

2023-24 CLIMATE CHANGE ANNUAL REPORT TO SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

PART 1 – PROFILE OF REPORTING BODY

1(a) Name of reporting body

Provide the name of the listed body (the 'body') which prepared this report.
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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

4,053

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
Population size served	Population (people)	101,081	<p>Midlothian Council's emissions estimate for 2023/24 is 14,943 tCO₂e. This equates to tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e) per resident provided with Council services. This metric will be used in future reporting to assess carbon performance in relation to service provision.</p> <p>Using the last available householder occupancy figures (2022) for Midlothian of 2.23 (Mid Year Population Estimate Table 4 here), average household occupancy Table 3 here and taking account of 2022/2023 and 2023/24 Housing Audit housing completions figures 2022/23 (910) and 2023/24 (821), it is estimated that the area's population is around 101,081 as of mid-2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The most recent Census results (2022) highlight that Midlothian remains the fastest growing local authority in Scotland with an increase of 16.1%. The 2011 census data lists Midlothian as having a population of 83,187 which has risen to 96,600 in the 2022 census data. As detailed in the National Records Scotland 'Households and Dwellings in Scotland 2023' report (Table 1) MLC has seen, an 1.8%, (741 household) increase, in the number of households between 2022 and 2023 was the highest annual increase since 2008. The level of growth is 2.3% higher than our previous calculation and is now 13.4% higher than the Scottish average of 2.7%. In terms of households, Midlothian saw the highest percentage increase at 17.2% since the 2011 census. Population density in Midlothian is 273.1 residents per square kilometre compared to the Scottish average of 69.8. In addition, Midlothian has 10 zones which fall into the most deprived areas.• Over the last 20 years Midlothian has seen the second highest percentage increase of the 32 Scottish Local Authorities, (27%). 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

1(e) Overall budget of the body	
Specify approximate £/annum for the report year.	
Budget	Budget comments
£275,703,159	This is Midlothian Council's 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 23/24 financial statements are going through auditing overseen by external auditors Audit Scotland.

1(f) Report type	
Specify the report year type.	
Report type	Report year comments
Financial	This report covers the 2023/24 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 2 major administration offices (located in Dalkeith), 4 works depots, 9 libraries, 38 schools and 7 leisure centres and swimming pools (some of which are co-located on school premises)

The following street lighting assets:

- o 709 control cabinets
- o 19,895 streetlights
- o 12,350 LED street lighting assets
- o 948 signs
- o 626 bollards
- o 62 CCTV cameras
- o 40 sets of traffic signals
- o 72 sets traffic signalled crossings
- o 30 variable message signs
- Fleet assets totalling 290 vehicles which include:-
 - o 220 vehicles under 3.5tonnes, including cars vans and buses, 17 buses over 3500kg, 53 Heavy good vehicles.5 of the cars are lease vehicles.

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 for the Council's climate change work lies with a Cabinet of Elected Members. Council management and staff follow their direction 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. As such the motion is a primary driver for the Council's climate response and how it is governed.

The resultant Council Climate Change Strategy and a Climate Emergency Group (CEG), focus collective effort on meeting the commitments of the motion across Midlothian and within the Council. The CEG group is composed of Midlothian Community Councils and other community groups, national government agencies, third sector organisations, Midlothian Council representatives, local chamber of commerce personnel, landowners and Midlothian Energy Ltd. 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 the SLP covers the whole of the area and not just the Council's activities, it is approved by Elected Members and requires Council departments to have regard to its aims when creating their Service Plans. Since, an outcome of the Single Midlothian Plan is for 'significant progress [to be] made towards net zero carbon emissions by 2030', relevant Service Managers within the Council must take its commitments for carbon emissions into account when organising their department's work.

The Council has recently secured funding for the recruitment of a Climate Change Lead Officer to lead on the Council's response to climate change. Priorities of the new post holder will include:

- updating the Council climate change strategy
- Coordinating action across Council Services,
- Monitoring and reporting progress against targets and
- Promoting and facilitating climate change action in local communities and within business.

Other means by which strategic matters such as climate change are governed by the Council are:

- The Business Transformation Steering Group (BTSG) – a body composed of Councillors that forms part of the governance framework for the Midlothian Council Transformation Blueprint, including its ambitions for carbon and energy;
- The Council's Business Transformation Board – a group comprising [Senior Council management](#) with the purpose of driving forward the work of the Transformation Blueprint, with political steer from the BTSG; and
- The [Corporate Management Team](#) – a group composed of senior Council management with the role of the provision of strategic direction on major issues facing the Council and the delivery of effective corporate governance.

The Council's Internal Auditors and Audit Committee also help steer Midlothian Council's climate change governance. The Audit Committee provides independent review of the council's governance, risk management and control frameworks. Internal auditors have reported twice on work in this area, in 2017/18 and 2021/22, and also on energy and water consumption in 2022/23. These reports have been fed recommendations back to the Audit Committee and to Senior management.

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 and climate adaptation are Council-wide priorities, the governance structures described in 2(a) have allocated particular duties to some Council Services within the Place Directorate, namely:

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

Below are examples of the obligations that Managers of these services have taken on and have allocated to their staff: The newly formed Midlothian Climate Hub (third sector) also has considerable interplay in terms of Council climate action.

Neighbourhood Services:

- Their Roads Services team are pursuing an energy efficiency drive to replace existing streetlights with low-energy LED equivalents;
- Waste Management staff have priorities to ensure that waste disposal contracts promote maximum recycling, and that waste service options consider and limit the climate impact of their delivery;
- Travel and Fleet Services are supporting the delivery of the Council's Climate Change Strategy by exploring options for additional funding for electric vehicles and their charging infrastructure.

Property & Facilities Management:

- One of its service priorities is to develop carbon reduction targets for Council properties and work with energy partners to develop energy efficiency projects, including renewable energy, in support of sustainable low carbon energy targets and district heating schemes;
- The Energy Officer in this department monitors power and fuel use, provides input on this for the annual Public Bodies Climate Change Duties (PBCCD) report and implements energy reduction projects; and
- A new member of staff in this department has developed a Council wide Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy. This is due to be tabled for Council approval in May 24 and will then be available on the Council website. The Strategy focuses on delivering low cost, low carbon heat across Midlothian while abiding by 6 main outcomes

including fuel poverty, the local economy and energy efficiency. This will be done by working with key stakeholders such as Midlothian Energy Limited, Vattenfall and Changeworks.

Planning Sustainable Growth and Investment:

- The Manager of this department directed the content of the Council's Climate Change Strategy and its accompanying actions, including liaising with senior management;
- A Lead Officer within the department organises the Climate Emergency Group and resulting actions;
- Its Research & Information Officer compiles the Council's annual PBCCD report, with input from many other services; and
- Several staff work to increase sustainable and active travel and on expanding the use of electric/low-emissions vehicles.
- The Manager of this department directed the content of the Council's Climate Change Strategy and its accompanying actions, including liaising with senior management. Late 2023-early 2024 Aether consultants were commissioned to calculate baseline emissions from MLC estate with the purpose of providing the Council with a trajectory of emissions to 2030 for both (i) a 'business as usual' emissions reduction scenario and (ii) an ambitious emissions reduction scenario. Aether reviewed existing policies and actions to reduce emissions identified within the Midlothian Council Climate Change Plan (and update) and engaged with key council departments to determine their progress. Alongside this wider climate action planning, Aether conducted a review of the council estate by analysing electricity and gas consumption and identified the main emissions sources, outliers and buildings requiring further audit. This consultancy work reported in Feb 2024 and will be used to inform the update to the Council's Climate Strategy in the 2024/25 calendar year.

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 and promoting biodiversity awareness.

Further details on how climate change action is managed and embedded in Midlothian Council are provided in our Council [Service Plans](#). Additional direction on governance and actions was provided by the Council's [Annual Audit Report](#) to Members and the Controller of Audit which provided recommendations in this respect to be taken forward.

Midlothian Climate Hub (third sector):

- Established in September 2023, the Midlothian Climate Action Hub was established following a successful joint application by Midlothian Voluntary Action and Midlothian Climate Action Network for Scottish Government funding who they continue to report to.
- The proposed Hub team includes a full time Hub Manager and two community engagement posts (1 full time and 1 part time). The wider Hub Steering Group, is composed of MCAN and MVA members and is responsible for setting Hub priorities and monitoring Strategic direction. MVA as the Third Sector Interface formally recruited the Hub Team and act as the accountable body for the Hub. The Hub Steering Group (including representation from MVA) is responsible detailed work plans of the Hub team. The Hub Steering Group agrees budgets and is responsible to the wider membership. The Hub team works with a wide range of partners across Midlothian to effectively deliver the Hub's objectives.

- The primary role of the Hub is supporting communities to come together and engage collectively on climate action, supporting the transition to low carbon and climate resilient living and driving wider behaviour change.
- The Hub has the support of Midlothian Council and the Midlothian Community Planning Partnership (CPP) of which, both MVA and MCAN are members. This approach will reduce duplication of effort and facilitate a joined up, collaborative approach to the challenges of climate change.
- MCAN and MVA are represented on the Community Planning Partnership's multi-organisational Climate Emergency Group. This group was convened specifically to generate added value from sharing and engaging with others. In future the Hub Manager will attend. Midlothian Council recognises that the partnership ethos underpinning this application is vital to the achievement of the local authority's target of Net Zero by 2030.
- MVA has deep and established connections with Midlothian's communities and will play an important support role in signposting those groups to the Hub Team.
- The Hub will work with and support those groups and organisations working across Midlothian that strive to increase food security, reduce energy bills and alleviate poverty.
- There is significant interplay between the Climate Hub and Council facilitated Community Planning Climate Emergency Group at Authority level. Both the Hub and CEG also contribute to regional and national climate focused initiatives such as the Climate Ready South East Scotland work programme, currently driving forward an environmental and economic regional risk assessment relating to climate adaptation. This will help inform local action and support regional prioritisation of action across regional partners.

