Committee Name: Climate and Environment Emergency Executive Panel

Committee Date: 10/12/2024

Report Title: NI185 Emissions Reporting 2023/24

Portfolio:	Councillor Hampton, Cabinet member for climate change and digital inclusion
Report from:	Head of Strategy, Engagement and Culture
Wards:	All Wards
OPEN PUBLIC ITEM	

Purpose

To brief CEEEP on the council's carbon footprint for the 2023/24 financial year.

Recommendation

To review and comment on this report.

Policy Framework

The council's community-led plan 'We Are Norwich 2024-2029' outlines five shared priorities to make Norwich a fair and thriving city, full of ambition. Priority 4 relates to:

A climate responsive Norwich

Within this priority area, the plan establishes the following aim:

A net-zero council by 2030

This aim relates specifically to the council's own greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, with progress against this ambition being assessed through an annual carbon accounting procedure, as summarised in this report.

Report Details

Background

1. National Indicator (NI) 185 was a statutory reporting requirement of the now defunct Department of Energy & Climate Change. Whilst the statutory requirement to report NI185 emissions ceased in 2013, the council has continued to use the NI185 scope and methodology to measure and report

emissions against a 2007/08 baseline. Other local authorities continue to report emissions according to NI185 in the same way.

2. The NI185 reporting protocol covers the council's scope 1, 2, and a subset of scope 3 emissions.

    - **Scope 1** covers emissions from assets directly under the control of the council e.g. emissions from fuel in our fleet vehicles and heating fuel for buildings i.e. fuel that we both procure and 'burn'.
    - **Scope 2** emissions are caused by energy that is procured by the organisation but where the fuel is burnt by another party. For the council Scope 2 emissions are caused by procuring electricity for buildings which is generated by others.
    - **Scope 3** emissions result from procured goods and services. Scope 3 emissions for NI185 have historically only included emissions from major procurement contracts.

3. The historical approach taken to determining the council's organisational boundary was based on the original guidance for NI185, which stated that: *"The indicator is to include all CO_2 emissions from the delivery of local authority functions. It covers all of an authority's own operations and outsourced services."*

    Following an assessment, at the time, of the main outsourced services associated with the council's functions, leisure centres, street services and housing support services were included. The council has historically excluded emissions from general needs HRA housing but included sheltered housing schemes.

Emissions Analysis and Reporting – Results and Key Findings

4. Analysis of the council's 2023/24 emissions demonstrates further progress towards meeting the council's 2030 net-zero target. The reporting period for this exercise is 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.

5. The council's total net annual emissions for the 2023/24 financial year were 3,218,271 kg CO_2e, an 8.0% decrease on the 2022/23 figure. This latest figure means that as of 31 March 2024, Norwich City Council has made a 69.8% reduction against the 2007/08 baseline emissions.

6. The council's current Corporate Plan commitment is to reduce its emissions by 3% per annum. For 2023/24, this target has been comfortably achieved and exceeded.

7. A breakdown of emissions for 2023/24 is shown in the table below:

Scope 1 - Direct emissions (e.g. onsite fuel consumption; gas/vehicles)	CO_2e (kg)
Gas from buildings (council) – kWh	1,737,311
Fuel in fleet vehicles (council) – L diesel	3,791
Fuel in fleet vehicles (council) – L petrol	249
TOTAL SCOPE 1	**1,741,351**
Scope 2 - Energy Indirect	**CO_2e (kg)**
Electricity in buildings (council) – kWh	1,555,835
TOTAL SCOPE 2	**1,555,835**
Scope 3 - Other indirect (e.g. business travel, contractors)	**CO_2e (kg)**
Transmission and distribution of electricity	134,641
Gas from buildings (contractors) – kWh	6,570
Electricity in buildings (contractors) – kWh	45,278
Grey fleet e.g. private cars	6,998
Taxis	753
Flights	0
Trains	1,064
Contractors' vehicle use	1,281,616
TOTAL SCOPE 3	**1,476,920**
TOTAL GROSS EMISSIONS	**4,774,106**
Green Electricity / Offsetting	1,555,835
Grand total net CO_2e (kg)	**3,218,271**

8. Since the 2007/08 baseline year, this equates to an average annual reduction of 6.8% per annum, exceeding the current 3% Corporate Plan commitment. A comparison of the 2023/24 emissions with previous years can be seen in the table in Appendix 1.

9. The council's gross emissions (before net removal of electricity emissions by means of procuring green electricity[1]) reduced from 2022/23 to 2023/24, including a 14.2% reduction in gas use in council buildings year to year. This is believed to be due to upgrades to heating systems such as the installation of Air Source Heat Pumps (ASHPs) at City Hall in 2022, together with a milder winter in 2023 as reported by the Met Office.

10. Following a slight increase in emissions associated with fossil-fuelled fleet vehicle use in 2022/23 to mirror pre-pandemic levels, these emissions have declined quite significantly in 2023/24 due to a combination of the council reducing its vehicle fleet by 10 vehicles in early 2023, together with increased use of EV pool cars, homeworking, and staff active travel. Similarly, emissions associated with staff using private vehicles for work purposes ('grey fleet') reduced in 2023/24 for similar reasons to those listed above.

