

The Highland Council

Agenda Item	7.
Report No	CCC/4/26

Committee: Climate Change

Date: 28 January 2026

Report Title: Performance Monitoring Report – Q3 2025/26

Report By: Assistant Chief Executive - Place

1 Purpose/Executive Summary

1.1 The report details relevant performance monitoring information for the Climate Change function as follows:-

- Contribution to the Performance Plan; and
- Service Plan for FY2023/24

1.2 The content and structure are intended to:-

- assist Member scrutiny and performance management;
- inform decision making to aid continuous improvement; and
- provide transparency and accessibility

2 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to **scrutinise and note** the Service's performance information.

3 Implications

3.1 **Resource** - There are no implications arising as a direct result of this report.

3.2 **Legal** - This report contributes to the Council's statutory duties to report performance and secure best value in terms of; Section 1(1)(a) of the Local Government Act 1992, and Section 1 of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003, respectively.

3.3 **Risk** - No implications arising as a direct result of this report.

3.4 **Health and Safety (risks arising from changes to plant, equipment, process, or people)** – No implications arising as a direct result of this report.

3.5 **Gaelic** - No implications arising as a direct result of this report.

4 Impacts

- 4.1 In Highland, all policies, strategies or service changes are subject to an integrated screening for impact for Equalities, Poverty and Human Rights, Children's Rights and Wellbeing, Climate Change, Islands and Mainland Rural Communities, and Data Protection. Where identified as required, a full impact assessment will be undertaken.
- 4.2 Considering impacts is a core part of the decision-making process and needs to inform the decision-making process. When taking any decision, Members must give due regard to the findings of any assessment.
- 4.3 This is a monitoring report and therefore an impact assessment is not required.

5 Function Performance - Corporate Indicators

- 5.1 Corporate indicators for the Climate Change function are incorporated within the former Deputy Chief Executive Service and are therefore not available.

6 Function Contribution to the Performance Plan

6.1

Climate Change: Contribution to the Performance Plan						
Strategic Priority 4 A Sustainable Highland Environment and Global Centre for Renewable Energy	Period	Data	Period	Data	Target Value	Completion/ Update Date
Green Hydrogen: Joint venture opportunities CP4.02	Q2 25/26	Some Slippage	Q3 25/26	Some Slippage		
Low carbon travel & transport [LAIP and LCTT] CP4.02	Q2 25/26		Q3 25/26			Completed Q2 23/24
Progress live sustainability software to allow measuring of engagement CP4.03	Q2 25/26		Q3 25/26			
Council carbon emissions tonnes CO2e CP4.07/4.09	FY 23/24	33,229	FY 24/25			Annual update November
Net Zero Strategy & Fully Costed Action Plan: Report Progress CP4.07	Q2 25/26	Some Slippage	Q3 25/26	Some Slippage		
No. HC & Public EV Charger Sites CP4.07	FY 23/24	144	FY 24/25	144		Target for FY 23/24 to follow Path Finder Project
Identify income opportunities from renewable technologies CP4.08	Q2 25/26	Some Slippage	Q3 25/26	Some Slippage		
Introduce sustainability software: live data on carbon emissions CP4.09	Q2 25/26		Q3 25/26			
Options appraisal for sites for energy saving interventions CP4.09	Q2 25/26	On Target	Q3 25/26	On Target		
Develop solar panel installations performance data - due to start reporting Mar 24 CP4.10	Q2 25/26	Some Slippage	Q3 25/26	Some Slippage		Target tbc
Projects assisting in reducing energy purchased - due to start reporting Q1 24/25 CP4.10	Q2 25/26	Some Slippage	Q3 25/26	Some Slippage		
Incorporate Just Transition principles into strategic planning/Net Zero strategy CP4.11	Q2 25/26		Q3 25/26			Completed Q1 23/24

7 Service Plan Progress

- 7.1 The Climate Change function performance information from the revised 2023/24 Deputy Chief Executive Service Plan is shown below.

7.2

Transition to Net Zero and a climate-ready organisation Q3 25/26						
Actions PIs being Monitored in Service Plan	Period	Data	Period	Data	Target Value	Completion/Update Date
Council carbon emissions tonnes CO2e CP4.07/4.09	FY 23/24	33,229	FY 24/25		46,177	Annual update November
Net Zero Strategy & Fully Costed Action Plan: Report Progress CP4.07	Q2 25/26	Some Slippage	Q3 25/26	Some Slippage		
Develop an Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan	Q2 25/26		Q3 25/26			Transferred to Delivery Plan
Incorporate Just Transition principles into strategic planning/Net Zero strategy CP4.11	Q2 25/26		Q3 25/26			Completed Q1 23/24
Engage with and support all Council Services to actively contribute to development of the Net Zero Action Plan	Q2 25/26		Q3 25/26			Completed Q4 23/24
Progress live sustainability software to allow measuring of engagement CP4.03	Q2 25/26		Q3 25/26			
Introduce sustainability software: live data on carbon emissions CP4.09	Q2 25/26		Q3 25/26			
Projects assisting in reducing energy purchased - due to start reporting Q1 24/25 CP4.10	Q2 25/26	Some Slippage	Q3 25/26	Some Slippage		

