

# PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

15 December 2021

## Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan Report

Report by Executive Director (Communities)  
(Report No. 21/245)

### PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report provides an update on the climate action progress made since the Council approved the Interim Climate Emergency Report and Action Plan published in December 2019. It also provides a summary of public engagement undertaken and the latest emissions update. Based on this evidence, the Climate Strategy and Action Plan has been developed for approval.

### 1. BACKGROUND / MAIN ISSUES

- 1.1. In December 2019, Perth and Kinross Council approved an Interim Climate Emergency Report and Action Plan ([Report No 19/362 refers](#)). This highlighted the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) concerns in relation to keeping the global average temperature rise below 1.5°C, which has been also reflected at COP26.
- 1.2. Perth and Kinross Council has a legal responsibility for emissions reductions and climate resilience both within the Council's operations as well as across the entirety of Perth and Kinross. As such, the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan covers the identified necessary actions for the Council to undertake for both areas. The Council agreed, at its meeting on 6 October 2021, to establish the Perth and Kinross Climate Change Commission (Report No. 21/142 refers). Once the Perth and Kinross Climate Change Commission is fully established, this will shape further development or iterations of the roadmap through coproduction, guidance and feedback.
- 1.3. As has most recently been highlighted by the discussions at, and surrounding COP26, to keep the global average temperature rise below 1.5°C dramatic emissions reductions are required by 2030. To ensure Scotland plays its role in meeting this, the Scottish Government has set a 75% emissions reduction target by 2030.
- 1.4. In addition, the Council has also signed up to a number of initiatives. By becoming signatories to the Covenant of Mayors, the Edinburgh Declaration and the Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration (Report No. 21/209 refers), the Council has enhanced its commitment to taking its responsibilities seriously.
- 1.5. This report is the follow-up to the 2019 Interim Plan and has been updated to include feedback from public engagement over 2020-21, policy and legislative

changes and further analysis of the current situation. As climate action is a rapidly changing environment and there are still many unknowns, this plan will need to be constantly evolving.

### **Legislation and targets**

- 1.6. The UK Climate Change Act 2008 sets the UK's approach to climate change and commits the UK Government to reach net zero greenhouse gases emissions by 2050. The Act also requires the UK government to produce a UK Climate Change Risk Assessment every five years in order to assess current and future risks and opportunities for the UK from climate change.
- 1.7. Scotland has set more ambitious legislation in the Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019 which makes provisions about advice, plans and reports in relation to targets for the reduction of greenhouse gases emissions. This includes reaching net zero by 2045 and has set interim targets to reduce net emissions by at least 56% by 2020, 75% by 2030 and 90% by 2040 compared to the baseline year (1990) respectively.
- 1.8. Supporting the new targets set by the Act, the Scottish Government published its [Climate Change Plan Update](#) in 2020. "Securing a green recovery on a path to net zero: climate change plan 2018 – 2032 update" sets out the pathway for a green and just transition to net zero in achieving Scotland's climate change targets.
- 1.9. In addition to setting new emissions reduction targets, the Act also placed a duty on Scottish Ministers to act on climate change adaptation and prepare a programme of action. The second Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme (SCCAP2) was launched in 2019 and addresses the risks set out in the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017 to help Scotland prepare for the impact of climate change. An annual report on SCCAP is also required under the provisions of the Act and the [first progress report](#) was published in 2020.
- 1.10. The Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019 has also given local authorities the duty to ensure their local authority areas decarbonise in line with the Scottish Government Target; are resilient to the impacts of climate change; and promote sustainable development. Compliance with this means climate change should be considered at the heart of every council decision, as well developing new streams of activity.

