

# Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Compliance Reporting Template 2022/23

## 1. Overview

This template is provided for public bodies required to report annually in accordance with the Climate Change (Duties of Public Bodies Reporting Requirements) (Scotland) Order 2015, as amended by the Climate Change (Duties of Public Bodies: Reporting Requirements) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2020 which took effect for reporting periods commencing on or after 1 April 2021.

Reports must be submitted to [ccreporting@ed.ac.uk](mailto:ccreporting@ed.ac.uk) by **30th November**. Late submissions will not be accepted for analysis and may be deemed non-compliant with Public Bodies Duties reporting requirements.



## 2. Guidance

1. The "Profile of Body" tab must be completed before proceeding to add any other data.
2. Question 1f must be completed to ensure the correct emission factors are applied in Q3b.
3. If you need to add more rows in any table please email the file [ccreporting@ed.ac.uk](mailto:ccreporting@ed.ac.uk)
4. More emission factors from the UK Government (DESNZ) release have been included this year. When completing Q3b you can filter by the Emission Type dropdown in column C.
5. Please only use the "Other" emission source rows (130 onwards) when there is no relevant emission source in the dropdown lists or if you have bespoke data/emission factors. Please provide a brief explanation in the comment field.
6. The water supply and sewage emission factors are based on Scottish Water's carbon intensities of service supply, one of the lowest in the UK water industry. If you still wish to use the UK DESNZ (formerly BEIS) factors (which are more than double) you will need to enter consumption data in an "Other" row.
7. Some auto-checks have been added to improve the quality of data entries, e.g. correct emission scopes where only one category ever applies.
8. More detailed reporting guidance is available [on the SSN website.](#)

## 3. Colour Coding used in the template

	Dropdown box - select from list of options
	Uneditable/fixed entry cell

Editable cell

Public Sector Report on Compliance with Climate Change Duties 2023 Template

PART 1 Profile of Reporting Body

1a **Name of reporting body**  
Provide the name of the listed body (the "body") which prepared this report.

Scottish Borders Council

1b **Type of body**  
Select from the options below

Local Government

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

3245

THIS MUST BE COMPLETED

1d **Metrics used by the body**  
Specify the metrics that the body uses to assess its performance in relation to climate change and sustainability.

Metric	Units	Value	Comments
Population size served	population	116020.00	2021 figure from SBC website
Please select from drop down box			
Please select from drop down box			
Please select from drop down box			
Please select from drop down box			
Please select from drop down box			
Please select from drop down box			
Please select from drop down box			
Other (please specify in comments)			
Other (please specify in comments)			
Other (please specify in comments)			
Other (please specify in comments)			
Other (please specify in comments)			
Other (please specify in comments)			
Other (please specify in comments)			

1e **Overall budget of the body**  
Specify approximate £/annum for the report year.

Budget	Budget Comments
£387,900,000	£387,900,000 Gross

1f **Report type**  
Specify the report year type

Report type	Report year comments
Financial	2022-23

THIS MUST BE COMPLETED

1g **Context**  
Provide a summary of the body's nature and functions that are relevant to climate change reporting.

Scottish Borders is a predominantly rural local authority area in south east Scotland - covering an area of 4,732 km2 and has a 30 kms coastline. Its population density is 24.52 persons per km2 (2021). No. of households is 55,296.

The region is the fourth most sparsely-populated mainland Local Authority area in Scotland after Highland, Argyll and Bute and Dumfries and Galloway. Just under 30% of the population live in settlements of under 500 people or in isolated hamlets, and no towns have a population over 14,000. However, the region sits on the edge of three city regions (Edinburgh, Newcastle and Carlisle) which provides significant opportunities in terms of cross border co-operation, jobs, tourism, leisure, work and study.

