

2022-23 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.
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)	98,620	Midlothian Council's emissions estimate for 2022/23 is 16,973tCO ₂ e. This equates to 0.172 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO ₂ e) per resident provided with Council services. This metric will be used in future reporting to assess carbon performance in relation to service provision.

1(e) Overall budget of the body	
Specify approximate £/annum for the report year.	
Budget	Budget comments
£268,135,215	This is the 'revised budget' figure. It is from the Council final outturn report and is a statement of the amount of budget allocated in line with Council governance. At the time of writing, the 22/23 financial statements are going through the audit process from external auditors, Audit Scotland.

1(f) Report type	
Specify the report year type.	
Report type	Report year comments
Financial	This report covers the 2022/23 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:
 - 709 control cabinets
 - 19,895 street lights
 - 11,000 LED street lighting assets
 - 948 signs
 - 626 bollards
 - 62 CCTV cameras
 - 40 sets of traffic signals
 - 70 sets traffic signalled crossings
 - 30 variable message signs
- Fleet assets totalling 284 vehicles which include:
 - 192 vehicles under 3.5tonnes, including vans and pool cars (21 of these are electric vehicles (12 of which are leased)), 59 HGVs 32 buses and 36 public access charging points, including 4 rapid chargers, 30 fast chargers and 2 standard (slow) chargers.

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

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

* Accounting for house completions in Midlothian since the last official estimates were released in mid-2021, the area’s population is around 98,600 as of mid-2023. This is the figure used for calculations in 1(d) above.

PART 2 – GOVERNANCE, MANAGEMENT & STRATEGY

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

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

Political leadership 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 and is therefore a primary driver for the response and how it is governed.

The motion led to the creation of the Council's Climate Change Strategy and a Climate Emergency Group to focus collective effort on meeting the commitments of the motion across Midlothian and within the Council. This 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, land owners 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 this covers the whole of the area and not just the Council's activities, the SLP is approved by Elected Members and requires Council departments to have regard to its aims when creating their Service Plans. Therefore, since an outcome of the Single Midlothian Plan is for 'significant progress [to be] made towards net zero carbon emissions by 2030', this means that relevant Service Managers within the Council must take its commitments for carbon emissions into account when organising their department's work.

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 and 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 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 is a Council-wide priority, the governance structures described in 2(a) have allocated particular duties to some departments within its 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.

Neighbourhood Services:

- Their Roads Services team are pursuing an energy efficiency drive to replace existing street lights with low-energy LED equivalents;
- Waste Management staff whose priorities include ensuring that waste disposal contracts promote maximum recycling, and that waste service options consider and limit the climate impact of their delivery; and
- Travel and Fleet Services 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 will develop the area's Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy.

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.

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 [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.

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"> • The motion declares a climate emergency. • It aims to make the Council’s activities net-zero carbon and achieve 100% clean energy across the Council’s full range of functions by 2030. • It proposes producing an Action Plan to achieve this within 12 months. • It proposes the creation of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o A Citizen’s Assembly to identify how the Council’s activities might be made net-zero carbon by 2030; o A Climate Change Partnership Group, involving Councillors, residents, young citizens, climate science and solutions experts, businesses, Citizens Assembly representatives and other relevant parties. They will consider actions being developed by the Council and other partner organisations and develop a strategy in line with a target of net zero emissions by 2030; • The motion extends beyond Council activities – it has the aim of working towards making the entire area zero carbon by 2030. 	Council Climate Emergency Motion	Council’s Climate Change Web Page
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • 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’. • It has seven themes of work that will be carried out to achieve these, one of which is ‘Midlothian Will Be Greener’, which is the most important for the above outcome. The priorities in this theme are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Learning for sustainability is increased; o Sustainable living is increased; o Low carbon/renewable energy development and home energy saving is increased; and o Carbon storage is increased. • The Council’s Service Plan goals are aligned with those of the SMP and therefore help to achieve them. 	Single Midlothian Plan 2023-27	Community Planning in Midlothian
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is designed in line with the Single Midlothian Plan and is supported by the Council’s Service Plans, both of which aim to reduce the emissions from our activities. • The transition to net zero carbon is a thread found throughout the document and it also has a specific aim of ‘Workplaces of the Future’, this being one of themes (aims) of the document. • This builds on 2020’s Midlothian Route Map Through and Out of the Covid Pandemic which has six interventions intended to support Midlothian’s recovery from the Coronavirus pandemic. These include a new effort to embed less carbon intensive work practices called ‘digital by default, remote working and carbon neutral by 2030 approaches to the workplace and active travel’. 	Midlothian Council Transformation Blueprint	Presented to the Council meeting of 27/06/2023