### **Update on Interim Plan**

- 1.11. The Interim Climate Emergency Report and Action Plan had five thematic areas – transport; energy and buildings; waste; land use; business and industry. Unfortunately, the onset of the Covid -19 lockdown, three months after the approval of the Interim Plan, has impacted upon the pace and scale of delivery of the Plan and, consequently, this update. However, to date we have delivered, or made significant progress on, a number of our actions. These are helping reduce emissions and making our people, places and properties more resilient to the effects of a changing climate. They are also

improving our understanding and awareness of what is happening, and is likely to happen, as a result of climate change, as well as how we can work together to make the changes required. A selection of actions include:

- developing a co-ordinated community engagement programme and toolkit to raise awareness and support our communities in making changes to move to a more sustainable way of living
- developing a Food Growing Strategy
- funding a research study into the carbon sequestration potential of Perth and Kinross with the James Hutton Institute
- developing a knowledge sharing and awareness raising programme linked to COP26, which includes a schools art competition, sessions for the Fun Palace Event at Perth Theatre, the Zero Emissions Bus Tour, and pop-up shops and events hosted across our area
- developing an online staff training module on climate change
- developing a dedicated website for climate change
- using alternative ICT solutions for working and attending meetings and events remotely
- progressing the development of active travel routes in the Dunkeld Road Corridor
- securing Scottish Government funding to accelerate development of the Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES) programme and delivery plan.

1.12 The Interim Climate Emergency Plan also set the foundation for this updated Climate Change Plan. This work has been undertaken through a range of means, including:

- the establishment of thematic Officer Climate Change Working Groups and an internal Climate Change Board;
- updating our data and information (including the most recent key messages and statistics coming out of national updates, policy, programmes and strategies);
- monitoring trends;
- assessing risk;
- working with the Perth City Leadership Forum and major employers in our area on a coordinated commitment to addressing Climate Change;
- identifying skills and training gaps across different sectors;
- promoting our online training;
- undertaking public engagement with our citizens and young people to understand their views and what changes they would like to see;
- establishing a Climate Change Commission;
- signing up to a number of climate change declarations.

1.13 All the work that has been done to date has formed the basis for the development of this updated Strategy and Action Plan. The lessons we have all learned as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and the need to build back in a better, more just and greener way have also played an important part in its formation.