The following Council Services have a role to play in addressing climate change and promoting sustainability:  
**People, Performance & Change:** Human Resources; Payroll; Transformation & Business Change; Organisational Development; Corporate Training, Learning & Development; Corporate Performance  
**Infrastructure & Environment:** Building Standards, Planning, Waste Management; Property Management; Fleet, Passenger Transport, Capital Projects & Monitoring; Green Space Team; Estates, Architects, Facilities Management, Housing Strategy  
**Resilient Communities:** Customer Services; Revenues, Benefits & Financial Inclusion; Community Planning & Engagement; Economic Development; Business Support  
**Education & Lifelong Learning:** Schools & Education; Statutory Quality standards and inspections; Corporate Parenting; Youth work; Teacher training, learning and development; Community Learning & Development; Employability  
**Social Work & Practice:** Adults Social Work; Children Social Work; Public Protection; Criminal Justice; Homeless Support  
**Strategic Commissioning & Partnerships:** Commissioning Lead; Homecare; Residential Care; Lead for ICT Client and Strategic Contract with CGI; Lead for Strategic Partnerships  
**Finance & Corporate Governance:** Finance, Procurement, Audit & Risk, Legal Services, Licensing, Protective Services, Health & Safety, Democratic Services, Assessors  
**Chief Executive's:** Strategic Planning & Policy; Emergency Planning; Communications

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PART 2 Governance, Management and Strategy

Governance and management

2a 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 Governance**  
The Executive Committee takes the lead role on matters of sustainability, including leading and driving action to combat the negative impacts of climate change, build resilience to adapt to climate change and to deliver Net Zero.

A Sustainability Member Reference Group (comprising 6 member of the Administration and 5 members of the Opposition) has been established for elected members to provide oversight and scrutiny of the Council's strategies, plans, policies and actions in leading and driving action to combat the negative impacts of climate change, build resilience to adapt to climate change and to deliver net zero carbon by 2045. This group is chaired by the Executive Member for Environment and Transport.

**Governance at Officer level**  
**Council Management Team (CMT)** - Director of Infrastructure and Environment is the lead for climate change/net zero at CMT and chairs the internal Sustainability Board of officers.  
**Sustainability Board** - internal Board of senior Council officers, chaired by the Director of Infrastructure and Environment - meets monthly and provides the strategic direction for the work programme.

**Sustainability Operational Group** - comprising the key leads for the 5 theme groups, meets monthly to update on current activity and proposed papers for decision at the Sustainability Board.  
Five theme groups (Building Resilience, Lowering Energy Consumption, Decarbonising Waste Management, Nature Based Solutions and Decarbonising Transport) have been established to work collaboratively both internally across departments and externally with communities, organisations and partners to implement the Council Climate Change Route Map Priority Actions. The theme groups provide updates to the Sustainability Operational Group which in turn reports monthly to the Sustainability Board.

<insert Diagram Here or Attach File>

2b How is climate change action managed and embedded in 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.

All Council Committee reports now contain impact assessment sections on Climate Change and embedding the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, with written guidance provided for authors on how to complete these assessments. This process has been in place since March 2021.

