

## 2021-22 CLIMATE CHANGE ANNUAL REPORT TO SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

## PART 1 – PROFILE OF REPORTING BODY

**1(a) Name of reporting body**

Midlothian Council

**1(b) Type of body**

Local Government

**1(c) Highest number of full-time equivalent staff in the body during the report year**

4,032

**1(d) Metrics used by the body**

Specify the metrics that the body uses to assess its performance in relation to climate change and sustainability.

Metric	Unit	Value	Comments
			Midlothian Council did not use any such metrics to assess the climate change and sustainability performance of its estate/operations during the report year. Where the Council previously reported performance against its Carbon Management Plan (there was no such plan for this report year), this was simply in terms of tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO <sub>2</sub> e) by emission source (grid electricity, natural gas, diesel, etc.) without the use of any special metrics to relate emissions to floorspace, population, or such like.

**1(e) Overall budget of the body**

Specify approximate £/annum for the report year.

Budget	Budget comments
£241,129,666	This is the 'revised budget' figure. It is from the Council final outturn report and is a statement of the amount of budget allocated in line with Council governance. At the time of writing, the 21/22 financial statements are going through the audit process from external auditors Ernst & Young.

**1(f) Report type**

Specify the report year type

Report type	Report year comments
Financial	This report covers the 2021/22 financial year.

## 1(g) Context

Provide a summary of the body's nature and functions that are relevant to climate change reporting.

During the reporting year, Midlothian Council was responsible for the utility/fuel costs of:

- A building portfolio of around 200 premises that includes:
  - o 3 major administration offices (all located in Dalkeith)
  - o 4 works depots
  - o 9 libraries
  - o 39 schools
  - o 7 leisure centres and swimming pools (some of which are co-located on school premises)
- 19,895 street lighting points
- 948 signs
- 709 street lighting control cabinets
- 626 bollards
- 43 CCTV cameras and associated equipment
- 34 sets of traffic signal crossings and associated equipment
- 76 sets of traffic signals and associated equipment
- 275 vehicles, including those on a long-term lease. 21 of these are electric, of which 11 are leased. These include taking delivery in 2021/22 of four electric vans which were part funded by the Scottish Government's "Switched on Fleets" grant.
- 25 public electric vehicle charging points
- 2 pool bikes
- Various stair lighting and door entry systems, as well as Christmas/festive lighting.

According to the latest population estimates from National Records of Scotland (NRS), which are from mid-2021, Midlothian Council provided local authority services during the report year to a population of 94,680. This was an increase of 1.6% on the mid-2020 estimate; the highest percentage increase of all Scottish Local Authorities over the period. From mid-2011 to mid-2021, Midlothian has experienced the highest such population increase in Scotland at 13.5%, ahead of Edinburgh (10.5%) and some distance ahead of the third-fastest growing area (East Lothian, at 9.7%). Between now and 2031, NRS project that the population of Midlothian will grow to 107,000, which amounts to an increase of 13.5%. This compares to an equivalent Scotland-wide figure of 1.4% and is the greatest expected increase of any local authority nationwide. These figures are indicative of the scale of growth locally and the attendant challenges and opportunities faced by the Council in addressing climate change.

Further information on Midlothian Council is available at the ['Your Council'](#) page of our website.

## PART 2 – GOVERNANCE, MANAGEMENT & STRATEGY

### 2(a) How is climate change governed in the body?

Provide a summary of the roles performed by the body's governance bodies and members in relation to climate change. If any of the body's activities in relation to climate change sit outside its own governance arrangements (in relation to, for example, land use, adaptation, transport, business travel, waste, information and communication technology, procurement or behaviour change), identify these activities and the governance arrangements. Provide a diagram / chart to outline the governance structure within the body.

Political leadership in respect of climate change lies with a Cabinet of Elected Members drawn from the political administration. Council management and staff follow their directions in relation to climate change mitigation and adaptation. The Council's motion of December 2019 declared a climate emergency and set the goal of making its activities net zero carbon by 2030 and has therefore become a primary driver for the response and how this is governed.

It led to the creation of the Climate Emergency Group to focus collective effort on meeting the commitments of the motion across Midlothian and within the Council. This is composed of representatives of the Council, industry, community groups and non-departmental bodies of the Scottish Government. The Group was convened by the Community Planning Partnership, who draw together public, voluntary and private sector bodies with local communities to deliver a shared plan to improve the lives of local people. In Midlothian, this is called the Single Midlothian Plan (SLP). Although this covers the whole of the area and not just the Council's activities, the SLP is approved by Elected Members and requires Council departments to have regard to its aims when creating their annual Service Plans. Therefore, since an outcome of the Single Midlothian Plan is for 'significant progress [being] made towards net zero carbon emissions by 2030', this means that relevant Service Managers within the Council must take its commitments for carbon emissions into account when organising their activities.

The Council's Climate Emergency Motion of 2019 also led to the drafting of a new Climate Change Strategy and influenced the content of Midlothian's Covid-19 Route Map & Recovery Plan. A result of this is that the previous governance arrangements within the Council for climate change matters are set to be superseded. These consisted of:

- The cross-divisional Climate Change & Sustainable Development Group, chaired by the head of the Council's Planning service which reported to senior management and Cabinet: and
- The Carbon Management Board, comprising Directors and the head of the Property & Facilities Management service, whose department previously produced two Carbon Management Plans and chaired cross-divisional meetings that reported to the Carbon Management Board.

These governance arrangements are therefore set to be superseded by the introduction of a new Carbon Neutral by 2030 board to fulfil the actions in the Strategy. It is intended that this new Board will meet monthly, report to the Council's Business Transformation Board (chaired by the Chief Executive) and will comprise senior and service-level management from a range of teams that have a particular role in reducing the Council's carbon footprint. It will also involve representation from Community Planning Partners.

Finally, governance of climate change matters can also come from the Council's Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee (PRSC), which is composed of Elected Members and is responsible for reviewing performance against policy objectives and commenting on decisions, policies and their impact. Cabinet has previously referred the Council's Public Bodies Climate Change Duties (PBCCD) report to the PRSC for evaluation. Through quarterly reporting, Cabinet and the PRSC receive summaries on performance in relation to the Single Midlothian Plan and corporate/service level actions and indicators. These include those that aim to reduce the Council's carbon footprint.

## **2(b) How is climate change action managed and embedded by the body?**

Provide a summary of how decision-making in relation to climate change action by the body is managed and how responsibility is allocated to the body's senior staff, departmental heads etc. If any such decision-making sits outside the body's own governance arrangements (in relation to, for example, land use, adaptation, transport, business travel, waste, information and communication technology, procurement or behaviour change), identify how this is managed and how responsibility is allocated outside the body. Provide a diagram to show how responsibility is allocated to the body's senior staff, departmental heads etc.

While emissions reduction is a Council-wide priority, the governance structures described in 2(a) have allocated particular duties to some departments within its Place Directorate, namely:

- Planning, Sustainable Growth and Investment;
- Property & Facilities Management; and
- Neighbourhood Services.

Below are examples of the obligations that Managers of these services have taken on and have allocated to their staff.

Planning Sustainable Growth and Investment:

- The Planning Manager directed the content of the Council's Climate Change Strategy and its accompanying actions, including liaising with senior management on it. It is intended that this post will be a core member of the new Carbon Neutral by 2030 Board (see 2(a) above);
- A Lead Officer within the department organises the Climate Emergency Group and resulting actions;
- Its Researcher & Information Officer compiles the Council's annual Public Bodies Climate Change Duties (PBCCD) report, with input from many other services.

Property & Facilities Management:

- One of its service priorities is to reduce emissions from the Council's estate and work with partners to develop renewable power/heat and energy efficiency projects;
- The Energy Officer in this department monitors power and fuel use, provides input on this for the annual PBCCD report and implements energy reduction projects; and

- A Project Manager in this department progresses various energy efficiency and emissions reduction schemes, including as part of Midlothian Energy Ltd (MEL, the Council's Energy Services Company).

Neighbourhood Services:

- Their Roads Lighting team are pursuing an energy efficiency drive to replace existing street lights with low-energy LED equivalents;
- Several staff promote sustainable and active travel, including in schools, and also work on expanding the use of electric/low-emissions vehicles and improving charging infrastructure; and
- A Waste Services team who encourage recycling and resource efficiency, raise awareness and reduce the climate impact of their service delivery.

Other examples of how climate change action is embedded in the Council are:

- Building Services, who deliver the Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing scheme and will implement the Local Authority Carbon Management Plan;
- Procurement: see the dedicated section elsewhere in this report for more; and
- Land & Countryside Services, whose work involves ecological conservation, promoting biodiversity and reducing food emissions through local growing.

Further examples are provided in the Council's [Service Plans](#) that were in place for the reporting year. 'Integrated Impact Assessments' accompany these when they are agreed by Council and are completed by the relevant manager or lead officer and identify whether proposals for Council service delivery will have environmental impacts, including those relating to emissions.

**2(c) Does the body have specific climate change mitigation and adaptation objectives in its corporate plan or similar document?**

Provide a brief summary of objectives if they exist.

Wording of objective	Name of document	Document link
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The motion declares a climate emergency.</li> <li>• It aims to make the Council's activities net-zero carbon and achieve 100% clean energy across the Council's full range of functions by 2030.</li> <li>• It proposes producing an Action Plan to achieve this within 12 months.</li> <li>• It proposes the creation of:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o A Citizen's Assembly to identify how the Council's activities might be made net-zero carbon by 2030;</li> <li>o A Climate Change Partnership Group, involving Councillors, residents, young citizens, climate science and solutions experts, businesses, Citizens Assembly representatives and other relevant parties. They will consider actions being developed by the Council and other partner organisations and develop a strategy in line with a target of net zero emissions by 2030;</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Council Climate Emergency Motion	<a href="#">Council's Climate Change Web Page</a>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The motion extends beyond Council activities – it has the aim of working towards making the Midlothian area zero carbon by 2030.</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Planning Partnerships draw together public, voluntary and private sector bodies, and local communities to deliver a shared ‘plan’ to improve the lives of local people based on evidence. In Midlothian, the plan is called the Single Midlothian Plan (SMP). This is what Midlothian calls its Local Outcome Improvement Plan, which is a legally required document.</li> <li>• It has three 5-year outcomes, one of which is: ‘Significant progress is made towards net zero carbon emissions by 2030’.</li> <li>• It has five themes of work that will be carried out to achieve these outcomes, one of which is ‘Sustainable Growth’, which is the most important for the above outcome. There are several priorities in this theme, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Climate emergency awareness raising and community engagement;</li> <li>o Development of renewable energy;</li> <li>o Support and promotion of biodiversity; and</li> <li>o Sustainable transport.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The Council’s Service Plan goals are aligned with those of the SMP and therefore help to achieve them.</li> </ul>	Single Midlothian Plan 2022/23	<a href="#">Community Planning in Midlothian</a>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Capital Investment Strategy sets out the vision for capital planning in Midlothian based on the areas of work within the Single Midlothian Plan, one of which is ‘Sustainable Growth’.</li> <li>• Under this theme, the Capital Investment Strategy includes various environmental objectives. The ones relevant to climate change are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o ‘Promote sustainable energy solutions where this can be achieved in a manner acceptable in terms of the environment’;</li> <li>o ‘Seek to achieve a high quality of design in all new development, including measures to promote community safety, low and zero-carbon technologies and resilience to the impacts of a changing climate’;</li> <li>o ‘Safeguard and enhance biodiversity and take full account of development impact on the water environment whilst consideration is taken for its improvement’.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Capital Investment Strategy 2018 – 2028	<a href="#">Capital Investment Strategy 2018 – 2028</a>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This contains a set of objectives that are structured around the Council’s Climate Emergency Motion of 2019.</li> <li>• It identifies existing Council plans and strategies that will make a contribution to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions.</li> <li>• It looks at the breadth of areas in which the Council can help mitigate and adapt to climate change, including energy efficiency, recycling and waste treatment, sustainable development, sustainable travel and business processes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Cross-service activities – both new and ongoing – that contribute to reducing the Council’s carbon footprint in these areas are set out in an Action Plan that accompanies the Strategy.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Scotland’s Changing Climate – Midlothian’s Climate Change Strategy	<a href="#">Council’s Climate Change Web Page</a>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o For each of these actions, the Council service responsible is identified and a timetable and desired outcome is specified.</li> <li>• The Strategy was approved by Council in August 2020.</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is a Council-wide plan for how it will deal with the Coronavirus situation going forward. It was approved in June 2020.</li> <li>• It has six interventions intended to support Midlothian’s recovery from the effects of the Coronavirus pandemic. These include a new effort to embed less carbon intensive work practices called ‘digital by default, remote working and carbon neutral by 2030 approaches to the workplace and active travel’.</li> <li>o This aim is included in all four phases of the Route Map out of the situation.</li> </ul>	Midlothian’s Covid-19 Route Map & Recovery Plan	<a href="#">Midlothian Covid Route Map</a>

<b>2(d) Does the body have a climate change plan or strategy?</b>
If yes, provide the name of any such document and details of where a copy of the document may be obtained or accessed.
Yes. This is referred to in question 2(c), which provides a summary of its content. The Strategy can be found at the <a href="#">Council’s Climate Change Web Page</a> .