## **Feedback on public engagement**

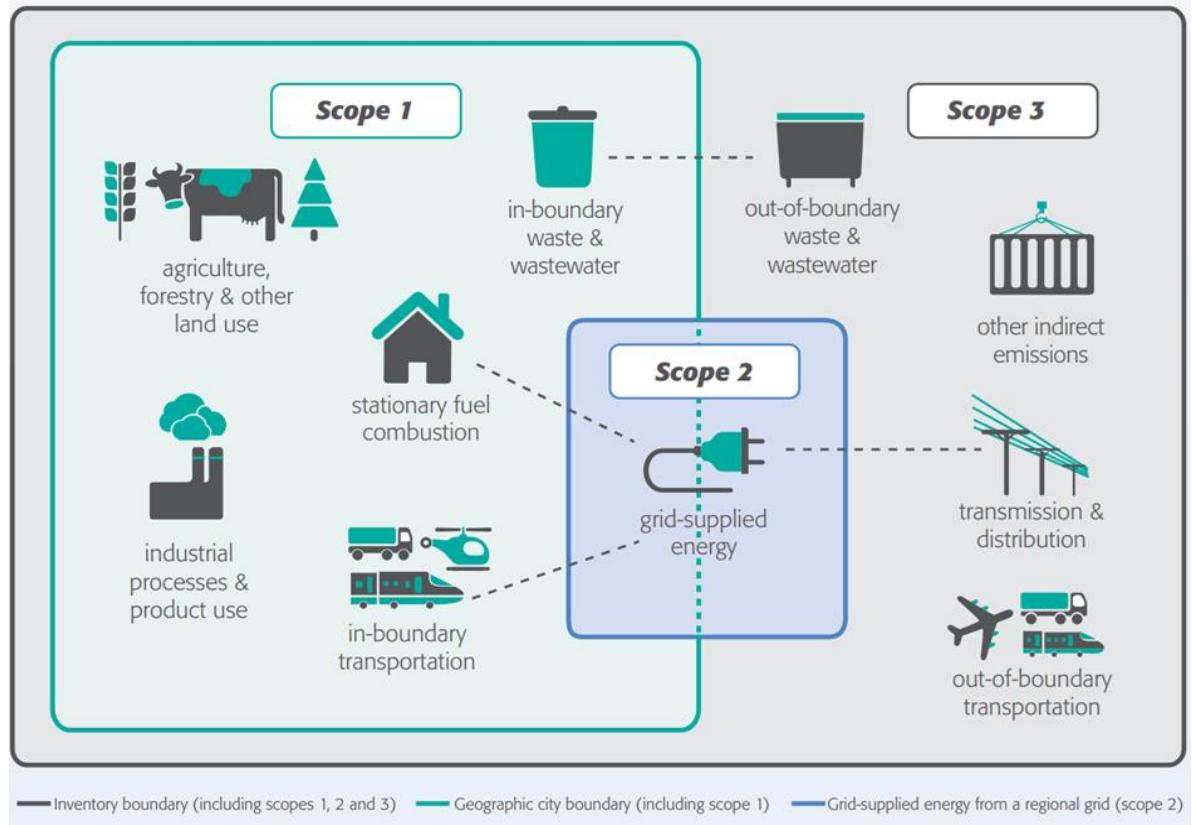
- 1.14 The planned primary climate change engagement was delayed due to Covid-19 from Spring 2020 and the process took place from October 2020 to January 2021. Engagement consisted of an online survey which was split over thematic questionnaires – (480 responses), and several online thematic sessions supported by the Perth and Kinross Climate Change network (over 240 attendees). The thematic areas are General (including domestic waste and resilience), Transport, Buildings and Energy, Business and Industry, and Land Use.
- 1.15 The overall results indicate that individuals across Perth and Kinross are concerned about climate change and its impacts. Almost all respondents (91%) believe that climate change has already impacted the environment around them. Some of the changes noted were extreme weather events including increased temperature levels over longer periods and increased flooding. Furthermore, the concern of respondents in relation to climate change is also demonstrated by the fact that 84% had made lifestyle changes to minimise their impact on the environment. Examples given include reduced car usage and increased use of more sustainable and active travel methods (cycling and walking), as well as reducing single use products and increasing recycling.
- 1.16 Respondents are aware of the Scottish Government’s targets in relation to climate change, with 88% of respondents feeling that Perth and Kinross should go beyond the Scottish Government in target setting. The need to set out a clear vision to reach net zero was supported by 63% of the total responses. The engagement survey feedback aligns with the national level of concern regarding climate change. The 2019 Scottish Household Survey highlights that there has been an increase in the percentage of adults in Scotland who agree climate change is an immediate and urgent problem, with 68% having this view.
- 1.17 Some overarching themes were raised by a large number of respondents. Almost 90% of overall respondents mentioned that PKC should lead by example and set its own targets. The need for the Council to work together with all stakeholders in its journey to reach net zero was also outlined as a key action. In addition, continuing to engage with the public and raising awareness was emphasised in over 80% of the comments received. The need for a trusted source of information in relation to climate change was also stressed extensively throughout the engagement process.
- 1.18 Detailed results on the engagement survey and comments received through the online sessions can be viewed in the Engagement Analysis (Appendix A).

## **Area-wide emissions across Perth and Kinross**

- 1.19 Greenhouse gas emissions are classified into three scopes as shown in Figure 1 below. Scope 1 emissions are ones directly produced in Perth and Kinross and Scope 2 emissions are associated with the grid-supplied energy consumed by Perth and Kinross Council, businesses and residents. Scope 3

emissions are ones that are emitted outside of Perth and Kinross but generated to meet the needs of Perth and Kinross. Scope 3 emissions are reported separately from Scope 1 and 2 emissions to avoid double-counting. Appendix B provides further details of this along with detailed information about the emissions associated with Perth and Kinross Council.