<insert Diagram Here or Attach File>

Strategy

2c 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
Declares a Climate Emergency and agrees to set a target for achieving a reduction in the Council's carbon emissions, which is at least consistent with the Scottish Government's target of net zero by 2045 and the intermediate targets set out in the Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019.	Climate Change Declaration	<a href="https://scottishborders.moderngov.co.uk/letListDocuments.aspx?Cd=132&amp;MId=51398&amp;Ver=4">https://scottishborders.moderngov.co.uk/letListDocuments.aspx?Cd=132&amp;MId=51398&amp;Ver=4</a>
Resilience: To help deliver Net Zero, reduce inequalities, deliver inclusive economic growth, and improve health and wellbeing across the region.	Scottish Borders Climate Change Route Map (accompanying by priority actions for each objective)	<a href="https://data.climateemergency.uk/media/data/plans/scottish-borders-council-9845a88.pdf">https://data.climateemergency.uk/media/data/plans/scottish-borders-council-9845a88.pdf</a>
Decarbonising Transport Use: To help deliver Net Zero, reduce inequalities, deliver inclusive economic growth and improve health and wellbeing across the region.	Scottish Borders Climate Change Route Map (accompanying by priority actions for each objective)	
Nature Based Solutions: A transformation in agriculture and the use of farmland while maintaining the same levels of food per head produced today and region where woodlands, peatlands, heathlands and pastures are widely restored and managed sustainably.	Scottish Borders Climate Change Route Map (accompanying by priority actions for each objective)	
Reducing Energy Consumption: To transition to Net Zero GHG emissions from the energy we consume in our industry, commerce and domestic buildings and related activities through clean fuels, energy efficiency and understanding how our infrastructures can be used more effectively.	Scottish Borders Climate Change Route Map (accompanying by priority actions for each objective)	
Decarbonising Waste Management: To address GHG emissions by ensuring waste is managed sustainably through reducing, reusing, recycling and recovering waste to improve resource efficiency.	Scottish Borders Climate Change Route Map (accompanying by priority actions for each objective)	
	Council Plan (covering FY 2022-23)	<a href="https://scottishborders.moderngov.co.uk/documents/662537/Item%20No.%206%20-%20Council%20Plan%20Final.pdf">https://scottishborders.moderngov.co.uk/documents/662537/Item%20No.%206%20-%20Council%20Plan%20Final.pdf</a>

2d 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.

The Council approved its Climate Change Route Map (CCRM) for the Scottish Borders region in June 2021. A plan of priority actions to deliver on the CCRM was adopted in March 2022 and will be reported on annually.

CCRM on-line: <https://scottishborders.moderngov.co.uk/documents/656082/Item%20No.%201%20-%20Appendix%201%20-%20SBN%20CLIMATE%20CHANGE%20ROUTE%20MAP%20FINAL.pdf>  
Priority actions: <https://scottishborders.moderngov.co.uk/letListDocuments.aspx?Cd=132&MId=51378&Ver=4>

2e 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.

Topic area	Name of document	Link	Time period covered	Comments
Adaptation	Flood Risk Management	<a href="https://www.scottishborders.gov.uk/downloads/download/1046/flood">https://www.scottishborders.gov.uk/downloads/download/1046/flood</a>		
Business travel	Business Travel Decision Maker	<a href="#">Business Travel Decision Maker   Scottish Borders Council</a>		
Staff Travel	Employee Travel & Mileage Policy	<a href="#">Employee Travel and Mileage Policy   Scottish Borders Council</a>		
Energy efficiency	No Strategy in place		2022-2027	
Fleet transport	Fleet Replacement Strategy	<a href="https://scottishborders.moderngov.co.uk/Documents/649954/Item%20No.%209%20-%20Final%20Strategy.pdf">https://scottishborders.moderngov.co.uk/Documents/649954/Item%20No.%209%20-%20Final%20Strategy.pdf</a>		
ICT	Scottish Borders Council Digital Strategy			
Renewable energy	No plan currently in place			
Sustainable/renewable heat	No plan currently in place			
Waste management	No plan currently in place			
Water and sewerage	No plan currently in place			
Land Use	Local Development Plan	<a href="#">Local development plan - adopted   Local development plan   Scottish Borders Council   scottishborders.gov.uk</a> <a href="#">South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership - South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership (dumgal.gov.uk)</a>		
Other (please specify in comments)	Regional Economic Strategy & Delivery Plan			
	Local Housing Strategy	<a href="#">Strategies, plans and policies directory - Local housing strategy   Scottish Borders Council   scottishborders.gov.uk</a>		
Please select from drop down box	Woodland Strategy	<a href="#">Woodland strategy   Scottish Borders Council   scottishborders.gov.uk</a>		
Please select from drop down box	Winter Service Plan 2022-23	<a href="#">Item No. 30 - Appendix A Winter Service Plan 2022-23 V1.3.pdf   moderngov.co.uk</a>		
Please select from drop down box	Commercial & Commissioned Services Strategy (2018-23)	<a href="#">Commercial and Commissioned Services Strategy 2018-23   Scottish Borders Council   scottishborders.gov.uk</a>		
Please select from drop down box	Adding Value to the Community through Procurement	<a href="https://scottishborders.moderngov.co.uk/Documents/62959/Item%20No.%2014%20-%20Adding%20Value%20to%20Communities%20through%20Procurement%20-%20Guidance%20Policy.pdf">https://scottishborders.moderngov.co.uk/Documents/62959/Item%20No.%2014%20-%20Adding%20Value%20to%20Communities%20through%20Procurement%20-%20Guidance%20Policy.pdf</a>		
Please select from drop down box				

