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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Environment and Regeneration Committee</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>29 October 2020</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration and Resources</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>E&amp;R/20/10/02/SJ</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Paul Murphy</b>	<b>Contact No:</b>	<b>01475 712062</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Greenhouse Gas Emission Reporting and Achieving Net-Zero</b>		

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## 1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of the performance data that is to be submitted to the Scottish Government with respect to climate change reporting required by the Climate Change (Scotland Act) 2009. The report further informs on the consideration for the Council achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions.

## 2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Local authorities are required to report annually on their performance and action with respect to climate change. This falls under the Public Bodies Duties section of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009. The Scottish Government has provided a reporting template in which climate change information covering 2019/20 is to be reported by the end of November 2020.
- 2.2 The data submitted shows that from a baseline of 2012/13, the Council has been reducing its carbon emissions year on year. In 2012/13, the Council's total emissions were 19,104 tonnes while in 2019/20, it was 10,212 tonnes. In percentage terms, this is a reduction of 46.5%.
- 2.3 The Scottish Government is proposing Regulations requiring public sector bodies to identify a target year for achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions and their spending plans for achieving this. It is proposed that the services of suitably qualified consultants are engaged to determine when net-zero could be achieved by Inverclyde Council, what actions are required to achieve this and the costs involved. The estimated cost for this study is £100,000.

## 3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended the Committee:
- (a) notes the Council's climate change performance, particularly with regard to the reduction of carbon emissions, set out in Appendix 1; and
  - (b) agrees the commissioning of a study on when and how the Council can achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions.

**Stuart W. Jamieson**  
**Head of Regeneration and Planning**

## **4.0 BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 In 2015 the Scottish Government brought into force powers in the Public Bodies Duties section of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 to introduce mandatory annual reporting on climate change for 'major players' in the public sector. Local authorities are deemed to be public sector major players.
- 4.2 In May 2019, the Committee on Climate Change, in a request from the Governments of the UK, Scotland and Wales, advised on reassessing the UK's long term greenhouse gas emissions targets. It advised on new emissions targets for the UK of net-zero by 2050 and in Scotland net zero by 2045. The targets in Scotland reflect its greater relative capacity to remove emissions than the UK as a whole. Following this, the Scottish Government declared a climate emergency and laid before Parliament a Climate Change Bill to set a 2045 target for net-zero emissions. On 31 October 2019, the Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019 received Royal Assent amending the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, and set a net-zero target year of 2045.
- 4.3 The Scottish Government considers the public sector as having a role in leading climate change action. In September 2019, the Scottish Government published a consultation entitled 'The Role of Public Sector Bodies in Tackling Climate Change'. One of the questions asked if public sector bodies should be required to set targets for when they will achieve zero direct emissions and for reduced indirect emissions. It further asked if public sector bodies should report annually on how they use their resources to contribute to reducing emissions. The Council's response to this was reported to the 31 October 2019 Committee. In June 2020, analysis of the consultation was published and the vast majority of respondents stated that public sector bodies should set such targets and report annually on the use of their resources to achieve them. The Scottish Government, in its recent Programme for Government, stated it will introduce regulations requiring public sector bodies to set such net zero targets and outline their spending plans with which to achieve them.

## **5.0 PROPOSALS**

- 5.1 The climate change reporting data to be submitted by the Council (See Appendix 1) shows that, from a baseline of 2012/13, the Council has been steadily reducing its carbon emissions year on year. In 2019/20, the Council had reduced its emissions by 46.5%, from 19,104 tonnes to 10,212 tonnes, since 2012/13. The emissions figures within the reporting template are broken down into what are termed 'Scopes'. Scope 1 refers to 'direct' emissions from, for example, the use of natural gas for heating; Scope 2 refers to 'indirect' emissions in the form of electricity use; Scope 3 refers to indirect emissions from, for example, the use of water, business travel by employees and waste. With regard to Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions, the Council has performed well reducing these by 49%. With regard to Scope 3 emissions, these show a decrease of around 5.4%. Emissions, however, are more heavily weighted towards Scopes 1 and 2 and, therefore, the high overall reduction figure.
- 5.2 The Council has managed to reduce its Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions through a range of measures. In particular, its building rationalisation and new build/refurbishment programme has reduced the number of operational buildings and improved the energy efficiencies of its building portfolio. The Council has also replaced its street lamps with LEDs that use around half the electricity of the previous lamps, and introduced electric vehicles to its fleet.
- 5.3 It is expected that analysis of the information provided in the reports will be undertaken by the Scottish Government and results published in early 2021. It is also anticipated that in 2021, the Scottish Government will change reporting requirements and announce regulatory requirements with respect to public sector bodies achieving net-zero. It is proposed that the services of suitably qualified consultants are engaged to determine when net-zero could be achieved by Inverclyde Council, what actions are required to achieve this and the costs involved. The estimated cost for this study is £100,000.