**Figure 1 Overview of Greenhouse Gas Emission Scopes**

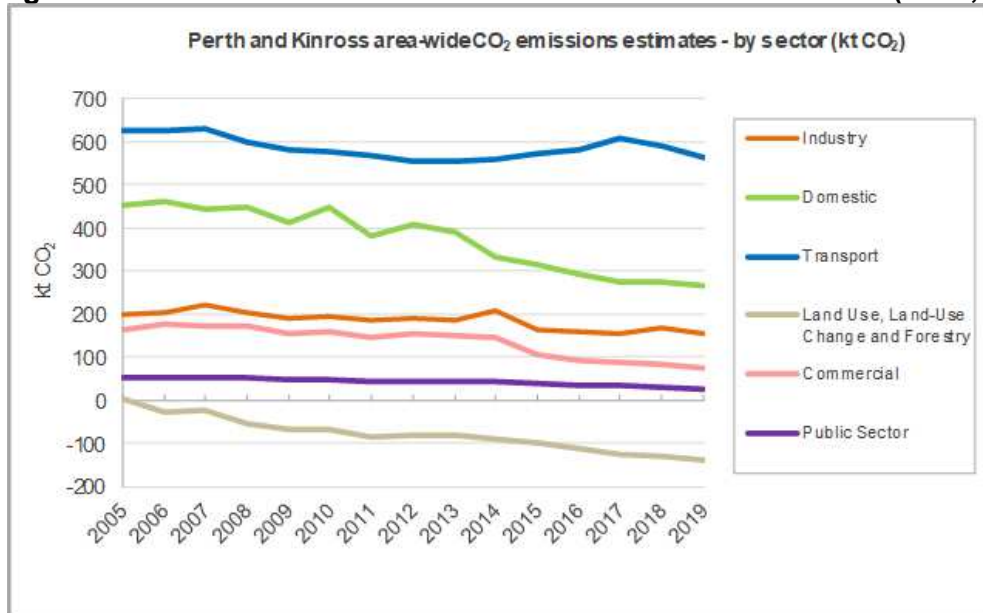


Source: C40 Cities, [https://www.c40knowledgehub.org/s/article/The-Global-Protocol-for-Community-Scale-Greenhouse-Gas-Emission-Inventories-GPC?language=en\\_US](https://www.c40knowledgehub.org/s/article/The-Global-Protocol-for-Community-Scale-Greenhouse-Gas-Emission-Inventories-GPC?language=en_US) Accessed on 18/11/2021

- 1.20 The latest available Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy ([BEIS](#)) [emissions data](#) (2019 recorded gross emissions of 1,089 kilotonnes of carbon dioxide (kt CO<sub>2</sub>) for all activities in the Perth and Kinross area. However, this is offset by land use such as forestry, acting as a “carbon sink” which absorbs CO<sub>2</sub>. Therefore, the balanced net CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by Perth and Kinross, contributing to climate change in 2019 were 953 kt CO<sub>2</sub>.
- 1.21 953 kt of CO<sub>2</sub> equates to an annual reduction of 6.4%. This is better than the Scottish average of 3.2%, however it is below the annual 7.1% target needed in Perth and Kinross to meet the Scottish Government’s 2030 target of 75% reduction against 1990 levels. This puts the Perth and Kinross emissions reductions from 1990-2019 at approximately 44%. There is a significant gap between this and the 56% Scotland-wide reductions by 2020 put into law by the Climate Change Act.
- 1.22 In 2019, 91% of Perth and Kinross area-wide emissions were identified as being within the Council’s **scope of influence** (as defined by BEIS). Of the

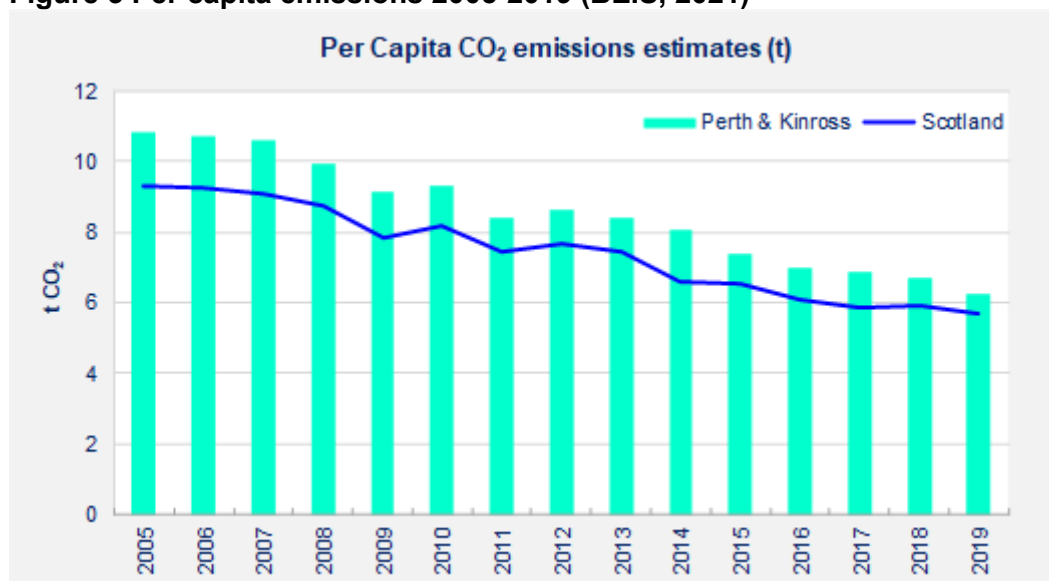
91%, transport sector emissions accounted for 47%, domestic 29%, industry 13%, commercial 8% and public sector 3%. The remaining 9% of emissions outside the Council’s scope of influence were from large industrial sites, railways, motorways and selected land-use.