2f 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.

- Provide net zero/Climate change training for senior management and 2 other staff cohorts (e.g. planning and community engagement officers);
- Integrate net zero/Climate change into the Council's Business Planning process (annual Departmental Delivery Plan process) and use the information provided to establish strategic linkages between service outputs and action on climate change/Net/adaptation;
- Establish Area wide emissions working group (sub group of Community Plan) to drive forward collaborative action on area wide emissions;
- Establish a presence on the Council's website charting our Net progress to inform staff, partners, service users and the general public of the Council's targets and progress to date.

2g 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.

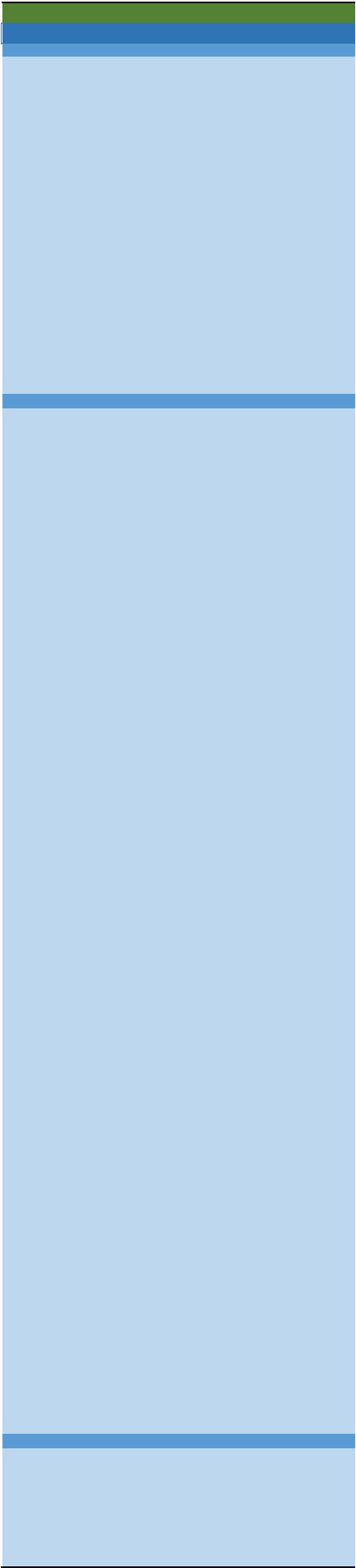
n/a

Further information

2h Supporting information and best practice

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

The Internal Audit Strategy for 2023/24 includes integrating climate change into all assurance audits as a cross-cutting risk to provide assurance that the underlying controls and processes in all Services that support climate change commitments, plans and programmes are operating as intended.







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**PART 4 Adaptation - please do not include information in this part on measures that solely reduce emissions with no implications for climate adaptation. These are climate mitigation measures which should be reported in Part 3.**

**Assessing and managing risk**

**4a** Has the body assessed current and future climate-related risks?  
If yes, provide a reference or link to any such risk assessment(s).