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Strategy contains a set of objectives that are structured around the Council’s Climate Emergency Motion of 2019. • 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 the Strategy, to determine the scope of emissions and activities included in the update and to cost out a pathway for the Council to reach net zero by 2030. 	Scotland’s Changing Climate – Midlothian’s Climate Change Strategy	Council’s Climate Change Web Page
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • 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'. 	Capital Investment Strategy 2018 – 2028	Capital Investment Strategy 2018 – 2028

2(d) Does the body have a climate change plan or strategy?

If yes, provide the name of any such document and details of where a copy of the document may be obtained or accessed.

Yes. This is referred to in question 2(c), which provides a summary of its content. The Strategy can be found at the [Council’s Climate Change Web Page](#).

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; and o Providing sustainable drainage and water attenuation opportunities to reduce the impact of storm events. • Its aims are delivered through planning applications, which 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; and o 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"> • This Strategy was produced in 2021, partly in response to the Coronavirus pandemic. It proposes changes to the Council’s working practices to use technology to deliver services more effectively and cost-efficiently. • 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. These will be taken forward by parts of the Council's Place Directorate and their Service Plan notes that the introduction of renewable technologies (including heat) is a 'Service Priority'.
Waste Management	None		
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. As such, the 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 2022 - 2023	<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, to fulfil its Statutory responsibilities as defined in Section 34 of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984. • The Plan also specifically references climate change and notes that it can be implemented at any time of year. It notes that such instances are likely to occur with increased frequency and intensity due to climate change. It should be read in conjunction with the Council's Severe Weather Plan (both are updated every winter). This is referenced below.
Adaptation	Severe Weather Plan & Resources	Winter 2022 – 2023	<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. • It relates to climate change in terms of: <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 (but see comments)	<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 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 had indirect benefits for energy efficiency and emissions. This was because one of its goals was to achieve the cost-effective use of Council property, which led to improved building occupancy levels (creating efficiencies regarding 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the intended outcomes of the Local Housing Strategy is that ‘housing in all tenures will be more energy efficient and fewer households will live in, or be at risk of, fuel poverty’. It includes several ‘Key Actions’ that the Council will pursue to achieve this: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Target energy efficiency advice at households most at risk of fuel poverty; o To achieve the highly energy efficient ‘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.

Energy Efficiency	Strategic Housing Investment Plan	2023/24 - 2027/28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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, which includes the use of renewable technologies. This helps to ensure that projects with better environmental credentials are prioritised for development ahead of other less sustainable alternatives. • 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 shall be built in line with this. • It was developed in cooperation with Smith Scott Mullan Associates and is intended to give designers, consultants, developers, contractors and others a clear briefing on the standards that Midlothian Council is seeking to achieve in new developments. These are in line with wider national and local policies, along with Midlothian Council's commitment to become a net zero carbon Council by 2030. • The Design Guide incorporates best practice on how to achieve net zero in housing developments, including through a series of checklists which developers will use to demonstrate how their project meets a comprehensive range of sustainability and low carbon criteria.
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. • This is being taken forward with respect to the new Easthouses Primary School, replacement Beeslack High School and the refurbishment of Penicuik High School. For instance, new school buildings must involve: <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. ☑ For example, 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.