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"> • On 17 Dec 2023 the Council gave notice of a Motion declaring a climate emergency and requiring urgent action. • The aims of the motion are to ensure Council’s activities are net-zero carbon and achieve 100% clean energy across the Council’s full range of functions by 2030. The motion extends beyond Council activities and looks to support Authority wide net zero effort. At the time of the declaration, the Council recognised they must: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure that all strategic decisions, budgets and approaches to planning decisions are in line with a shift to zero carbon by 2030. 2. Support and work with all other relevant agencies towards making the entire area zero carbon within the same timescale. 3. Ensure that political and chief officer leadership teams embed this work in all areas and take responsibility for reducing, as rapidly as possible, the carbon emissions resulting from the Council’s activities. That any recommendations are fully costed and the Executive and Scrutiny functions review council activities taking account of production and consumption emissions. That the Council would produce an action plan within 12 months, together with budget actions and a measured baseline 4. Request that Council Scrutiny Panels consider the impact of climate change and the environment when reviewing Council policies and strategies; 5. Work with, influence and inspire partners across the district, county and region to help deliver this goal through all relevant strategies, plans and shared resources. Developing a series of meetings, events and partner workshops; 6. Request that the Council and partners take steps to proactively include young people in the process, ensuring that they have a voice in shaping the future; 7. Request that the Executive Portfolio holder with responsibility for Climate Change convenes a Citizens’ Assembly in 2019 in order to involve the wider population in this process. 8. Set up a Climate Change Partnership group, involving Councillors, residents, young citizens, climate science and solutions experts, businesses, Citizens Assembly representatives and other relevant parties. Over the following 12 months, have the Group consider strategies and actions being developed by the Council and other partner organisations and develop a climate strategy in line with a target of net zero emissions by 2030. It will also recommend ways to maximise 	<p>Council Climate Emergency Motion</p>	<p>Council’s Climate Change Web Page</p>
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<p>local benefits of these actions in other sectors such as employment, health, agriculture, transport and the economy</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">9. Report on the level of investment in the fossil fuel industry that our pensions plan and other investments have, and review the Council’s investment strategy to give due consideration to climate change impacts in the investment portfolio10. Ensure that all reports in preparation for the 2020/21 budget cycle and investment strategy take into account the actions the council will take to address this emergency.11. Call on the UK Government to provide the powers, resources and help with funding to make this possible, and ask local MPs to do likewise12. Consider other actions that could be implemented, including (but not restricted to): renewable energy generation and storage, providing electric vehicle infrastructure and encouraging alternatives to private car use, increasing the efficiency of buildings, in particular to address fuel poverty; proactively using local planning powers to accelerate the delivery of net carbon new developments and communities, coordinating a series of information and training events to raise awareness and share good practice. <p>Examples of how the Council has responded to these Motion aspirations are outlined below: -</p>		
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<p>1. 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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SMP has three intended outcomes for the next four years, one of which is ‘significant progress is made towards net zero carbon emissions by 2030’. • The SMP seven themes of work that will be carried out to achieve these, one of which is ‘Midlothian Will Be Greener’, the most relevant in respect of the net zero outcome. The priorities in this theme are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Learning for sustainability is increased; ii. Sustainable living is increased; iii. Low carbon/renewable energy development and home energy saving is increased; and iv. Carbon storage is increased. • Timebound outcomes and objectives relating to the ‘Midlothian will be Greener’ theme of the SMP are agreed and refreshed annually. A Summary of those outcomes outlined for 2023/24 and an indication of who they are managed by (in brackets) are presented below. CEG (denotes the Council facilitated Community Planning, Climate Emergency Group):- <p>Outcome: Learning for Sustainability is increased</p> <p>Actions to -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Train Ranger Service in River Fly Monitoring (CEG) ii. Encouraging Schools to adopt freshwater sites in the context of the Scottish Government’s Learning for Sustainability Action Plan for Vision 2030+. Produce an education delivery package (CEG). iii. Give consideration to Midlothian Council having a Climate Adaptation Vision, signed off across Council departments with Councillor support. Could include alignment of Financing, Design, Delivery and Maintenance of the different infrastructures needed to support Council and national climate transformation objectives (MLC/CEG) iv. Work with Midlothian Energy (MEL Ltd) on targeted education of low carbon heating and renewable energy solutions in Midlothian (ML/MEL). <p>Outcome: Sustainable Living is Increased</p> <p>Actions:</p>	<p>Single Midlothian Plan 2023-27</p>	<p>Community Planning in Midlothian</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. Establish a Midlothian Climate Hub - to act as an information and sign posting point for climate information and projects (CEG) II. Produce and distribute electronic information on how to promote biodiversity in small scale spaces to householders, community groups, businesses and developers (MLC/CEG) III. Community/Social Enterprise food production in Midlothian (a Midlothian Growing Network) is mapped and a Midlothian Growing Network is hosted and promoted on an accessible website (MLC/CEG). IV. Identify current community scale Climate Change projects in Midlothian and have them hosted on an accessible website (CEG) V. Use Climate Emergency Group and Midlothian Climate Hub to help promote available active travel information and events e.g. Walk to School events, Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel, Cycle to Work days, and wider walk and cycle promotion events (CEG) VI. Work with Sustrans, SEStran, and neighbouring local authorities to identify opportunities for bike/ebike hire projects and promote active travel (MLC /SESTRANS/SUSTRANS) VII. Work with public transport providers, community councils and ComoUK and others to increase the number and availability of bike storage spaces, mobility hubs, and encourage multi-modal journeys (MLC) VIII. Engage with shared transport and car club providers to establish a shared transport scheme across Midlothian (MLC) IX. The 2023-27 Single Midlothian Plan, in principle, will support and encourage climate and climate adaptation/resilience projects that come forward in its lifetime that help deliver its Vision (MLC). <p>Outcome: Low Carbon /Renewable Energy Development and Home Energy Savings is Increased</p> <p>Actions: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Support and promote Changeworks household decarbonisation project in Midlothian – Information on home energy savings and funding sources are signposted from a Midlothian Climate Hub (CEG/MLC) ii. Work with Midlothian Energy (MEL Ltd) on targeted provision of low carbon heating and renewable energy solutions in Midlothian (MLC/MEL) iii. Work with Midlothian Council on delivery of its Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES) (MLC/MEL). <p>Outcome: Carbon Storage is Increased</p> <p>Actions:-</p>		
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Map areas of existing wildflower and meadow in Midlothian, encourage Midlothian Wildflowers, and seek to increase number of partners on wildflower meadows, hedgerows and roadside verges projects (Climate Emergency Champion & MLC) ii. NatureScot to connect Midlothian Council with Peatland Action team to explore peatland issues and the potential for support on assessment and future project delivery (MLC/CEG) iii. Engage with landowners of peat and on peatland matters identified by NatureScot (MLC/CEG) iv. Investigate undertaking a natural capital audit of Midlothian, in part to help determine which areas have the most carbon sequestration potential via nature restoration - this could include identification of projects for restoration of peatland, grassland and woodland habitats. The natural capital audit may prompt/support further related work, e.g. water flow/flooding (MLC/CEG) v. Map areas of greenspace and tree canopy cover in Midlothian to identify missing links (MLC/CEG). <p>2. Council's Service Plan goals are purposefully aligned to contribute to Single Midlothian Plan ensuring they contribute directly to it.</p>		
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<p>3.The Councils Transformational Blueprint has been developed in line with the Single Midlothian Plan and is supported by the Council’s Service Plans, both of which aim of reducing emissions from our activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Transformational Blueprint itself builds on 2020’s Midlothian Route Map Through and Out of the Covid Pandemic and has six themed interventions intended to support Midlothian’s recovery from the Coronavirus pandemic. <p>Rooted in the creation of a wellbeing economy, the vision of MLCs 5-year strategy (2023-2028) focuses on reducing inequalities at the same time as looking after the health of our planet. It has three main aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals and communities have improved health and learning outcomes. • No child or household live in poverty. • Significant progress is made towards net zero carbon emissions by 2030. <p>The Blueprint sets out how MLC will continue to work to address the inequalities that our communities face, respond to the demands of the fastest growing local authority in Scotland, and delivering our vision of being a great, green place to grow.</p> <p>Current Transformation Blueprint Objectives are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Support the Council to address the 5-year funding gap of outlined in the Medium-Term Financial Strategy. 2.Follow the Money to ensure that the services we commission, contracts we manage and digital solutions we use deliver value for money. 3.Develop an organisational workforce that is flexible, ensuring that all staff have the necessary skills to work effectively, supported by digital technologies that is fit for a 21st century workforce. 4.Design a workplace for the future delivering services in a holistic and integrated way. 5.Drive forward multi-agency transformation to deliver systems-level change resulting in joined-up service delivery which improves outcomes. The ‘Workplaces of the Future’ workstream is of particular relevance with an objective to ‘embed reducing carbon through increased remote working and incentivisation of active travel work options’. 	<p>Midlothian Council Transformation Blueprint</p>	<p>Presented to the Council meeting of 27/06/2023</p>
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<p>4. Midlothians Climate Change Strategy 2020 sets out a Vision and set of objectives structured around the Council's Climate Emergency Motion of 2019.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How MLC will reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, encourage, and work with others in our community to mitigate and adapt to changing climate. • The strategy incorporates an action plan with a number of initiatives and ongoing programmes which together are helping to reduce our emissions and carbon footprint. • It identifies existing Council plans and strategies that will make a contribution to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions. • 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"> 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. o For each of these actions, the Council service responsible is identified and a timetable and desired outcome is specified. • The Strategy was approved by Council in 2020. • Work commenced in 2022/23 to update it, determine the scope of emissions and activities included in the update and cost out a pathway for the Council to reach net zero by 2030. • In 2023 funding was secured for a Climate change lead officer post, which once filled will provide dedicated resource with Climate Strategy development as a primary priority. <p>Strategy Vision</p> <p>‘To become an earth friendly Council, resource aware and committed to working in partnership with others to achieve our net zero carbon ambition by 2030 and ensure that our actions today assist future generations to create a resilient and more sustainable future in Midlothian’.</p> <p>Strategy Objectives</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. To make the Council's activities net carbon zero by 2030; II. To establish a Citizens Assembly and Climate Change Partnership Group to engage the wider population, business, education and scientific sectors in the climate change debate; III. To raise awareness about the impacts and risks from a changing climate; 	<p>Scotland's Changing Climate – Midlothian's Climate Change Strategy</p>	<p>Council's Climate Change Web Page</p>
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<p>IV. To take a 'One Council' approach to reducing carbon emissions and putting this objective at the heart of our organisational activities, processes and decisions;</p> <p>V. To encourage people, businesses and communities to work alongside the Council and make their own climate change commitment;</p> <p>VI. To lead by example and provide climate change leadership to our partners, communities and businesses.</p> <p>VII. To develop our resilience and ability to adapt to the impacts and risks of a changing climate; and</p> <p>VIII. To monitor and publicly report our climate change progress</p>		
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<p>5. The Capital Investment Strategy sets out the vision for capital planning in Midlothian based on the themes of the Single Midlothian Plan, which aims for sustainable growth and a reduction in the Council’s carbon emissions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under this theme, the Capital Investment Strategy includes various environmental objectives. The ones relevant to climate change, (particularly mitigation and adaptation) are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 'Promote sustainable energy solutions where this can be achieved in a manner acceptable in terms of the environment'; 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'; o 'Safeguard and enhance biodiversity and take full account of development impact on the water environment whilst consideration is being taken for its improvement'. <p>6. 2023/2024 Climate Action Planning</p> <p>Midlothian Council commissioned Aether (reported Feb 2024), to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calculate their baseline emissions for their estate and to provide them with a trajectory of emissions to 2030 given a ‘business as usual’ emissions reduction scenario and an ambitious emissions reduction scenario. • Review existing policies and actions to reduce emissions identified within the Midlothian Council Climate Change Plan (and update) and engaged with key council departments to determine their progress • Undertake a review of the council estate by analysing electricity and gas consumption and identified the main emissions sources, outliers and buildings requiring further audit. 	<p>Capital Investment Strategy 2018 – 2028</p>	<p>Capital Investment Strategy 2018 – 2028</p>
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<p>2(d) Does the body have a climate change plan or strategy?</p>
<p>If yes, provide the name of any such document and details of where a copy of the document may be obtained or accessed.</p>
<p>Yes. This is referred to in question 2(c) (4) , which provides a summary of the current Climate Strategy’s Vision and Objectives . The Strategy can be found on the Council’s Climate Change Web Page.</p>

2(e) Does the body have any plans or strategies covering the following areas that include climate change?

Provide the name of any such document and the timeframe covered.

Note that documents entered below may have expired or been superseded, however they are included as they were applicable during the reporting year.

Topic area	Name of document & link to it	Time period covered	Comments
Adaptation	Midlothian Green Network Supplementary Guidance	2018 until the new Local Development Plan is adopted	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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">o Ensuring habitat connectivity to allow species to adapt to climate change through movement;o Encouraging retention and expansion of plants and trees to provide opportunities for carbon trapping or sequestration; ando Providing sustainable drainage and water attenuation opportunities to reduce the impact of storm events.• Land use planning proposals are assessed in relation to whether they are compatible with the Guidance's goals.
Business Travel	Business Travel & Subsistence Policy - this is available internally for staff from the Council's intranet pages	2019 onwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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:<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Encouraging employees to consider whether travel is necessary;o Promoting a travel hierarchy that encourages green transport modes; ando Paying cycle mileage to promote active travel use for business purposes.

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.	Individual School Travel Plans each cover a two year period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every Midlothian school has a School Travel Plan, and they are available from those individual schools. • They are traditionally updated every two years, though in recent times this cycle has been interrupted by implications of the Covid pandemic, such as schools being closed and travel modes being altered. Staff are catching up with all those delayed during this period. • 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.
Energy Efficiency	Place Directorate Service Plans / Place Directorate Performance Reports	Updated annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Place Directorate Service Plan identifies 'service priorities' for its departments. Many of these are related to energy efficiency, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Delivering the Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing programme; o Implementing the Local Authority Carbon Management Plan; and o Managing and monitoring energy usage and costs, and developing renewable energy and heat projects. • These goals, and progress towards them, are recorded in Place Directorate Annual (and Quarterly) Performance Reports.
Fleet Transport	Place Directorate Service Plans / Place Directorate Performance Reports	Updated annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Place Directorate Service Plan identifies '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"> o Promoting the use of environmentally friendly, low-emission vehicles; o Increasing rates of active travel; and o Supporting the delivery of the Council's Climate Change Strategy and exploring options for funding electric vehicles and their charging infrastructure. • These goals, and progress towards them towards them, are recorded in Place Directorate Annual (and Quarterly) Performance Reports.

ICT	Digital Midlothian	2021 - 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Digital 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. • It recognises that digital, data and technology are fundamental to supporting us to meet the Council’s goal of reducing our carbon emissions to net zero by 2030. To help achieve this it has the aim that wherever possible, we should implement digital technologies that are low carbon in themselves and seek to enable and support other green and low carbon initiatives, activities and working practices. • The Corporate Solutions Service Plan (presented to Council on 27/06/2023) states that a ‘key priority’ for 2023/24 is to review this document. Its replacement will incorporate the Council’s net zero emissions aims.
Renewable Energy	Place Directorate Service Plans / Place Directorate Performance Reports	Updated annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Place Directorate Service Plan identifies the following as a service priority: ‘develop carbon reduction targets for Council properties and work with energy partners to develop energy efficiency projects, including renewable energy, in support of sustainable low carbon energy targets and district heating schemes’. • Progress towards this goal is recorded in Place Directorate Annual (and Quarterly) Performance Reports.
Sustainable / Renewable Heat	Midlothian Local Development Plan	2017 onwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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'). • The Plan specifically identifies housing sites in the Shawfair area as locations where community heating is presumed. • The Plan is the framework for development across Midlothian as a whole and is not limited to the Council’s estate/operational interests. • Local Development Plan reporting is through the Council’s Place Directorate. The Place Service Plan notes that the introduction of renewable technologies (including heat) is a ‘Service Priority’.

