

Name of meeting: Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee
Date: 3rd December 2020
Title of report: Climate Commission and Internal Carbon Emissions Reporting Update

Purpose of report:

- To provide the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee with a requested update on progress in implementing the Kirklees Climate Commission
- To provide the Committee with an update on the Council's annual internal carbon emissions reporting against the target set in 2010.

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	N/A
Key Decision - Is it in the <u>Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)?</u>	N/A
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	N/A
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name	Colin Parr, 25 November 2020
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance IT and Transactional Services?	N/A
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning Support?	N/A
Cabinet member portfolio	Cllr Paul Davies

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: None

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? Yes

1. Summary

- The Council passed a motion declaring a 'climate emergency' in January 2019 and subsequently set out its initial response in reports to Cabinet and Council in November 2019. A detailed progress update was provided to OSMC in March 2020.
- This report provides an update on the Council's positive progress in achieving its internal carbon reduction target, set in 2010.
- The report also provides the requested update on progress in developing and establishing the Kirklees Climate Commission, a Phase 1 action agreed in November 2019.

2. Key Information

Background

- 2.1. Kirklees Council declared a climate emergency in January 2019 and set out its initial response in November 2019. At Cabinet in November 2019 the Cabinet agreed a package of projects to progress immediately ('Phase 1' of the climate emergency programme) and also to implement the development of a more detailed and ongoing 'Phase 2' to develop and progress a more comprehensive package of interventions to address the climate change emergency. A key measure of the November 2019 was to establish and adopt a district-wide 'net zero' carbon emissions target of 2038, which also aligns with that set by the regional West Yorkshire Combined Authority.
- 2.2. This report provides the Committee with an update on the development of the Kirklees Climate Commission. This was identified as a 'phase 1' priority in November 2019, with the Council undertaking to work with partners to develop, initiate and establish a Climate Commission for Kirklees.
- 2.3. Pre-dating the above activity, the council also has an adopted internal carbon emissions reduction target, set in 2010. This is to achieve a 40% reduction in carbon emissions by 2020-21, based upon a 2005-06 baseline. This was also complemented with an equivalent 40% target for district-wide activity, although it was recognised that the council has less control over these emissions. The update in this report is concerned with progress with the Council's internal 40% reduction target.

Climate Commission Update

- 2.4. The development and initiation of the Kirklees Climate Commission was identified and agreed as a 'Phase 1' climate emergency action by Cabinet in November 2019. The Climate Commission is being developed based on a model developed by the University of Leeds and successfully implemented in the Leeds Climate Commission.
- 2.5. It is intended that that Commission will be independent and representative of partners across the district, and with the Council providing a leading and supportive role. The Commission will:
 - Promote leadership on Climate Change
 - Provide independent advice
 - Help monitor and report on progress towards meeting the district 'net zero' target of 2038
 - Consider and advise on climate-related risks
 - Bring together major organisations and key groups across Kirklees to collaborate
 - Make the economic case for action on climate change
 - Promote best practice and act as a forum where partners can exchange ideas and best practice
 - Be asked to consider the development of a Kirklees 'Green Charter' to help drive member action on climate change