ICT	ICT Procurement Frameworks	Various, depending on equipment type.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council purchases almost all of its IT equipment via these Scottish Government frameworks. We continue to rely on them to ensure that the hardware we purchase is as energy efficient as possible. It means that as we continue with our rolling refresh of hardware, that 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"> • Sustainable Growth Agreements (SGAs) are voluntary, non-legally binding, formal agreements through which organisations and SEPA can explore new and innovative ways to improve environmental performance and focus on practical actions that deliver environmental, social and economic success. • 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.
Other	Economic Growth Strategy 2020 - 2025 (+ Midlothian Economic Renewal Strategy)	2020 - 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Strategy contains several 'Strategic Priorities', one of which is to improve the vibrancy of Midlothian's town centres and make them more environmentally-friendly. • 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 to do sustainable travel options appraisals; o Targeting 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 2023 – 2028', is due to be published in autumn 2023. It fits with the Scottish Government's goal to transition to a wellbeing economy in line with their National Strategy for Economic Transformation.

Other	Midlothian Council Procurement Strategy 2018 - 2023	2018 - 2023	<p>Topic area covered: procurement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are five strategic themes to the Procurement Strategy, one of which is 'environmental benefits'. This is detailed on page 17, in relation to the Sustainable Procurement Duty. It specifically references consideration of the impact of procurement activities in relation to climate change. • The importance of the environmental credentials of suppliers are also emphasised elsewhere by Procurement, such as on the overview of the tender process web page and within the Terms and Conditions for the Purchase of Goods. The latter specifies, for example, that contracts with both suppliers to the Council and their sub-suppliers may be terminated if obligations relating to environmental law are not fulfilled. • 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.
Other	Midlothian Council Local Procurement Strategy 2021	2021 until superseded	<p>Topic area covered: procurement.</p> <p>This helps to further the aims of the Council’s overall 2018 – 2023 Procurement Strategy (see above) and also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sees the Council use its spend to actively encourage and support a growing, diverse and resilient local business base, to work towards its Carbon Neutral by 2030 ambitions; • Places more emphasis on considering any negative externalities of procurement, for example the impact on the environment; and • Further promotes the use of local suppliers where appropriate, to help reduce the carbon footprint of the Authority's activities, such as those associated with transport which would otherwise be higher if less local alternatives were used.
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 Midlothian Compact is an agreement and plan for how the Council will work together with its third sector partners. • It recognises that climate change is one of the key challenges that work between the Council and its third sector partners must address. It outlines several actions for this area of work, which include the need to create new networks and opportunities to bring community members, the third sector and the public sector together to address climate change.

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. • Though most of the focus of the strategy is on increasing participation in physical activity and sport, it also has a strand that is aimed toward increasing the amount of active travel that people do, including to work.
Other	Midlothian Active Travel Strategy	2018 - 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Active Travel Strategy has nine objectives and an accompanying action plan, which aim 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 also contains details on 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 also 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.

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) As part of Midlothian Council's Transformation Blueprint (2023 – 2028), progress the Council's estates and assets rationalisation works as part of Theme 3 ('Workplaces of the Future') and the associated sprints.
- 2) To refresh Midlothian's 2021 Digital Strategy as a key priority, including to incorporate the Council's net zero ambitions.
- 3) To participate in Climate Week in autumn 2023 so that Economic Development staff can promote action on emissions amongst Midlothian's businesses, including encouraging more to sign up to the Midlothian Business Carbon Charter / Midlothian Green Pledge.
- 4) To commission a review of the Council's Climate Change Strategy to develop the Council estate's pathway to net zero, supported by a detailed action plan outlining carbon impacts and costs of actions.
- 5) To implement the 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.

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

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

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

Midlothian Council used the Climate Change Assessment Tool for the first time in 2021/22. It provides an overall rating of capability/performance and ratings for five areas within an organisation. The results were:

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

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

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 its 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.

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.