Waste Management	Waste Strategy		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Waste Management covers a wide range of functions that are flexible and focused in the delivery of the service. •The Waste Strategy sets out the direction for the service to achieve the Scottish Government's target of 70% recycling and composting of household waste by 2025 and to enable compliance with the Household Recycling Charter for Scotland. •The Council's Community Waste Officer and Trade Waste Officer provide advice and guidance to households and businesses, delivering talks and presentations to local schools and community groups and encouraging participation in the Council's recycling services and increased awareness of the environmental impacts of waste and resource efficiency. •Other key operational services areas include the collection of household, commercial and confidential waste collections, street cleansing, household recycling centres, household bulky uplifts and abandoned vehicles.
Water & Sewerage	Local Flood Risk Management Plan – Forth Estuary Local Plan District	2022 - 2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Local Flood Risk Management Plan helps to implement the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009. Flood Risk Management Plans are Scotland's route map for reducing the effects of flooding on communities. They are also important in our response to the climate emergency as flooding is increasing due to it. They are delivered over six-year cycles. This plan is for Cycle 2 (2022 and 2028). • The Plan identifies where in the area it covers is at most risk of flooding and where the benefits of investment are greatest. It specifies how and when actions will be taken. • The Flood Risk Management Plan is listed as forming part of the 'Strategic Framework' for Neighbourhood Services in the Place Directorate Service Plan that went to Council on 27/06/2023.

Land Use	Midlothian Local Development Plan	2017 onwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Midlothian Local Development Plan contains many policies that support the sustainable development of land, renewable & low carbon heating projects and the promotion of active travel. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o NRG5 – ‘Heat Supply Sources and Development with High Heat Demand’; o NRG6 – ‘Community Heating’; o NRG2 – ‘Wind Energy’; o ENV5 – ‘Peat and Carbon Rich Soils’, and; o TRAN1 – ‘Sustainable Travel’. • The Plan is the framework for development across Midlothian as a whole and is not limited to Midlothian Council estate/operational interests. • Council’s Service Plans identify the 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	Winter Service Policy and Operational Plan	Winter 2023-2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. As such fulfilling its Statutory responsibilities as defined in Section 34 of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984. • The Plan also specifically references climate change and notes that Winter Service provisions may require to be implemented at any time of year and are likely to be needed 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.

Adaptation	Severe Weather Plan & Resources	Winter 2023-2024	<p>A variety of resources on severe weather are available on the Council intranet, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)/Met Office Flood Guidance Statement User Guide; • Transport Scotland advice on driving in bad weather; • The Council’s Severe Weather Plan, which provides: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o A summary of the Met Office National Severe Weather Warning System and guidance on resulting action; and 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. • The Council’s Emergency Planning Procedures for Early Learning and Childcare Settings, Schools and Children’s Services. 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.
Adaptation	Midlothian Local Biodiversity Action Plan	2019 - 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 2019. • 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. • Most of the actions will support biodiversity in adapting to the effects of climate change, in particular- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Promoting actions to enhance wildlife corridors so that biodiversity is more resilient to its impacts. o Suggesting a variety of water management actions so that water courses and bodies adapt to climate change.

Adaptation	Biodiversity Duty Report	2017 – 2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. The subsequent is currently in progress at time of PBCC reporting. • The report has a section which describes how the Council has integrated biodiversity into nature-based solutions to the climate emergency.
Staff Travel	Flexible Working Policy - this is available internally for staff from the Council's intranet pages.	2020 onwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • It has applied since 2014 and was updated in 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.
Energy Efficiency	Effective Working in Midlothian Strategy (EWiM) / Council Building Rationalisation	2007 onwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As stated in the Council’s Place Directorate Service Plan, EWiM is part of the strategic framework for the Property & Facilities Management Service. It refers to the rationalisation of the Council’s office and depot estate. It includes the introduction of space standards complemented with the workforce’s flexible and mobile working. The pandemic accelerated the adoption of remote working and enhanced digital capability across the Midlothian estate. EWiM is now pivotal to the Council’s service redesign and recovery programmes. • It has had indirect benefits for energy efficiency and emissions. One of the intended Strategy outcomes was achieving the cost-effective use of Council property, which led to improved building occupancy levels (creating efficiencies regarding the heat and power used in them) and flexible working (that reduced staff travel and the emissions associated with it).

Energy Efficiency	Local Housing Strategy	2021 - 2026	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Target energy efficiency advice at households most at risk of fuel poverty; o To achieve the highly energy efficiency 'Passivhaus' standard on all directly commissioned housing in order to meet the Scottish Government’s New Build Heat Standard; o Improve knowledge of the levels, extent and nature of fuel poverty and energy efficiency of housing, with a focus on older properties; 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 o Continue to provide/facilitate services to maximise household income and reduce fuel poverty. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A report to Council on 10/10/2023 agreed to suspend the use of Passivhaus until analysis was brought back to the Council on the cost variances and its efficiency in comparison to standard energy efficiency housing. It was agreed this would not impact current sites, only further commitments. Midlothian’s Place Performance Report Annual Summary 2023/24 highlights the following achievements for 2023/24: - • <i>First Passivhaus developments completed, occupied and certified at Buccleuch St Dalkeith and Burnbrae, Bonnyrigg.</i> • <i>Largest Passivhaus development on site at former Newbattle High School, part of Scotland’s largest Passivhaus housing programme.</i> • <i>Replacement Highbank Intermediate Care on site with extra care housing now on site with Ogilvie in Bonnyrigg, all being built to Passivhaus standard</i>
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Energy Efficiency	Strategic Housing Investment Plan	2023/24 - 2027/28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose of the Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) is to set out strategic investment priorities for affordable housing over a 5 year period to achieve the outcomes set out in the Local Housing Strategy (LHS). SHIP developments help to fulfil the aims of the Local Housing Strategy, one of which is to increase the energy efficiency of homes. • Projects are scored on their environmental impact with energy efficiency and use of renewable technologies of primary consideration. This helps to ensure that projects with better environmental credentials are prioritised for development ahead of other less sustainable alternatives. • The latest SHIP details potential sites for 2,594 new affordable homes to be built between 2023/24 and 2027/28. Of these, 1,958 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.
Energy Efficiency	Net Zero Housing Design Guide	2022 onwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council agreed at its meeting of 29/03/2022 that all new Council houses going forward should take heedance to the Net Zero Housing Design Guide, supporting the Council's commitment to become net zero by 2030. •Through development and housing management process, the Council has gained substantial experience and knowledge of housing provision. •Reflecting standards in national and local policies, along with Midlothian Council's commitment to become a net zero carbon Council by 2030. •The Design Guide aims to convert this knowledge into principles and preferences for Designers and professional teams to follow. It encompasses checklists which supporting developers in demonstrating how their project meets a comprehensive range of sustainability and low carbon criteria. •The end result should be the delivery of effective solutions which introduce an element of standardisation, enhance cost effectiveness and minimise maintenance.

Energy Efficiency	Midlothian Council Building Heating Policy - this is an internal Council document	2019 onwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The aim of this policy is to set and control building temperature ranges in the heating season (approximately mid October to late May), in order to help manage the Council's carbon footprint. • 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).
Energy Efficiency	Learning Estate Strategy	Covers 2017 to 2047; updated December 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council's Learning Estate Strategy notes that it must align with the key priority of the Single Midlothian Plan for significant progress to be made towards net zero carbon emissions by 2030. An example of how this is being taken forward is within the new Easthouses Primary School, replacement Beeslack High School and refurbishment of Penicuik High School. These new school buildings must fulfil criteria such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o A reduction of operational energy consumption, in line with the Learning Estate Investment Programme targets; o Strict construction embodied carbon targets being met; o Low carbon and zero waste processes to be implemented during the construction phase; and o The circular economy agenda being promoted. • The refurbishment of Penicuik High School aims to reduce its annual estimated energy consumption to a cost of £60,000 a year from £244,000 at present. It is also located in the town centre in a highly accessible location that will encourage walking and cycling to school. • The Place Directorate Report Annual Summary reports that:- The Education Learning Estate Strategy programme has been developed and is subject to regular review meetings with Education and stakeholders to ensure effective monitoring, reporting and delivery of improvement and expansion of the Education estate including Early Years provision. This currently covers approximately 30 projects at various stages of development.
ICT	ICT Procurement Frameworks	Various, depending on equipment type.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Midlothian Council purchases almost all of its IT equipment via these Scottish Government frameworks. The Council continues rely on them to ensure that the hardware we purchase is as energy efficient as possible. As MLC continues with our rolling refresh of hardware, significant numbers of older, less energy efficient devices are replaced year-on-year. • The frameworks deliver environmental benefits, including a reduction in carbon emissions through the inclusion of latest environmental and energy efficiency certification.

Land Use	Shawfair Sustainable Growth Agreement	2019 onwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• MLCs Sustainable Growth Agreements (SGAs) with SEPA are voluntary, non-legally binding, formal agreements committing the both organisations (often alongside other parties) to exploring new and innovative ways to improve environmental performance and focus on practical actions that deliver environmental, social and economic success.• 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">o One of the SGA's key projects is the district heating system for Shawfair town centre. This will be powered by surplus, zero carbon heat from the nearby recycling and energy recovery centre.
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Other	Midlothian Climate Hub	Initial priorities and actions agreed with Scottish Government Sep 2023	<p>Initial Climate Hub priorities (Set Sep 23)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Delivery of outreach programmes to support groups within their communities, including those not yet engaged with climate change and identifying ways to enable them to participate; ● Advice and support to help empower communities and raise their ambitions; ● The provision of sharing and learning opportunities between communities; ● Signposting to funding opportunities; and the provision of ● Technical support, project development and reporting and evaluation advice to help facilitate collaborative and large scale projects ● Act as a collective voice of the network to influence decision-making and advocate for climate-friendly policies. <p>Initial actions identified included: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● explore how the Hub can facilitate links between community gardeners and other food growers with the foodbanks, community fridges and pantries that so many households rely upon; ● engage with, learn from and seek to add-value to ‘Changeworks in Dalkeith’. This is the second year of a three year partnership project being delivered by Changeworks to build community awareness of the climate emergency and bring about behaviour change and direct action to tackle the issue locally. In the first year of the three year project c.600 households were reached and the project is currently being extended to Eskbank, Mayfield, Gorebridge, Easthouses and Newbattle. These, like Dalkeith, include areas of deprivation;
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● engage with Midlothian Energy Ltd, Vattenfall Heat UK (the company establishing a local heat network to 4,000 homes at the new town of Shawfair) and the Council's Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES). The Hub could help Midlothian Energy build volunteer teams to gather data from communities on energy use and energy efficiency options and have a key role in communicating the benefits of heat networks, heat pumps and other energy efficiency improvements to the wider public. This would align with the LHEES delivery plan, helping prepare for the expansion of heat networks.

● MCAN has a seat on the Communities Go Solar partnership of six community groups developing a bid to the National Lottery Climate Action Fund to support solar powered community energy schemes within their areas. One of the community groups is Penicuik Community Development Trust. We will use the valuable experience from this project to help assess other potential opportunities for community energy schemes;

● offer support to Midlothian Financial Inclusion Network and Midlothian Council to help households living in poverty in the hope we can provide added-value to this important work. The provision of local, fresh and affordable food; encouraging re-use, repair and upcycle as less-expensive and often better alternatives to buying new; and insulation advice and energy reducing measures should provide benefit to those households.