<b>2(e) Does the body have any plans or strategies covering the following areas that include climate change?</b>			
Provide the name of any such document and the timeframe covered.			
<i>Note that documents below may have expired or been superseded, however they are included as they were applicable during the reporting year.</i>			
Topic area	Name of document & link to it	Time period covered	Comments
Adaptation	<a href="#">Midlothian Green Network Supplementary Guidance</a>	2018 until new Local Development Plan is adopted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Midlothian Green Network Supplementary Guidance (2018) supports the maintenance and expansion of the green network in the area. This will enable the network to provide the best possible contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation through its various functions, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Ensuring habitat connectivity to allow species to adapt to climate change through movement;</li> <li>o Encouraging retention and expansion of plants and trees to provide opportunities for carbon trapping or sequestration; and</li> <li>o Providing sustainable drainage and water attenuation opportunities to reduce the impact of storm events.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Its aims are delivered through planning applications, which are assessed in relation to whether they are compatible with the Guidance’s goals.</li> </ul>
Business Travel	Business Travel & Subsistence Policy - this is available internally for staff from the Council's intranet pages	2019 onwards	<p>One of the goals of this policy is to ensure that opportunities for reducing carbon emissions from business travel are maximised. It achieves this by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encouraging employees to consider whether travel is necessary;</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting a travel hierarchy that encourages green transport modes; and</li> <li>• Paying cycle mileage to promote active travel use for business purposes.</li> </ul>
Staff Travel	School Travel Plans - These are available from individual schools, some of which publish them on their website. They are also obtainable from the Council's School Travel Plan Co-ordinator: Gillian.Bathgate@midlothian.gov.uk	Individual School Travel Plans each cover a two year period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Every Midlothian school has a School Travel Plan, and they are available from those individual schools.</li> <li>• They are traditionally updated every two years, though in recent times this cycle has been interrupted by the Covid pandemic, such as schools being closed and travel modes being altered. Staff are catching up with the Plans delayed during this period.</li> <li>• School Travel Plans enable the Council to monitor travel modes and are used to ask questions relating to active travel and what would encourage it over car use. This means that barriers preventing walking and cycling to school can be identified and tackled. They apply to both staff and pupils, with parents and staff in primary schools and pupils and staff in secondary schools being involved.</li> </ul>
Energy Efficiency	<a href="#">Place Directorate Annual Performance Report</a> / <a href="#">Place Directorate Service Plan</a>	Updated Annually, but see the 'comments' to the right	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Place Directorate Annual Performance Report and Service Plan both identify 'service priorities' for its departments. Many of these are related to energy efficiency, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Delivering the Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing programme;</li> <li>o Implementing the Local Authority Carbon Management Plan; and</li> <li>o Managing and monitoring energy usage and costs, and developing renewable energy and heat projects.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• An Annual Performance Report and Service Plan were both in place for 2021/22. No Service Plan was produced for 2022/23 due to the change in political administration associated with the 2022 Council elections.</li> </ul>
Fleet Transport	<a href="#">Place Directorate Annual Performance Report</a> / <a href="#">Place Directorate Service Plan</a>	Updated Annually, but see the 'comments' to the right	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Place Directorate Annual Performance Report and Service Plan both identify 'service priorities' for its departments. Many of these are related to emissions reductions from fleet operations, these being the responsibility of the Neighbourhood Services Team. They include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Promoting the use of environmentally friendly, low-emission vehicles;</li> <li>o Increasing the rates of active travel; and</li> <li>o Supporting the delivery of the Council's Climate Change Strategy and exploring options funding for electric vehicles and their charging infrastructure.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• An Annual Performance Report and Service Plan were both in place for 2021/22. No Service Plan was produced for 2022/23 due to the change in political administration associated with the 2022 Council elections.</li> </ul>
ICT	<a href="#">Digital Midlothian</a>	2021 - 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This Strategy was produced in 2021, partly in response to the Coronavirus pandemic. It proposes changes to the Council's working practices to use technology to deliver services more effectively and cost-efficiently.</li> <li>• It recognises that these changes are desirable for numerous reasons that include lowering the Council's carbon footprint, particularly by reducing the need for office-based working and staff transport – this goal is embedded in the Strategy.</li> </ul>



Renewable Energy	<a href="#">Place Directorate Annual Performance Report</a> / <a href="#">Place Directorate Service Plan</a>	Updated Annually, but see the 'comments' to the right	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Place Directorate Annual Performance Report and Service Plan both identify 'service priorities' for its departments. Many of these are related to energy efficiency, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delivering the Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing programme;</li> <li>Implementing the Local Authority Carbon Management Plan; and</li> <li>Managing and monitoring energy usage and costs, and developing renewable energy and heat projects.</li> </ul> </li> <li>An Annual Performance Report and Service Plan were both in place for 2021/22. No Service Plan was produced for 2022/23 due to the change in political administration associated with the 2022 Council elections.</li> </ul>
Sustainable / Renewable Heat	<a href="#">Midlothian Local Development Plan</a>	2017 onwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Midlothian Local Development Plan supports renewable and low carbon heating projects via policy NRG5 ('Heat Supply Sources and Development with High Heat Demand') and NRG6 ('Community Heating'). More detailed 'Supplementary Guidance' will also be produced on this to further support these projects.</li> <li>The Plan specifically identifies housing sites in the Shawfair area as locations where community heating is presumed.</li> <li>The Plan is the framework for development across Midlothian as a whole and is not limited to the Council's estate/operational interests. These will be taken forward by parts of the Council's Place Directorate and their Service Plan notes that the introduction of renewable technologies (including heat) is a 'Service Priority'.</li> </ul>
Waste Management	Midlothian Council Waste Strategy - this document has yet to be finalised. It will be made publically-available after this takes place.	N/A - in draft form	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This proposes changes to the Council's waste collection services to meet the Scottish Government's target of 70% recycling and composting of household waste and to enable compliance with the Household Recycling Charter for Scotland.</li> <li>It contains various recommended changes for waste services to ensure they are operating in the most efficient way possible and that they take environmental and climate change issues into account. Some of these recommendations may be listed as targets in future Public Bodies Climate Change Duties reports when the Waste Strategy is adopted.</li> </ul>
Water and Sewerage	None		
Land Use	<a href="#">Midlothian Local Development Plan</a>	2017 onwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Midlothian Local Development Plan contains many policies that support the sustainable development of land, renewable &amp; low carbon heating projects and the promotion of active travel. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NRG5 – 'Heat Supply Sources and Development with High Heat Demand';</li> <li>NRG6 – 'Community Heating';</li> <li>NRG2 – 'Wind Energy';</li> <li>ENV5 – 'Peat and Carbon Rich Soils', and;</li> <li>TRAN1 – 'Sustainable Travel'.</li> </ul> </li> <li>The Plan is the framework for development across Midlothian as a whole and is not limited to Midlothian Council estate/operational interests. As such, the Council's Service Plans identify the</li> </ul>

			roles of its various departments in applying the Plan's framework to the Council's interests, such as its own low carbon housing or renewable energy projects.
Adaptation	<a href="#">Winter Service Policy and Operational Plan</a>	Winter 2021 - 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The purpose of this Plan is to demonstrate that the Council has taken reasonable steps to prevent snow and ice endangering the safe passage of pedestrians and vehicles over public roads, to fulfil its Statutory responsibilities as defined in Section 34 of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984.</li> <li>• The Plan also specifically references climate change and notes that it can be implemented at any time of year. It notes that such instances are likely to occur with increased frequency and intensity due to climate change. It should be read in conjunction with the Council's Severe Weather Plan (both are updated every winter). This is referenced below.</li> </ul>
Adaptation	Severe Weather Policy & Resources	Winter 2021 - 2022	<p>A variety of resources on severe weather are available on the Council intranet, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A guide from the Met Office for Responders to National Severe Weather Warnings;</li> <li>• A SEPA/Met Office Flood Guidance Statement User Guide;</li> <li>• The Council's Severe Weather Plan, which provides: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o A summary of the Met Office National Severe Weather Warning System and guidance on resulting action; and</li> <li>o A flexible framework for the management of a co-ordinated response by Midlothian Council and partner organisations to an emergency caused by severe weather.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The Council's Adverse Weather Policy for Schools and Community Learning Centres. This includes a number of key principles to assist decision-making by Head Teachers during adverse weather, as well as a communications protocol, transport procedures and information on health and safety criteria for taking the decision to close a school due to severe or hazardous weather.</li> </ul>
Adaptation	<a href="#">Local Flood Risk Management Plan – Forth Estuary Local Plan District</a>	2016 - 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Local Flood Risk Management Plan helps to implement the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009. It translates this legislation into actions and covers tasks identified in the first planning cycle from 2016 to 2022.</li> <li>• Its objectives are to reduce overall flood risk (including to people) and to reduce economic damage to properties caused by flooding.</li> <li>• Adopting the plan and realising its outcomes will increase the Council's understanding of sources of flooding, the areas at risk and level of risk. Furthermore, it allows Council resources for managing flood risk and implementing and maintaining flood protection measures to be better prioritised and targeted.</li> <li>• Midlothian Council is involved in developing the replacement of the Plan, which is due to be published in late-2022.</li> </ul>
Adaptation	<a href="#">Midlothian Local Biodiversity Action Plan</a>	2019 - 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Local Biodiversity Action Plan identifies priorities and actions for improving biodiversity in Midlothian. It was produced by the Midlothian Biodiversity Partnership (which includes Midlothian Council) and was adopted by the Council in February 2019.</li> <li>• It focuses on six priority areas and identifies actions required of each group involved in the Partnership. It also must be considered in the assessment of planning applications in Midlothian.</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It relates to climate change in terms of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Promoting actions to enhance wildlife corridors so that biodiversity is more resilient to its impacts.</li> <li>o Suggesting a variety of water management actions so that water courses and bodies adapt to climate change.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Adaptation	<a href="#">Biodiversity Duty Report</a>	2017 – 2020 (see comments)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 requires public bodies to further the conservation of biodiversity in delivering services, having regard to the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy. The Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011 requires public bodies to publish a 'Biodiversity Report' every three years that sets out the actions taken by the public body in carrying out its biodiversity duty. The latest report was presented to the Council's Cabinet meeting of December 2020.</li> <li>• The report has a section which describes how the Council has integrated biodiversity into nature-based solutions to the climate emergency.</li> </ul>
Staff Travel	Flexible Working Policy - this is available internally for staff from the Council's intranet pages.	2020 onwards	<p>Midlothian Council's Flexible Working Policy includes the provision for employees to request to work from home for all or part of their role. It thereby enables the Council to decrease the emissions resulting from its staff commuting to and from work.</p> <p>It has applied since 2014 and was updated in early 2020. Its aims have been partly superseded by the 'digital by default' approach where home-working is recommended for most staff following the Coronavirus pandemic. It is one of several strategies and initiatives aimed at addressing the impact of staff travel on the Council's carbon footprint. Others are described regularly throughout this document, including elsewhere in the answer to this question.</p>
Land Use	Shawfair Sustainable Growth Agreement	2019 onwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable Growth Agreements (SGAs) are voluntary, non-legally binding, formal agreements through which organisations and SEPA can explore new and innovative ways to improve environmental performance and focus on practical actions that deliver environmental, social and economic success.</li> <li>• An SGA for Shawfair was agreed between the Council, Shawfair LLP and SEPA in December 2019. It identifies opportunities for increased collaboration in low carbon heating, sustainable working practices, and the promotion of active travel. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o One of the SGA's key projects is the planned district heating system for Shawfair town centre. This will be powered by surplus, zero carbon heat from the nearby recycling and energy recovery centre.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Energy Efficiency	Effective Working in Midlothian Strategy (EWiM) / Council Building Rationalisation	2007 onwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EWiM refers to the rationalisation of the Council's office and depot estate. It involved establishing operating costs, staff occupancy and service delivery, but also had indirect benefits for energy efficiency and emissions. This was because one of its goals was to achieve the cost-effective use of Council property, which led to improved building occupancy levels (creating efficiencies regarding</li> </ul>

			<p>the heat and power used in them) and flexible working (that reduced staff travel and the emissions associated with it).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The pandemic accelerated the adoption of remote working and enhanced digital capability across the Council's estate and EWiM's general principles were part of plans for Building Rationalisation that were put to Council in June 2021.</li> <li>• The Council is taking these principles forward by looking at developing a hybrid model of working to better utilise office space. As part of this, data is being gathered to inform and prioritise the most effective way forward in order to efficiently use working space and to address the Council's Net Zero aim.</li> </ul>
Energy Efficiency	<a href="#">Local Housing Strategy 2021 – 2026</a>	2021 - 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One of the intended outcomes of the Local Housing Strategy is that 'housing in all tenures will be more energy efficient and fewer households will live in, or be at risk of, fuel poverty'. It includes several 'Key Actions' that the Council will pursue to achieve this: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Target energy efficiency advice at households most at risk of fuel poverty;</li> <li>o To achieve Passivhaus standard on all directly commissioned housing in order to meet the Scottish Government's New Build Heat Standard;</li> <li>o Improve knowledge of the levels, extent and nature of fuel poverty and energy efficiency of housing, with a focus on older properties;</li> <li>o Promote the support available from the Scottish Government to help owners transform their properties and meet the minimum energy efficiency standards for the private and social rented sectors by 2030; and</li> <li>o Continue to provide/facilitate services to maximise household income and reduce fuel poverty.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Energy Efficiency	<a href="#">Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) 2022/23 - 2026/27</a>	2022/23 - 2026/27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SHIP developments help to fulfil the aims of the Local Housing Strategy, one of which is to increase the energy efficiency of homes.</li> <li>• Projects are scored on their environmental impact, which includes the use of renewable technologies. This helps to ensure that projects with better environmental credentials are prioritised for development ahead of other less sustainable alternatives.</li> <li>• The latest SHIP details potential sites for 2,602 new affordable homes to be built between 2022/23 and 2026/27. Of these, 965 units are expected to receive additional funding due to them meeting the 'greener homes' standard - this number is likely to increase as renewable technology becomes more commonplace in new housing designs.</li> </ul>
Energy Efficiency	<a href="#">Net Zero Housing Design Guide</a>	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council agreed at its meeting of 29/03/2022 that all new Council houses shall be built in line with this.</li> <li>• It was developed in cooperation with Smith Scott Mullan Associates and is intended to give designers, consultants, developers, contractors and others a clear briefing on the standards that Midlothian Council is seeking to achieve in new developments. These are in line with wider national and local policies, along with Midlothian Council's commitment to become a net zero carbon Council by 2030.</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Design Guide incorporates best practice on how to achieve net zero in housing developments, including through a series of checklists which developers will use to demonstrate how their project meets a comprehensive range of sustainability and low carbon criteria.</li> </ul>
Energy Efficiency	Midlothian Council Building Heating Policy - this is an internal Council document	2019 onwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The aim of this policy is to set and control building temperature ranges in the heating season (approximately 13th October – 31st May) in order to help manage the Council’s carbon footprint.</li> <li>• The policy applies to all workplaces where Midlothian Council has control and sets minimum, maximum and ideal temperatures for different building types (e.g. schools, offices and leisure centres).</li> </ul>
Energy Efficiency	<a href="#">Midlothian Health and Social Care Partnership Strategic Plan</a>	2019 - 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Midlothian Health &amp; Social Care Partnership brings together parts of Midlothian Council and NHS Lothian. It is governed by the Integrated Joint Board and provides services that enable people to live longer, healthier lives.</li> <li>• Their Strategic Plan acknowledges the housing-related challenges in achieving their aims. The Board recognise the importance of improving the energy efficiency of homes and reducing fuel poverty in particular, and identify this as a ‘key housing-related action’.</li> <li>• Work has begun work on a replacement Strategic Plan, with a draft going out to public consultation in early 2022.</li> </ul>
ICT	<a href="#">IT Procurement Frameworks</a>	Various, depending on equipment type.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Almost all Council desktop, laptop and monitors are bought through Scottish Government frameworks. The predominant ones used are those for desktop client devices, workstation client devices, mobile client devices, web based and proprietary devices, and office equipment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Corporate Solutions and Digital services have used these to continue their rolling refresh of hardware with significant numbers of older, less energy efficient devices being replaced year on year.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• These ensure that the Council’s carbon footprint from its purchase of IT equipment is as small as possible as the latest energy efficiency and environmental accreditations are incorporated into the minimum specification in the frameworks.</li> </ul>
Other	<a href="#">Economic Growth Strategy 2020 - 2025 (+ Midlothian Economic Renewal Strategy)</a>	2020 - 2025	<p>Topic area covered: sustainable development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Strategy contains several ‘Strategic Priorities’, one of which is to improve the vibrancy of Midlothian’s town centres and make them more environmentally-friendly.</li> <li>• There are several ‘key actions’ that aim to promote this goal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Creating low carbon/energy efficient business co-working space at Shawfair;</li> <li>o Reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita;</li> <li>o Developing a Carbon Charter and aiming to sign up new businesses to it; and</li> <li>o Identifying a site for a modern, light industrial use and low carbon business park.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The Economic Renewal Strategy is an addendum to the original Strategy. It was created in response to the economic challenges resulting from the Coronavirus pandemic. It has several environmental objectives including:</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Supporting businesses to do sustainable travel options appraisals;</li> <li>o Targeting increased referrals to Zero Waste Scotland/Resource Efficient Scotland for free environmental audits; and</li> <li>o Launching the Midlothian Carbon Charter.</li> </ul>
Other	<a href="#">Midlothian Community Planning Partnership - Strategic Assessment</a>	2019 – 2022	<p>Topic areas covered: biodiversity, transport, energy efficiency.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The aim of the Strategic Assessment is to provide an insight into the main issues that present a threat or risk to the communities within Midlothian. It does this using 'PESTEL' analysis – topics are broken down into political, economic, social, technological, environmental and legal themes. The environmental component of this examines issues such as biodiversity, waste and transport.</li> <li>• The Strategic Assessment guides the Community Planning partners when setting outcomes and indicators of the legally required Local Outcomes Improvement Plan which in Midlothian is the Single Midlothian Plan.</li> </ul>
Other	<a href="#">Midlothian Physical Activity, Sport and Health Strategy</a>	2018 - 2023	<p>Topic areas covered: staff travel, business travel, active transport.</p> <p>The Midlothian Physical Activity, Sport and Health Strategy 2018 - 2023 aims to encourage everyone in Midlothian to be more active whether this is through work, play, sport, travel or leisure. The strategy provides direction for the Council's approach to raising awareness of the benefits of physical activity and encouraging the people of Midlothian to be more active.</p> <p>Though much of the focus of the strategy is on increasing participation in physical activity and sport, it also has a strand that is aimed toward increasing the amount of active travel that people do, including to work.</p>
Other	<a href="#">Midlothian Compact Agreement</a>	2020 – 2025	<p>Topic area covered: various areas of work on climate change.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Midlothian Compact is an agreement and plan for how the Council will work together with its third sector partners.</li> <li>• It recognises that climate change is one of the key challenges that work between the Council and its third sector partners must address. It outlines several actions for this area of work, which include the need to create new networks and opportunities to bring community members, the third sector and the public sector together to address climate change.</li> </ul>
Other	<a href="#">Midlothian Active Travel Strategy</a>	2018 - 2021	<p>Topic areas covered: staff travel, business travel, active transport.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Active Travel Strategy has nine objectives and an accompanying action plan, which are geared towards increasing walking and cycling and therefore reducing motorised transport and the associated greenhouse gas emissions. It contains a map of the region and settlements, showing existing infrastructure and identifies routes for new infrastructure and the priority level of these</li> </ul>