- 2.6. Although it is intended to engage with and have representation from the private sector and civil society, it is not intended to be a lobbying or campaigning organisation. Instead it will have a clear focus on providing independent advice and bringing together organisations to collaborate to address the climate emergency.
- 2.7. The Council has previously identified a roadmap for implementing a Commission in Kirklees. This would involve a smaller and temporary advisory panel being established for the Commission to develop and agree Terms of Reference, membership and initial priorities for the Commission proper to take forward. As per the previous update to OSMC, the intention was that this would commence in Spring 2020.
- 2.8. Even though this coincided with the Covid-19 emergency, which has both disrupted the intended plan and required resources to be diverted to other pressing priorities, the Council has recognised the importance of the Commission. The Council has looked again at how the Commission could be implemented in a Covid-19-safe way, and it is considered feasible for it to take place entirely virtually.
- 2.9. The Council has approached the University of Leeds and Professor Andy Gouldson (Professor of Environmental Policy at the University, and originator of the Climate Commission concept) for assistance in developing the Kirklees Commission. Professor Gouldson has agreed to chair an independent and interim 'advisory panel' in Kirklees and to develop appropriate terms of reference to lead to the implementation of a full Commission in Kirklees. This will help Kirklees benefit from the learning from the Leeds Climate Commission and also the experience of the University of Leeds in working with other areas developing Commissions.
- 2.10. It is intended that this panel will meet 3-4 times after which the full Commission will be established with an appropriate local Chair/Co-Chairs and Professor Gouldson will step down. The first meeting of the proposed panel is planned for early in the New Year. It is anticipated that the first meeting of the full Kirklees Climate Commission proper will be ready to take place early in the 2021-22 financial year.
- 2.11. It is also considered beneficial for the Kirklees Commission to join the 'Place-Based Carbon Action Network' (PCAN), a network supported by a number of Universities which brings together the increasing number of Commissions across the country to share best practice and learning.
- 2.12. Regionally, Leaders across Yorkshire and the Humber have also been considering a proposal for a regional-level Climate Commission, again based upon the University of Leeds/PCAN model. Whilst this is not yet confirmed, a regional Commission would play a more strategic role and serve to complement the local-level work taking place in Commissions such as that in development in Kirklees.

Next Steps

- 2.13. Next steps for the Climate Commission are:
- To establish the Advisory Panel with its first meeting to take place early in the New Year.
 - To plan for the first meeting of the Commission proper to take place early in the new financial year.

Internal Carbon Emissions Reporting (2019-20)

- 2.14. In June 2010, Cabinet approved a target to reduce council emissions by 40% by 2020 (based on a 2005/06 baseline), to be consistent with the Government's then longer term trajectory for 80% reduction by 2050 (enshrined in law under the Climate Change Act 2008). This update is concerned with the Council's own emissions for the 2019/2020 and considers progress against the 2020 target referred to at 1.1.
- 2.15. The target covers emissions arising from energy and fuel use in the following areas;
- Council housing
 - Street lighting
 - Corporate Landlord
 - Schools and colleges
 - Leisure centres and swimming pools
 - Council fleet vehicles
- 2.16. The results are derived from energy data (gas, electricity and oil, and vehicle fuel) and key results from 2019/20 energy data shows that:
- Between 2005/6 and 2019/20 the Council has reduced its carbon emissions by 53.5%. This is ahead of the 37.3% reduction required for this year's trajectory and means that the Council has already met the 2020/21 target. This reduction in footprint is illustrated at Figures 1 and 2 below.
 - The Council's current energy bill is £6.8million (not including schools or council homes). This cost has increased by £1.0million (15%) since 2005/06.
 - The most significant carbon reduction (%) since 2005/06 is for street lighting which has reduced by 69%
 - Within this reporting period the Carbon Conversion Factor for Grid Electricity (kgCO₂/kWh) has reduced significantly and contributes to 10% of the 53.5% reduction in the Council's carbon emissions.