Other	Economic Growth Strategy 2020 - 2025 (+ Midlothian Economic Renewal Strategy)	2020 - 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Economic Growth Strategy contains several ‘Strategic Priorities’, one of which is to improve the vibrancy of Midlothian’s town centres and make them more environmentally friendly. • There are several ‘key actions’ that aim to promote this goal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Creating low carbon/energy efficient business co-working space at Shawfair; o Reducing CO₂ emissions per capita; o Developing a Carbon Charter and aiming to sign up new businesses to it; and o Identifying a site for a modern, light industrial use and low carbon business park; • The Economic Renewal Strategy is an addendum to the original Strategy. It was created in response to the economic challenges resulting from Brexit and the Coronavirus pandemic. It has several environmental objectives including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Supporting businesses in undertaking sustainable travel options appraisals; o Targeting (promoting), increased referrals to Zero Waste Scotland/Resource Efficient Scotland for free environmental audits; and o Launching the Midlothian Carbon Charter. • A replacement, called the ‘Midlothian Economic Strategy for Inclusive Growth 2024 – 2029’, is due to be published in Autumn 2024. It aligns with the Scottish Government’s objective of a transition to a wellbeing economy in line with their National Strategy for Economic Transformation.
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Other	Midlothian Council Procurement Strategy 2018 - 2023	2018 - 2023	<p>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Midlothian Council has a duty to promote the economic growth of Midlothian and the current Procurement Strategy 2018 – 2023 aims to maximise local spend ensuring growth and job creation. • 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. Specific reference is made to a requirement to consider impact of procurement activities in relation to climate change. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The importance of the environmental credentials of suppliers are also emphasised elsewhere, such as 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. • Updating the Procurement Strategy is a key priority for Legal and Governance Services, as stated in the Corporate Solutions Service Plan for 2023/34 – 2027/28.
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Other	Midlothian Council Local Procurement Strategy 2021	2021 until superseded	<p>This helps to further the aims of the Council’s overall 2018 – 2023 Procurement Strategy with a focus on enhancing support to Small and Medium sized enterprises (SMEs) , third sector and supported business: -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increasing opportunities for SMEs, third sector and supported business to gain Council business 2. Providing SMEs, third sector and supported business with greater access to procurement opportunities, all contract opportunities, <p>Key objectives of note include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate leadership and corporate social responsibility by procuring sustainably and ethically and influencing suppliers, contractors, service providers and our collaborative partners to do the same. • The Council will use its contract and supplier relationship management processes to improve, social, economic, environmental and sustainable arrangements within current and future contract opportunities. • The Council will use its spend to actively encourage and support a growing, diverse and resilient local business base, and to support our Carbon Neutral by 2030 ambitions • The Council will consider any negative externalities of procurement, for example the impact on the environment
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Other	Midlothian Compact Agreement	2020 - 2025	<p>Topic area covered: various areas of work on climate change.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The purpose of the Midlothian Compact is to create the foundation for positive working relationships between the third sector and Midlothian Council to support better outcomes for communities. • The Midlothian Compact agreement outlines actions specifying r how the Council will work together with its third sector partners. Creating networks and opportunities to develop innovative new ways of working together, share resources and ensure they are collectively are able to meet the challenges of the new decade, including the climate emergency which will increasingly affect all of our lives.
Other	Midlothian Physical Activity, Sport and Health Strategy	2018 - 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Midlothian Physical Activity, Sport and Health Strategy 2018 - 2023 aims to encourage everyone in Midlothian to be more active whether that's 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. •Midlothian Council employee an Active Travel Officer •Incorporated within the Strategy are priorities to: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Encourage sustainable active travel participation across all age groups ○ more walking busses and park and walk zones to increase active travel to school

Other	Midlothian Active Travel Strategy	2018 - 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MLCs Active Travel Strategy. The Vision committed to in the Strategy is ‘ to create a safe and convenient environment for walking and cycling in Midlothian, promoting an active travel culture where there are safe and convenient walking and cycling choices for all Midlothian residents and visitors, with active travel being the normal choice for everyday journeys’ • The Strategy has nine objectives and an accompanying action plan. Its primary aim is to increase walking and cycling and reduce motorised transport. It contains a map of the region and settlements, showing existing infrastructure and identifies routes for new infrastructure and the priority level of these projects. It contains details of cross-border routes and specifies national, regional and local policies that contributed to its development. • The action plan contains a set of actions covering topics such as infrastructure and network development and school engagement. Some of the objectives are linked to monitoring activities and targets. • Work on updating the Active Travel Strategy is underway with the replacement due in 2023/24. This will inform the new Midlothian Local Development Plan and the Council’s new Local Transport Strategy.
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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. Refresh the Council Climate Change Strategy and underling action plan, supporting the Council and wider local authority partners collective journey to net zero and impactful climate mitigation and adaptation for Midlothian. Consider recommendations in the report by the Council's Internal Audit department from January 2023 surrounding monitoring energy usage, long term planning for improving estate energy efficiency and renewables projects. In compiling the Strategy and Action Plan :-
 - a. Undertake awareness raising to develop understanding of the relevance of climate issues across Council, community and business and its tie across to Council response to Scotlands wider polycrises of nature, wellbeing and economy. Support relevant Council leads in realigning Service Plans to ensure efficient, effective, inclusive tie across in Council response to these interconnected crises and
 - b. Support Council colleagues in collectively identifying tangible impactful ambitious actions and formulating these into short, medium and long term planning with clear objectives and key results (milestones set against assigned 'responsible individuals')
2. Ensure Midlothian's efficient and impactful interplay with regional and national work programs on transformational regional and national climate action. For example; continuing in our work alongside Sniffer, wider Scottish Government , Lothians and Borders Councils and cross sector partners in undertaking a regional risk assessment to agree regional and local adaptation priorities for collective action.
3. Strengthen coverage on climate in the review Council policy initiatives such as the forthcoming Local Development Plan review
4. Facilitate wider Authority interplay with the Council facilitated Community Planning Climate Emergency Group (CEG)
5. Support Midlothian's community led Climate Hub as they work towards the climate priorities they have agreed with Scottish Government

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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.

A 2023 assessment of climate action was undertaken by Climate Emergency UK for each UK Council 1st Jan 2019 until March 2023 as carried out by Climate Emergency. The reporting scorecards were cocreated in consultation with 90 different organisations and individuals. Councils were scored on seven areas of climate action and given a right to reply before the scores underwent a final audit. Midlothian 2023 scores are outlined below: -

	Midlothian Council	Average Score for Similar Council
Buildings and Heating	36%	49%
Transport	12%	22%
Planning and Land Use	27%	35%
Governance and Finance	24%	27%
Biodiversity	23%	27%
Collaboration and Engagement	37%	53%
Waste Reduction and Food	31%	37%

Midlothian Council had previously used the Climate Change Assessment Tool in 2021/22. This was undertaken using a slightly different methodology to the 2023 assessment above and is therefore not directly comparable. The 2021 scores generated with the tool, (depicted below) consider overall rating of capability/performance and ratings for five areas within an organisation.

The results for Midlothian Council 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%).

As part of its 'Council Climate Plan Scorecard's' project in 2021, Climate Emergency UK also assessed the Council's plans for its climate change work according to 28 questions across nine sections, based on an expert-approved checklist. Each council was marked against these criteria and given a right to reply before the scores underwent a final audit. The results are presented below, including a comparison to other Councils similar to Midlothian for context.

Section	Midlothian Council Score	Average Score for Similar Councils
Governance, development and funding	13/21	10.3/21
Mitigation and adaptation	10/18	9.0/18
Commitment and integration	5/7	4.1/7
Community engagement and communications	5/9	5.1/9
Measuring and setting emissions targets	4/5	2.9/5
Co-benefits	0/4	2.2/4
Diversity and inclusion	0/5	0.9/5
Education, skills and training	1/5	2.3/5
Ecological emergency	2/4	2.1/4

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.

Since 2017, the Council's Internal Auditors have undertaken three reviews into a combination of the Authority's Public Bodies Climate Change Duties reports and its energy consumption. This has led to recommendations in relation to governance, management and strategy for how the Council should proceed with future reports and work on sustainability and climate change matters more generally. As reflected above a successful bid has been raised to put in place a dedicated Climate Lead post supporting coordination and oversight of Council wide climate action,

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 ₂ 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 ₂ e	
2018/19	Financial	10,191	5,459	641	16,290	tCO ₂ e	
2019/20	Financial	10,587	4,874	590	16,051	tCO ₂ e	
2020/21	Financial	10,904	4,085	976	15,965	tCO ₂ e	
2021/22	Financial	11,529	3,914	991	16,433	tCO ₂ e	Figures retrospectively revised (upwards, by 189 tCO ₂ e) following an error in mileage claim data.
2022/23	Financial	11,345	3,838	1,790	16,974	tCO ₂ e	Relates to emissions detailed in table 3(b) below, which include gas and electricity consumption in estate buildings, fuel use by the Council's fleet and electricity consumption associated with street lighting.
2023/24	Financial	10,455	4,084	403	14,943	tCO ₂ e	

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 consumption data available for an emission source enter the emissions in kgCO₂e in the 'Consumption' column of one of the 'Other' rows and assign the scope and an emission factor of 1. Emissions factors are published annually by the UK Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy. 'FTE' = Full-Time Equivalent.

Emission source	Scope	Consumption data	Units	Emission factor	Units	Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	Comments
Electricity	Scope 2	14,710,773	kWh	0.20707	kgCO ₂ e/kWh	3046.22	This data relates to Council estate buildings for which it is responsible for the utilities cost. These include schools, offices, leisure centres and libraries. Also includes consumption from stair lighting, door entry systems and car charging points.
Electricity transmission and distribution losses	Scope 3	14,710,773	kWh	0.01792	kgCO ₂ e/kWh	263.55	This data relates to network losses of power that supplies Council estate buildings for which it is responsible for the utilities cost. These include schools, offices, leisure centres and libraries. Also includes consumption from stair lighting, door entry systems and car charging points.
Electricity	Scope 2	5,013,652	kWh	0.20707	kgCO ₂ e/kWh	1038.19842	Refers to power consumed by assets such as streetlights, road signs and traffic signal equipment.
Electricity transmission and distribution losses	Scope 3	5,013,652	kWh	0.01792	kgCO ₂ e/kWh	89.82	Refers to network losses of power that supplies assets such as streetlights, road signs and traffic signal equipment.
Natural gas	Scope 1	44,671,068	kWh	0.18293	kgCO ₂ e/kWh	8171.63050	This data relates to Council estate buildings for which it is responsible for the utilities cost. These include schools, offices, leisure centres and libraries, as well as Bonnyrigg District Heating.
Gas oil	Scope 1	966,732	kWh	0.25650	kgCO ₂ e/kWh	247.96	Relates to gas oil consumption within Moorfoot Primary School, Tynewater Primary School and Vogrie Country House.

Gas oil	Scope 1	412	litres	2.75541	kgCO ₂ e/litres	1.14	Relates to fuel consumption from the Council's vehicle fleet.
Diesel (average biofuel blend)	776,813	776,813	litres	2.51206	kgCO ₂ e/litres	1951.40	Relates to fuel consumption from the Council's vehicle fleet.
Petrol (average biofuel blend)	Scope 1	39,710	litres	2.09747	kgCO ₂ e/litres	83.29	Relates to fuel consumption from the Council's vehicle fleet.
Water supply	Scope 3	177,552	m ³	0.10000	kgCO ₂ e/m ³	17.75	Refers to all of the Council's estate.
Water treatment	Scope 3	168,674	m ³	0.19000	kgCO ₂ e/m ³	32.05	Refers to all of the Council's estate.
Average car - Unknown	Scope 1	547,567	miles	0.27465	kgCO ₂ e/miles	150.39	Relates to staff mileage claims – using their own vehicles to fulfil their employment duties - in 2022/23.
Homeworking emissions	Scope 3	4102,889.82	FTE Working Hours	0.34075	kg CO ₂ e/FTE Working Hour	1,398.06	This is an estimate based on full-time equivalent staff employed by the Council in 2022/23, observations of office occupancy and a standard working week of 36 hours per week and working 47 weeks per year.

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		104, 036			<p>The Council has 10 solar photovoltaic systems with a total capacity of 100kW. Most were installed during 2018/19 as part of Non Domestic Energy Efficiency projects. Ones previously installed were at Gore Glen, Bilston and Roslin primary schools. They are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goreglen Primary School (capacity 6.25kW, commissioned in 2016); • Bilston Primary School (capacity 3.75kW, commissioned in 2016.); • Roslin Primary School (capacity 6.24kW, commissioned in 2017); • Penicuik Pool & Library (capacity 11.55kW, commissioned in 2019); • Loanhead Centre (capacity 12.03kW, commissioned in 2018); • Bonnyrigg Primary School (capacity 11.55 kW, commissioned in 2019); • Cuiken Primary School (capacity 12.38kW, commissioned in 2019); • St Andrew's RC Primary School (capacity 12.38kW, commissioned in 2019); • Woodburn Primary School (capacity 11.55kW, commissioned in 2019); and • Lasswade Campus (capacity 12.10 kW, commissioned in 2019) <p>• Please note: - Missing information: - Bonnyrigg PS not received since Nov 24 , Cuiken PS not received since Feb 24 & Roslin PS & St Andrews PS not received since beginning Mar 24 – MLC Energy Assistant Energy Officer is currently investigating these data gaps.</p>
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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.	Install 752 new street lighting columns and 1164 street lights were upgraded to LED lanterns to include a central management system for dimming,	Scope 2	2023/24	The Place Performance Report Annual Summary 2023/2024 highlights that 1121 tonnes of carbon emissions were saved from street lighting this year (an increase from the 1075 tonnes in 2022/23). •	Each LED light replaced reduces energy consumption by a factor of five, compared with standard units.
Electricity consumption (non-heat) - kWh/year/m ²	Develop carbon reduction targets for Council properties and work with energy partners to develop energy efficiency projects, including renewable energy, in support of sustainable low carbon energy targets and district heating schemes	Scope 2	2023/24 (& ongoing)	New target for 2023/24	Introduced as a set of new 'Key Performance Indicators' for 2023/24 for the Property & Facilities Management Service in the Place Directorate Service Plan 2023 – 2027. Aim – to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from offices, schools, schools with pools, leisure centres and leisure centres with pools.