			<p>projects. It also contains details on cross-border routes and specifies national, regional and local policies that contributed to its development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The action plan contains a set of actions covering topics such as infrastructure and network development and school engagement. Some of the objectives are also linked to monitoring activities and targets.</li> <li>• Work on updating the Active Travel Strategy is underway: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o An initial consultation took place over winter 2021/22 which included an Active Travel Survey of Council staff;</li> <li>o The findings of the consultation report as well as other analysis will be used to create a new strategy and action plan. The latter will include a prioritised list of infrastructure projects to support walking, wheeling, cycling and multi-modal journeys; and</li> <li>o The updated strategy will inform the new Midlothian Local Development Plan and the proposed new Local Transport Strategy.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Other	<a href="#">Midlothian Council Procurement Strategy 2018 - 2023</a>	2018 - 2023	<p>Topic area covered: procurement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are five strategic themes to the Procurement Strategy, one of which is 'environmental benefits'. This is detailed on page 17, in relation to the Sustainable Procurement Duty. It specifically references consideration of the impact of procurement activities in relation to climate change.</li> <li>• The importance of the environmental credentials of suppliers are also emphasised elsewhere by Procurement, such as on the overview of the tender process web page and within the Terms and Conditions for the Purchase of Goods. The latter specifies, for example, that contracts with both suppliers to the Council and their sub-suppliers may be terminated if obligations relating to environmental law are not fulfilled.</li> <li>• Updating the Procurement Strategy is a service priority for Legal and Procurement Services, as stated in the Corporate Solutions Performance Report for 2021/22.</li> </ul>
Other	<a href="#">Midlothian Council Local Procurement Strategy 2021</a>	2021 until superseded	<p>Topic area covered: procurement.</p> <p>This helps to further the aims of the Council's overall 2018 – 2023 Procurement Strategy (see above) and also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sees the Council use its spend to actively encourage and support a growing, diverse and resilient local business base, to work towards its Carbon Neutral by 2030 ambitions;</li> <li>• Places more emphasis on considering any negative externalities of procurement, for example the impact on the environment; and</li> <li>• Further promotes the use of local suppliers where appropriate, to help reduce the carbon footprint of the Authority's activity, such as those associated with transport which would otherwise be higher if less local alternatives were used.</li> </ul>

**2(f) What are the body's top 5 priorities for climate change governance, management and strategy for the year ahead?**

Provide a brief summary of the body's areas and activities of focus for the year ahead.

- 1) To finalise the governance and membership arrangements for and then commence the work of the Council's Carbon Neutral by 2030 Board;
- 2) To put in place a 'Net Zero Expert' service within Economic Development. This is a function that will sit in the Council's Economic Development team which will aim to provide a specialist business support service to local companies to assist the transition to net zero and complement the work already performed in this area by Business Advisors.
- 3) To co-ordinate and participate in the Midlothian Community Planning Climate Emergency Group alongside community partners to pursue climate change related action across Midlothian.
- 4) For Council development planners to work more closely with Midlothian Energy Limited to help progress their various emissions reductions and renewables projects, including to integrate their work into the relevant parts of the next Local Development Plan and its associated output.
- 5) Introduce a recurring monthly feature on climate matters within the All Staff Weekly Email to increase awareness of the topic amongst Council staff.

**2(g) Has the body used the Climate Change Assessment Tool (a) or equivalent tool to self-assess its capability / performance?**

If yes, please provide details of the key findings and resultant action taken.

(a) This refers to the tool developed by Resource Efficient Scotland for self-assessing an organisation's capability / performance in relation to climate change.

Midlothian Council used the Climate Change Assessment Tool for the first time in the previous reporting year. It provides an overall rating of capability/performance and ratings for five areas within an organisation. The results were:

- Governance – a score of 13 out of 28 (or 46%);
- Emissions – a score of 8 out of 30 (or 27%);
- Adaptation – a score of 10 out of 28 (or 36%);
- Behaviour – a score of 10 out of 20 (or 50%); and
- Procurement – a score of 6 out of 16 (or 38%).

The overall rating was a score of 47 out of 122 (or 39%).

**2(h) Supporting information and best practice**

Provide any other relevant supporting information and any examples of best practice by the body in relation to governance, management and strategy.

The Council's Internal Auditors have undertaken a planned audit of the Council's climate change work, including the most recent PBCCD report. They also scrutinised a past report in a similar manner. This work has led to recommendations in relation to governance, management and strategy for how the Council should proceed with future PBCCD reports and work in sustainability and climate change matters more generally.



**PART 3 – CORPORATE EMISSIONS, TARGETS AND PROJECT DATA**

**3(a) Emissions from the start of the year which the body uses as a baseline (for its carbon footprint) to the end of the report year**

Complete the following table using the greenhouse gas emissions total for the body calculated on the same basis as for its annual carbon footprint / management reporting or, where applicable, its sustainability reporting. Include greenhouse gas emissions from the body’s estate and operations (a) (measured and reported in accordance with Scopes 1 & 2 and, to the extent applicable, selected Scope 3 of the Greenhouse Gas Protocol (b)). If data is not available for any year from the start of the baseline year to the end of the report year, provide an explanation in the comments column.

(a) No information is required on the effect of the body on emissions which are not from its estate and operations.

(b) This refers to the document entitled “The greenhouse gas protocol. A corporate accounting and reporting standard (revised edition)”, World Business Council for Sustainable Development, Geneva, Switzerland / World Resources Institute, Washington DC, USA (2004), ISBN: 1-56973-568-9.

Year	Year type	Scope 1	Scope 2	Scope 3	Total	Units	Comments
2016/17	Financial	10,726	8,949	5,287	24,962	tCO <sub>2</sub> e	This year is used as the default baseline year as it was the first year following the expiration of the Council’s last Carbon Management Plan.
2017/18	Financial	11,418	9,730	1,036	22,184	tCO <sub>2</sub> e	
2018/19	Financial	10,191	5,459	641	16,290	tCO <sub>2</sub> e	
2019/20	Financial	10,587	4,874	590	16,051	tCO <sub>2</sub> e	
2020/21	Financial	10,904	4,085	976	15,965	tCO <sub>2</sub> e	
2021/22	Financial	11,364	3,914	967	16,245	tCO <sub>2</sub> e	Relates to emissions detailed in table 3b, which include gas and electricity consumption in estate buildings, fuel use by the Council's fleet and electricity consumption associated with street lighting.

### 3(b) Breakdown of emission sources

Complete the following table with the breakdown of emission sources from the body's most recent carbon footprint (greenhouse gas inventory); this should correspond to the last entry in the table in 3(a) above. Use the 'Comments' column to explain what is included within each category of emission source entered in the first column. If there is no data consumption available for an emission source enter the emissions in kgCO<sub>2</sub>e in the 'Consumption' column of one of the "Other" rows and assign the scope and an emission factor of 1.

(a) Emissions factors are published annually by the UK Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

Emission source	Scope	Consumption data	Units	Emission factor	Units	Emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	Comments
Grid electricity (generation)	Scope 2	13,279,175	kWh	0.21233	kg CO <sub>2</sub> e/kWh	2,819.6	This data relates to Council estate buildings for which it is responsible for the utilities cost. These include (but are not limited to) schools, offices, leisure centres and libraries. The data also encompasses consumption from stair lighting, door entry systems, car charging points and Christmas lighting.
Grid electricity (transmission & distribution losses)	Scope 3	13,279,175	kWh	0.01879	kg CO <sub>2</sub> e/kWh	249.5	This data relates to Council estate buildings for which it is responsible for the utilities cost. These include (but are not limited to) schools, offices, leisure centres and libraries. The data also encompasses consumption from stair lighting, door entry systems, car charging points and Christmas lighting.
Grid electricity (generation)	Scope 2	5,152,254	kWh	0.21233	kg CO <sub>2</sub> e/kWh	1,094.0	Refers to powered assets such as street lights, road signs and traffic signal equipment.
Grid electricity (transmission & distribution losses)	Scope 3	5,152,254	kWh	0.01879	kg CO <sub>2</sub> e/kWh	96.8	Refers to powered assets such as street lights, road signs and traffic signal equipment.
Natural gas	Scope 1	49,920,955	kWh	0.18316	kg CO <sub>2</sub> e/kWh	9,143.5	This data relates to Council estate buildings for which it is responsible for the utilities cost. These include (but are not limited to) schools, offices, leisure centres and libraries, as well as Bonnyrigg District Heating.
Water - supply	Scope 3	121,217	m <sup>3</sup>	0.11	kg CO <sub>2</sub> e/m <sup>3</sup>	13.3	Refers to all of the Council's estate.
Water - treatment	Scope 3	11,515	m <sup>3</sup>	0.23	kg CO <sub>2</sub> e/m <sup>3</sup>	2.6	Refers to all of the Council's estate.
Gas oil kWh	Scope 1	860,586	kWh	0.25679	kg CO <sub>2</sub> e/kWh	221.0	Relates to gas oil consumption within Moorfoot Primary School, Tynewater Primary School and Vogrie Country House.
Petrol (average biofuel blend)	Scope 1	16,891	litres	2.19352	kg CO <sub>2</sub> e/litre	37.1	Relates to fuel consumption from the Council's vehicle fleet.
Diesel (average biofuel blend)	Scope 1	674,473	litres	2.51233	kg CO <sub>2</sub> e/litre	1,694.5	Relates to fuel consumption from the Council's vehicle fleet.
Gas oil litres	Scope 1	90,638	litres	2.75857	kg CO <sub>2</sub> e/litre	250.0	Relates to fuel consumption from the Council's vehicle fleet.
Average car – unknown fuel	Scope 1	107,018	km	0.17148	kg CO <sub>2</sub> e/km	18.4	Relates to staff mileage claims – using their own vehicles to fulfil their employment duties - in 2021/22.
Homeworking emissions	Scope 2	0.5	of staff	0.3	tCO <sub>2</sub> e/FTE/yr	605.0	This figure is based on a figure of 50% of full-time equivalent (FTE) staff working from home during 21/22. This percentage is an estimate.

### 3(c) Generation, consumption and export of renewable energy

Provide a summary of the body's annual renewable generation (if any), and whether it is used or exported by the body.

Technology	Renewable Electricity		Renewable Heat		Comments
	Total consumed by the body (kWh)	Total exported (kWh)	Total consumed by the body (kWh)	Total exported (kWh)	
Solar photovoltaics		112,042			<p>The systems that generated this electricity total 100kW of installed capacity. They are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gore Glen Primary School (capacity 6.25kW, commissioning date 09/2016);</li> <li>• Bilston Primary School (capacity 3.75kW, commissioning date 09/2016);</li> <li>• Roslin Primary School (capacity 6.24k, commissioning date 03/2017);</li> <li>• Penicuik Pool &amp; Library (capacity 11.55kW, commissioning date 03/2019);</li> <li>• Loanhead centre (capacity 12.03kW, commissioning date 10/2018);</li> <li>• Bonnyrigg Primary School (capacity 11.55 kW, commissioning date 03/2019);</li> <li>• Cuiken Primary School (capacity 12.38kW, commissioning date 03/2019);</li> <li>• St Andrew's RC Primary School (capacity 12.38kW, commissioning date 03/2019);</li> <li>• Woodburn Primary School (capacity 11.55kW, commissioning date 03/2019);</li> <li>• Lasswade Campus (capacity 12.10 kW, commissioning date 03/2019).</li> </ul> <p>The majority of these systems were installed during 2018/19 year as part of a package of measures under the Non-Domestic Energy Efficiency scheme.</p>

### 3(d) Organisational targets

List all of the body's targets of relevance to its climate change duties. Where applicable, targets for reducing indirect emissions of greenhouse gases, overall carbon targets and any separate land use, energy efficiency, waste, water, information and communication technology, transport, travel and heat targets should be included. Where applicable, you should also provide the body's target date for achieving zero direct emissions of greenhouse gases, or such other targets that demonstrate how the body is contributing to Scotland achieving its emissions reduction targets.