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	14,695,750	kWh	0.19338	kgCO ₂ e/kWh	2,841.86	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	14,695,750	kWh	0.01769	kgCO ₂ e/kWh	259.97	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	5,152,613	kWh	0.19338	kgCO ₂ e/kWh	996.41	Refers to power consumed by assets such as street lights, road signs and traffic signal equipment.
Electricity transmission and distribution losses	Scope 3	5,152,613	kWh	0.01769	kgCO ₂ e/kWh	91.15	Refers to network losses of power that supplies assets such as street lights, road signs and traffic signal equipment.
Natural gas	Scope 1	49,153,128	kWh	0.18254	kgCO ₂ e/kWh	8972.41	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	735,746	kWh	0.25679	kgCO ₂ e/kWh	188.93	Relates to gas oil consumption within Moorfoot Primary School, Tynewater Primary School and Vogrie Country House.
Gas oil	Scope 1	7,661	litres	2.75857	kgCO ₂ e/litres	21.13	Relates to fuel consumption from the Council's vehicle fleet.
Diesel (average biofuel blend)	Scope 1	754,746	litres	2.55784	kgCO ₂ e/litres	1,930.52	Relates to fuel consumption from the Council's vehicle fleet.
Petrol (average biofuel blend)	Scope 1	27,443	litres	2.16185	kgCO ₂ e/litres	59.33	Relates to fuel consumption from the Council's vehicle fleet.
Water supply	Scope 3	205,110	m ³	0.10000	kgCO ₂ e/m ³	20.51	Refers to all of the Council's estate.
Water treatment	Scope 3	194,854	m ³	0.19000	kgCO ₂ e/m ³	37.02	Refers to all of the Council's estate.
Average car - Unknown	Scope 1	629,961	miles	0.27465	kgCO ₂ e/miles	173.02	Relates to staff mileage claims – using their own vehicles to fulfil their employment duties - in 2022/23.
Homeworking emissions	Scope 3	4,054,436	FTE Working Hours	0.34075	kg CO ₂ e/FTE Working Hour	1,381.56	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		110,437			<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, but not operational in 2022/23);• 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).

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 746 new street lighting columns and 500 LED light upgrades to save energy.	Scope 2	2023/24	Savings 1,256 tonnes of CO ₂ were made from this in 2021/22. Figures from Q1 to Q3 of 2022/23 are 751 tonnes of CO ₂ . Q4 figures were not available the time of writing.	Each LED light replaced reduces energy consumption by a factor of five, compared with standard units.
Electricity consumption (non-heat) - kWh/year/m ²	Reduce electricity consumption in offices, schools, schools with pools, leisure centres and leisure centres with pools.	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.
Carbon dioxide emissions (all energy + water) - kgCO ₂ e/year/m ²	Reduce carbon dioxide emissions from offices, schools, schools with pools, leisure centres and leisure centres with pools.	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.
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'	8% of vehicles	Transport	2022/23 (ongoing annual target beyond)	8.2%	Latest figure available is from the Council's Q3 Place Directorate Performance Report. Usually reported in the Place Directorate Annual Performance Reports.
Progress 'Passivhaus' social housing projects	209 housing units built	Energy use in buildings	See 'Comments'	159 units have planning consent, 50 are under construction	Details of progression towards completions is outlined in the Council's Strategic Housing Investment Plan report and its 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 publically available via a ['Council, Cabinet and Committees'](#) webpage. The Council's ['Sustainable Development and Climate Change'](#) web page will also be updated each year with the latest submission.

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

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

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

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

Emissions source	Total estimated annual carbon savings (tCO ₂ e)	Comments
Natural gas	15	This figure refers to the projects detailed in question 3(f). Savings are from Salix projects. For more details on this scheme, see the 'Other Notable Reporting Activity' table at the end of this document.

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

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

Project name	Funding source	First full year of CO ₂ e savings	Capital cost (£)	Project lifetime (years)	Primary fuel/emission source saved	Estimated carbon savings per year (tCO ₂ e/annum)	Estimated costs savings (£/annum)	Comments
Gorebridge Leisure Centre (CMID02P081)	Salix	2022/23	19,110	20	Natural gas	4.6	1,517	Refers to the installation of roof insulation that will save 92tCO ₂ e over its lifespan.
Glencorse Primary School (CMID02P082)	Salix + capital	2022/23	17,347	20	Natural gas	10.6	3,489	Refers to the replacement of boilers that will save 115tCO ₂ e over their lifespan.