Carbon dioxide emissions (all energy + water) - kgCO ₂ e/year/m ²	Develop carbon reduction targets for Council properties and work with energy partners to develop energy efficiency projects, including renewable energy, in support of sustainable low carbon energy targets and district heating schemes	Scope 2	2023/24 (& ongoing)	New target for 2023/24	Introduced as a set of new 'Key Performance Indicators' for 2023/24 for the Property & Facilities Management Service in the Place Directorate Service Plan 2023 – 2027. Aim - to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from offices, schools, schools with pools, leisure centres and leisure centres with pools.
Water consumption – m ³ /year	Reduce water consumption from offices, schools, schools with pools, leisure centres and leisure centres with pools.	Scope 3	2023/24 (& ongoing)	New target for 2023/24	Introduced as a set of new 'Key Performance Indicators' for 2023/24 for the Property & Facilities Management Service in the Place Directorate Service Plan 2023 – 2027.
Local Heat & Energy Efficiency Strategies	Increase the percentage of Local Heat & Energy Efficiency Strategies complete.	All energy use	2023/24 (& ongoing)	New target for 2023/24	Introduced as a set of new 'Key Performance Indicators' for 2023/24 for the Property & Facilities Management Service in the Place Directorate Service Plan 2023 – 2027.
The percentage of Council fleet which is 'Green', 'cumulative'.	8% of vehicles	Transport	2022/23 (ongoing annual target beyond)	8.2%	As for 2022/23 reporting period.
Progress 'Passivhaus' social housing projects	321 completed	Energy use in buildings	See 'Comments'		Details of progression towards completions are outlined in the Housing Land Audit .

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 reductions, including to increase the amount of renewable and low carbon energy generation in Midlothian and the amount of energy saved in the area's homes, increasing carbon storage in the area and raising awareness of the climate emergency.

Service Plans and Performance Reports for each Council department outline the priorities for their staff 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 Transformation Blueprint, and supporting Medium Term Financial Strategy, have also been developed in line with the Single Midlothian Plan and are supported by the Council's Service Plans. See question 2(c) for further details on the Blueprint.

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 publicly available through 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.

Progress towards the Council's emissions reduction targets will also be presented in the Council's performance reporting, which now includes key performance indicators that will track electricity and water consumption as well as carbon dioxide emissions across various categories of premises that comprise its estate.

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 (tCO₂e)	Increase or decrease in emissions	Comments
Estate changes	-34	Decrease	This fall in emissions is due to sites in the Council estate being leased, demolished, sold or experiencing decreased use.
Service provision			
Staff numbers	3.5% (not tCO ₂ e)	Increase	Staff numbers reported in Part 1 of this report are 4,053. The equivalent number for the previous report was 4,032. Total emissions for these respective years are 16, 974 tCO ₂ e (2023/24) and 16,433 tCO ₂ e (2022/23). This equates to a 3.3% year-on-year increase 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 (tCO₂e)	Comments
0		

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 (tCO₂e)	Increase or decrease in emissions	Comments
0			

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 ₂ e)	Comments
Total project savings since baseline year	901	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, 263 and 15 tCO ₂ 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. During the reporting year they continued to monitor energy consumption across the Council's building portfolio on a monthly basis. More accurate monitoring has been enhanced by the use of Automatic Meter Readers. These are in place for all Council premises with gas supplies and most of the Council's larger sites in the case of electricity. A Council Internal Audit report from 2022/23 examined such issues and recommended strengthening procedures in this respect further to ensure efficiency, best value and a reduction in carbon emissions.

Other measures in relation to corporate emissions, targets and projects are outlined in Q5 of the 'Other Notable Reporting Activity' section at the end of this report. They include:

- The Council's Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES), which it is currently developing, to systematically improve the energy efficiency of buildings and decarbonise heat in Midlothian. It incorporates the Council's past work from the 'Green Heat in Green Spaces / Park Power' project which investigated the possibilities for how Council-owned urban green and blue spaces can support Scotland's low carbon heat transition;
- Salix carbon reduction and energy efficiency projects; and
- Energy efficiency projects involving the environmental charity 'Changeworks'.

Midlothian Energy Ltd (MEL, the Council's joint venture energy company with Vattenfall) are taking forward a number of 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. There is also the potential to expand their district heating project in Shawfair into neighbouring sites. Laying the 4km of pipes that this project entails started in summer 2023. This initial phase will supply 3,000 homes, education and retail properties at Shawfair, saving over 2,500 tonnes of CO₂ per year (the equivalent of taking 1,200 cars off the road) and the project is benefitting from up to £7.3m from the Scottish Government's Low Carbon Infrastructure Transformation Project. 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's exposure to risks related to climate are reported in updates of its Strategic Risk Profile presented to its [Audit Committee](#). The risk is summarised as a score based on possible impacts and the likelihood of these impacts, together with a commentary to add context.

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. This followed a similar investigation in 2017/18 and, more recently, a report in 2022/23 to review the controls over the Council's consumption of utilities (energy and water) and associated risks.

The Council's Planning, Sustainable Growth & Investment Service produced an updated Climate Change Risk Assessment in 2021/22 to assess its exposure in this area too. It 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 Risk Assessment examines the risk to the Council associated with the targets and actions in the Strategy, noting the impact and likelihood of failing to meet the actions in a risk assessment matrix.

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 Indicative River and Coastal Flood Risk Maps. It was used to inform the development strategy of the Plan. These documents are available [here](#) and [here](#).

The Council also assessed climate-related flooding risks as part of its input to [Forth Estuary Local Flood Risk Management Plan](#), which helps to implement the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 and translates it into action. Flood Risk Management Plans are Scotland's route map for reducing the effects of flooding on communities and form an important part of the response to the climate emergency as flooding is increasing due to it. They are delivered over six-year cycles. The Plan identifies where in the area it covers is at most risk of flooding and where the benefits of investment are greatest. It specifies how and when actions will be taken.

Current and future climate-related risks were also previously covered by the Midlothian Community Planning Partnership [Strategic Assessment](#). It provided an insight into the main issues that present a threat or risk to communities within Midlothian. It did this using 'PESTEL' analysis, and environmental issues – such as climate change – were examined as part of this. The last separate Strategic Assessment was written in 2019, however elements of it are now incorporated into the Single Midlothian 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.

The Councils 2020 Climate Change Strategy ‘ Scotland’s Changing Climate’ is currently active. Early work was undertaken in 2023/24 to support a revision to this existing Strategy. Part of this review work involved the Council commissioning Aether consultants to: -

1. Calculate the baseline emissions for the Council estate and provide the Council with a trajectory of emissions to 2030 given a ‘business as usual’ emissions reduction scenario and an ambitious emissions reduction scenario.
 2. Review existing policies and actions to reduce emissions identified within the Midlothian Council Climate Change Plan
 3. Engage with key council departments to determine their progress.
 4. Review council estate by analysing electricity and gas consumption and identified the main emissions sources, outliers and buildings requiring further audit.
- The Council have had sign off on a Climate lead post (to be put in place mid 2024), with the purpose of leading on and further coordinating impactful climate action across the Authority.
 - Currently climate-related risks, as they relate to any particular document or proposal, will be considered by Elected Members as part of regular Council, Cabinet and Committee meetings. Arrangements for managing risks also arise from discussions and actions following the presentation of the Council’s Strategic Risk Profile to its Audit Committee, which estimates the Council’s current exposure to climate change related risks. Further measures for managing risks relating to particular areas of Council business are referred to below.

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 its measures may require to be put into operation 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.

Severe Weather Plan & Resources:

- A variety of resources on severe weather are available on the Council intranet, including:
 - A SEPA/Met Office Flood Guidance Statement User Guide;
 - Transport Scotland advice on driving in bad weather;

- 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 Emergency Planning Procedures for Early Learning and Childcare Settings, Schools and Children's Services. 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. Flood Risk Management Plans are Scotland's route map for reducing the effects of flooding on communities. They are also important in our response to the climate emergency as flooding is increasing due to it. They are delivered over six-year cycles. The latest plan is for Cycle 2 (2022 and 2028).
- The Plan identifies where in the area it covers is at most risk of flooding and where the benefits of investment are greatest. It specifies how and when actions will be taken.
- The Flood Risk Management Plan is listed as forming part of the 'Strategic Framework' for Neighbourhood Services in the Council's most recent Place Directorate Service Plan.

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.

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').

Assessing risk and implementing action to adapt to climate change is 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). This outlines the proposed approach to risk management and governance arrangements for risk monitoring and accountability within the Council. It focuses on all risks that the Council may be exposed to. It is by no means focussed exclusively on climate-related risks, though an objective of it is to anticipate and respond to social, environmental and 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. It was reviewed in mid-2021 when a Risk and Resilience Group was established with membership drawn from Chief Officers and Senior Managers across the Council and its Audit Service.

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](https://www.floodline.org.uk)); 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 took part in the development of latest the [Forth Estuary Local Flood Risk Management Plan](#) and it is listed as forming part of the 'Strategic Framework' for Neighbourhood Services in the Place Directorate Service Plan that went to Council on 27/06/2023. See question 4(b) above for further details on it.
- 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

- The Council is currently developing its Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy, to systematically improve the energy efficiency of buildings and decarbonise heat in Midlothian. More detail on this is included in Q5 of the 'Other Notable Reporting Activity' section at the end of this report.
- 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 department has been and continues to be involved in projects to improve the energy efficiency of buildings alongside Changeworks (an environmental charity).
- The Council has a [Net Zero Housing Design Guide](#) that applies to all new Council houses.

- 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 performance 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 offers 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 (held in October 2023) involved partnering with volunteers to produce an annual programme of walks and cycles, a wildlife recording workshop, talks & video presentations and river discovery events which looked at aquatic biota and water quality. A programme of around 30 events took place, with over 1000 participants attending over the 4 days. The 2024 programme is in preparation.
 - 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 and its vision is 'learning and growing together through nature, nurture and play'. It was rated as 'very good' during its last inspection (in 2021).
 - During the 2023/24 reporting period, the 2600 participants, leading 174 sessions of outdoor educational activities including subjects such as pond and woodland habitats, nature ID, bat watches, nature walks and maths in the outdoors.
 - The 'Big Help Out' is part of a nationwide initiative to get people involved in volunteering in their communities. The Midlothian Ranger Service arranged three activities as part of this in May 2023: tree planting and maintenance, the 'Big Pond Dig' (where volunteers record pond life in a citizen science project); and 'Feed the Birds' (where volunteers will make bird feeders).

- There are actions in the Single Midlothian Plan to pursue outdoor learning in nature – see question 2a in the Recommended Reporting section. The Ranger Service is challenged due to an ongoing staff secondment, presently at 23 months (although initial proposal was 6 months only). Currently the service consists of a Senior Ranger and Countryside Ranger, managing 7 countryside sites:
 - Vogrie Country Park
 - Roslin Glen Country Park
 - Gore Glen Woodland Park
 - Springfield Mill Wildlife Site
 - Straiton Pond Local Nature Reserve
 - The Roslin to Loanhead Walkway
 - The Penicuik to Dalkeith Walkway
- The Ranger Service worked with over 2600 participants, leading 174 sessions of outdoor educational activities including subjects such as pond and woodland habitats, nature ID, bat watches, nature walks and maths in the outdoors.
- As of July 2023 there were 67 schools and nurseries in Midlothian that are registered with the Eco-Schools programme (including private facilities). It is the largest sustainable schools programme in the world and is delivered in Scotland by Keep Scotland Beautiful. It involves schools forming an Eco-Committee which completes an Environmental Review, to help decide which topics to work on. This is followed by an Action Plan which needs to cover three of the ten possible topics: one of these must be climate action and the others include food & the environment or biodiversity. Actions should also be linked with the curriculum and should involve the local community. 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 process. 13 of the 67 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. They 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. The 2023 Doors Open Day saw over 20 venues across Midlothian open their doors free to the public. Wider activities compassed wildlife surveying for kids at Vogrie Wildlife Information Centre, a photography exhibition in Lasswade and railway model creation in Mayfield

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:

- Clean 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 Council's 2020 Climate Change Strategy 'Scotland's Changing Climate' is currently active. Early work has been undertaken in 2023/24 to support the revision and update of the 2020 Strategy. Part of this involved the Council commissioning Aether consultants to:

- Calculate their baseline emissions for their estate and to provide them with a trajectory of emissions to 2030 given a 'business as usual' emissions reduction scenario and an ambitious emissions reduction scenario.
- Review existing policies and actions to reduce emissions identified within the Midlothian Council Climate Change Plan
- Engage with key council departments to determine their progress.
- Review council estate by analysing electricity and gas consumption and identified the main emissions sources, outliers and buildings requiring further audit.
- The Council have had sign off on a Climate lead post (to be put in place mid 2024), with the purpose of leading on and further coordinating impactful climate action across the Authority.
- 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 1) risk identification and 2) Council accountability for risk, is outlined in its Risk Management Policy and Strategy. This was reviewed in 2021 by a Risk and Resilience Group that included Chief Officers, Senior Managers and its Audit Service. It 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).