## 6.0 IMPLICATIONS

### 6.1 Finance

The estimated costs of the consultants undertaking the study to determine the requirements to achieve net zero by 2045 and the associated financial implications are £100,000. The financial implications to achieving the net-zero will likely be significant and would be reported on completion of the study.

#### Financial Implications:

##### One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
Climate Change EMR	Payment to other bodies	2020/21	£100k		

##### Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (if Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

### 6.2 Legal

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

### 6.3 Human Resources

There are no direct human resource implications arising from this report.

### 6.4 Equalities

#### Equalities

- (a) Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

<input type="checkbox"/>	YES
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO – This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required

- (b) Fairer Scotland Duty

If this report affects or proposes any major strategic decision:-

Has there been active consideration of how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome?

<input type="checkbox"/>	YES – A written statement showing how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed.
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X	NO
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(c) Data Protection

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – This report involves data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.
X	NO

6.5 **Repopulation**

There are no direct repopulation implications arising from this report.

7.0 **CONSULTATIONS**

7.1 The data provided in the Scottish Government reporting template was derived from relevant Council staff. The Head of Legal and Property Services was consulted during the preparation of this report. Finance Services were consulted during the preparation of this report.

8.0 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

8.1 None

Appendix 1: Extract from Scottish Government climate change reporting template incorporating Council performance and action with respect to climate change.

**Table 1: Council Emissions**

<b>Reference year</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Scope 1</b>	<b>Scope 2</b>	<b>Scope 3</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Units</b>
Baseline Year	2012/13	8,532	9,487	1,085	19,104	tonnes
Year 1 carbon footprint	2013/14	7,504	8,301	1,699	17,504	tonnes
Year 2 carbon footprint	2014/15	6,071	8,594	1,549	16,214	tonnes
Year 3 carbon footprint	2015/16	6,459	7,104	1,245	14,808	tonnes
Year 4 carbon footprint	2016/17	6,280	6,816	1,361	14,457	tonnes
Year 5 carbon footprint	2017/18	6,383	5,330	1,064	12,777	tonnes
Year 6 carbon footprint	2018/19	6,025	4,024	879	10,928	tonnes
Year 7 carbon footprint	2019/20	5,952	3,234	1,026	10,212	tonnes

Note:

- (i) 'tonnes' refers to tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, which incorporate all greenhouse gases but calculated in terms of tonnes of carbon.
- (ii) Scope 1 refers to 'direct' emissions, which are those from activities owned or controlled by an organisation. For example, combustion of natural gas in owned or controlled gas boilers.
- (iii) Scope 2 refers to 'energy indirect' emissions, which are those that are a consequence of an organisation's energy use but occur at sources it does not own or control. For example, use of purchased electricity.
- (iv) Scope 3 refers to 'other indirect' emissions, which are those that are a consequence of an organisation's actions but occur at sources it does not own or control and are not classed as Scope 2 emissions. For example, business travel in vehicles not owned or controlled by an organisation.

**Table 2: Breakdown of Council Emissions 2019/20**

<b>Emission source</b>	<b>Scope</b>	<b>Consumption data</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Emissions (tonnes)</b>
Grid electricity use	Scope 2	12,651,796	kilowatt hour	3,233.80
Grid electricity (transmission & distribution losses)	Scope 3	12,651,796	kilowatt hour	274.5
Natural gas use	Scope 1	26,636,852	kilowatt hour	4,897.20
Burning oil (kerosene) use	Scope 1	10,080	litres	25.6
Biomass (wood pellets) use	Scope 1	1,416,760	kilowatt hour	22.1
Internal waste to landfill	Scope 3	1,111	tonnes	110.8
Recycling of internal waste	Scope 3	114	tonnes	2.4
Diesel use	Scope 1	375,301	litres	973.6
Petrol use	Scope 1	178	litres	0.4
Water use	Scope 3	250,459	cubic metres	86.2
Water treatment	Scope 3	250,459	cubic metres	177.3
Business travel using employee owned vehicles	Scope 3	1,797,570	kilometres	318.3

Note: The emissions (tonnes) total for 2019/20 in this table does not match the emissions (tonnes) total for 2019/20 Table 1 because the figure in Table 1 includes 'well to tank' carbon emissions which are emitted from the transporting of oil and wood pellets, but Table 2 does not include this category.