7.3

Transition to Net Zero and a climate-ready organisation Q3 25/26						
Actions PIs being Monitored in Service Plan	Period	Data	Period	Data	Target Value	Completion/Update Date
Establish a working group to consider the Local Authority Circular Economy Framework	Q2 25/26		Q3 25/26			Completed Q4 23/24
Develop a vision and strategy to embed circular economy into the Council's operations	Q2 25/26		Q3 25/26			Transferred to Delivery Plan
Thematic group ensures circular economy is embedded in Net Zero thematic action plan	Q2 25/26		Q3 25/26			Transferred to Delivery Plan
Report to Council regarding review of the Local Authority Circular Economy Framework	Q2 25/26		Q3 25/26			Transferred to Delivery Plan
ELT and SLT complete Carbon Literacy training - due to start reporting FY24/25	Q2 25/26		Q3 25/26			Transferred to Delivery Plan
Existing staff complete carbon literacy training - due to start reporting FY24/25	Q2 25/26		Q3 25/26			Transferred to Delivery Plan
New staff complete Carbon Literacy training as part of induction - due to start reporting FY24/25	Q2 25/26		Q3 25/26		100 %	Transferred to Delivery Plan
Develop Carbon Literacy training to be delivered to the ELT and SLT	Q2 25/26		Q3 25/26			Transferred to Delivery Plan
Review Carbon Literacy training feedback - due to start Q1 24/25	Q2 25/26		Q3 25/26			Transferred to Delivery Plan
Support all Council services to integrate carbon budgeting	Q2 25/26		Q3 25/26			Transferred to Delivery Plan
Achieve approval of Council Carbon budget and service-level Carbon budget targets	Q2 25/26		Q3 25/26			Transferred to Delivery Plan

7.4

Transition to Net Zero and a climate-ready organisation Q3 25/26						
Actions PIs being Monitored in Service Plan	Period	Data	Period	Data	Target Value	Completion/Update Date
No. HC & Public EV Charger Sites CP4.07	FY 23/24	144	FY 24/25	144	186	Target for FY 23/24 to follow Path Finder Project
Low carbon travel & transport [LAIP and LCTT] CP4.02	Q2 25/26		Q3 25/26			Completed Q2 23/24
Publish a tender for long term development of EV and award contract to a commercial partner	Q2 25/26		Q3 25/26			Completed Q1 25/26
Evaluate the market and establish a model for EV charger point investment across the Highlands	Q2 25/26		Q3 25/26			Completed Q2 24/25
Monitor EV charging point usage monthly - start reporting Q3 23/24	Q2 25/26	On Target	Q3 25/26	On Target		Ongoing
Heat Networks: Deliver the LHEES Strategy and Implementation Plan for publication [comp. 2023]	Q2 25/26		Q3 25/26			Completed Q3 23/24
Undertake public consultation on the LHEES Strategy	Q2 25/26		Q3 25/26			Completed Q3 23/24

7.5

Renewables Q3 25/26						
Actions PIs being Monitored in Service Plan	Period	Data	Period	Data	Target Value	Completion/Update Date
50% of existing renewable energy generation assets to be inspected in FY	Q2 25/26		Q3 25/26			
Develop solar panel installations performance data - due to start reporting Mar 24 CP4.10	Q2 25/26	Some Slippage	Q3 25/26	Some Slippage		Target tbc
Implement a remote performance monitoring system for renewable assets	Q2 25/26	Some Slippage	Q3 25/26	Some Slippage		
Identify income opportunities from renewable technologies CP4.08	Q2 25/26	Some Slippage	Q3 25/26	Some Slippage		
Green Hydrogen: Joint venture opportunities CP4.02	Q2 25/26	Some Slippage	Q3 25/26	Some Slippage		
Options appraisal for sites for energy saving interventions CP4.09	Q2 25/26	On Target	Q3 25/26	On Target		
Monitor/report remedial and maintenance actions for renewable energy generation assets	Q2 25/26		Q3 25/26			Completed Q4 24/25
Renewable Technologies: Action plan developed	Q2 25/26		Q3 25/26			Transferred to Delivery Plan

7.6

Energy Efficiency Q3 25/26						
Actions PIs being Monitored in Service Plan	Period	Data	Period	Data	Target Value	Completion/Update Date
% EES:ABS grant funding utilised CP3.02	FY 23/24	95 %	FY 24/25	100 %	80 %	annual update June
% SSE Renewable grant utilised	FY 23/24	84 %	FY 24/25	100 %	100 %	100% by June 2024
Issue Energy Company Obligation Flex declarations	FY 23/24	131	FY 24/25	276		Target 40 by March 24
Develop plan to deliver the EES: Area Based Scheme for the Highlands	Q2 25/26		Q3 25/26			Completed Q2 24/25
Ensure optimised use of funding available through the ECO flex funding route	Q2 25/26		Q3 25/26			Completed Q3 24/25
Ensure quarterly updates/report to committee on ECO funding	Q2 25/26		Q3 25/26			Completed Q2 24/25
Monitor/report HC allocated funds from SSE Renewable grant	Q2 25/26		Q3 25/26			Completed Q4 24/25
Pilot ECO funded project for Council properties	Q2 25/26		Q3 25/26			Completed Q2 24/25
Work with contractors to build ECO projects in the region	Q2 25/26		Q3 25/26			Completed Q4 24/25

Designation: Assistant Chief Executive - Place

Date: 12 January 2026

Author: Sophie Stuart, Portfolio Manager

Background Papers: None

Appendices: None