Under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act, the Council is required to monitor 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 measures to adapt to climate change as outlined in the Midlothian Local Development Plan are monitored and evaluated through 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.

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. Refresh the Council Climate Change Strategy and underling action plan, supporting the Council and wider local authority partners collective journey to net zero and impactful climate mitigation and adaptation for Midlothian. Consider recommendations in the report by the Council's Internal Audit department from January 2023 surrounding monitoring energy usage, long term planning for improving estate energy efficiency and renewables projects. In compiling the Strategy and Action Plan: -
 - a. Undertake awareness raising to develop understanding of the relevance of climate issues across Council, community and business and its tie across to Council response to Scotlands wider polycrises of nature, wellbeing and economy. Support relevant Council leads in realigning Service Plans to ensure efficient, effective, inclusive tie across in Council response to these interconnected crises and
 - b. Support Council colleagues in collectively identifying tangible impactful ambitious actions and formulating these into short, medium and long term planning with clear objectives and key results (milestones set against assigned 'responsible individuals')
2. Ensure Midlothian's efficient and impactful interplay with regional and national work programs on transformational regional and national climate action. For example; continuing in our work alongside Sniffer, wider Scottish Government , Lothians and Borders Councils and cross sector partners in undertaking a regional risk assessment to agree regional and local adaptation priorities for collective action.
3. Strengthen coverage on climate in the review Council policy initiatives such as the forthcoming Local Development Plan review
4. Facilitate wider Authority interplay with the Council facilitated Community Planning Climate Emergency Group (CEG)
5. Support Midlothian's community led Climate Hub as they work towards the climate priorities they have agreed with Scottish Government

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.

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, national and local objectives, including their sustainability considerations. These are:

- European objectives - Directives 2014/24/EU, 2014/23/EU and 2014/55/EU;
- National objectives – the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014, Scottish Procurement Policy Notes and the Scottish Government’s [Public Procurement Strategy for Scotland 2023 to 2028](#)); and
- Local objectives - Single Midlothian Plan objectives.

The Council notes the importance of environmental matters prominently within its Procurement Strategy, which has five strategic themes to promote ethical standards. Whilst it 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.

The above aims are also furthered by Midlothian Council’s 2021 Local Procurement Strategy, which:

- Sees 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;
- Involves considering any negative externalities of procurement, for example the impact on the environment; and
- Promotes 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 have collaborated with their colleagues in Economic Development. This includes to launch the Midlothian Business Carbon Charter/Green Pledge. 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 Local Procurement Strategy.

The Council's Economic Development staff support the aims of the Local Procurement Strategy by:

- Encouraging businesses to sign the Council's Carbon Charter/Midlothian Green Pledge to commit to operating in environmentally-friendly and low-carbon ways. Signatories are directed to a range of advice on how to achieve the Charter's aims and so will be in a better position to support the Local Procurement Strategy's objective to procure sustainably;
- Encouraging and supporting businesses to register with Public Contracts Scotland to increase their access to tender opportunities within Midlothian and the wider public sector;
- Encouraging registration with the Supplier Development Programme, which provides access to free training and support in public sector tendering to improve the tender readiness of local suppliers;
- Working collaboratively with the Council's Procurement Team to identify upcoming opportunities and promoting them via the Council's digital channels and contacting businesses directly;
- Attending the Supplier Development Programme's quarterly meetings, promoting events and training and sharing of articles;
- Offering guidance and support on all aspects of procurement, to aid understanding of regulations and to support bidders to submit compliant tender submissions;
- Hosting 'Meet the Buyer' events, attended jointly by Economic Development, Midlothian Business Gateway and Council Procurement staff for relevant contracts; and
- Supporting Meet the Buyer events by external organisations by promoting them via social media and contacting local businesses to raise awareness and register attendance. Recent examples include Shawfair's Low Carbon District Heating System Supplier Engagement Event by and Balfour Beatty's supply chain engagement event.

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). This incorporates a standard set of questions, including on environmental compliance and policy to help ensure tenderers have an appropriate history and overall approach to environmental considerations. Invitations to Tender and associated documents issued by Midlothian Council Procurement 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.

Examples of the application of these procedures and procurement activities contributing to compliance with climate change duties during the 2023/24 reporting year are:

- An Invitation to Tender for the supply and installation of street lighting requiring bidders to describe the details of any specific steps taken in the design, manufacture and installation of this equipment to increase energy efficiency and reduce any detrimental environmental impacts;
- An Additional Standards Statement for a contract for the construction of Council social housing requiring 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; and
- The award criteria within the Technical Questionnaire for the supply of ski slope materials to Midlothian's snowsports centre requiring a statement on efforts by bidders to meet sustainability criteria, such as their actions to meet the Scottish Government's target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045, with a 75% reduction by 2030.

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

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.

Midlothian Council's procurement Terms & Conditions contain provisions that allow for the termination of contracts 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 apply to the Council's Terms & Conditions for the purchase of goods, for the purchase of services, for the use of consultancy services and for the supply of goods.

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).

Resource efficiency and carbon considerations are part of procurement decisions for **i)** goods & services and **ii)** 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 impact. For capital and maintenance budget expenditure, 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 inclusions for suppliers to have carbon considerations or environmental/sustainability commitments within the commissioning.

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. In other cases, the relevant Council services were contacted directly to validate it.

The data in part 3 was compiled and reviewed by the Council's Energy Officer while the overall report was reviewed by the Planning Sustainable Growth and Investment Service 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 previously scrutinised two such reports and reported on another occasion on energy use in the Council's estate. This resulted in recommendations both on the procedural aspects of how the report is compiled and on the Council's climate change response which underpins it. Their most recent investigation was in the 2022/23 reporting year. As per their previous 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, resources did not allow this.

6(c) External validation process

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

Ernst & Young commented and made recommendations on the Council's work towards its climate change goals, including the topics covered within this report in its Annual Audit Report to Members and the Controller of Audit for the Year Ended 31st March 2022. This was reported to Council in October 2022, along with recommendations for how to proceed. Note that this reporting was not exclusively focused on the review of the Council's Public Bodies Climate Change Duties return, but a wider range of activities that also encompasses it.

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 above.

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	15/10/2024

RECOMMENDED REPORTING: REPORTING ON WIDER INFLUENCE

Q1 Historic Emissions (Local Authorities only)
Please indicate emission amounts and unit of measurement (e.g. tCO ₂ 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 ₂ emissions: subset dataset (emissions within the scope of influence of local authorities): (2) UK local and regional CO ₂ emissions: full dataset :
Local Authority (please state): Midlothian BEIS Dataset (full or sub-set): Subset

Table 1a – Subset (units are ktCO ₂ , except for *, which is tCO ₂)													
Sector	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Comments
Total emissions	422.-7	456.14	445.15	401.74	399.01	382.64	370.79	366.55	353.75	311.92	352.95	332.06	
Industry and commercial	99.33	124.65	120.33	102.01	97.82	88.94	77.53	78.93	69.38	60.17	72.96	67.60	
Domestic	178.19	191.71	187.30	159.59	160.07	148.75	145.04	143.54	143.69	137.13	142.65	122.73	
Transport total	144.54	139.78	137.32	140.14	141.12	144.95	148.22	144.08	140.67	114.62	137.34	141.73	
Per capita	7.32	7.42	7.34	6.57	6.39	6.21	6.08	5.90	5.66	5.00	5.36	4.92	

Q2a - Targets					
Please detail your wider influence targets					
Sector	Description	Start year	Target	Target / End Year	Comments
Other	Learning for sustainability is increased	2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two Council Rangers and 10 volunteers trained by 31/03/2024. • 3 schools adopting fresh water sites by 31/03/2025. • Introduction of an adaptation vision given consideration by 31/03/2025. 	March 2025	Included in the 2023 – 2027 Single Midlothian Plan as an outcome under the ‘Midlothian Will be Greener’ theme.
Other	Sustainable living is increased	2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a ‘Midlothian Climate Hub’. • Produce and distribute info on promoting biodiversity in small scale spaces. • Mapping and promoting community/social enterprise food production. • Identify community scale climate change projects in Midlothian. • Promote active travel information and work with Sustrans, SEStrans and neighbouring Councils to do so. • Establish a shared transport scheme across Midlothian. 	March 2026	Included in the 2023 – 2027 Single Midlothian Plan as an outcome under the ‘Midlothian Will be Greener’ theme.
Energy	Increase low carbon/renewable energy developments and home energy saving	2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and promote Changework’s decarbonisation projects and signpost information on home energy saving using the ‘Midlothian Climate Hub’. • Work with Midlothian Energy Ltd on low carbon heating and renewable energy projects. • Work with Midlothian Council to delivery its Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy. 	March 2027	Included in the 2023 – 2027 Single Midlothian Plan as an outcome under the ‘Midlothian Will be Greener’ theme.
Rural land use	Carbon storage is increased	2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map areas of wildflowers and meadows in Midlothian and encourage their growth. • NatureScot to connect Midlothian Council with Peatland Action to explore possibilities in this area for carbon savings. • Map areas of greenspace and tree canopy cover. 	March 2026	Included in the 2023 – 2027 Single Midlothian Plan as an outcome under the ‘Midlothian Will be Greener’ 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.

Q3) Policies and Actions to Reduce Emissions

Sector	Start year for policy / action implementation	Year that the policy / action will be fully implemented	Annual CO ₂ saving once fully implemented (tCO ₂)	Latest year measured	Saving in latest year measured (tCO ₂)	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 reports as data and information becomes more readily available and resources allow, in particular, the review of the Council's Climate Change Strategy. This commenced during the reporting year with initial work focussing on determining the scope of emissions and activities included in the update and costing out a pathway for the Council to reach net zero by 2030.

Many entries that could go in the table above 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 rd Sector Partners	Outputs	Comments
								<p>Examples of these actions are detailed throughout this report, particularly in the 'Other Notable Reporting Activity' table below, or in relation to Midlothian Energy Ltd. Other examples elsewhere in this report include the work of the Climate Emergency Group in Q2a above.</p>

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"> • 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. • 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, encourage public transport use and increase the uptake of electric vehicles.
Air Quality	East Central Scotland Vehicle Emissions Partnership	Participant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • 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. • They provide a range of services to discourage idling around schools and have information on fuel efficient driving on their website.
Biodiversity	Midlothian Local Biodiversity Site System	Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • 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 Botanical Society of the British Isles. Nature Scot is also corresponding member.
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 TWIC (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 & 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	Planning Application Tree Preservation Order	Lead	<p>During the 2023/24 reporting period, Council Planning Committee confirmed a Tree Preservation Order to protect eight individual trees and four groups of trees on land at the Kiln, Quarrybank, Cousland and land at Northfield Farm, Cousland.</p>
Biodiversity	Midlothian Ranger Service	Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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"> 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; o Education - to help everyone learn about Midlothian's countryside and heritage; and o Conservation (biodiversity) - to conserve and enhance Midlothian's natural environment and cultural heritage and work with volunteers and partners to effect change. • The Ranger Service produce Management Plans for the five sites they care for which include measures relating to biodiversity. • 6,990 volunteer hours (1,165 days) were spent in countryside sites. Volunteer numbers have increased significantly over the last few years, with a 25% increase in volunteer hours this year compared to last year and a 45% increase from 2021/22. Work on MLC's Countryside sites would not be possible without close partnership working between volunteers and their coordination by our Ranger service. Other achievements this year included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •36 ranger events held with 1,557 participants and 174 school and community group events with 2,603 participants. •The completion of countryside site tree surveys to include identification of dangerous and high priority trees for treatment. •Development of links and environmental learning sessions with 'Early Learning' outdoor nursery at Vogrie. •Continued provision of conservation volunteering tasks and activities for an increasing number of corporate groups. •Delivery of Midlothian Outdoor Festival 2023, including 30 events and over 1,550 participants, with volunteers and partners throughout Midlothian. •Grassland management to increase pollinator species and carbon sequestration rates carried out at Vogrie, Roslin and Straiton Pond by volunteers cutting and lifting wildflower rich meadow areas. •Green Flags awarded at Straiton Pond Local nature reserve and Kings Park. •As part of a national monitoring scheme, Butterfly surveys were carried out with volunteers on a weekly basis from April to Sept. •'Vogrie Bioblitz' of the former golf course took place with partners and volunteer recorders to gather information on species as abenchmark for future management interventions in species diversity. •Partnership developed with Alzheimer Scotland to lead guided walks and talks.