Figure 1

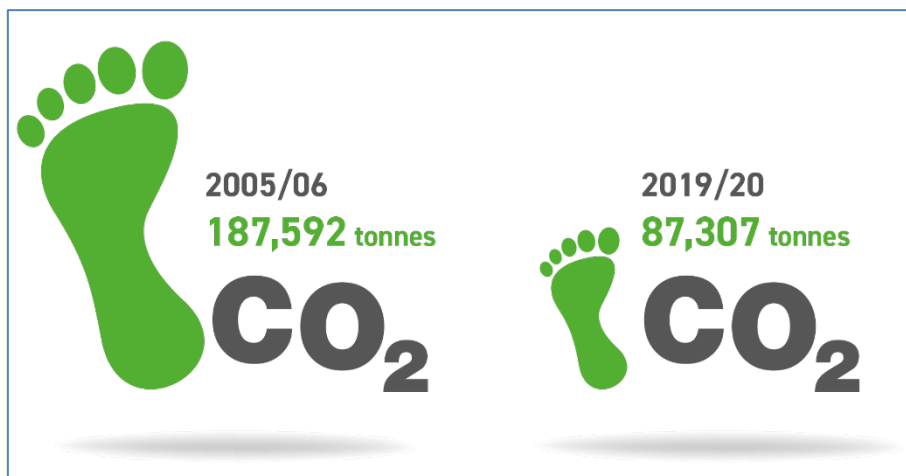
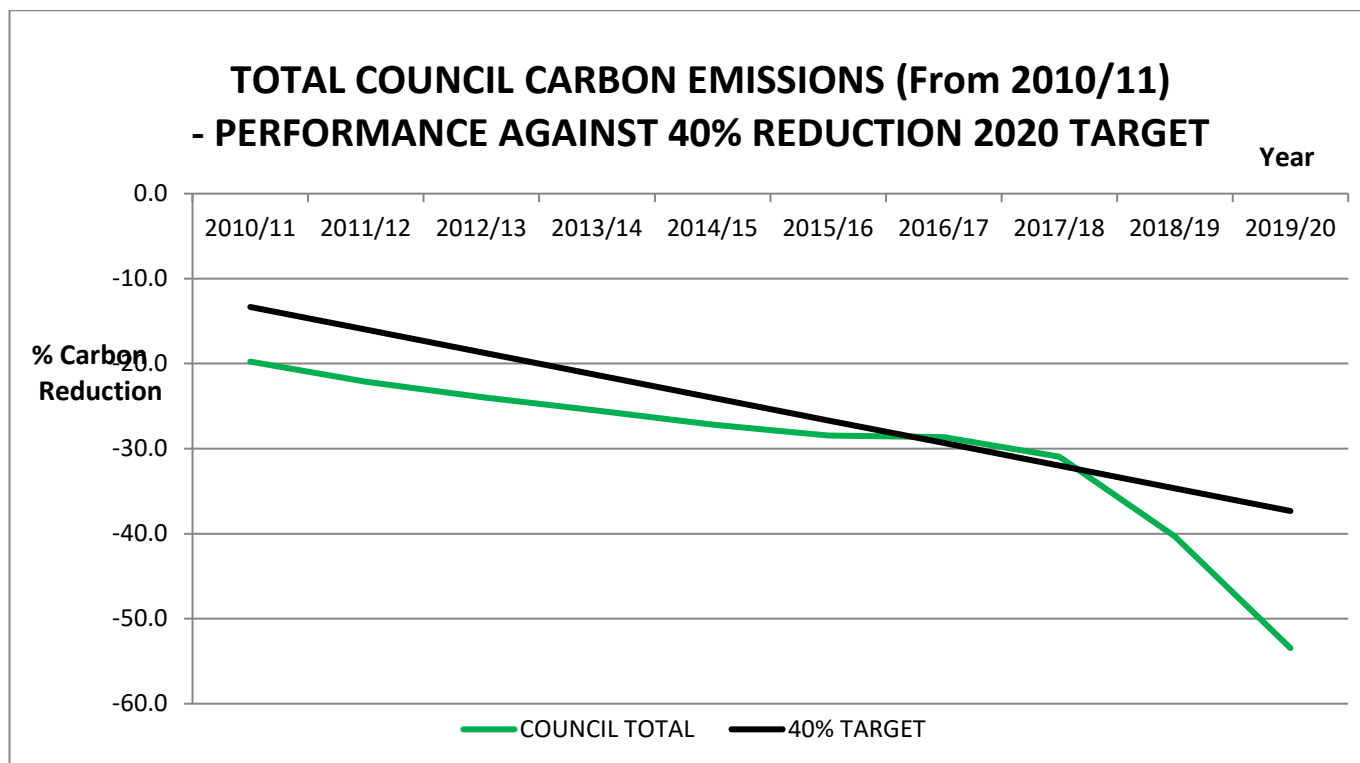