Through the implementation of the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 climate change has been considered through the characterisation stage of assessing flood risk in the Tweed, Forth Estuary & Solway LPD, actions have been developed from this and where appropriate take this into consideration. Any flood studies required to be carried out will include an allowance for climate change. In accordance with the most up to date guidance an allowance of 59% will be included at certain return periods (the previous climate change allowance was 33%).

Future development in terms of planning is also important and any development proposals deemed to be at flood risk will be subject to a Flood Risk Assessment. There is now guidance available which relates directly to the climate change allowance that should be considered for each major river basin in Scotland when carrying out a Flood Risk Assessment. In spring 2022 the climate change allowances for catchment areas within Scotland were updated. For catchments in the Scottish Borders we now apply a 1 in 200 year plus 59% allowance for climate change in the Tweed River Basin and a 1 in 200 year plus 53% in the Solway River Basin where the village of Newcastleton is located. The introduction of the National Planning Framework now states that climate change must be included in Flood Risk Assessment carried for planning purposes.

The council holds a severe weather plan which is continually reviewed and assessed. This has most recently been updated to include the impact of climate change and now incorporates the National Water Scarcity Plan and the effects of drought.

**4b** 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.

To manage flood risk and the effects of climate change the Council has in place and is implementing a number of flood schemes and is also taking forward a number of flood studies/scheme preparation projects.

Flood Schemes: Galashiels (Plumtree & Wilderhaugh and Netherdale) Flood Prevention Scheme 2010 - Plumtree and Wilderhaugh 1 in 75 years, Netherdale 1 in 200 years plus 20% climate change. Jedburgh (Skiprinning Burn) Flood Protection Scheme 2014 - Town centre works, culvert inlet and channel works. Selkirk Flood Protection Scheme - Philliphugh (from Etrick) 1 in 200 years plus 20% climate change, Bannerfield (from Etrick) 1 in 200 years plus 20% climate change, Riverside (from Etrick) 1 in 500 years plus 20% climate change, Bannerfield & Philliphugh (from Longphilip Burn) 1 in 100 years plus 20% climate change, Riverside (from Shaw Burn) 1 in 200 years plus 20% climate change. Hawick Flood Protection Scheme - Construction has commenced and is scheduled for completion by the end of 2023. This will provide a level of protection of 1 in 75 years. Romano Bridge Flood Protection Scheme - Construction due to commence and will provide 1:30 year level of protection.

Flood Studies/Scheme Preparation: Peebles Flood Study/Scheme Preparation; Newcastleton Flood Study/Scheme Preparation; Etrick Valley Flood Study; Lindean Flood Study; Whitlaw/Crobyres Flood Study. The option appraisal for Peebles and Newcastleton is complete with a ground investigation for Newcastleton also complete. These will help inform future design of flood mitigation measures. Etrick Valley, Lindean and Whitlaw Flood studies are now moving into public exhibition phase having assessed the current flood risk in detail at a number of different return periods, 1:2, 1:5, 1:10, 1:25, 1:50, 1:75, 1:100, 1:200 and 1:1000 return periods with an estimation of flood flows with a 33% allowance for climate change for 1:30 and 1:200 return periods.

Surface Water Management Plans (SWMP): Peebles SWMP, Galashiels SWMP, Hawick SWMP, Newcastleton SWMP; Hawick SWMP

Natural Flood Management Studies: Galashiels NFM Study is currently on-going; Hawick NFM Study (still to commence)

The Natural Flood Management Studies aim to assess the potential for NFM measures in the catchments above both Hawick and Galashiels. The purpose of this is to supplement the existing levels of protection afforded to both towns by flood protection schemes already in place or proposed and determine if future measures in these catchments can be used to offset the effects of climate change.

The Emergency Planning Team work in partnership with a variety of external agencies including the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and the Met Office, and represent SBC on the East of Scotland

**Taking action**

**4c** 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").

As detailed in the Council's Climate Change Route Map, the Council continues to evolve its approach to greenspace management to further increase the amount of land managed less intensively, making space for nature and biodiversity while reducing machinery use, as well as building in responses to localised climate events such as fluctuating growth, firebreaks etc. Building on the Wildflower pilots previously undertaken, the Council has successfully increased provision of wildflower areas across 50 sites in the region. The Council Parks & Environment Service remains pest free, with the only exception the rootballs of bought in new or replacement plants.