Biodiversity	Nature Restoration Fund Projects	Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funded by the Scottish Government and managed by NatureScot, The Nature Restoration Fund (NRF) is a competitive fund launched in July 2021, which specifically encourages applicants with projects that restore wildlife and habitats on land and sea and address the twin crises of biodiversity loss and climate change. • Funding to Midlothian of £210,000 for 2023/24 was allocated in summer 2023. A report to Council on 21/11/2023 noted that this was going to be used for the supply and planting of bulbs and perennial wildflower seeds to support biodiversity and pollinator friendly areas across the county and was approved by the Capital Plan and Asset Management Board on 02/11/2023. • Butterfly and Bee happy mixes of Bulbs and wild flowers were planted at some of MLC's prominent roundabouts and in our parks. 20 locations were planted with 1,184,670 bulbs. To further support the Scottish Government's draft Scottish Biodiversity Strategy and Midlothian's Local Biodiversity action plan, additional funding was spent on further biodiversity measures to be undertaken in the next quarter involving large areas of wild flowers on the former Golf Course at Vogrie Country Park to create pollinator friendly areas.
Biodiversity	Greenspace Improvements/Greenflag Awards	Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 77 improvements or new facilities were completed this year, 28 improvement projects, 12 play areas and 16 village improvements. • Green Flags awarded at Straiton Pond Local nature reserve and Kings Park • 6,990 volunteer hours (1,165 days) were spent in countryside sites. Volunteer numbers have increased significantly over the last few years, with a 25% increase in volunteer hours this year compared to last year and a 45% increase from 2021/22.

Energy Efficiency	Changeworks Housing Service	Supporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This involves various projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Warm and Well 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 CO2. Housing Services also commissioned Changeworks to provide a Warm and Well programme to October 2023. o Aim High is funded by the NHS and is a partnership between Changeworks, Sure Start and Midlothian Citizens Advice Buro (CAB). It aims 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 CO2. o Changeworks can deliver online or in-person workshops or attend events with their energy advice stalls, and the Council refers to their services at https://www.midlothian.gov.uk/info/200296/coronavirus/645/support_coping_with_rising_living_costs • This is one of three strands of work that Changeworks do in Midlothian. These are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Energy advice and advocacy support – provided by their Affordable Warmth Services; o Energy efficiency projects – provided by their Project Management Team; and o Changeworks in Dalkeith – provided by their Low Carbon Communities Team.
Energy Efficiency	Scottish Energy Officers Network	Participant	A member of staff from the Council's Property & Facilities department took 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	IT Power Down Activities	Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • All monitors go into a low energy consumption sleep mode (.45W) if not connected and can be manually turned off by users.

Energy efficiency	Salix Energy Efficiency Projects	Participant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • 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. Further information in this regard is noted in 3f of this report.
Energy efficiency, renewable energy /low carbon heat	Local Heat & Energy Efficiency Strategy / Local Heat & Energy Efficiency Delivery Plan	Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies (LHEES) are area-based plans for improving the energy efficiency of buildings and decarbonising heat. The Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies (Scotland) Order 2022 required Councils to publish their first LHEES on or before 31/12/2023, then update them every five years. Midlothian submitted their draft LHEES to the Scottish Government for review in December 2023. This was approved for compliance by Scottish Government subject to Council approval 2024. •The Key Performance Indicator in the Place Directorate Service Plan presented to Council in 2023 showing ‘Percentage of LHEES complete’ is now at 100% as the document has been published. •This year work has progressed at pace to review the findings of the previously reported Stage 4 LHEES study, the outcome of which has provided a good foundation for the remaining stages. There has been positive and good engagement with internal stakeholders’ business and community representatives, and regular engagement with Joint Venture Partners Midlothian Energy who will be an essential partner in delivering an effective and viable plan. •Midlothian has worked with key stakeholders including Changeworks for analysis of our building’s fabric and Vattenfall (via MEL) for our heat network analysis. •The Delivery Plan (section 11 of the LHEES) presents the timeline of events for achieving decarbonisation of heat and energy efficiency improvements across the council.

Food & Drink	Allotment & Food Growing Strategy 2020 - 2030	Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • The implementation of the Strategy will help to reduce the carbon footprint and food miles of Midlothian's residents. • 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.
Raising Awareness	Council E-Training Module and Climate Change Web Page	Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • 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.

<p>Transport</p>	<p>Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure</p>	<p>Lead</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With regards to Council-owned, publicly accessible EV chargers, on 31/03/24, the total number of public chargers that were live on our network was 47. This included: 37 AC Fast dual socket charging units, 6 AC Standard (Slow) charging units (all but two of our Standard units are also dual socket). 4 DC Rapid charging units located at Sheriffhall Park & Ride. • 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, which are managed by Travel & Fleet staff (part of Neighbourhood Services). • In addition to publicly accessible chargers, we also have fleet vehicle charging at our depots. According to my records, the numbers of fleet chargers are as follows: Stobhill: 8X 7kW single socket units Fushiebridge: 2X 7kW single socket units Bonnyrigg Garage: 4X 7kW single socket units Midlothian House: 8X 7kW single socket units + 1X dual socket unit. <p>Total of 24 charging sockets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of The Council's Sustainable Transport Officer manages all aspects of EV charging including strategy and policy development, operations and maintenance. • Chargers were initially funded by the Local Authority Investment Programme (LAIP), under which Councils could receive 100% capital grants for chargers. Part of the Council's 2021/22 LAIP fund (£72,777) was carried over into 22/23 and went toward installing 12 new charging points. The total costs for the work was £95,587, with this including electricity supply connections, underground cabling works and cost of all charging units, installation of the charging units, maintenance contract and commissioning costs. • Transport Scotland replaced the LAIP after 2021/22 with the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Fund (EVIF). This will run until 2025/26 and aims to support Councils to draw in private investment across Scotland through owner/operator models in partnership with private sector. Councils have been allocated £140,000 over the 4-year period as resource funding for the purposes of developing an Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy and Infrastructure Expansion Plan.
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Transport	Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy / Electric Vehicle Policy	Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils have been allocated £140,000 from the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Fund (EVIF) for developing an Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy and Infrastructure Expansion Plan. In 2022/23, Midlothian Council commissioned consultants Mott MacDonald to produce these and a final draft is due by March 2024. Work has so far has involved various tasks including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Forecasting demand for electric vehicle charging until 2030, establishing the Council’s role in supporting infrastructure provision to meet this demand; o Providing an assessment of delivery models and developing an expansion delivery plan; and o Hosting a public consultation and workshops with various Council departments and Elected Members. • A working group has also been formed to update the Council’s 2019 Electric Vehicle Policy including minimum standards, designs for new charging facilities in general and those specific to new developments. A Planning Officer is also developing the Council’s Parking Standards and there will be some cross-over of this with the Electric Vehicle Policy.
Transport	Staff Cycling Facilities	Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lockers are available in Fairfield House and Midlothian House on a first-come, first-served basis for staff that cycle to work .8 have been added over the 2023/24 PBCC reporting period using monies the Council from a 2019 Cycle Friendly Employer award presented to the Council by ‘Cycling Scotland’. The Council now have a total of 24 bike lockers across Midlothian House and Fairfield House locations. • Cycle parking facilities include an externally funded covered cycle shelter in the car park behind Midlothian House and rails behind Fairfield House. • Upgrading the Council’s staff shower facilities was done with Cycling Scotland funding and there are now two for staff use – in Fairfield House and in the Old Fairfield building. • Because of the above initiatives, Midlothian Council was awarded “Cycle Friendly Employer” status by Cycling Scotland. It is valid until February 2024.
Transport	Staff Bike Loan Scheme	Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17 bikes are available for staff on a rolling basis for commuting. 4 the bikes having been purchased over the 2023/24 reporting period using funding arising from a 2019 Cycle Friendly Award from 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. Accessories such as a lock and lights are also provided. • The bikes themselves were funded through Cycling Scotland and the ongoing operation of the scheme is supported by Smarter Choice, Smarter Places. • It is hoped that the initiative will encourage staff to buy their own bike and change their travel behaviour after the hire period.

Transport	Staff Cycling Training Events	Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •MLC were unable to run any staff cycling sessions due to reallocation of funds within the Smarter Choices budget. These have however has been scheduled to commence alongside the 2024/25 projects, •These had been delivered regularly over the last few years, both for the public and staff, and have advertised in the Wednesday Weekly All Staff Email and the Council’s social media pages. Cycling Scotland approved trainers deliver them and, where possible, bikes are provided to attendees that don’t have one. • In the past they have been tied into “Dr Bike” cycle maintenance sessions and Cycling UK’s “Shift” programme. •There was a “Dr Bike” bike maintenance event on 19/01/24 which was advertised in the Weekly All Staff Email on 21/12/2023.
Transport	Active/Sustainable Travel Maps	Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Walking and cycling maps are provided on a regular basis to libraries/leisure centres and health centres around Midlothian. They are also given out at active travel events.

<p>Transport</p>	<p>Places for Everyone</p>	<p>Participant</p>	<p>Dr Bike Community events Winter Campaign</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arranging the booking of Dr Bike Mechanics to carry out detailed by checks for community members who attend for free. • These were conducted in various locations; Danderhall, Bonnyrigg and Woodburn Dalkeith, and were ran on 4 different occasions. (Bonnyrigg Nov 23, Danderhall Jan 24, Woodburn Feb and April 24). • Liaising with Police and Fire service to ensure their attendance and collaborated with other bodies with CLLE to run these in partnership and target specific community areas (Play Midlothian attending in Woodburn). • Stats for each event: Bonnyrigg Nov 23: 26 participants Danderhall Jan 24: 94 participants Woodburn Feb 24: 27 participants Woodburn April 24: 25 participants <p>Staff Lunchtime Walks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a monthly activity, whereby staff participate in 30min walk during their lunchbreak and have free lunch catered for upon their return to the office. The premise here is to encourage staff to be more active during their working day if they are mainly office based, and also highlight the numerous walking routes and paths that are accessible to them in close proximity to their work location. • The free lunches made available to those walking has worked as a great incentive for those taking part. The appetite for staff lunchtime walks has been consistent throughout the year running from October 23 – April 24, gaining roughly 10 participants each time. These were advertised to staff in advance via staff weekly email, on the councils Intranet, and walking group email sent by organisers. <p>Step Count Challenge- Midlothian Council Staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Step Count Challenge was agreed to take place in May 2024, but to be covered within the funding from 23/24's SCSP projects. Staff sign up in teams of 5 and track their count accumulatively across the duration of the challenge. This year the Challenge for 4 weeks in the month May. Managed to accumulate a great number of teams participating this year across the workplace. This will have been aided by the extensive promotions internally with the comms team, and the time of year it has arranged
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			<p>for, being in a month of the year with generally improved weather conditions as opposed to taking place in Wintertime.</p> <p>Stats: 257 participants, 53 teams entering</p>
Transport	Smarter Choices, Smarter Places (SCSP)	Participant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is administered by the walking charity Paths For All and has a Local Authority Fund which Councils can apply to to implement active and sustainable travel projects. In the 2023/24 funding period, £94,000 as awarded to Midlothian Council for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o An Active Travel Marketing Officer post, to co-ordinate all active travel initiatives and engagement in Midlothian. o An Active Travel Marketing Officer (Schools) post, to provide engagement, active travel education including Bikeability and promotional events for schools and implementing the School Streets project at a primary school.
Transport	Cycling Walking and Safer Routes	Participant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cycling and Walking Safer Routes is a Scottish Government scheme that funds Councils directly. Midlothian's proposed projects for 2023/24 are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Rosewell to Auchendinny (National Cycle Route 196) path resurfacing; o Edgehead village traffic calming; o Pedestrian crossing improvements on Lauder Road; o Traffic calming and pedestrian crossing improvements at Gore Glen Primary School; o Pedestrian crossing improvements at Bog Road, Penicuik; o Traffic calming and pedestrian crossing improvements at Sherwood Crescent, Bonnyrigg; and o Pedestrian crossing improvements on the A7 at the Sun Inn.
Transport	Promoting Other Active Travel Events	Participant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council participated in various events in 2023/24 to promote active travel in Midlothian. These included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel in March 2024. 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; o Promoting Bike Week on the 5th to the 11th of June 2023 with primary school interaction o The Midlothian Outdoor Festival (working with the Midlothian Ranger Service and Communities, Lifelong Learning and Education) to deliver active travel events in October 2023.

