplied two years in arrears from BEIS).
- Further investment in innovative low carbon projects, as well as support for positive regulatory change (such as the non-domestic rates regime in relation to district heating networks).