**Figure 2 Perth and Kinross area-wide CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 2005-2019 (BEIS, 2021)**



1.23 Across Perth and Kinross, there is a continued reduction in both total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and per capita (per person) CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. This follows a trend across Scotland, although per capita emissions in Perth and Kinross remain consistently higher than the average across Scotland – with 2019 per capita estimates of 6.3t CO<sub>2</sub> for Perth and Kinross compared to a Scottish average of 5.7t CO<sub>2</sub>. This is in line with other more rural local authority areas, including Aberdeenshire (6.5 t) and Angus (5.9 t).

**Figure 3 Per capita emissions 2005-2019 (BEIS, 2021)**



1.24 The organisational emissions from Perth and Kinross Council’s operations are produced annually as part of the Public Sector Report on Compliance with

Climate Change Duties. The latest emissions figures (2020) showed a total Scope 1 and 2 emissions of 15.8kt CO<sub>2</sub>e. This showed a 25% reduction year on year in Scope 2 emissions (electricity), which is largely attributed to the closures associated with Covid-19. The Scope 1 emissions only had a small change (-4.9%) despite the closures, due to the increased heating and ventilation demands.

- 1.25 Further information on both Perth and Kinross area-wide and organisational emissions can be found in Appendix B.

### **Demonstrated impact of Covid**

- 1.26 Covid-19 has had a significant impact on both area-wide emissions and PKC emissions that will be reflected in the 2020 and 2021 data when it is available – some are positive and some negative. Positive impacts include significant drops in vehicle numbers in 2020 and the first half of 2021, but are now up to pre-pandemic levels, even without full return to work, and public transport levels are significantly reduced. Both domestic and non-domestic energy demand are expected to go up and changes in shopping patterns have led to an increase in household waste and recycling volumes as well as an increase in recycling contamination rates.
- 1.27 One key aspect that the pandemic has demonstrated is that it is possible to mobilise rapidly and make the large-scale changes to the way that people live and work, as communities united to serve a common purpose. A similar level of behavioural transformation is, therefore, possible to take forward the climate change agenda.

## **2. PERTH AND KINROSS CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN**

### **Climate Change Strategy**

- 2.1 Six high-level principles have been identified as the pillars of the Council's approach to Climate Change:
- i) achieving Net Zero aligned with the Paris Agreement and the Scottish Government Targets, with the ambition of achieving them sooner, subject to available resources
  - ii) building a more resilient Perth and Kinross
  - iii) ensuring climate action is fair and benefits all and we deliver a green recovery to Covid-19
  - iv) enhancing biodiversity to help avoid an ecological emergency
  - v) engaging and empowering children and young people to take action on climate change
  - vi) empowering our communities and businesses to take climate action in line with the Perth and Kinross Offer
- 2.2 Under each of these pillars, strategic commitments have been identified for Perth and Kinross Council to provide clarity to partners, residents, businesses over what our Climate Change Offer is. We will also develop a specific

Climate Change Offer as a result of feedback from our residents and businesses, based on the model outlined within the Offer Framework.