Name of target	Target	Boundary / scope of target	Target completion year	Progress against target	Comments
Number of street lights replaced with LED lanterns	700 lighting columns replaced with LED versions	Scope 2	2022/23	740 replaced in 2020/21, 702 replaced in 2021/22 (saving 1,256 tonnes of CO <sub>2</sub> ).	Each LED light replaced reduces energy consumption by a factor of five, compared with standard units.
Develop proposals for a district heating network and energy centre at Shawfair.	Negotiate proposals with Planning Officers to enable a planning application for the energy centre to be submitted and approved.	All emissions	2022/23	Application for the energy centre submitted in July 2022. Application for the pipework consented in January 2022.	Developing the plant will save around 2,000tonnes of CO <sub>2</sub> per year, compared with non-renewable heat sources.
Progress two separate pilot social housing projects adopting Passivhaus design standards	30 housing units built	Energy use in buildings	2022/23	Construction underway on both sites. Units due for occupation in 2022/23	Other Passivhaus developments are being and will be taken forward throughout Midlothian by the Council too.
Energy Efficiency Delivery Plan for the Council's social housing	Set up a project team with budget and governance to oversee the development of an Energy Efficiency Delivery Plan	Energy use in buildings	2022	Report to Council with recommendations for next steps submitted in March 2022.	This work involves investigating options around achieving the best practical solutions and feasibility of achieving net zero carbon or better across the housing estate by 2030.
The percentage of Council fleet which is 'Green'	8% of vehicles	Transport	2021/22	8.2%	Reported in the Place Directorate Annual Performance Report.

### 3(d)(a) How will the body align its spending plans and use of resources to contribute to reducing emissions and delivering its emission reduction targets?

Provide any relevant supporting information

Midlothian Council delivers its priorities through the Single Midlothian Plan (SMP). This has several aims in relation to emissions reduction, including the development of renewable energy, climate emergency awareness raising and promoting sustainable transport.

Service Plans and Performance Reports for each Council department outline the priorities for their staff and the resources at their disposal, together with measurement indicators to determine progress. These documents are expected to show connections to the SMP and therefore must outline how services are using and will use their resources to meet the SMP's climate change related objectives. The Council's Capital Investment Strategy sets out the vision for capital planning in Midlothian and discusses how resources are allocated to align with the themes of the SMP. Accordingly, it includes the objectives of 'promoting sustainable energy solutions' and 'low and zero-carbon technologies and resilience to the impacts of a changing climate', therefore these areas will be particular targets for investment.

Reports presented to meetings of Midlothian’s Council and Cabinet also outline how the matters/actions they describe support sustainable development and the use of the Council’s resources in doing so.

**3(d)(b) How will the body publish, or otherwise make available, its progress towards achieving its emissions reduction targets?**

Provide any other relevant supporting information. In the event that the body wishes to refer to information already published, provide information about where the publication can be accessed.

Given that they contain data on the Council’s current emissions volume and sources, together with data for previous years, the annual Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Return will document progress towards achieving Midlothian Council’s emissions reduction targets. These reports are presented to the Council’s Cabinet each year prior to submission and such items are publically-available via a [‘Council, Cabinet and Committees’](#) webpage. The Council’s [‘Sustainable Development and Climate Change’](#) web page will also be updated each year with the latest submission.

**3(e) Estimated total annual carbon savings from all projects implemented by the body in the report year**

If no projects were implemented against an emissions source, enter “0”.

If the body does not have any information for an emissions source, enter “Unknown”.

If the body does not include the emissions source in its carbon footprint, enter “N/A”.

Emissions source	Total estimated annual carbon savings (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	Comments
Electricity	2	These figures refer to the projects detailed in question 3f. Savings are from Salix projects. For more details on this scheme, see the ‘Other Notable Reporting Activity’ table at the end of this document.
Natural gas	20	

**3(f) Detail the top 10 carbon reduction projects to be carried out by the body in the report year**

Provide details of the 10 projects which are estimated to achieve the highest carbon savings during report year.

Project name	Funding source	First full year of CO <sub>2</sub> e savings	Capital cost (£)	Project lifetime (years)	Primary fuel/emission source saved	Estimated carbon savings per year (tCO <sub>2</sub> e/annum)	Estimated costs savings (£/annum)	Comments
St David’s Primary School	Salix	2021/22	2,151	20	Grid electricity	1.5	894	Refers to the installation of external LED lighting in a project that will save 30tCO <sub>2</sub> e over its lifespan.
Penicuik High School	Salix + capital	2021/22	7,259	20	Natural gas	20	4,183	Refers to the installation of thermostatic radiator valves in a project that will save 135tCO <sub>2</sub> e over its lifespan.

**3(g) Estimated decrease or increase in the body's emissions attributed to factors (not reported elsewhere in this form) in the report year**

If the emissions increased or decreased due to any such factor in the report year, provide an estimate of the amount and direction.

Emissions Source	Total estimated annual emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	Increase or decrease in emissions	Comments
Estate changes	15	Increase	Of this increase, around 8.5 tonnes was due to increases in electricity use at Council sites, particularly the opening of the Danderhall Community Hub and Primary School. This was partially offset by closures and reductions in use elsewhere, such as the former Danderhall Primary School, Danderhall Leisure Centre and Danderhall Library.  Changes in gas consumption led to the increase of the remaining 6.5 tonnes. This was mainly underpinned by the same estate changes as noted above for electricity, though the closure of the former St. Mary's Primary School was also a contributory factor.
Service provision			
Staff numbers	3.5% (not tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	Decrease	Staff numbers reported in Part 1 of this report are 4,032. The equivalent number for the previous report was 3,824. Total emissions for these respective years are 16,269tCO <sub>2</sub> e and 15,965 tCO <sub>2</sub> e. This equates to a 3.5% year-on-year decrease in emissions per member of staff.
Other (specify in comments)			

**3(h) Anticipated annual carbon savings from all projects implemented by the body in the year ahead**

If no projects are expected to be implemented against an emissions source, enter "0".

If the organisation does not have any information for an emissions source, enter "Unknown".

If the organisation does not include the emissions source in its carbon footprint, enter "N/A".

Emissions source	Total estimated annual carbon saving (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	Comments

**3(i) Estimated decrease or increase in emissions from other sources in the year ahead**

If the body's corporate emissions are likely to increase or decrease for any other reason in the year ahead, provide an estimate of the amount and direction.

Emissions source	Total estimated annual emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	Increase or decrease in emissions	Comments

### 3(j) Total carbon reduction project savings since the start of the year which the body used as a baseline for its carbon footprint

If the body has data available, estimate the total emissions savings made from projects since the start of that year ("the baseline year").

Total savings	Total estimated emissions savings (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	Comments
Total project savings since baseline year	886	Refers to savings made since 2016/17 from the implementation of emissions reductions projects across the Council's estate. These are taken from the entries made for question 3e for each of those reporting years. Respectively, these are 68, 55, 407, 93 and 263 tCO <sub>2</sub> e in those years. These are savings made from Salix, capital and Non Domestic Energy Efficiency Framework projects.

### 3(k) Supporting information and best practice

Provide any other relevant supporting information and any examples of best practice by the body in relation to corporate emissions, targets and projects.

The energy consumption and emissions data in this section was provided by the Energy Assistant Development Officer from the Council's Property & Facilities Management department. They monitor energy consumption across the Council's buildings on a monthly basis. Accurate monitoring is aided by automatic read meters installed and improvements in data capture enabling the remote monitoring of the readings.

Midlothian Council has been taken part in 'Green Heat in Green Spaces / Park Power'. This is a project from Greenspace Scotland that has involved half of Scotland's councils and public sector bodies exploring how urban greenspaces can be used to transition to low carbon heat. Work has involved:

- o Midlothian Council participating as a 'Core Partner' to identify potential opportunities and develop proposals for a project feasibility report;
- o Discussions with Park Power and early feasibility work into incorporating renewables into a town centre regeneration project and a small district heating scheme for Council buildings using a ground source heat pump; and
- o Focussing on the Council's non-housing building portfolio to establish the extent of the enhancements required to make these green heat sources viable and the relevant cost/benefit of the interventions in order to prioritise resources.

This work has been shared with Midlothian Energy Ltd (MEL, the Council's joint venture energy company with Vattenfall) who are taking it forward as part of district heating projects and the findings will also feed in to the Council's Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy.

MEL are also planning a number of other carbon reduction projects. These include solar PV, electric vehicle charging, direct wire electricity, Non-Domestic Energy Efficiency Framework measures, hydroelectric and hydrogen. It is estimated that such schemes will lead to an investment of £90 - £100m over the next five years. There is also the potential to expand the district heating project in Shawfair, which is going through planning, into neighbouring sites. MEL also intend to engage with various departments from Councils in Edinburgh and East Lothian to scope the potential for cross-boundary emissions reductions projects too.

## PART 4 – ADAPTATION

### 4(a) Has the body assessed current and future climate-related risks?

If yes, provide a reference or link to any such risk assessment(s).

The Council produced an updated Climate Change Risk Assessment in 2021/22 to assess its exposure in this area. The assessment is based on:

- The categories of risk identified in the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017 – Summary for Scotland, produced by the UK government’s Committee on Climate Change;
- An additional criteria – ‘Compliance, Governance & Management Risks’; and
- Midlothian Council’s Climate Change Strategy – the document assesses the risk to the Council associated with the targets and actions in this, noting the impact and likelihood of failing to meet the Strategy’s actions in a risk assessment matrix.

During the 2021/22 reporting year, The Council’s Internal Audit department also assessed the risks to the Council of not meeting its climate change obligations.

Current and future climate-related risks due to flooding have been assessed through the risk assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Midlothian Local Development Plan 2017. The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment identifies the area's functional flood plain and collates information on all sources of flood risk, including the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) Indicative River and Coastal Flood Risk Maps. It was used to inform the development strategy of the Plan and these documents are available [here](#) and [here](#).

The Council also assessed climate-related flooding risks when preparing the [Forth Estuary Local Flood Risk Management Plan 2016 - 2022](#), which helps to implement the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 and translates it into actions. Its objectives are to reduce overall flood risk to people and to reduce economic damage to properties caused by flooding. Adopting the plan and the realisation of its outcomes has increased the Council's understanding of sources of flooding and the areas at risk and level of risk. Ongoing risk assessment also takes place via meetings with Scottish Water, NatureScot and SEPA. These often cover issues such as flood risk and habitat/species which are at risk due to climate change.

Current and future climate-related risks are also covered by the Midlothian Community Planning Partnership [Strategic Assessment](#). It aims to provide an insight into the main issues that present a threat or risk to communities within Midlothian. It does this using 'PESTEL' analysis, and environmental issues – such as climate change – are examined as part of this. For example it discusses the implications for the Council of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 and The Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019. It guides Community Planning partners on the content of the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan.

Climate change-related risks are also assessed when various Council policies are drafted - see question 4b below.



#### **4(b) What arrangements does the body have in place to manage climate-related risks?**

Provide details of any climate change adaptation strategies, action plans and risk management procedures, and any climate change adaptation policies which apply across the body.

Midlothian Council Winter Service Policy and Operational Plan:

- The purpose of this Plan is to demonstrate that the Council has taken reasonable steps to prevent snow and ice endangering the safe passage of pedestrians and vehicles over public roads, to fulfil its Statutory responsibilities as defined in Section 34 of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984.
- The Plan also specifically references climate change and notes that it can be implemented at any time of year. It notes that such instances are likely to occur with increased frequency and intensity due to climate change. It should be read in conjunction with the Council's Severe Weather Plan (both are updated every winter).

Midlothian Council Severe Weather Policy & Resources:

- A variety of resources on severe weather are available on the Council intranet, including:
- A guide from the Met Office for Responders to National Severe Weather Warnings;
- A SEPA/Met Office Flood Guidance Statement User Guide;
- The Council's Severe Weather Plan, which provides:
  - A summary of the Met Office National Severe Weather Warning System and guidance on resulting action; and
  - A flexible framework for the management of a co-ordinated response by Midlothian Council and partner organisations to an emergency caused by severe weather.
- The Council's Adverse Weather Policy for Schools and Community Learning Centres. This includes a number of key principles to assist decision-making by Head Teachers during adverse weather, as well as a communications protocol, transport procedures and information on health and safety criteria for taking the decision to close a school due to severe or hazardous weather.

Local Flood Risk Management Plan – Forth Estuary Local Plan District:

- The Local Flood Risk Management Plan helps to implement the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009. It translates this legislation into actions and covers tasks identified in the first planning cycle from 2016 to 2022.
- Its objectives are to reduce overall flood risk (including to people) and to reduce economic damage to properties caused by flooding.
- Adopting the plan and realising its outcomes will increase the Council's understanding of sources of flooding, the areas at risk and level of risk. Furthermore, it allows Council resources for managing flood risk and implementing and maintaining flood protection measures to be better prioritised and targeted.
- Midlothian Council is involved in developing the replacement of the Plan, which is due to be published in late-2022.

Integrated Impact Assessments:

- Integrated Impact Assessments are systematic, evidence-based checks to consider the risks and impacts of policies and decisions on legal duties in relation to equality, human rights, sustainability and the environment.
- In relation to the environment, they require the author to identify and examine impacts of decisions on:
  - Reducing greenhouse gas emissions;
  - Planning for and adapting to climate change;
  - Air, water and soil pollution;
  - The efficient use of energy and materials; and
  - Enhancing biodiversity.

The Council's new Climate Change Strategy proposes the creation of a Carbon Neutral by 2030 board (see part 2 of this report). Its exact remit is to be determined, but it is likely that it would also be a key channel for managing climate-related risks to Council activities in future.

#### **4(c) What action has the body taken to adapt to climate change?**

Include details of work to increase awareness of the need to adapt to climate change and build the capacity of staff and stakeholders to assess risk and implement action. The body may wish to make reference to the Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme ("the Programme").

Midlothian Council's Climate Change Strategy raises awareness amongst staff of the need to adapt to climate change. It contains a section on mitigation and adaptation measures, which result in specific goals being set in its Action Plan. It also proposes a Carbon Neutral by 2030 board (see part 2 of this report) and it is likely that it would be a channel for building the capacity of staff and stakeholders to assess risk and implement actions relating to climate change. This has also been furthered by the completion during the reporting year of the Council's new Climate Change Risk Assessment.

Assessing risk and implementing action to adapt to climate change will also be enhanced by the Council's Risk Management Policy and Strategy, which provides a systematic and formalised framework for determining and responding to risks such as those posed by climate change (see also question 4e). It was drafted following a proposal put to the Midlothian Council meeting of August 2021 to hold a seminar for Elected Members on the current contingencies in planning arrangements for Council Services and to use this forward planning opportunity to assess strategic threats facing Midlothian Council, such as climate change.