[1] The council procures a 100% renewable electricity generation mix which meets the technical requirements of the Greenhouse Gas Protocol for net zero electricity.

11. Contractor emissions have reduced in 2023/24 compared to previous years. Reduced emissions from electricity and gas are believed to be associated with the change in environmental services delivery from Norse and NPS to Norwich City Services Limited (NCSL). Contractor vehicle emissions saw a marginal increase overall, which is likely to be due to a post-pandemic increase in vehicle journeys.

Implications and Next Steps

12. The outcome of this analysis highlights an overall continued success in GHG emissions reduction in line with the council's ambitions. The most recent 2023/24 emissions represent the lowest council operational emissions during an annual period. Nonetheless, there is a need for continued and ambitious climate action to be pursued for Norwich City Council to reach its 2030 net-zero target.

13. Having successfully reduced emissions over a seventeen-year period, it will become increasingly challenging to continue to reduce carbon emissions each year as more easily achieved measures give way to projects requiring more significant investment.

14. To achieve continued emissions reduction, plans are being progressed to decarbonise heating in the council's buildings, as gas use in buildings continues to be the largest source of council emissions. Continued procurement of 100% green electricity will also be important, alongside plans to increase renewable electricity generation on council buildings through installation of new solar PV capacity to reduce reliance on grid supply. Retiring the existing fossil-fuelled staff fleet vehicles in favour of an increased electric vehicle (EV) fleet will also help to achieve reductions.

15. The forthcoming Climate Action Plan for the Council's General Fund Activity will set out the combination of measures to be taken to achieve the council's net-zero 2030 target.

16. Following publication of the council's 2023/24 Carbon Footprint report, and upon conclusion of the present financial year, work will commence to quantify emissions associated with the 2024/25 period and to report this in line with the GHG Protocol as set out in the 'Climate Responsive Norwich Programme 2025-2035'.

Property and Economic Development Implications

17. There are no direct implications of this report itself but achieving the Council's net-zero 2030 target will have considerable implications on Council operations. A new carbon management plan is being developed as part of the Council's Climate Action Plan.

Financial and Resources

18. There are no direct implications of this report itself, but achieving the Council's net-zero target will have considerable financial and resource implications. A new carbon management plan is being developed as part of the Council's Climate Action Plan.

Legal

19. NA

Statutory Considerations

Consideration	Details of any implications and proposed measures to address:
Equality and Diversity	NA
Health, Social and Economic Impact	NA
Crime and Disorder	NA
Children and Adults Safeguarding	NA
Environmental Impact	This report highlights the council's emissions and illustrate where emissions reductions need to be made.

Risk Management

Risk	Consequence	Controls Required
NA	NA	NA

Other Options Considered: NA

Reasons for the decision/recommendation: NA

Background papers: NA

Appendices:

Appendix 1: A table showing the current and previous emissions reporting years, broken down by scope.

Contact Officer: Environmental Strategy Manager

Name: Phil Hunt

Email address: philhunt@norwich.gov.uk

Appendix 1:

Emissions for the most recent 2023/24 reporting year, and selected previous years for comparison, broken down by scope. 2007/08 represents the baseline year.

	GHG emissions data for the 2022/23 and 2023/24 financial years and previous												
	Global kg of CO_2e												
	2023/24	**2022/23**	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16	2014/15	2013/14	2012/13	2007/08
Scope 1	1,741,351	2,049,091	2,315,223	2,225,456	2,546,198	2,868,441	2,719,707	2,599,264	2,490,424	2,666,097	3,089,996	3,445,387	1,682,048
Scope 2	1,555,835	1,479,815	1,422,611	1,594,476	2,060,326	2,142,562	2,572,790	2,623,878	3,578,868	3,924,258	3,204,539	3,708,865	6,603,828
Scope 3	1,476,920	1,492,203	1,294,921	1,647,871	1,866,694	2,230,283	2,563,956	2,677,929	2,771,323	2,669,831	1,948,009	1,816,041	2,355,434
Total gross emissions	**4,774,106**	**5,021,109**	**5,032,755**	**5,467,804**	**6,473,218**	**7,241,286**	**7,856,452**	**7,901,071**	**8,840,615**	**9,260,186**	**8,242,544**	**8,970,293**	**10,641,310**
Carbon offsets	n/a	929,000	n/a	n/a	20,177	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Green tariff	1,555,835	591,443	1,422,611	1,594,476	2,060,326	2,142,562	2,572,790	920,543	-	-	-	-	n/a
Total annual net emissions	**3,218,271**	**3,500,665**	**3,610,144**	**3,873,327**	**4,392,715**	**5,098,724**	**5,283,662**	**6,980,528**	**8,840,615**	**9,260,186**	**8,242,544**	**8,970,293**	**10,641,310**
% Change on Previous	**-8.0%**	**-3.0%**	**-6.8%**	**-11.8%**	**-13.8%**	**-3.5%**	**-24.3%**	**-21%**	**-4.5%**	**12.3%**	**-8.1%**	**-3.7%**	**N/A**