- 2.3 Each of these pillars and strategic commitments is outlined in more detail within the Strategy document attached as Appendix C

### **Action Plan**

- 2.4 To support the Strategy, a Climate Action Plan has been developed to translate the Council's strategic objectives and commitments into deliverable actions. Given the dynamic nature of climate policy, legislation and funding and the need for urgent action, the plan primarily focuses on the actions required in the near-term future, until 2024. Key strategic longer-term projects have been identified as well, to help provide clarity over future action required.
- 2.5 The Action Plan has been broken down into eight thematic areas. The first five remain the same as those within the interim plan and are aligned with significant emissions sectors:
- transport
  - buildings and energy
  - business and Industry
  - waste
  - land use
- 2.6 Three further have been included in this updated plan:
- climate resilience – as a result of the Council's legal duty in this area
  - education and engagement – to address behavioural change
  - governance – to recognise the importance of clear governance and performance monitoring in delivering improvement.
- 2.7 The proposed Perth and Kinross Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan is provided in Appendix C. A roadmap for each theme can be found within the Strategy, with a detailed Action Plan provided in Appendix D. It is presented as a document for decision making, but it is intended that the final version will be an interactive web-based strategy. This approach will enable it to remain dynamic in a rapidly changing policy environment, as well as being more user friendly.

## **3. THE FUNDING CHALLENGES**

- 3.1. Adapting to, and mitigating, the impacts of climate change present significant challenges for the Council, our partner organisations, residents and businesses. The UK Climate Change Committee's Sixth Carbon Budget (December 2020) indicated that a feasible path for the UK to meet its commitments requires average annual reductions in UK emissions equal to the total emission reductions achieved between 2012 and 2019. The Committee suggest this is clearly feasible, provided effective policies are introduced across the economy without delay. It estimates net costs of meeting the budget to be equivalent to less than 1% of GDP and so, to that end, climate investment needs to be dramatically scaled up. By 2030, across



Scotland there needs to be £5-6 billion investment annually, up more than 10 times current levels.

- 3.2. It is too early to provide a realistic estimate of the share of this estimated £5-6 billion cost across Perth and Kinross. It will, however, have significant implications for the use of the Council overall budgets, and in particular of key capital and revenue programmes around waste, transport, fleet, flood management and the non-domestic and domestic estate. This will not all be new expenditure as there may be options to redirect existing budgets.
- 3.3. In 2006, the Stern Report estimated that the cost of reducing carbon was \$25/tonne while the economic cost of not acting was at least \$85/tonne. Failure to take opportunities now to deliver future standards, when building or refurbishing our buildings, will lead to potential excessive retrofitting costs.
- 3.4. While the future challenges are significant, the Council is already investing significant resources in its revenue and capital budgets to adapt its estate to meet the demands of the climate change agenda. However, compared to the scale of investment required with the statutory intermediate targets, in or around 2030, there requires to be consideration by Council on the level of commitment and steps it is required to make in order to change our pace of action. Investment allocated to achieving net zero will be considered by Council, alongside consideration of its other priorities and financial challenges.
- 3.5. The Investment Blueprint for Perth & Kinross Council states that Council capital expenditure will be aligned with the vision and plan for a net zero and climate resilient Perth and Kinross. However, to accelerate to the necessary pace and scale, decisions will be necessary in relation to overall resourcing, particularly in relation to funding priority areas which are likely to deliver the best return on investment in our journey to net zero. It is anticipated that these will include supporting electric vehicle transition, developing a mobility strategy, improving the Council's built estate and supporting our communities to better understand and embrace the climate change agenda.
- 3.6. Current estimates of additional resources to deliver the action plan in Appendix Dis estimated to be approximately £6.0M in 2022-23 and £5.9M in 2023-24 across revenue, capital and HRA, including the external funding which has already been identified. This this does not include costs for the delivery of key aspects such as retrofitting our council houses or properties. Prioritisation of key activities that can produce early impacts within the plan is underway to support the budget process.
- 3.7. Officers will also continue to explore all opportunities to deliver these key priorities and maximise external funding support. It is recommended that consideration of resourcing will be undertaken through the revenue and capital budgets process for approval by the Council on 23 February 2022.
- 3.8. One of the most significant challenges in future years will be around capital investment in reducing the carbon footprint of transport and our domestic and

non-domestic estate. In addition to the £11.9M identified for 2022-24, a further £29M of requirements for the period from 2024-2032 has already been identified. However, at this time, the full extent of the expenditure required is not yet known, however, it is likely to run into several hundreds of millions of pounds. Work is currently being commissioned to develop costed and prioritised programmes to address these challenging areas.