The Council has deployed SG Nature Restoration Funding to enable optimum grass management through purchase of appropriate machinery and increase tree planting and plant wildflower areas. Nature Restoration Funding has also been administered to support partnership projects supporting habitat restoration and freshwater management. Weedkilling is being reviewed and glyphosate use reduced wherever possible. The Council continues to support the Borderlands 'Pollinators along the Tweed' project as a partner organisation. The Green Flag Award for Wilton Lodge Park has been awarded again for 2023 - the Green Flag programme is an advocate of maintaining parks and green spaces in an environmentally sound way and has a particular focus on pesticides and peat use, although also recognises that all activities should have as low an environmental impact as possible. Year 2 of the Community Food Growing Strategy has been delivered. Access to Community Food Growing continues to be developed and supported, with the Council continuing to undertake works to support and facilitate community growing as part of the Council's response to community resilience, food security, and biodiversity.

**4d** Where applicable, what contribution has the body made to helping deliver the Programme?  
Provide any other relevant supporting information.

**SCCAP2 Prog Outcome 5:** Our natural environment is valued, enjoyed, protected and enhanced and has increased resilience to climate change  
Sub-Outcome 5.1: Scotland's biodiversity, ecosystems and landscapes are adaptable to the changing climate  
The Eddleston Water Project continues to implement and analyse the effects of practical works to slow down flows and store water and increase resilience. Monitoring of both environmental and ecological change is also accurately monitored to determine the wider benefits of Natural Flood Management over and above any flood risk benefits.

**SCCAP2 Prog Outcome 6:** "Our coastal and marine environment is valued, enjoyed, protected and enhanced and has increased resilience to climate change"  
Sub-Outcome 6.1: Scotland's coastal and marine biodiversity, ecosystems and landscapes are adaptable to the changing climate  
SBC has completed a Coastal Study for Eyemouth assessing the flood risk associated with sea level rise as a result of climate change and assessing what options may be possible to mitigate this. Scottish Government and SEPA have developed new guidance specific for Scotland which replaced the Shoreline Management Plan guidance. The Coastal Change Adaptation Guidance is now being used by SBC to develop a Coastal Change Adaptation Plan for the Berwickshire Coast, this will highlight different triggers which will determine when and what type of action should be taken as the coast changes as a result of impacts from climate change.

**Review, monitoring and evaluation**

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

The Council with its Edinburgh City and Region Deal partners have agreed to the development of a shared understanding and joint approach to addressing climate change risks for the South East Scotland region. This includes undertaking an area wide climate risk assessment to identify key vulnerabilities and increase climate resilience of infrastructure, services and community. This would be used to identify priority climate risks and inform policy and project development. The Business Case is currently being developed with the intention that the assessment be carried out in the financial year 2022 - 23.

SBC follows the national guidance and advice developed by SEPA, on how to consider climate change in relation to assessing planning applications. On the works flood study side, SBC aims to update flood models that are associated with flood schemes once a cycle which should in theory tie in with updates to the rainfall information that is used to calculate the flows in the river.

**4f** 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).

In future Local Flood Risk Management Plans there will be actions that include adaptation planning usually related to existing flood protection schemes and how we can adapt these. We are currently developing a Coastal Change Adaptation Plan for the Berwickshire Coast, to ensure that timely and sustainable action is taken as a result of changes to our coastline as a result of climate change.

**Future priorities for adaptation**

**4g** 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.

The focus for the year ahead will be working with Adaptation Scotland and Edinburgh City and Region Deal partners to get the area wide climate risk assessment carried out. This assessment will inform next steps and the priority adaptation actions and directions the Council should take.