Adaptation actions are promoted through the Midlothian Local Development Plan, which proposed developments must adhere to. It identifies locations for developments that require Flood Risk Assessments, watercourse buffer strips and Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems to avoid surface water flooding.

The Midlothian Green Network Supplementary Guidance provides a framework to enable green networks to help climate change mitigation and adaptation through its various functions. These include:

- Ensuring habitat connectivity to allow species to adapt to climate change through movement;
- Encouraging the retention and expansion of plants and trees to provide opportunities for carbon sequestration; and

- Providing water attenuation opportunities to reduce the impact of storm events.

These aims form a list of 'Design Principles for the Green Network' that are used to assess planning applications.

Raising awareness of climate change amongst staff is also done via:

- A dedicated web page on the topic which includes a presentation on the science of climate change, what actions the Council is doing to mitigate and adapt to it and how staff can play their part; and
- Announcements in staff communications of climate change related events such as advice sessions on saving energy and using active transport.

Wider awareness raising is performed by providing guidance to Midlothian residents via the Council website. This includes:

- Information on flooding, such as contact details to report surface water drainage issues and referring readers to other sources of information, including live flooding updates (via Floodline.org.uk) and guidance on flood preparedness; and
- Information on severe weather events, including school closure updates, the Council's Winter Service Policy and a 'Frequently Asked Questions' page which includes relevant Council service contact numbers. Links to external websites are also provided, and cover issues such as advice on travel and the loss of utilities.

#### 4(d) Where applicable, what contribution has the body made to helping deliver the Programme?

Provide any other relevant supporting information.

The Second Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme 2019 – 2024 lists various policies that will help to achieve its outcomes, together with owners of these policies. The text below lists contributions made by Midlothian Council to the policies against which Local Authorities are marked as owners.

##### **Flood Risk Management Strategies**

- [A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment](#) accompanies the Midlothian Local Development Plan. It collates information on all sources of flood risk, including SEPA Indicative River and Coastal Flood Risk Flood Maps, and was used to inform the development strategy of the Plan.
- Planning staff are in regular contact with SEPA to obtain and be informed about the latest flood risk data. This is being used in producing the next Local Development Plan to inform discussions with staff who specialise in flooding matters.
- Policy ENV 10 (Water Environment) of the Midlothian Local Development Plan helps implement the objectives of the River Basin Management Plan: it states that development proposals that contribute to the aims of the River Basin Management Plan will be supported.
- Midlothian Council supported the development of the [Forth Estuary Local Flood Risk Management Plan](#). It was adopted by the Council's Cabinet in 2016. The Council's Place Directorate Annual Performance Report identifies assisting the preparation of the second Flood Risk Management Plan as a priority of Neighbourhood Services staff. Midlothian Council is involved in developing the replacement of the Plan, which is due to be published in late-2022.

- Midlothian Council's Planning Team and a representative of the Roads Service regularly meet with Scottish Water to discuss matters such as the management of surface water to ensure that sewer systems are resilient to climate change. Similar meetings also take place with Scottish Natural Heritage and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency.

### **Energy Efficient Scotland**

- An aim of the Council's [Local Housing Strategy](#) is that homes will be more energy efficient. This will be achieved via means such as using the 'Passivhaus' low energy design standard on all directly commissioned Council housing projects, promoting support available from the Scottish Government to help owners transform their properties and meet the minimum energy efficiency standards for the private and social rented sectors by 2030; and targeted energy efficiency advice.
- Midlothian Council's Building Services has been and continues to be involved in projects to improve the energy efficiency of buildings alongside Changeworks (an environmental charity).
- In the 2021/22 reporting year, the Council developed a [Net Zero Housing Design Guide](#) that applies to all new Council houses and it also reported on its intentions to set up a group to oversee the development of an Energy Efficiency Delivery Plan to deliver the Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing 2. This will be part of Midlothian's Local Heat & Energy Efficiency Strategy.
- The Council's Property & Facilities Management Service progress work in this area through the development of renewable energy projects in the Council's building estate.

### **Tolerable Standards and Scottish Housing Quality Standards**

- The Council's Building Services staff progress work towards the Scottish Housing Quality Standards and have various performance indicators that relate to it. These include the percentage of the Council housing stock meeting the criteria in general as well as specific aspects of it such as the percentage meeting the 'modern facilities & services', 'free from serious disrepair' and 'healthy, safe and secure' criteria. The percentage of Council dwellings that are energy efficient is also a corporate indicator.

### **Water Refill Locations: Local Development Plans**

- This is being taken forward as part of the review of the Midlothian Local Development Plan following guidance and requirements on the topic from the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 and the resulting Local Development Planning Regulations & Guidance Consultation.

### **Outdoor Learning in Nature**

- The Midlothian Ranger Service performs a variety of [educational activities](#) based on the Curriculum for Excellence from the Early through to the Senior phase. It organises and leads free curriculum based education for schools and groups involving teaching to inspire pupils about nature, their local environment and the world around them. These include:
  - The [Midlothian Outdoor Festival](#) where they partner with volunteers to produce an annual programme of walks and cycles, a wildlife recording workshop, talks & video presentations and river discovery events which look at aquatic biota and water quality.

- Vogrie Outdoor Early Learning & Childcare Centre, which opened in 2019, is an outdoor nursery located within the grounds of Vogrie Country Park that provides care for children up to three days a week. It aims to generate an interest in the natural world amongst children to create environmental awareness. Its vision is 'learning and growing together through nature, nurture and play'. During the 2021/22 reporting year, the Centre was rated as 'very good' during an unannounced visit by the Care Inspectorate for supporting children during pandemic.
- As of August 2022, there were 65 schools and nurseries in Midlothian (including private facilities) registered for Eco-Schools, which is the largest sustainable schools programme in the world and is managed in Scotland by Keep Scotland Beautiful. It involves schools forming an Eco-Committee which then completes an Environmental Review, to investigate the current situation in the school. The results are used to create an Action Plan of projects on litter and two other topics (from a choice of ten). The Action Plan will include ways of measuring the progress of projects and ideas for future development. Projects should be linked to the curriculum, with the school and wider community given the opportunity to take part. This work is recognised by the Green Flag Award, which is a visible indication of a school's commitment to learning about sustainability, and an internationally recognised accreditation. It is renewed every two years through a repeat of the Eco-Committee/Environmental Review/Action Plan process. 12 of the 65 participants in Midlothian have been awarded Green Flag status.
- Doors Open Days are a range of events coordinated by the Scottish Civic Trust. They run throughout Scotland every September as part of European Heritage Days and Midlothian Council's Planning staff help co-ordinate this work. The events are primarily about celebrating heritage and the built environment by offering free access to venues across Midlothian, however some of the events are environment-themed. For example, the 2022 Doors Open Day will include a bat walk at Straiton Pond and opening The Wildlife Information Centre office to the public (Midlothian Council have a service level agreement with them to provide various biodiversity related work).

There are other policies within the Second Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme 2019 – 2024 that although they do not list local authorities as owners, nevertheless overlap with their work and which Midlothian Council are therefore helping to progress. These are:

- Cleaner Air for Scotland Strategy (progressed by the Midlothian Council's Protective Services);
- Electric Vehicle Charging Network through ChargePlace Scotland (Neighbourhood Services);
- Building Regulations/Standards (Building Services);
- Scottish Water Surface Water Policy (Planning, Sustainable Growth and Investment; and Projects (via the Edinburgh and Lothians Strategic Drainage Partnership)); and
- Blue-Green Infrastructure (Planning, Sustainable Growth and Investment).

#### **4(e) What arrangements does the body have in place to review current and future climate risks?**

Provide details of arrangements to review current and future climate risks, for example, what timescales are in place to review the climate change risk assessments referred to in Question 4(a) and adaptation strategies, action plans, procedures and policies in Question 4(b).

The items discussed in questions 4a and 4b are periodically updated, often annually, and will therefore be used to review current and future climate risks.

Climate-related risks are continually reviewed as part of Integrated Impact Assessments and Strategic Environmental Assessments as these are required on policy decisions that may have consequences for the environment.

The Council's overall approach in the area of risk and accountability for it is outlined in its Risk Management Policy and Strategy. It was reviewed in mid-2021 by a Risk and Resilience Group that included Chief Officers, Senior Managers and its Audit Service. It is due to be reviewed in two years. This focuses on all risks that the Council may be exposed to and not exclusively on climate-related risks, though an objective of it is to anticipate and respond to environmental legislative requirements. It also states that, in the area of risk management, the Council seeks to safeguard and enhance the quality of Midlothian's environment.

**4(f) What arrangements does the body have in place to monitor and evaluate the impact of the adaptation actions?**

Please provide details of monitoring and evaluation criteria and adaptation indicators used to assess the effectiveness of actions detailed under Question 4(c) and Question 4(d).

The Council monitors the significant environmental effects of the implementation of every strategic action for which it has carried out a Strategic Environmental Assessment. This is done using criteria which enables the Council to identify any unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage; and undertake appropriate remedial action.

The impact of adaptation actions identified in individual workstreams are monitored and evaluated through the periodic reviews of those workstreams and the tasks they involve. For example, climate change adaptation is a goal of the Council's Local Biodiversity Action Plan and its impacts will be monitored and evaluated through reviews of the Plan, meetings with partners that contributed to it and via the Council's statutory Biodiversity Duty Reports (which are presented to Cabinet for discussion).

Measures to adapt to climate change as outlined in the Midlothian Local Development Plan are monitored and evaluated through regular meetings of the Development Plan Monitoring Group. This assesses progress being made towards the environmental goals of the Plan and lessons learned for future Plans. Similar arrangements are in place regarding other planning guidance, such as that on Green Networks.

**4(g) What are the body's top 5 climate change adaptation priorities for the year ahead?**

Provide a summary of the areas and activities of focus for the year ahead.

- 1) For the Council as a whole to implement ecological adaptation measures identified in Midlothian's Local Biodiversity Action Plan, including with partner organisations such as TWIC (the Wildlife Information Centre) and the Council's Ranger Service.
- 2) To set up governance to oversee the development of an Energy Efficiency Delivery Plan for the Council's social housing to deliver compliance with the Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing 2 standard.
- 3) Continue the Ranger Service's engagement work with communities and volunteers on the conservation of specific sites throughout Midlothian to help volunteer hours in the countryside rebound towards pre-Covid levels.

- 4) Apply the principles from the Draft National Planning Framework 4 on nature-based solutions for climate change and identify sites or policy requirements from them as part of the review of the Midlothian Local Development Plan.
- 5) To identify then implement suitable projects for Nature Restoration Fund support to restore wildlife and habitats in Midlothian.

#### **4(h) Supporting information and best practice**

Provide any other relevant supporting information and any examples of best practice by the body in relation to adaptation.

The information and examples provided in questions 4(a) to 4(g) above are accompanied by links to documents which provide supporting information, if required. However, a further notable project that the Council is taking forward in relation to climate change adaptation is the regeneration of Dalkeith town centre. A report was presented to the Council meeting of December 2021 which provided a proposal to take forward a Stage 2 Masterplan and Outline Business Case. It recommends that achieving climate change benefits is a central priority of this work, as it will involve:

- o The replacement of dated, costly commercial and housing stock with energy efficient buildings that are fit for purpose;
- o Integration of green/blue infrastructure into the town centre to support climate change mitigation / adaptation measures; and
- o Enhancement of the town centre to embed 20-minute neighbourhood principles and local, sustainable living patterns.

## PART 5 – PROCUREMENT

### 5(a) How have procurement policies contributed to compliance with climate change duties?

Provide information relating to how the procurement policies of the body have contributed to its compliance with climate changes duties.

The Midlothian Council Procurement Strategy 2018 - 2023 and derived policy and procedures reflect European (Directives 2014/24/EU, 2014/23/EU and 2014/55/EU), national (Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 and Scottish Procurement Policy Notes) and local (Single Midlothian Plan) objectives, including sustainability considerations.

The Council notes the importance of environmental matters prominently within its Procurement Strategy, which has five strategic themes to promote ethical standards. Whilst this encompasses social and economic matters, the Strategy also notes that environmental opportunities are of 'equal importance' and this includes considering the impact of purchases on, for instance, climate change, waste production or scarce materials. In practical terms, this may involve:

- Collaborating with partners to share good practice and maximise opportunities when procuring from the same suppliers;
- Undertaking soft market testing to understand the potential for innovation and what the market can offer in terms of sustainable solutions;
- Considering environmental sustainability in the early stages of each project, identifying goods, works and services with significant impact;
- Including appropriate standards, requirements and targets in contracts;
- Considering environmental factors where appropriate in supplier selection and tender evaluation; and
- Taking a whole lifecycle approach to costs.

2021 also saw the adoption of a new Local Procurement Strategy. This is not only helping to further the aims of the Council's overall Procurement Strategy but will also:

- See the Council use its spend to actively encourage and support a growing, diverse and resilient local business base, to facilitate its Carbon Neutral by 2030 ambitions;
- Place more emphasis on considering any negative externalities of procurement, for example the impact on the environment; and
- Further promote the use of local suppliers where appropriate, to help reduce the carbon footprint of the Authority's activity, such as that associated with transport which would otherwise be higher if less local alternatives were used.

To assist the aims of the Local Procurement Strategy, the Council's Procurement Team worked alongside the Economic Development department to launch the Midlothian Business Carbon Charter. It supports businesses to operate in environmentally friendly and low-carbon ways, for example by signposting information, expert advice from partner agencies, and funds to facilitate energy efficiencies. Businesses signing up are directed to a range of advice on how to achieve the Charter's aims, including by developing travel plans and energy, waste and water audits. Those adopting it will therefore be in a better position to comply with the Council's procurement standards and the new Local Procurement Strategy.



### **5(b) How has procurement activity contributed to compliance with climate change duties?**

Provide information relating to how procurement activity by the body has contributed to its compliance with climate changes duties.

Tender processes use the Single Procurement Document (SPD), which includes standard question sets on environmental compliance and policy to help ensure tenderers have an appropriate history and overall approach to environmental considerations. Invitations to Tender issued by Midlothian Council also specify environmental considerations/requirements (including those relating to carbon emissions) that tenderers must comply with. Where proportionate to the nature of the contract, environmental considerations will go further and make up part of the award criteria through specific questions or requirements within the Technical Response.

Examples of the application of these procedures and procurement activities contributing to compliance with climate change duties during the 2021/22 reporting year are:

- An Invitation to Tender for a contract to extend Woodburn Primary School in manner consistent with the Council's 2030 Carbon Target, with the design incorporating renewable technologies and built to 'Passivhaus' standards;
- The contracts for the provision of drainage works which required tenderers to have appropriate environmental/energy management systems in place such as UKAS (or equivalent) accredited independent third party certificate of compliance with BS EN ISO 14001 (or equivalent) or a valid EMAS (or equivalent) certificate;
- An Invitation to Tender for the provision of home to school taxi services, which, as part of the award criteria, required tenderers to provide a statement on their efforts to meet the Scottish Government's emissions targets and on any monitoring methods employed by them to measure their carbon footprint reduction; and
- Requiring parties bidding for a contract for early learning and childcare services to detail their approach to sustainability, including their response to the national climate emergency and their climate resilience and ability to respond to a changing climate.