- 3.9. The Council has already invested significant capital resources to demonstrate its commitments to tackling the climate challenges that it faces. These have included:
- retrofitting energy saving measures in both our domestic and non-domestic property portfolios;
  - beginning the transitions of the Council's fleet to electric vehicles;
  - taking the opportunity to make improvements when planned maintenance is due and/ or replacing assets that deliver to net zero standards, most notably the replacement for Perth High School, the Balhousie/North Muirton Primary School and Blairgowrie Recreational Centre.
- 3.10. No single approach will provide the funding required to deliver a net zero Perth and Kinross and we will need to work with partners, communities and businesses to minimise the costs and access additional funding streams through efficient joint working and maximising the funding opportunities. Measures/opportunities which could lessen the funding challenges include joint working; external funding; charging and rent structures; commercial approaches and partnering with our communities. More information on these is contained within the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.
- 3.11 In summary, it is not yet possible to fully cost the Strategy and Action Plan as there are currently many unknown aspects in areas such as external funding opportunities, income from a more commercial approach and the potential costs of ensuring that Council owned domestic and non-domestic properties are compliant with targets. As noted above, this could be hundreds of millions of pounds. It could also be anticipated that national targets may be accelerated, increasing the pace of required investment.
- 3.12 Until there is greater clarity about the financial assistance available from governments and other sources, funding will remain the most significant challenge to becoming net zero. Officers will pursue all available funding sources. However, given the current absence of further external funding sources, the achievement of net zero will not be possible, at the required pace. COSLA has recently highlighted to the Scottish Government the financial challenges in tackling climate change, noting that currently that Local Government is ill prepared for the climate challenge to come. The Council will, however, continue to work with other Local Authorities and COSLA to highlight these areas and seek solutions.

## **4. MONITORING AND REPORTING**

- 4.1 Measuring our progress towards net zero is an important element of the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan. Key Performance Indicators are

included within the Strategy document and cover all the themes. It is intended to bring an annual performance report to update the Council on progress made on the Strategy and Action Plan.

## 5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 The Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan links to the overall strategic direction of the Council as set out within both the Community Plan and Corporate Plan. It also is reflected within the Perth and Kinross Offer 5 E's as well as demonstrating our commitment to the environment and climate change as set out within the Investment Blueprint. The importance of the Strategy and Plan will require to be reflected in the Council's new Corporate Plan and Corporate Asset Management Plan due to be developed next year. The commitment to tackling climate change and its impacts will also be a consideration in our work with local communities and partners as we roll out the P&K Offer along with its impact on the service delivery models across communities.
- 5.2 The development and delivery of this Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan is the next phase in the Council's growing commitment to supporting sustainable communities across Perth and Kinross. This includes establishing Perth's place as one of Europe's most sustainable small cities as well as setting out our commitment to meeting the Scottish Government's 2045 net zero ambitions.
- 5.3 It is recommended that the Council:
- (i) notes the contents of the report, along with the update on the interim Climate Emergency Report and Action Plan
  - (ii) notes the feedback from the existing public engagement (Appendix A)
  - (iii) agrees that engagement and feedback from partners and communities, including young people will continue to support the ongoing development and delivery of the Climate Action Plan
  - (iv) notes that the costs associated with the priority actions will be included, for consideration, in the Revenue and Capital Budgets to be approved by the Council on 23 February 2022.
  - (v) approves the Strategy and Action Plan as the means for Perth & Kinross to deliver on its legal commitments to deliver a Net Zero Perth & Kinross by 2045 at the latest (Appendices C and D)
  - (vi) requests the Executive Director (Communities) to bring forward an annual review of performance and update for Climate Action Plan

### Authors

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## Approved

<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Date</b>
Barbara Renton	Executive Director (Communities)	19 November 2021

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## 1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

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

### 1. Strategic Implications

#### Community Plan and Corporate Plan

- 1.1 Climate change clearly links to the Objective: '*Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations.*' It is also beneficial interlinked in multiple ways to all of the other priorities of the Community Plan and Corporate Plan.
- 1.2 Examples of the benefits are included below:
- (i) Giving every child the best start in life – Addressing fuel poverty
  - (ii) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens – Engagement and climate literacy
  - (iii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy – Supporting the Development of green skills and jobs
  - (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives – Increased levels of active transport and improved air quality
  - (v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations – The overarching ambition of the Climate Action Strategy

### 2. Resource Implications

#### Financial

- 2.1 The Head of Finance has been consulted on the resource requirements for the delivery of this Strategy.