Develop, complete and deliver a Coastal Change Adaptation Plan for the Berwickshire Coast.

Continue to deliver the actions highlighted in the Tweed, Solway and Forth Estuary Local Flood Risk Management Plans

**Further information**

**4h** Supporting information and best practice  
Provide any other relevant supporting information and any examples of best practice by the body in relation to adaptation.



**PART 5 Procurement**

**5a 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 change duties.

The Council's Corporate Procurement Strategy recognises procurements contribution to carbon reduction and how effective procurement practices can have a direct impact in reducing its carbon footprint. With this in mind the Council has introduced a policy 'Adding Value to the Community through Procurement'. This ensures that sustainable considerations are embedded into each procurement strategy from the outset. As part of the strategy development consideration is given to the projects' impact on climate, waste production, biodiversity protection and any opportunities to deliver community benefits locally in the Scottish Borders area.

The Council recognises that climate change has a far reaching effect on the economy, the community and the environment. Our Sustainable Procurement Charter (updated annually) demonstrates our commitment to being a responsible purchaser of goods, services and works by setting standards to make sure activities are carried out in an ethical, responsible and sustainable way.

A section of the Charter is dedicated to Environmental Impact and Climate Change and states:

"The Council is committed to reducing its environmental impact, including carbon emissions, wherever possible. The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 places duties on public bodies to deliver their services in a way which supports this, including both internal activities, such as energy saving within buildings, and its work with partners. The way that the Council procures goods and services can have a huge environmental impact, and by purchasing items which can demonstrate a reduced negative effect on wildlife, natural resources and carbon emissions, we can reduce our carbon footprint and support suppliers to do the same"

**5b 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 change duties.

The Council spent approximately £200 million on goods, services and works during financial year 2022-23. The share spent with local suppliers was approx. £78m, an increase from £64m the previous financial year. Supporting local suppliers reduces delivery mileage and other climate impacts.

The Council has also invested significantly in projects which support climate action, as detailed in 5c below.

**Further information**

**5c Supporting information and best practice**

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

The Scottish Government's sustainable procurement tools are utilised to support the consideration of all environmental, economic and social opportunities and risks, with a sustainability test undertaken for each full, regulated tender exercise. These included in 2022-23:

- Road Surfacing Materials Framework Agreement
- Alcohol & Drug Treatment Service
- Placemaking Consultancy Framework

The Council will also, where possible, utilise category A & B collaborative procurement opportunities which incorporate appropriate climate change considerations at point of tender.

Notable examples of individual projects which support climate action include:

•2022-23 EES:ABS Programme:

- Installation of cavity wall insulation, Solar PVs and battery storage to 30 hard to treat domestic properties in Innerleithen.
- Installation of air source heat pumps and cavity wall insulation at 30 residential properties in Hume and Greenlaw
- Installation of Internal Wall Insulation at various properties in Scottish Borders.
- Orders placed for the purchase of lease of electric or hybrid to replace diesel-fuelled vehicles and reduce grey mileage, including an additional 4 electric cars and 26 hybrids.
- Pilot project to source fresh meat for schools from local suppliers. By end of the year all 9 secondary schools supplied by local supplier with the distribution impact calculated as 9906 less food miles equating to 3.84 tCO2e. Meat also predominantly sourced from farms within the Scottish Borders area.

**PART 6 Validation and Declaration**

**6a Internal validation process**

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

Data and information is sourced from relevant Services and collated by Climate Change Officer. The report is then circulated internally for verification before being presented to the Sustainability Board for further comment before submitted to Full Council for approval.

**6b Peer validation process**

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

Peer validation process did not take place. It is the intention to carry out a peer validation exercise with Highland Council for the next PBCCD report.

**6c External validation process**

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

No external validation undertaken.

**6d 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.

**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.

<b>Name:</b>	John Curry
<b>Role in the body:</b>	Director Infrastructure & Environment
<b>Date:</b>	23/10/23