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

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

Emissions source	Total estimated annual emissions (tCO ₂ e)	Increase or decrease in emissions	Comments
Estate changes	88	Decrease	This fall in emissions is due to sites in the Council estate being leased, demolished or closed. As a result, emissions from gas consumption fell by 63 tonnes of CO ₂ e and emissions from electricity consumption fell by 25 tonnes of CO ₂ e. The biggest single contribution to these decreases were the closure of Buccleuch House, followed the Jarnac Court offices being refurbished into homeless accommodation and the Orchard Centre becoming vacant.
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 16,973tCO ₂ e and 16,434tCO ₂ e. This equates to a 3.5% 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 (tCO ₂ e)	Comments

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

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

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

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

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

Total savings	Total estimated emissions savings (tCO 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, who has many years experience in the role and of providing data for the Council's reporting. 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.

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 of managing such risks that relate 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 it can be implemented at any time of year. It notes that such instances are likely to occur with increased frequency and intensity due to climate change. It should be read in conjunction with the Council's Severe Weather Plan (both are updated every winter). This is referenced below.

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 and 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.

In November 2022, and in conjunction with the Climate Reality Project, the Council's Communities, Lifelong Learning and Employability staff hosted a 'Climate Reality Event' on the science of climate change at Dalkeith Arts Centre.

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

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

- Ensuring habitat connectivity to allow species to adapt to climate change through movement;
- Encouraging the retention and expansion of plants and trees to provide opportunities for carbon sequestration; and
- Providing water attenuation opportunities to reduce the impact of storm events.

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

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

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

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

- Information on flooding, such as contact details to report surface water drainage issues and referring readers to other sources of information, including live flooding updates (via Floodline.org.uk); and

- 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](#) (last held in October 2022) 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 walks and events is taking place as part of the 2023 Festival; and
 - 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).
 - 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.
- 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. For example, the 2022 Doors Open Day included a bat walk at Straiton Pond and opening The Wildlife Information Centre office to the public (Midlothian Council have a service level agreement with them to provide various biodiversity related work – further details are provided elsewhere in this document).

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

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

The Council's overall approach in the area of risk and accountability for it is outlined in its Risk Management Policy and Strategy. It was reviewed in 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) To identify then implement suitable projects for Midlothian's 2023/24 allocation of Nature Restoration Fund monies to restore wildlife and habitats in Midlothian.
- 2) Pursue the objective of the restoration and maintenance of peatland alongside NatureScot and the Peatland Action Team as part of the 'carbon storage is increased' aim of the Single Midlothian Plan.
- 3) Continue to work in partnership with the community and volunteers at our countryside sites and on the Midlothian path network for the benefit of people and wildlife. The target for 2023/24 is to accrue 4,500 hours of volunteer in kind contribution hours as part of this.
- 4) Applying the principles from National Planning Framework 4 on nature-based solutions for climate change adaptation, including protecting and enhancing blue-green infrastructure and addressing the connectivity of biodiversity rich areas through nature networks, as part of the ongoing work on progressing the new Midlothian Local Development Plan.
- 5) To explore progressing Midlothian Council having a Climate Adaptation Vision, signed off across Council departments with Councillor support, to include alignment of Financing, Design, Delivery and Maintenance of the different infrastructures needed to support Council and national climate transformation objectives.

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 2022/23 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 contacts if obligations under the European Communities Act 1972 have not been met. This includes events where the supplier has failed to comply in the performance of the Contract with legal obligations in the fields of environmental law. Suppliers themselves must include the same provision within their various sub-contracts. These requirements 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.

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	03/10/2023

RECOMMENDED REPORTING: REPORTING ON WIDER INFLUENCE

Q1 Historic Emissions (Local Authorities only)

Please indicate emission amounts and unit of measurement (e.g. tCO₂e) 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 CO₂ emissions: **subset dataset** (emissions within the scope of influence of local authorities):