Full details on these and other Contact Notices published by Midlothian Council, including those archived from previous years, are available at [Public Contracts Scotland](#).

### 5(c) Supporting information and best practice

Provide any other relevant supporting information and any examples of best practice by the body in relation to procurement.

Resource efficiency and climate change considerations (including adaptation to it) are part of procurement decisions for both goods & services and also decisions about capital and maintenance budget expenditure. In relation to the former, a whole life cost approach to contract development is included within tender documents and commodity strategies. This involves considering low carbon alternatives for selected goods and services that may have a high emissions profile (e.g. timber). For the latter, larger projects that are subject to financial appraisal are also subject to carbon appraisal, including whole lifecycle costing and consideration of alternative low carbon methods. In practical terms, there are numerous services procured via various Framework Agreements such as Scotland Excel frameworks, where the framework contracts have climate related inclusion for suppliers to have carbon considerations or environmental/sustainability commitments within the commissioning. Category/Commodity Strategies also entail climate and sustainability risk assessment work being carried out as part of them.

Midlothian Council's procurement Terms & Conditions contain provisions that allow for the termination of contacts if obligations under the European Communities Act 1972 have not been met. This includes events where the supplier has failed to comply in the performance of the Contract with legal obligations in the fields of environmental law. Suppliers themselves must include the same provision within their various sub-contracts. These requirements are stated within the Council's Terms & Conditions, i.e. those for the purchase of goods, for the purchase of services, for the use of consultancy services and for the supply of goods.

In 2021, The Council's Procurement Team also completed the relevant portion of Resource Efficient Scotland's Climate Change Assessment Tool to review their performance in relation to compliance with public sector climate change duties.

The Council provides an [overview of the tender process](#), which specifically emphasises the importance of environmental considerations in bids made for goods and services.

The Council's Procurement Strategy and Terms & Conditions of business are available on the [Council website](#) and the former specifically references climate change matters as an influencing factor in procurement decisions.

The Procurement pages on the Council's website also direct potential suppliers to the [Midlothian Business Carbon Charter](#) (as mentioned above).

## PART 6 – VALIDATION & DECLARATION

### 6(a) Internal validation process

Briefly describe the body's internal validation process, if any, of the data or information contained within this report.

Much of the data within this submission was obtained from reports that were presented to Council meetings during the reporting year, including Service Plans and Performance Reports. Other data was validated directly with the relevant Council services to ensure its accuracy.

The data in part 3 was compiled and reviewed by the Council's Energy Officer while the overall report was reviewed by the Planning Manager (who has departmental responsibility for the authoring officer).

The Council's Internal Audit staff have also played an indirect role in validation. They have scrutinised two PBCCD reports, making recommendations both on the procedural aspects of how the report is compiled and on the work of the Council's climate change response which underpins it. Their most recent investigation was undertaken and completed during the 2021/22 reporting year. As per their instructions, this year's proposed PBCCD report was presented to the Council's Cabinet for scrutiny and approval prior to its submission.

### 6(b) Peer validation process

Briefly describe the body's peer validation process, if any, of the data or information contained within this report.

No peer validation took place.

### 6(c) External validation process

Briefly describe the body's external validation process, if any, of the data or information contained within this report.

No external validation took place.

### 6(d) No validation process

If any information provided in this report has not been validated, identify the information in question and explain why it has not been validated.

N/A - our validation process is outlined in 6a.

### 6e - Declaration

I confirm that the information in this report is accurate and provides a fair representation of the body's performance in relation to climate change.

Name	Role in the body	Date
Peter Arnsdorf	Planning, Sustainable Growth and Investment Manager	22/09/2022

**RECOMMENDED REPORTING: REPORTING ON WIDER INFLUENCE**

<b>Q1 Historic Emissions (Local Authorities only)</b>
Please indicate emission amounts and unit of measurement (e.g. tCO <sub>2</sub> e) and years. Please provide information on the following components using data from the links provided below. Please use (1) as the default unless targets and actions relate to (2). (1) UK local and regional CO <sub>2</sub> emissions: <b>subset dataset</b> (emissions within the scope of influence of local authorities): (2) UK local and regional CO <sub>2</sub> emissions: <b>full dataset</b> :
<b>Local Authority (please state):</b> Midlothian <b>BEIS Dataset (full or sub-set):</b> Subset

Table 1a – Subset (units are ktCO <sub>2</sub> , except for *, which is tCO <sub>2</sub> )													Comments
Sector	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Total emissions	487.11	513.70	456.75	496.63	491.30	433.07	431.19	419.69	402.86	391.93	380.88	331.30	
Industry and commercial	105.24	116.86	94.16	117.11	114.23	95.73	91.67	81.96	76.95	74.53	64.83	54.94	
Domestic	180.59	195.92	171.25	184.07	180.60	153.17	155.10	144.65	139.05	136.18	136.52	131.23	
Transport total	160.79	156.73	154.51	151.06	152.57	147.23	148.55	160.49	155.37	151.81	150.55	118.32	
Per capita	5.95	6.24	5.47	5.90	5.80	5.02	4.93	4.74	4.47	4.29	4.12	3.56	
Waste (total)*	-	-	96,008	97,863	98,602	92,297	91,431	95,307	98,178	91,864	91,551	97,890	Figures are from <a href="https://informatics.sepa.org.uk/HouseholdWaste/">https://informatics.sepa.org.uk/HouseholdWaste/</a>
Waste (per capita)*	-	-	1.17	1.16	1.16	1.07	1.05	1.08	1.09	1.01	0.99	1.05	Figures are from <a href="https://informatics.sepa.org.uk/HouseholdWaste/">https://informatics.sepa.org.uk/HouseholdWaste/</a>

Q2a - Targets					
Please detail your wider influence targets					
Sector	Description	Start year	Target	Target / End Year	Comments
Other	Agree and implement a standard methodology and tool(s) for measuring and accounting for carbon emissions in Midlothian.	2021	Review the range of extant carbon calculation methodologies and tools in use in government, academia and the private sector.	March 2023	Included in the 2022/23 Single Midlothian Plan as a priority for the Midlothian Climate Emergency Group under the Sustainable Growth theme.
Transport	Work with partners to promote the '20 minute neighbourhood' concept, including identifying opportunities for new local premises to serve unmet need - work to producing a directory highlighting Midlothian produce and how/where it can be obtained.	2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promotional work and awareness raising undertaken with relevant partners.</li> <li>Engagement has taken place with local shop owners and service providers and the directory is in production.</li> </ul>	March 2023	Included in the 2022/23 Single Midlothian Plan as a priority for the Midlothian Climate Emergency Group under the Sustainable Growth theme.
Other	Climate emergency awareness raising and community engagement. To include a sustained social media	2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promotion group established and is operational</li> </ul>	March 2023	Included in the 2022/23 Single Midlothian Plan as a priority for the

	presence and investigation of setting up Climate Emergency Hubs, developing locally-owned Climate Emergency projects and involvement work with Midlothian Council education services and youth platforms to engage young people.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work progressed to take forward development of locally-owned Climate Emergency projects;</li> <li>• Relevant projects identified and understood; and</li> <li>• Climate Emergency group partners liaise with Midlothian Council Education service.</li> </ul>		Midlothian Climate Emergency Group under the Sustainable Growth theme.
Energy	Develop renewable energy by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing a plan for decarbonising the electricity and hot water output from the Millerhill Energy from Waste Plant;</li> <li>• Review electricity local grid capacity, identify bottlenecks and engage with relevant bodies to invest in upgrades ; and</li> <li>• Identify potential sites on Council and other partner’s land for renewable energy generation.</li> </ul>	2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work undertaken with Midlothian Energy to take forward the action;</li> <li>• Assess electricity grid capacity in Midlothian; and</li> <li>• Consideration given by partners to potential sites for renewable energy</li> <li>• .</li> </ul>	March 2023	Included in the 2022/23 Single Midlothian Plan as a priority for the Midlothian Climate Emergency Group under the Sustainable Growth theme.
Other	Promote biodiversity by working with schools on local projects, taking forward community driven citizen science projects and promoting wildlife corridors and local food growing.	2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liaise with the Council’s Education service and other relevant bodies;</li> <li>• Establish a promotional group;</li> <li>• Work to take forward development of locally-owned Climate Emergency projects; and</li> <li>• Take forward the Midlothian allotment and food growing strategy.</li> </ul>	March 2023	Included in the 2022/23 Single Midlothian Plan as a priority for the Midlothian Climate Emergency Group under the Sustainable Growth theme.
Homes & Communities	Place the Climate Emergency as the Central Theme of the next Midlothian Local Development Plan, including investigating possibilities for peer review of the climate emergency credentials of it.	2021	Climate Emergency Group members to work with Midlothian Council (Planning) to take forward.	March 2023	Included in the 2022/23 Single Midlothian Plan as a priority for the Midlothian Climate Emergency Group under the Sustainable Growth theme.
Transport	Work with car dealers, approved electric vehicle (EV) charger installers and the Energy Saving Trust to establish a ‘one stop shop’ for EV buyers in Midlothian to improve uptake and the availability of charging infrastructure.	2021	Work undertaken with car dealers to investigate how the purchase of electric vehicles can be simplified.	March 2023	Included in the 2022/23 Single Midlothian Plan as a priority for the Midlothian Climate Emergency Group under the Sustainable Growth theme.

**Q2b) Does the organisation have an overall mission statement, strategies, plans or policies outlining ambition to influence emissions beyond your corporate boundaries? If so, please detail this in the box below.**

Yes - see the answers to questions within the ‘Governance, Management & Strategy’ section. Many of the documents listed there for questions 2c, 2d and 2e extend beyond the Council's corporate boundary, as do many of the activities listed in the ‘Other Notable Reporting Activity’ section below. The requirements of the Council in relation to sustainable procurement also assist in influencing emissions beyond its boundaries.

Midlothian Council’s declaration of a ‘climate change emergency’ in 2019 includes the aim of encouraging emissions reductions across the region – it stated that ‘the council will support and work with other agencies towards making the entire area zero carbon within the same timescale [by 2030]’. To assist in achieving this, a Climate Emergency Group started during the previous reporting year. It has seen the Council collaborate with partners in Midlothian to

pursue emissions reductions and as a result, several goals for this are contained within the latest Single Midlothian Plan. These are detailed in question 2a above.

<b>Q3) Policies and Actions to Reduce Emissions</b>													
Sector	Start year for policy / action implementation	Year that the policy / action will be fully implemented	Annual CO <sub>2</sub> saving once fully implemented (tCO <sub>2</sub> )	Latest year measured	Saving in latest year measured (tCO <sub>2</sub> )	Status	Metric / indicators for monitoring progress	Delivery role	During project / policy design and implementation, has ISM or an equivalent behaviour change tool been used?	Please give further details of this behaviour change activity	Value of investment (£)	Ongoing costs (£/ year)	Primary funding Source for implementation of policy / action

**Please provide any detail on data sources or limitations relating to the information provided in Table 3**

The Council has not completed this question for this report year. It is hoped to do so for future report years as data and information becomes more readily available and resources allow, in particular, the preparation and approval of a new Carbon Management Plan. Many entries that could go in it are nevertheless included in Section 3 (particularly 3d) and the 'Other Notable Reporting Activity' section below, while carbon reduction targets that extend beyond the Council's own emissions are included in Q2a in this section.

**Q4) Partnership Working, Communication and Capacity Building.**

**Please detail your Climate Change Partnership, Communication or Capacity Building Initiatives below.**

Key Action Type	Description	Organisation's Project Role	Lead Organisation (if not reporting organisation)	Private Partners	Public Partners	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sector Partners	Outputs	Comments
								These actions are detailed in the 'Other Notable Reporting Activity' table below, especially Midlothian Energy Ltd.