Transport	Midlothian Bus Alliance	Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Midlothian Bus Alliance (MBA), led by Midlothian Council, formed in 2021 and made a successful bid for £300,000 to the Bus Partnership Fund (BPF) to develop four key routes within the Midlothian area. This will help promote public transport, reducing private car use and therefore emissions too. • The BPF is a capital fund to develop and implement bus priority infrastructure. This initial award has been made to support the Midlothian Bus Alliance (MBA) through funding resources required to conduct appraisals and business cases. A report on preliminary options was put to the Council meeting of 21/02/2023. •The Council, as lead partner in the Midlothian Bus Alliance (MBA), commissioned an appraisal study into bus priority measures on four east-west routes in Midlothian to support better east-west bus connectivity, routes and service performance. The study, carried out by consultants Aecom, was completed in September 2023 and advised on physical improvements to increase bus priority. The study was funded by an award (in September 2021) of £302,000 from Transport Scotland’s Bus Partnership Fund (BPF). •The Council, as lead MBA partner also successfully attracted a further BPF award of 178,336.80 from a ‘Quick Wins’ funding round in January 2024. Twenty-four Real Time Passenger Information Signs were purchased with the award (at £7,430.70 each) and the activity was completed in March 2024. •The Council was notified on 16 January 2024 by Transport Scotland of a freeze on BPF fund following the Scottish Budget of 19 December 2023. The freeze, and updates on BPF funded activities, were reported to Council on 27 February 2024.
Transport	Loanhead Bike Refurbishment Project	Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This involves staff from Communities Lifelong Learning & Education, who are also bike technicians, offering bike maintenance to feeder schools for Lasswade High School, though they have also offered their services in local parks. This is called ‘The Bike Tent’. • They are funded by Levenseat, the council’s bulky waste recycling partner who have pledged financial support for local organisations involved in reuse/recycling initiatives and sustainable/environmental activities.
Transport	Cycle Solutions / Cycle to Work Scheme	Supporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This started in 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. It is offered to Midlothian Council staff through Eden Red who operate an employee benefits scheme on behalf of the Council. • The Council’s Employment and Rewards staff administer the scheme.

Transport	Various Cycling Activities In Schools	Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bikeability Training – this is rolled out in primary schools by coordinating and managing the school bike loan service and volunteers, as well as delivering the training to school staff as part of their Continuous Professional Development. 1, 307 pupils at 23 schools in Midlothian took part in Bikeability levels 1 and 2 training in the 2023/24 school year. • The Council's Bike Loan Scheme – Midlothian Council has a fleet of bikes which are available to schools to allow cycling sessions to take place. This year over 400 pupils across 14 schools benefitted from the cycle fleet. It allows pupils who normally wouldn't be able to take part to do so. • Led Rides – these are provided as part of school PE lessons and the Duke of Edinburgh's Awards in high schools across Midlothian. The Active Travel Officer (Schools) provided 14 led rides at Dalkeith High School with groups of pupils from S3. The rides involve taking pupils around the school's local area and both on and off road cycling so participants learn to cycle on different terrains. • Bike Maintenance Classes - these involve leading maintenance sessions for schools to train pupils and ensure bikes are in a working and safe condition. Maintenance classes were ran at 12 schools (with around 250 beneficiaries) within the authority to ensure bikes were safe and fit to be ridden before Bikeability sessions commenced. This also involved working with Saltersgate Primary to maintain their adapted cycle fleet this year in order to allow them to run Bikeability for disabled pupils.
Transport	Cycle Storage	Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2023/24 by utilising the Cycling Scotland Social Housing Grant we were awarded £41,400 to install and improve cycle storage at 4 locations across the authority: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refurbished a cycle unit that was vandalised and struck by a car at Lasswade High School. This unit holds 80 bikes and is anti-vandal proof. • Installed a 16 berth anti theft unit at Kings Park Primary School along with a 16 berth uncovered rack. • Installed a 16 berth anti theft unit at Newtongrange Primary along with a 10 berth uncovered rack. • Installed an Asguard cycle storage unit at Woodburn Primary for Play on Pedals bikes. • For 2024/25 we have identified 6 schools that require additional or refurbished storage and have allocated budget to address this from the new People and Places fund.
Transport	School Streets	Participant	<p>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. The project was rolled out at St Mary Primary school, with next year's being planned at Newtongrange Primary.</p>

Transport	Cycle to School Week	Participant	<p style="text-align: center;">Cycle to School Week</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Midlothian Schools participate in the national “Cycle to School Week” where there are lots of games, initiatives and competitions that are run at schools within the authority. These include: • Bling your bike/scooter - This is a popular competition where pupils compete to see who can create the coolest bike/scooter! It can be done as a home or classroom activity. With the use of recyclables, stickers, or paper etc, they can "Bling up theirbike". Pupils should be wary of attaching anything to their bike that can impede pedals, wheels, or brakes. • Ticket to ride - Pupils who cycle to school each day receive a raffle ticket that is then put into a draw at the end of the week for a small prize at the choice of the school (More day's cycling = More raffle tickets to win!). Possible prizes are or any other ideas that a school can create. • Skills session - A simple skills session for those who have brought their bikes is a good activity to get them out riding. Cones set out to create tricky paths (zigzags, tight turns, small area) for the pupils to navigate is a fun challenge. • Bikeability training/recap - A Bikeability recap or running Bikeability sessions is a great way to link in with the week. Great opportunity to complete some Level 1 outcomes in the playground. If any school would like support to complete this, please get in touch. • Smoothie Bike - The smoothie bike is a fantastic way to teach pupils about the benefits of cycling and healthy eating. The bike is available to be brought to a school for a day during the bike to school week. This initiative had over 1200 participants in 2023/24. • Hi-Vis, High Reward - A fun competition for pupils to come to school dressed as bright as possible. Teach the children the importance of being bright and seen on the road! Rewards can be given to pupils who are dressed the best and brightest! a variation is using helmets that can be decorated to look cool and bright which pupils can do in class. • Record cycling trips - Teachers can take record of which pupils from each class have cycled to school throughout the week creating a competition between classes to see who cycled the most on average
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Transport	Walk to School Week / WOW	Participant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 15th to the 19th of May 2023. 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. • 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. • This entailed an inter school walk which involved taking between 6 and 8 pupils from each school within Midlothian and walking them from school to school creating a continuous chain. This meant over 100 pupils from 21 schools walked the streets promoting walking to the public. • Schools across Midlothian are provided “Walk to School Week” posters that were designed by a pupil after winning a competition. These posters are used by classes to monitor which pupils walked to school during the promotion. Once this data has been collected, class teachers are able to identify by percentage the class that walked the most. The class is then presented with a “Mini Walkers Trophy” to signify their achievement.
Transport	Midlothian Walking Battle	Lead	<p>This is a project designed 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: 308 pupils participated in the walking battle across 5 different schools. Several schools have used the pedometers to conduct their own activity, such as walking up the local hills/paths and monitoring their distance.</p>
Waste	Millerhill Zero Waste Parc	Participant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are two major waste processing facilities at the Millerhill Zero Waste Parc: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The Recycling and Energy Recovery Centre, which is a 25 year joint venture with the City of Edinburgh Council. All of Midlothian’s kerbside collected residual waste is processed here and is used to generate electricity at the facility. A project to use the heat from it in a district heating system is also being implemented; and 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). • This is part of a wider strategy to reduce waste to landfill in Midlothian. The work has assisted in lowering CO2 emissions in Midlothian from 1.17 tonnes of CO2 per person in 2011 to 1.07 tonnes in 2020, a fall of 8.5%.

Waste	Household Waste Recycling Centres	Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are two Household Waste Recycling Centres in Midlothian, at Stobhill and Penicuik. These allow the public to dispose of waste recycle and recycle a wide range of materials. Local businesses can dispose of waste/recycling at Stobhill Recycling Centre upon payment of the appropriate charge. • In 2023/24 these facilities may receive as many as 145,000 individual customer visits (400 per day). • The Place Performance Report Annual Summary 2023/24 reported that: - MLC Waste Services team carry out over 5.8 million individual waste and recycling collections each year. The team completed 99.95% of all collections as scheduled. <p>New waste service standards and waste collection policies were approved by Council this year. The development of these policies will ensure services operate transparently and fairly, encouraging householder participation, maximise the quality and quantity of materials collected for recycling and improve operational efficiencies.</p> <p>£2.2m was awarded from the Scottish Government's Recycling Improvement Fund which allows the Council to fully transition existing waste and recycling collection services to meet the recommendations in the Charter for Household Waste Recycling.</p>
Waste	Recycling and Greenspace voluntary pledge for front line Council teams	Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new service excellence model and Recycling and Green space voluntary pledge for front line teams was launched in quarter 4. The work carried out as part of the model will help to create a more positive culture with the overall aim being to deliver excellent services to our Midlothian residents. • As part of this culture change programme and ongoing service reviews, a pilot was developed to provide staff with additional support and advice on issues such as mental health and wellbeing. This will be ongoing throughout 24/25.
Waste	Waste Education	Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Waste Aware Officer is available to provide a wide range of advice, guidance and support on waste, waste minimisation and recycling. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o This can be done with schools and youth groups, involving a range of online 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. o Other activities are geared towards adult groups. These include online seminars and discussion sessions to allow people to ask specific questions on all aspects of recycling and waste management. • The Waste Aware Team also has a range of educational materials, posters and literature, which can be displayed in work places or community venues.

Waste	Council Food Waste Recycling	Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Food waste collected 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.
Waste	Household Recycling Charter for Scotland	Participant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Scottish Government published 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. • 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. • Midlothian Council agreed to sign the Charter in 2016 and it will be a key driver of the Council's Waste Strategy, when approved.
Waste	Food Waste Collection in Rural Areas	Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In November 2021, the Council's Waste Team received £132,085 from the Scottish Government's Recycling Improvement Fund to offer a food waste recycling service in some rural areas of Midlothian currently excluded from this service. The money will be used to buy an additional vehicle and to provide food waste caddies. • The expansion of the food waste collection service to include rural areas was finalised during quarter 4 of 2023/24 ahead of its implementation in quarter 1. This included a review of current collection routes and consultation with front line staff and trade unions. •
Miscellaneous	Participation in Earth Hour	Participant	The Council supports Earth Hour, with Midlothian residents being encouraged to follow suit in switching off lights and appliances. This is promoted via the Council's social media channels.

Miscellaneous	Midlothian Business Carbon Charter / Midlothian Green Pledge		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This aims to encourage local businesses to contribute towards Midlothian Council's Net Zero 2030 goal and Scotland's wider Net Zero 2045 targets. • Signing the Pledge involves businesses agreeing to undertake various commitments such as switching to a 100% renewable energy supplier, reduce their energy usage and encouraging active travel amongst their employees. 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. They are also signposted to support from expert partner agencies who can help them review their operations, create a Green Action Plan and help them monitor their activities. • Other benefits to signatories include being highlighted on the Locate in Midlothian website, promoting them via the Locate in Midlothian and Business Gateway Midlothian's social media channels, dedicated adviser support and access to support through a Pledgers LinkedIn Group. • It was launched in 2021 and as of 31st March 2024, 108 businesses have signed up.
Miscellaneous	Net Zero Nation Collaboration	Funder and Project Partner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Net Zero Nation is a social enterprise, founded in 2021 and based in Falkirk and Ayrshire but operating across Scotland to deliver their Net Zero Accelerator Programme. The Programme supports groups of businesses to actively reduce their carbon emissions and develop a Carbon Reduction Plan. One of the key outcomes of this programme is that the businesses become an advocate for Net Zero and inspire the wider business community to embrace it as a gateway to business growth. Net Zero makes their business stronger, be more competitive within the supply chains they serve and attract the future workforce to join them. • Midlothian Council, through our Business Gateway Expert Help programme has funded 13 diverse businesses to participate in the programme which is delivered over the course of one full year. Aside from the Net Zero learning and actions taken by the businesses to date we have seen collaborations between businesses, both at a local level and with businesses in other cohorts/areas that are on the programme. Net Zero Nation have now launched their Ecosystem App which all participants can access to share learning, ideas and access further collaboration opportunities via the Forum.

Miscellaneous	Climate Week Events	Participant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scotland’s Climate Week is an annual event to raise awareness of the global climate emergency and encourages climate action across the country. - An in-person climate week business coffee morning was hosted on Friday 29th September at The Energy Training Academy. 14 businesses attended and heard about the Midlothian Business Green Pledge, the steps they can take to become more environmentally friendly and received tours of The Energy Training Academy’s state-of-the-art renewable technologies training facility hearing about how the social enterprise is providing upskilling opportunities and green jobs. - This was promoted via the Locate in Midlothian website and both Locate in Midlothian and Business Gateway Midlothian Social Media.
Miscellaneous	Midlothian Council Grants: Large Grants Allocation 2022 - 2025	Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large Grants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The Council’s Large Grants Allocation funds 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. Three grants were awarded under this category covering 2022 to 2025, totalling an allocation of £134,000. These were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Create and develop a food forest with an orchard, a training and demonstration site, at the Midlothian Community Hospital (£37,000); ☑ Develop and support community climate action in the Dalkeith area to take action to address the climate emergency (£49,000), this being the Changeworks in Dalkeith project; and ☑ 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).
Miscellaneous	Shared Prosperity Investment Plan Projects	Participant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UK Shared Prosperity Fund has led to 17 projects being awarded around £2m in funding from the UK Government across 2022 to 2025. It is one strand of funding that succeeded the old EU structural funds, which were available before the UK left the European Union. The Council is responsible for approving and distributing the funds locally and an Investment Plan produced by the Council and partners setting out how the money will be spent has been approved by the UK Government. • The projects include climate change related work, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Delivering ‘Green Skills’ courses at Edinburgh College; o Delivering a programme of outdoor-based skills and wellbeing in nature development at Newbattle Abbey College; and o Energy efficiency projects (solar photovoltaic installation and building refurbishment).

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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