(2) UK local and regional CO₂ 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	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Comments
Total emissions	511.90	451.47	490.24	479.60	433.71	429.24	409.55	402.80	385.91	373.11	330.95	377.36	
Industry and commercial	131.76	105.77	130.04	127.11	110.46	104.15	96.46	81.15	70.80	66.94	57.92	69.46	
Domestic	195.85	171.13	183.89	180.44	153.05	154.52	144.50	140.16	137.13	137.45	131.09	138.87	
Transport total	146.50	143.33	138.74	135.66	138.70	139.40	143.46	146.82	142.20	138.94	113.07	133.72	
Per capita	6.22	5.41	5.82	5.66	5.03	4.91	4.62	4.47	4.22	4.03	3.55	3.99	
Waste (total)	-	96.01	97.86	98.60	92.30	91.43	95.31	98.18	91.86	91.55	97.89	101.52	Data from https://informatics.sepa.org.uk/HouseholdWaste/
Waste (per capita)*	-	1.17	1.16	1.16	1.07	1.05	1.08	1.09	1.01	0.99	1.05	1.07	Data from https://informatics.sepa.org.uk/HouseholdWaste/

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
								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.

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. NatureScot 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	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.
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. • In 2022/23, Midlothian Council was awarded £103,000 from the NRF for environmental initiatives, including pond maintenance and construction in Rosewell and at Vogrie Country Park. NRF projects such as these works will contribute towards the council's commitment to increasing the number of managed ponds in Midlothian which is set out in the Midlothian Local Biodiversity Action Plan. • Funding to Midlothian of £210,000 for 2023/24 was allocated in summer 2023, with work ongoing at that time for project ideas.
Energy Efficiency	Changeworks Energy Efficiency Projects	Supporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Efficient Scotland: Area Based Schemes (EES:ABS) are the Scottish Government's flagship energy efficiency scheme. Changeworks has worked with Councils, including Midlothian, to deliver these by installing external wall insulation on a number of homes throughout Bonnyrigg, Penicuik, North Middleton and Cousland, increasing their energy efficiency and tackling fuel poverty. 36 properties were supported through this scheme in 2022/23. • EES:ABS is also supported by the Energy Companies Obligation (ECO). Midlothian Council access ECO funding via the Local Authority Flexible Eligibility Scheme (ECO Flex). In May 2023, the Council issued a Statement that sets out the eligibility criteria for the fourth cycle of ECO. This will run until March 2026. • Midlothian Council also provide funding to this, to pay for energy efficiency improvements to their Council homes. • Another work stream of this kind that Changeworks do in Midlothian is the "Midlothian Decarbonisation Fund". This is referred to on page 47 of the Single Midlothian Plan. Funded by the Scottish Government Decarbonisation Fund targeting council housing in Midlothian this project installed air source heat pumps, solar panels and batteries, and underfloor insulation to homes throughout Midlothian helping to make their heat and energy more renewable and tackle fuel poverty. 26 properties in Midlothian were supported by this work in 2022/23.

Energy Efficiency	Changeworks in Dalkeith	Supporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a three year project delivered by Changeworks. They will be working with local community groups and hosting events to raise awareness of the climate emergency and help people save money and carbon. It is funded by Midlothian Council with match funding from Changeworks - £48,670 split over the project lifetime and £16,140 in 2022/23. It is funded by the Council's Large Grants Scheme. • The project launched with a drop-in event in Dalkeith in July 2022 where passers-by on Buccleuch Street could get advice on how to save carbon and save money. Other events include those on active travel (September 2022), hard to heat homes (January 2023) and renewable heating options for domestic properties (March 2023). • Changeworks' Key Performance Indicators for the project are to reach 2,000 individuals in Dalkeith and the surrounding area across three years. Of these, 80% will have increased confidence in taking climate action and 1,000 will take positive action that drive us towards net zero.
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. Those installed in the current reporting year are detailed in table 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 systematically improving the energy efficiency of buildings and decarbonising heat. The Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies (Scotland) Order 2022 requires Councils to publish their first LHEES and its first Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Delivery Plan (EEDP) on or before 31/12/2023, then update them every five years. • A (new) Key Performance Indicator in the Place Directorate Service Plan presented to Council on 27/06/2023 is ‘Percentage of LHEES’ complete. • The Medium Term Financial Strategy presented to Council on 21/02/2023 includes a new expenditure commitment of £2m for LHEES’. • In March 2022, proposals were put before the Council to produce an EEDP for the Council’s Housing stock and to set up a project team with budget and governance to oversee the EEDP development by December 2022. It will, as an absolute minimum, contain targets that deliver compliance with the Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing (ESSH) 2, this being requirements relating to grades of Energy Performance Certificates for social rented houses which need to be met by the end of 2032. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o A report to Council on 27/06/2023 stated that the Housing Revenue Account Capital Plan for 2023/24 to 2025/26 allocates £19.6 million for investment in ESSH 2. • Midlothian Council’s LHEES is being developed in conjunction with Changeworks and Midlothian Energy Ltd. It incorporates information from the Council’s participation in the ‘Green Heat in Green Spaces / Park Power’ project, to identify how urban greenspaces can be used to transition to low carbon heat. • The Council advertised for an LHEES Lead Officer in July 2023 to deliver the LHEES and EEDP.
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.