## OTHER NOTABLE REPORTING ACTIVITY

Q5) Please detail key actions relating to Food and Drink, Biodiversity, Water, Procurement and Resource Use in the table below.			
Key Action Type	Key Action Description	Organisation's Project Role	Impacts/Comments
Air Quality	Air Quality Annual Progress Reports	Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air Quality Annual Progress Reports set out the results of air quality monitoring carried out by Midlothian Council and consider the potential impacts from a range of sources such as road traffic and other transport emissions, industrial processes, commercial and domestic fuel use and fugitive emission sources. They also note the relevance of air quality issues to climate change, for example as covered by the Clean Air for Scotland Strategy.</li> <li>• Monitoring activity is performed in relation to nitrogen dioxide, which can contribute to climate change since it is a precursor of ozone (a greenhouse gas). The reports also document progress on measures to improve air quality which result in reduced emissions of greenhouse gases too, for example efforts to reduce vehicle idling.</li> </ul>
Air Quality	East Central Scotland Vehicle Emissions Partnership	Participant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Midlothian Council forms part of the East Central Scotland Vehicle Emissions Partnership, together with the Councils of West Lothian, East Lothian, Falkirk and Stirling as well as the Scottish Government.</li> <li>• The remit of the group is to help reduce vehicle emissions by encouraging drivers to switch off their engine whenever possible, educating the general public and by handling idling complaints.</li> <li>• They provide a range of services to discourage idling around schools and have information on fuel efficient driving on their website.</li> </ul>
Biodiversity	Midlothian Ranger Service	Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Midlothian Ranger Service manages the countryside in Midlothian for the benefit of people and wildlife, via work in the following three areas and accompanying objectives:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Recreation (access) - to encourage participation in Midlothian's countryside and to improve the path network through work with volunteers and in partnership with communities;</li> <li>o Education - to help everyone learn about Midlothian's countryside and heritage; and</li> <li>o Conservation (biodiversity) - to conserve and enhance Midlothian's natural environment and cultural heritage and work with volunteers and partners to effect change.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The Ranger Service produce Management Plans for the six sites they care for which outline the measures taken to maintain and enhance their biodiversity.</li> </ul>
Biodiversity	Midlothian Local Biodiversity Site System	Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Midlothian Local Biodiversity Site System is run by The Wildlife Information Centre (TWIC), who fulfil the Council's obligation for sites to be assessed in terms of the health of their species and habitats.</li> <li>• There are currently over 50 designated local biodiversity sites in Midlothian and TWIC maintain records of flora and fauna, site boundaries and survey information for both existing and proposed sites. These are assessed using a methodology overseen by the Midlothian Local Biodiversity Site Steering Group which is chaired by the Council and its members include volunteer local botanical experts, representatives of the Scottish Wildlife Trust and the Botanical Society of the British Isles. NatureScot is also corresponding member.</li> </ul>
Biodiversity	Planning Application Biodiversity Screening	Participant	<p>Planning applications received by the Council are assessed in respect of their impact on biodiversity and compliance with guidance on it (the Local Biodiversity Action Plan). This takes place via the Wildlife Information Centre, who the Council have a service agreement with and who provide screening reports and views on biodiversity information submitted in support of proposals. Consultation responses from staff in the Conservation &amp; Environment Section of the Planning department assist in this area. These sources will contain information, suggestions and requests and ensure that biodiversity issues are taken into account in determining the application.</p>
Biodiversity	Nature Restoration Fund Projects	Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2021/22, £81,000 of Scottish Government grant money for Nature Restoration Fund projects was awarded and spent on:</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o 'Bug Hotels' for biodiversity education in primary schools;</li> <li>o A specialist grass cut trailer machine, lift &amp; gator and accessory equipment - these will help implement grass cutting regimes and management to foster greater habitat and wildlife biodiversity value on Council owned land; and</li> <li>o Planting in Dalkeith, to promote and safeguard long-term biodiversity value in a public park. The selected species, hornbeam and rowan, were chosen for their biodiversity value and will eventually connect to adjacent wildlife corridors.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council also has a grant of £103,000 from the Nature Restoration Fund to be spent in 2022/23. Work is ongoing as of August 2022 to identify projects.</li> </ul>
Energy efficiency, renewable energy/low carbon heat	Energy Services Company - Midlothian Energy Ltd	Participant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In November 2020, the Midlothian Council / Vattenfall Energy Services Company (ESCo) called Midlothian Energy Ltd. was formally launched. It is a 50/50 joint-venture.</li> <li>• Their work will initially focus on the Shawfair district heating scheme. This is expected to save 2,000tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year and the Council will also sign a 40 year agreement with the ESCo to supply heat to the public buildings which will be built at Shawfair.</li> <li>• Following this project, the ESCo will move on to other renewables/low carbon developments. It is anticipated that these will be of over £100 million in total value over the lifetime of the ESCo.</li> </ul>
Energy efficiency, renewable energy /low carbon heat	Local Heat & Energy Efficiency Strategy	Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The concept of Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies (LHEES) was introduced in 2016 as part of the Energy Efficient Scotland programme. They aim to establish local authority plans for systematically improving the energy efficiency of buildings and decarbonising heat.</li> <li>• The Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies (Scotland) Order 2022 came into force on 21/05/2022. It sets out a legal requirement for local authorities to produce a LHEES and an Energy Efficiency Delivery Plan (EEDP) by 31/12/2023 and update them every five years.</li> <li>• The LHEES will identify opportunities for energy efficiency improvements and heat decarbonisation in Midlothian. Work so far has included collaboration with the Scottish Government, other Councils and Changeworks.</li> <li>• Midlothian's LHEES is being taken forward by its Property &amp; Facilities department. Information on it is contained in a report to Council on 29/03/2022. This states that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o The EEDP will be one of the core plans supporting it;</li> <li>o The LHEES will start to be developed in the next year;</li> <li>o Midlothian Energy Ltd (MEL) and Changeworks will be assisting the Council with the LHEES; and</li> <li>o Various projects have been identified for consideration in the next 5 years of the MEL business plan and should be taken account of as part of the development of LHEES and the EEDP.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Energy efficiency	Salix Energy Efficiency Projects	Participant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Salix are public sector energy efficiency financiers who are working with the Scottish Government to support continued investment of former Central Energy Efficiency Fund (CEEF) money. CEEF was a Scottish Government scheme to reduce public sector carbon emissions, and when it was abolished in 2016, Councils were permitted to retain their funding. Salix are supporting the continued investment of this money via match-funding Council investment with interest-free conditional grants.</li> <li>• Salix projects in Midlothian have covered the installation of a range of technologies to reduce the energy consumption and carbon output of the Council's estate. Examples include fitting Building Energy Management Systems, new boilers and LED lighting. Those installed in the current reporting year are detailed in tables 3e and 3f of this report.</li> </ul>
Energy efficiency	Scottish Energy Officers Network	Participant	A member of staff from the Council's Property & Facilities department takes part in this. It involves all 32 Scottish Councils and is a community for people working in or who have an interest in the Public Sector Energy Management field so as to share best practice and disseminate information. They meet every two months.



Energy efficiency	Penicuik Town Hall Renewables	Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council successfully applied for funding from the Town Centre Capital Fund for various works to Penicuik Town Hall. The report to the Council meeting of 25/08/20 notes that these are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o A new gas boiler;</li> <li>o A combined heat and power system;</li> <li>o Solar photovoltaic panels; and</li> <li>o Loft insulation</li> </ul> </li> <li>• These cost a total of around £300,000</li> <li>• They were complete by November 2021, when there was an opening event at the Town Hall.</li> </ul>
Energy efficiency	IT Power Down Activities	Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The vast majority of the Council's desktop and laptop equipment in both corporate and school buildings is set to power down at 7.30pm each evening if not in use. There are a very few exceptions where the hardware has to be kept alive for operational reasons.</li> <li>• All monitors go into a low energy consumption sleep mode (.45W) if not connected and can be manually turned off by users.</li> </ul>
Energy efficiency, fuel poverty	Affordable Warmth Services (with Changeworks)	Supporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changeworks is an environmental charity that runs low carbon living and fuel poverty services in Midlothian, either alongside the Council or promoted by it. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Warm and Well. This is funded by Midlothian Council for its tenants and involves Changeworks providing advice to help them reduce their energy bills and have warmer homes. This may involve assistance with Warm Home Discount applications, negotiating with energy suppliers to resolve billing issues, choosing energy suppliers and tariffs and understanding energy bills. This supported 18 clients in 2021/22, saving 500kg of CO<sub>2</sub>.</li> <li>o Melville Housing Project. This was financed in 2021/22 by the Midlothian Council Poverty Fund with additional money from Melville Housing Association. The latter will fund this solely in 2022/23. This supported 71 clients in 2021/22, saving 2,500kg of CO<sub>2</sub>.</li> <li>o Aim High, which is an affordable warmth project funded by the NHS and is a partnership between Changeworks, Sure Start and Midlothian Citizens Advice Buro (CAB). It seeks to help prevent child poverty by supporting low income families to better manage their home budgets by tackling two of the largest household bills – energy and food. Support is provided from the CABs Income Maximisation Officer and fuel poverty advice services from Changeworks. The service is integrated into Sure Start Midlothian and is delivered through the Sure Start centres in Midlothian. This supported 75 clients in 2021/22, saving 1,160kg of CO<sub>2</sub>.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Advice in this area can also be provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o By Changeworks delivering online or in-person workshops or attending events with their energy advice stalls; and</li> <li>o Via the <a href="#">Council website</a>.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Food & Drink	Allotment & Food Growing Strategy 2020 - 2030	Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This was created in response to the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 which places a duty on local authorities to publish a food growing strategy for their area.</li> <li>• The implementation of the Strategy will help to reduce the carbon footprint and food miles of Midlothian's residents.</li> <li>• The Strategy also recognises the contribution that allotments make to biodiversity. It therefore includes an action to prepare a biodiversity gardening leaflet for new plot-holders so that these benefits are maximised.</li> </ul>
Raising Awareness	Council E-Training Module and Climate Change Web Page	Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Climate Change page of the Council's web site was given an overhaul in 2021, with it now containing an 'e-learning' course (primarily for staff, but also of interest to the wider public) and the Council's Climate Change Strategy amongst other things.</li> <li>• The 'e-learning' module contains details on the science of climate change, the Council's commitments in this area and what people can do to reduce their emissions. It asks employees to take a 'pledge' to reduce their carbon footprint.</li> </ul>

Transport	Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure	Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council hosts 25 public access charging points, including 4 rapid chargers, 16 fast chargers and 5 destination chargers. There are also non-public access (workplace) chargers at the Bonnyrigg Depot, Midlothian House and Stobhill Depot to promote the use of electric vehicles for Council business trips.</li> <li>• Two staff members share responsibility for public electric vehicle charging including strategy and policy, maintenance and funding. One focuses more on charging in new developments/planning and the other on public charging network expansion and existing charger maintenance.</li> <li>• Funding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Chargers were initially funded by the Local Authority Investment Programme (LAIP), under which Councils could receive 100% capital grants for chargers.</li> <li>o The Council's 2021/22 LAIP fund (£72,777) has been carried over into 22/23 where three new chargers are planned as well as the retrofitting of the 4 rapid chargers to enable contactless function.</li> <li>o Transport Scotland replaced the LAIP after 2021/22 with the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Fund (EVIF) which will run until 2025/26 and Councils have been offered £60,000 under this for developing a Council Electric Vehicle Strategy, a draft of which must be submitted by 30/09/2022. Use of the funds will be subject to approval of Council Strategy as per Transport Scotland requirements.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Policy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o The Council currently has an electric vehicle policy which was developed by Planning, Sustainable Growth and Investment staff. A working group has been formed to update this, including minimum standards, designs for new charging facilities in general and specific to new developments.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Transport	Switched on Fleets	Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Switched on Fleets (SoF) is a fund managed by the Energy Saving Trust on behalf of Transport Scotland for workplace chargers and decarbonising workplace vehicles.</li> <li>• SoF funding from 2020/21 was accrued into 2021/22 where staff claimed £105,470 for two Renault Zoe Vans, two Fiat E-Ducato Vans and the supply &amp; installation of eight electric vehicle charging points at the Stobhill Depot, four at Midlothian House and two at the Fushiebridge Depot.</li> <li>• £1,429 was claimed under SoF in 2021/22 for the supply and installation of residential charger at a new care home in Bilston.</li> <li>• The Council is investigation placing a bid for SoF in 22/23 to replace two workplace vehicles within the Waste Management and Ground Maintenance teams.</li> </ul>
Transport	Staff Cycling Facilities	Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lockers are available on a first-come, first-served basis for staff that cycle to work. These are available in Fairfield and Midlothian Houses.</li> <li>• Cycle parking facilities include an externally-funded covered cycle shelter in the car park behind Midlothian House and rails behind Fairfield House.</li> <li>• A successful application was made to Cycling Scotland for funding to upgrade the Council's staff shower facilities and there are now two for staff use – in Fairfield House and in the Old Fairfield building. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o A small amount of the Cycling Scotland fund remains available and staff are investigating using it to acquire new/improved cycle storage for staff around Fairfield/ Midlothian House.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Because of the above initiatives, Midlothian Council was awarded 'Cycle Friendly Employer' status by Cycling Scotland. It is valid until February 2024.</li> </ul>
Transport	Council Pool Bikes	Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council has pool bikes for staff to use for business purposes - there are two standard pool bikes and an electric cargo bike to allow staff that need to carry heavy items to use an active travel mode for their journey. These were partly unavailable during the reporting year but the pool bikes will be made ready and re-advertised in due course.</li> </ul>