## Workforce

- 2.2 The Head of Human Resources has been consulted via discussions at EOT. Delivering the Climate Change Action Plan in its totality will require significant additional staff resources as described in the Financial Implications section above.

## Asset Management (land, property, IT)

- 2.3 The Executive Director (Communities) has been consulted and has indicated agreement with the proposals.

## **3. Assessments**

### Equality Impact Assessment

- 3.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council is required to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between equality groups. Carrying out Equality Impact Assessments for plans and policies allows the Council to demonstrate that it is meeting these duties.
- 3.2 This section should reflect that the proposals have been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) with the following outcome:
- (i) Assessed as **relevant** for the purposes of the EqIA (with both positive and negative likely effects):
    - a. Equalities impacts were identified using the Integrated Appraisal Toolkit as part of the initial approved interim Climate Change Plan in 2019. The proposed Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2021 builds on the interim strategy, with relevant general impacts as highlighted in b). All actions proposed in the new action plan were considered for their equalities impacts during the plan development phase. Once the action plan has been approved, actions will be periodically assessed as they progress, and if necessary, a full EqIA will be undertaken and appropriate mitigation taken as described in c).
    - b. The report recognises that the most severe impacts of climate change are likely to be felt by people experiencing greater risks of poverty and disadvantage. It also recognises that by promoting future mitigation measures in the move towards zero carbon, certain groups may be disproportionately impacted.
    - c. The strategy and action plan seek to create a net zero economy that is fair for all, minimises potential for inequalities, and maximises the socio-economic opportunities for all. As part of the action plan, a decision-making toolkit will be established to consider future climate change mitigation and adaptation actions, to ensure just transitions are prioritised.

### Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 3.3 The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 places a duty on the Council to identify and assess the environmental consequences of its proposals.
- 3.4 This section should reflect that the proposals have been considered under the Act and pre-screening has identified that the PPS will have no or minimal environmental effects, it is therefore exempt and the SEA Gateway has been notified. The reason(s) for concluding that the PPS will have no or minimal environmental effects is that the Strategy is unlikely to trigger the Act as will not lead to future development by itself but rather other sector and subject plans, programmes and strategies will provide the detail which if appropriate will be assessed at the time.

### Sustainability

- 3.5 The proposal has been considered under the provisions of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019 and it has been assessed that:
- 3.6 A large number of positive climate change and sustainable development outcomes are likely as a result of this proposal being implemented, across all eleven sections of the Integrated Appraisal Toolkit. The screening undertaken for the Interim Climate Emergency Report was reviewed and determined to be still applicable.
- 3.7 All actions proposed are likely to contribute to the provisions of the Act and will be reported as part of the annual Public Sector Climate Change Duties Reporting process.

### Legal and Governance

- 3.8 The Head of Legal and Governance Services has been consulted in the preparation of this report.

### Risk

- 3.9 Climate Change is recognised as the joint-top corporate risk to the Council. The proposals focus on addressing and reducing the risks that Climate Change poses.

## **4. Consultation**

### Internal

- 4.1 This plan was developed in collaboration with the seven Officer climate change working groups, as well as the Climate Change Board. The plan has been discussed with Communities, Corporate and Democratic Services and Education and Children Services Senior Management Teams, as well as the Executive Officer Team.

## External

- 4.2 Public engagement was undertaken and served as the basis for updating this plan. Details are in Appendix A. Additional consultation was had with Scottish Water

## **5. Communication**

- 5.1 A Stakeholder Engagement Plan has been developed and is summarised in the Engagement and Education Section in Appendix C.

## **2. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 2.1 This section should list the documents that have been relied on in preparing the report, other than those committee reports already referenced within the main body of the report. All documents must be kept available by the author for inspection by the public for four years from the date of the meeting at which the report is presented.

## **3. APPENDICES**

- 3.1 This section should list the appendices to the report.

- *Appendix A: Public engagement summary*
- *Appendix B: Overview of emissions in Perth and Kinross*
- *Appendix C: Draft Climate Action Strategy*
- *Appendix D: Detailed thematic action plans*