Transport	Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure	Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council hosts 36 public access charging points, including 4 rapid chargers, 30 fast chargers and 2 standard (slow) chargers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 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). • 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.
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. • 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"> • 13 bikes are available for staff on a rolling basis for commuting. 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	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.
Transport	Places for Everyone	Participant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Places for Everyone aims to increase journeys made by active travel modes. It is funded by the Scottish Government through Transport Scotland and is administered by Sustrans. • In January 2023, three applications from Midlothian Council for funding worth a total of £266,076 were approved. These are for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o A7 Urbanisation - £108,198 was awarded for early concept design, technical and feasibility studies on this; o Shawfair Connections - £117,878 to work on priority routes for active travel infrastructure in the Shawfair area, including connections into the existing network and cross-boundary connections into other Local Authorities; and o £40,000 for an assessment of active/sustainable travel provision within and around new developments. This will inform future policy principles and design standards for new developments and help ensure that the choice of new housing sites encourages it.
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. The 2022/23 funding report states that £80,000 was 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	Staff Cycling Training Sessions	Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These have been delivered regularly over the last few years, both for the public and staff, and have been 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. • Sessions took place in June and September 2022 and in July 2023, the latter being part of British Cycling’s “Breeze” programme.
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 2022/23 to promote active travel in Midlothian. These included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel in March 2023. 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 “Cycle to Work Day” via the Wednesday Weekly All Staff Email, which also promoted the Council’s other activities to encourage cycling at the same time. Cycle to Work Day was 04/08/2022; o Promoting Bike Week on the 5th to the 11th of June 2023 which focussed on workplace cycling. Cycling UK, who organise the week, want to encourage as many staff as possible during the week to leave their cars and ride their bikes; and o The Midlothian Outdoor Festival (working with the Midlothian Ranger Service and Communities, Lifelong Learning and Education) to deliver active travel events in October 2022.
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.

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. 1,219 pupils in Midlothian took part in Bikeability levels 1 and 2 training in the 2022/23 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 250 pupils across 11 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 15 led rides at Dalkeith High School with groups of pupils ranging from 6 - 12 years old. 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 10 schools (with around 200 beneficiaries) within the authority to ensure bikes were safe and fit to be ridden before Bikeability sessions commenced.
Transport	Cycle Storage	Lead	<p>This year the Active Travel Officer (Schools) and team looked at improving cycle storage at schools that require it across the authority. They were successful in obtaining £40,000 from Cycling Scotland to improve the storage at Newtongrange Primary, Woodburn Primary, Kings Park Primary and Lasswade High School. These will all be installed before 2024.</p>
Transport	Play on Pedals	Participant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a project done in collaboration with Playbase and Cycling Scotland that delivers balance bike activities to 3 to 5 year olds in nurseries and aims to get them used to cycling and bikes from a young age so they use them for transport later in life. • The bikes were maintained regularly (by the Council's Active Travel Officer) for Midlothian Playbase for them to be distributed out to nurseries. The fleet of bikes were loaned to Woodburn Primary School on a long loan and are being used by all the nursery children there throughout the year.