Transport	Staff Bike Loan Scheme	Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 13 bikes are available for staff on a rolling basis for commuting in this project which is funded by Cycling Scotland. People are lent a bike for free for up to two months, after which it will go to another member of staff. Bikes are reserved on a first-come basis but a waiting list is also in place.</li> <li>• It is hoped that the initiative will encourage staff to buy their own bike and change their travel behaviour after the hire period.</li> <li>• A member of staff is currently working on promoting this scheme and is also looking into funding streams with a view to adding electric bikes to it.</li> </ul>
Transport	Active/Sustainable Travel Maps	Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council produces a range of mapped resources that allow people to find out about local active travel infrastructure and journey times. These encourage both staff and Midlothian's residents to use active travel. These include an active travel map created by Spokes (a Lothian-wide cycle campaign) which the Council placed on its interactive consoles around Midlothian to support more accurate travel planning and sustainable journeys.</li> <li>• Walking and cycling maps are provided on a regular basis to libraries/ leisure centres and health centres around Midlothian.</li> </ul>
Transport	Go e-Bike	Supporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In June 2021, two e-bike hubs were launched as part of this project, at Jarnac Court in Dalkeith and Edinburgh College at Hardengreen. Along with two other locations in East Lothian, they form a mini network of public hire stations, with 40 e-bikes allowing for journeys between transport interchanges and town centres.</li> <li>• This is an externally-led project (by SEStran) but with Midlothian Council supporting it.</li> <li>• In early 2022, the Jarnac Court station was removed due to vandalism but Council staff are working with SEStran to identify new locations including an alternative around Dalkeith as a replacement. Other locations are at Shawfair and Roslin.</li> <li>• Staff are also intending on doing joint promotion of the Go E-bike scheme with East Lothian Council in 2022/23 using Smarter Choices Smarter Places funding as well as engaging with Edinburgh College to promote the bikes to staff and students there.</li> </ul>
Transport	Places for Everyone	Participant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is a fund administered by Sustrans.</li> <li>• One proposal (for £40,000) is Designing &amp; Aligning Midlothian's Strategic Place with Sustainable/Active Travel &amp; Public Transport. This involves commissioning Living Streets to do a desk-based study focussing on a number of major developments in Midlothian to assess a number of things including accessibility by walking, wheeling, cycling and public transport as well as assessing the proximity of local services that can be reached by active travel means. The project is currently in its early stages.</li> <li>• Council staff have recently submitted four new applications involving infrastructure projects across Midlothian to the Places for Everyone fund and are waiting to hear back about whether the bids have been successful.</li> </ul>
Transport	Smarter Choices, Smarter Places (SCSP)	Participant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is administered by Paths For All and has a Local Authority Fund which Councils can apply for to implement active and sustainable travel projects. <a href="#">Overview reports</a> are available on this.</li> <li>• The Summary of Awards for 2021/22 states that Midlothian Council was awarded £80,000 for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o An Active Travel Marketing Officer, who will coordinate all active travel initiatives and engagement, including promotion and marketing of active travel options.</li> <li>o An Active Travel Marketing Officer for Schools, who will provide engagement, active travel education including supporting Bikeability and promotional events for primary and secondary schools. The School Streets project will also be implemented at a primary school location.</li> <li>o Phase 1 of a new Active Travel Strategy which was the winter 21/22 consultation. Phase 2 of this has now commenced and does not involve SCSP funding.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• SCSP 22/23 projects include:</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Schools projects such as Walk to School week, Bike to School week, delivering Bikeability, Walking Battle, Smoothie Bike, road safety activities, School Streets, working with Junior Road Safety Officers in schools for Park Smart initiatives and more; and</li> <li>o Community initiatives such as organising and promoting public cycle training courses in collaboration with the Council's Communities, Lifelong Learning and Employability team, Step Count Challenge for Council staff, Go E-bike scheme promotional activities, organising led walks and led cycles in the community including for the Midlothian Outdoor Festival. The latter will involve bike maintenance sessions, handing out active travel promotional materials and a family led bike ride.</li> </ul>
Transport	Various Other Active Travel Events	Participant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council participated in various events in 2021/22 to promote active travel in Midlothian. These included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o 'Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel'. Formerly called 'Big Pedal', it took place from 21/03/2022 to 01/04/2022, this being the 11th year it had been run. It is the UK's largest inter-school walking, wheeling, scooting and cycling challenge and aims to get pupils active during the school run. During the two-week challenge, schools compete to record the greatest number of pupils walking, using a wheelchair, scooting and cycling to school, whilst learning about the benefits of active travel along the way; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Promoting 'Cycle to Work Day' via the Wednesday Weekly All Staff Email, which also promoted the Council's other activities to encourage cycling at the same time. Cycle to Work 2022 day was 04/08/2022; and</li> <li>o The 2022 Active Travel Survey. This was to get views of residents and staff on encouraging walking, cycling and active travel generally in Midlothian. Results will be used to update the Council's Active Travel Strategy, due to be published in 2022/23.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Similar plans for 2022/23 include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o The Step Count Challenge in February/March 2023. Walk Leaders training has been completed for this and it is planned to offer lunch time walks in different areas to cater for the hybrid working system which is in place for staff;</li> <li>o Working with the Healthier Lives working group and the See Me group, staff are delivering walks in various areas of Midlothian areas on 06/10/2022, to promote the importance of active travel and mental health; and</li> <li>o More work on looking at ways to promote walks to the public and staff.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Transport	Active Travel Officer – Schools	Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The role of this post is to promote cycling, scooting and walking to all schools across Midlothian to increase active travel. This involves projects such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Providing led rides as part of PE lessons and the Duke of Edinburgh's Awards in high schools. 15 of these took place at Dalkeith High School in 2021/22;</li> <li>o Organising the Midlothian Walking Battle, a project to increase the amount that pupils walk to school. They are provided with pedometers to count their steps and they compete to see which class can walk the farthest. 462 pupils participated in the walking battle across six different schools in 2021/22. This cost £1,440 for 100 pedometers and</li> <li>o Running the 'Smoothie Bike' within Midlothian Schools to promote cycling and healthy living. 742 pupils from 10 different schools were reached in 2021/22.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Transport	Bikeability & Bike Maintenance Classes	Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is cycle training in primary schools.</li> <li>• It requires the Active Travel Officer - Schools coordinating and managing the school bike loan service and volunteers, as well as delivering the training to school staff as part of their CPD. 968 pupils took part in this in 2021/22;</li> <li>• The sessions were supported by the Officer leading bike maintenance classes for schools to train pupils and ensure bikes were in a working and safe condition. These were ran at 12 schools with around 140 pupils taking part in 2021/22.</li> </ul>
Transport	Play on Pedals	Participant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is a project done in collaboration with Playbase and Cycling Scotland that delivers balance bike activities to 3 to 5 year olds in nurseries and aims to get them used to cycling and bikes from a young age so they use them for transport later in life.</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bikes were maintained regularly for Midlothian Playbase for them to be distributed out to nurseries. Midlothian Council's fleet of Play on Pedals bikes were given to Woodburn Primary School on a long loan, to be used by the nursery children there throughout the year.</li> </ul>
Transport	School Streets	Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is an initiative that addresses issues with parking and traffic to support more children to walk, cycle, scoot or wheel to school – 'School Streets' are roads outside a school with a temporary restriction on motorised traffic at school drop-off and pick-up times. It involves providing accessible information and guidance to empower local communities who want to see such schemes implemented.</li> <li>• The project was recently rolled out at Strathesk Primary School in Penicuik, with the next school streets going to be implemented at St Mary's Primary School in 2022/23.</li> </ul>
Transport	Walk to School Week / WOW	Participant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Walk to School Week is organised by Living Streets, a charity whose objective is to promote walking in the UK. It is a five-day walking challenge that ran from the 16th to the 20th of May 2022. Its purpose is to encourage children to travel to school sustainably. They track their progress each day on a wallchart, unlocking information as they go. Individual activity diaries, daily stickers and end of week pupil rewards complement the activities, reinforcing the benefits and keeping children engaged.</li> <li>• It is part of a larger campaign by Living Streets called WOW - a year round walk to school challenge where participating schools award badges to kids who walk to school regularly.</li> </ul>
Transport	Staff Cycling Training Sessions	Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was a session for 'Absolute Beginners' that was held in November 2021 as part of Cycling UK's Shift programme and run by Council staff. Bikes were provided to those who didn't have one.</li> <li>• A 'Dr Bike' cycle maintenance session was also run in October 2021 as part of this as well as purchasing equipment for the upkeep of staff bikes.</li> <li>• There were another two sets of similar events held in February and March 2022, which included sessions geared towards on-road cycling too. There were more sessions in September 2022 with Cycling Scotland-approved trainers delivering each session. Council staff hope to run more staff cycle training sessions in future but are currently focussed on training sessions for the public.</li> </ul>
Transport	Cycle Solutions / Cycle to Work Scheme	Supporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This started in March 2019 and is a Government-backed initiative that enables people to obtain a bike and/or cycling accessories to use for riding to work whilst making tax and National Insurance savings from their gross pay.</li> <li>• The Council's Employment and Rewards staff administer the scheme.</li> <li>• Prior to Covid, there were regular pop-up shops and exhibits for this, such as at Fairfield House. These are advertised via emails to Council staff. The scheme is also advertised via leaflets in Council offices and on the Council Intranet.</li> </ul>
Waste	Millerhill Zero Waste Parc	Participant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are two major waste processing facilities at the Millerhill Zero Waste Parc: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o The Recycling and Energy Recovery Centre, which is a 25 year joint venture with the City of Edinburgh Council. Much of Midlothian's residual waste is processed here and is used to generate electricity at the facility. There are also plans to use the heat from it in a local district heating system; and</li> <li>o An Anaerobic Digester, where Midlothian's food waste is broken down to produce fertiliser and biogas (which is used to generate heat and electricity).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• This is part of a wider strategy to reduce waste to landfill and no waste is disposed of directly to landfill in Midlothian. The work has assisted in lowering CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from waste in Midlothian from 1.17 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per person in 2011 to 1.05 tonnes in 2020, a fall of 10%.</li> </ul>
Waste	Household Waste Recycling Centres	Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are two Household Waste Recycling Centres in Midlothian, at Stobhill and Penicuik.</li> <li>• These allow the public and local businesses to dispose of waste where it can then be recycled.</li> <li>• The Penicuik centre was refurbished and re-opened in April 2021 and the Stobhill Depot trialled a 'Re-Use Cabin' in 2021. It allowed people to drop off unwanted items for others make use of, thereby promoting the 'circular economy'</li> </ul>

			principle and reducing waste, including to landfill. During the pilot, the cabin diverted around 500kg of waste for re-use each month.
Waste	Food Waste Collection in Rural Areas	Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In November 2021, the Council's Waste Team received £132,085 in Scottish Government funding to offer a food waste recycling service in some rural areas of Midlothian. The money will be used to buy an additional vehicle and to provide food waste caddies.</li> <li>• No final decision on routes has been taken, but the service is likely to cover an additional 1,800 properties that were initially excluded because of their location. The intention is to implement this from mid 2023.</li> </ul>
Waste	Waste 'Digital Depot'	Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waste staff received funding of £34,000 from the Scottish Government's Recycling Improvement Fund to introduce a 'Digital Depot' for the management of the service and the collection of waste.</li> <li>• This will allow better route optimisation, so that less mileage can be travelled per amount of waste collected, therefore reducing emissions. The technology also offers the potential to improve recycling by monitoring waste contamination and can allow targeted recycling intervention as it can help identify areas where recycling is not as widely adopted.</li> <li>• It is intended that this will be implemented by mid-2023.</li> </ul>
Waste	Waste Education	Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Waste Aware Team can provide a range of advice, guidance and support on waste, waste minimisation and recycling. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o This can be done with schools and youth groups, involving a range of activities that can be arranged to meet the specific age group, level of awareness and number of participants. These include waste audits, recycling activities and games.</li> <li>o Other activities are geared towards adult groups. These include seminars and discussion sessions to allow people to ask specific questions on all aspects of recycling and waste management.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The Waste Aware Team also has a range of educational materials, posters and literature, which can be displayed in work places or community venues.</li> </ul>
Waste	Household Recycling Charter for Scotland	Participant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Scottish Government, Zero Waste Scotland and COSLA agreed a Household Recycling Charter and Code of Practice which set out a framework for implementing consistent recycling collections across Scotland. The Code of Practice specifies the material streams that should be collected separately and the specific items that will be accepted within each stream through standardisation of the specification for recyclable materials.</li> <li>• The Household Recycling Charter identifies a number of collection strategies to improve recycling performance and develop a consistent national system, whilst leaving scope for Councils to design services around their local context.</li> <li>• Midlothian Council agreed to sign the Charter in 2016 and it will be a key driver of the Council's Waste Strategy, when approved.</li> </ul>
Waste	Council Food Waste Recycling	Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2019, food waste collection bins were introduced in Fairfield House and Midlothian House for staff to use. These are located around the kitchen areas in these buildings together with other recycling bins, meaning that staff have the opportunity to recycle as many as possible components of the waste they may produce.</li> <li>• The food waste is taken to a local anaerobic digester that converts the waste heat generated during the decomposition of the food to energy. The residue is used as an agricultural fertiliser.</li> </ul>
Various	Changeworks in Dalkeith	Supporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is a three year project delivered by Changeworks. They will be working with local community groups and hosting events to raise awareness of the climate emergency and help people save money and carbon. It is funded by Midlothian Council with match funding from Changeworks - £48,670 split over the project lifetime and £16,140 in 2022/23.</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The project launched with a drop-in event in Dalkeith in July 2022 where passers-by on Buccleuch Street could get advice on how to save carbon and save money. Other events include those on active travel (September 2022), hard to heat homes (January 2023) and renewable heating options for domestic properties (March 2023).</li> <li>• Changeworks' Key Performance Indicators for the project are to reach 2,000 individuals in Dalkeith and surrounds across three years. Of these, 80% will have increased confidence in taking climate action and 1,000 will take positive action that drive us towards net zero.</li> </ul>
Miscellaneous	Midlothian Business Carbon Charter / Midlothian Green Pledge	Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This aims to encourage local businesses to contribute towards Midlothian Council's Net Zero 2030 goal whilst often benefiting from cost efficiencies at the same time.</li> <li>• Signing the pledge involves companies agreeing to undertake various commitments such as switching to a 100% renewable energy supplier, reducing their energy use and encouraging employees to use active transport such as walking or cycling to work. Businesses signing up are directed to a range of advice on how to achieve the Charter's aims, including developing travel plans and energy, waste and water audits.</li> <li>• The Business Gateway Midlothian team work with signatories to review their operations and help create a bespoke Green Action Plan for their business. They also receive other benefits such as them being highlighted on the Locate in Midlothian website and the Locate in Midlothian and Business Gateway Midlothian's social media channels, as well as receiving dedicated adviser support and access to environmental partners via Business Gateway Midlothian.</li> <li>• It was launched in July 2021. To date (July 2022), 20 businesses have signed up to the Charter and have been featured as green champions across Locate in Midlothian digital profiles with detailed articles.</li> </ul>
Miscellaneous	Net Zero Virtual Coffee Morning (on Climate Change Issues)	Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Virtual Coffee Mornings are online events hosted by Council Economic Development staff. This one in July 2021, focussed on climate change and what it means for businesses. 16 businesses attended to hear about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o How Midlothian Council is responding to climate change;</li> <li>o Exploring the simple steps businesses can take to become more environmentally friendly; and</li> <li>o The 'Circular Economy' from Zero Waste Scotland.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Three Midlothian businesses also spoke about their own climate actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Terry Healy Group on the impact the climate emergency has on their business, how they've responded and their plans for the future;</li> <li>o Skyrora, who are pioneering technology to convert non-recyclable plastic into high-grade, in-demand aerospace fuel; and</li> <li>o Seilich introduced their work on carbon capture while creating wildlife friendly beauty products using their own grown wildflowers.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Miscellaneous	Weekly All Staff Emails	Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Weekly All Staff Email is regularly used as a means by which to communicate details of and promote Council initiatives that are relevant towards climate change mitigation. Examples include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o The email of 21/07/2021 advertised 'Cycle to Work Day' and used it to promote the Council's Staff Bike Loan Scheme;</li> <li>o The email of 22/09/2021 advertised National Recycling Week as well as 'Dr Bike' bicycle maintenance sessions available for staff outside Fairfield House. This was run with assistance from the West Lothian Bike Library;</li> <li>o The email of 15/06/2022 advertised Clean Air Day and promoted simple steps that we can all take to cut down on air pollution; and</li> <li>o The email of 24/08/2022 advertised advice that Citizens Advice Scotland, Energy UK and Ofgem have produced to help domestic energy customers save energy and help manage their bills.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Miscellaneous	Participation in Earth Hour	Participant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council supports Earth Hour, with Midlothian residents being encouraged to follow suit in switching off lights and appliances.</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2020, Council staff put together a Communications Plan for the event.</li> <li>• In 2022, the event was advertised on the Council’s Twitter and Facebook pages as well as to staff via the Weekly All Staff Email. Residents are also directed to the WWF website for further information.</li> </ul>
Miscellaneous	Energy Efficiency Advice Sessions	Participant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council regularly has events on saving energy at home. These have previously been seminars or Q&amp;A sessions in the Council offices, but are now held online. They include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Home energy savings tips and the energy efficiency services of Home Energy Scotland and Changeworks in October 2021;</li> <li>o Moneyworks financial wellbeing webinars in February 2022 on managing energy costs; and</li> <li>o A webinar held by Money Advice Scotland on electric car use and benefits in May 2022.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Miscellaneous	Large Grants Allocation 2022 - 2025	Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council’s Large Grants Allocation funded projects which demonstrated how they achieved the aims of the Single Midlothian Plan. Accordingly, one of the judging criteria was projects that reduce carbon emissions.</li> <li>• Three grants were awarded under this category, totalling an allocation of £134,000. These were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Create and develop a food forest with orchard, a training and demonstration site, at the Midlothian Community Hospital (£37,000);</li> <li>o Develop and support community climate action in the Dalkeith area to take action to address the climate emergency (£49,000); and</li> <li>o Deliver a range of activities centred around food growing and supporting people to grow their own and learn what to do with the produce (£48,000).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Miscellaneous	Small Grants and Community Council Grants 2022-2023	Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council’s small grants scheme is available to voluntary and community organisations on an annual basis to deliver services across four funding streams to meet the priorities and outcomes of the Community Planning Partnership and the Single Midlothian Plan. One of the themes that applications must address is reducing carbon emissions.</li> <li>• Two projects were awarded £6,000 for helping to achieve this theme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o PlayBase scio - resource boxes to support and promote learning for sustainability which will be borrowed by Early Learning and Childcare settings in Midlothian, and;</li> <li>o Gorebridge Community Development Trust - funding to continue Growgetters – monthly child and family growing sessions focusing on growing your own food, connection to nature and the outdoors, and gardening for wildlife.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**Q6) Please use the text box below to detail further climate change related activity that is not noted elsewhere within this reporting template**

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