Transport	School Streets	Participant	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 Stobhill Primary.
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.
Transport	Midlothian Walking Battle	Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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: 505 pupils participated in the walking battle across 6 different schools. This project cost £1,440 for 100 pedometers to be distributed between schools. • Several schools have used the pedometers to conduct their own activity, such as walking up the local hills/paths and monitoring their distance.
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. Much of Midlothian’s 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 and local businesses to dispose of waste where it can then be recycled. • In 2023/24 these facilities may receive as many as 145,000 individual customer visits (400 per day).

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, Zero Waste Scotland and COSLA agreed a Household Recycling Charter and Code of Practice which set out a framework for implementing consistent recycling collections across Scotland. The Code of Practice specifies the material streams that should be collected separately and the specific items that will be accepted within each stream through standardisation of the specification for recyclable materials. • 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. The money will be used to buy an additional vehicle and to provide food waste caddies. • No final decision on routes has been taken, but the service is likely to cover an additional 1,800 properties that were initially excluded because of their location. The intention was to implement this from mid 2023 but Midlothian's General Services Capital Plan 2022/23 Final Outturn which went to Council on 27/06/2023 noted that manufacturing delays have resulted in purchase of the food waste vehicle being delayed until 2023/24.

Miscellaneous	Weekly All Staff Emails	Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Weekly All Staff Email is regularly used as a means by which to communicate details of and promote Council initiatives that are relevant towards climate change mitigation. Examples include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The email of 15/06/2022 advertised Clean Air Day and promoted simple steps that we can all take to cut down on air pollution; o The email of 24/08/2022 advertised advice that Citizens Advice Scotland, Energy UK and Ofgem have produced to help domestic energy customers save energy and help manage their bills; o The email of 19/10/2022 advertised the WWF carbon footprint calculator’ and o The email of 31/08/2022 had an item called ‘How You can Help with Climate Change’. • The Council’s staff magazine, Connect, can also be used to share successes and good news stories on climate change matters.
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	Lead	<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 July 2023, 53 businesses have signed up.
Miscellaneous	Green Transition Fund / Local Authority Covid Economic Recovery Fund (LACER)	Participant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Midlothian Council was allocated £1.36m of Scottish Government LACER funding in 2022. This was split between Low Income Households and Business Support. The total awarded to business support was £398,781, with £199,351 allocated to the Green Transition Fund to further support signatories to the Council’s Carbon Charter / Midlothian Green Pledge. All grants were awarded on a 70/30 match funded basis with the maximum grant capped at £20,000. • The panel assessed the applications on a wide variety of factors including business stability, growth potential, scale of the projects, the safeguarding and creation of jobs, increased green investment and the decarbonisation of buildings. 23 applications were received with 11 being successful. • The Green Transition fund also resulted in additional private investment of £270,785.

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. • A ‘Virtual Coffee Morning’ was held as part of Climate Week 2022, with 17 businesses attending. The purpose was to inspire and encourage businesses to focus on carbon reduction practices and have local businesses sharing their journey to date along with a speaker from Scottish Enterprise’s Sustainability Team outlining Scottish Enterprise support in this area. • For Climate Week 2023, Economic Development are inviting local businesses to a tour at The Energy Training Academy, to raise awareness of renewable technologies for business, the business association initiative as part of their Community Wealth Building approach, and the Carbon Pledge to encourage new sign ups.
Miscellaneous	Midlothian Council Grants: Small Grants & Community Council Grants 2022/23 and Large Grants Allocation 2022 - 2025	Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small Grants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The Council’s small grants scheme was available in 2022/23 to voluntary and community organisations on an annual basis to deliver services across four funding streams to meet the priorities and outcomes of the Community Planning Partnership and the Single Midlothian Plan. One of these themes is reducing carbon emissions. Two projects were awarded £6,000 for helping to achieve this: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☒ PlayBase scio - resource boxes to support and promote learning for sustainability which will be borrowed by Early Learning and Childcare settings in Midlothian; and ☒ Gorebridge Community Development Trust - Funding to continue Growgetters, which are monthly child and family growing sessions focusing on growing your own food, connecting with nature and the outdoors, and gardening for wildlife. • 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).
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Q6) Please use the text box below to detail further climate change related activity that is not noted elsewhere within this reporting template