Figure 2

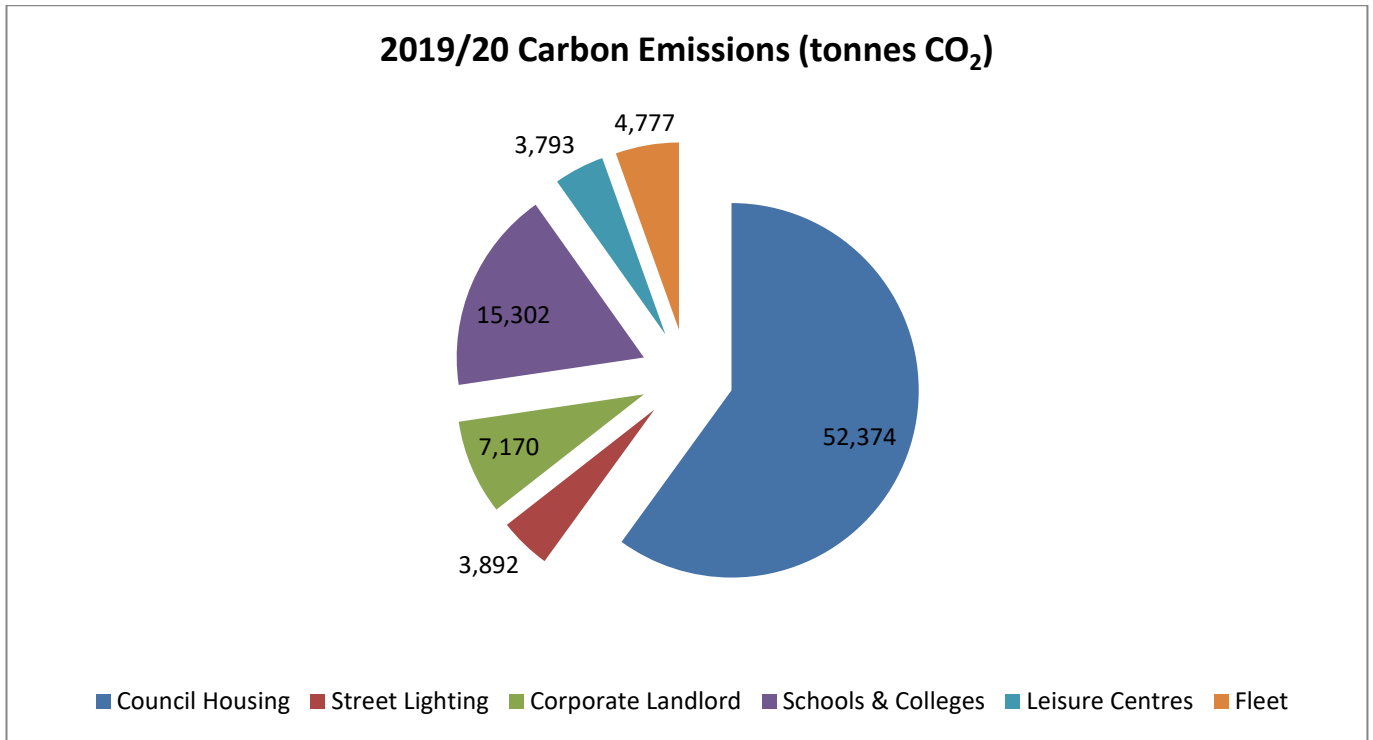


2.17. The table at Figure 3 illustrates the breakdown of emissions by council sector and highlights that carbon emissions reductions have not been uniform across the council. Nonetheless, in total, the overall target has been exceeded. The proportion of emissions for each sector is visualised at Figure 4.

Figure 3 Summary breakdown of carbon emissions

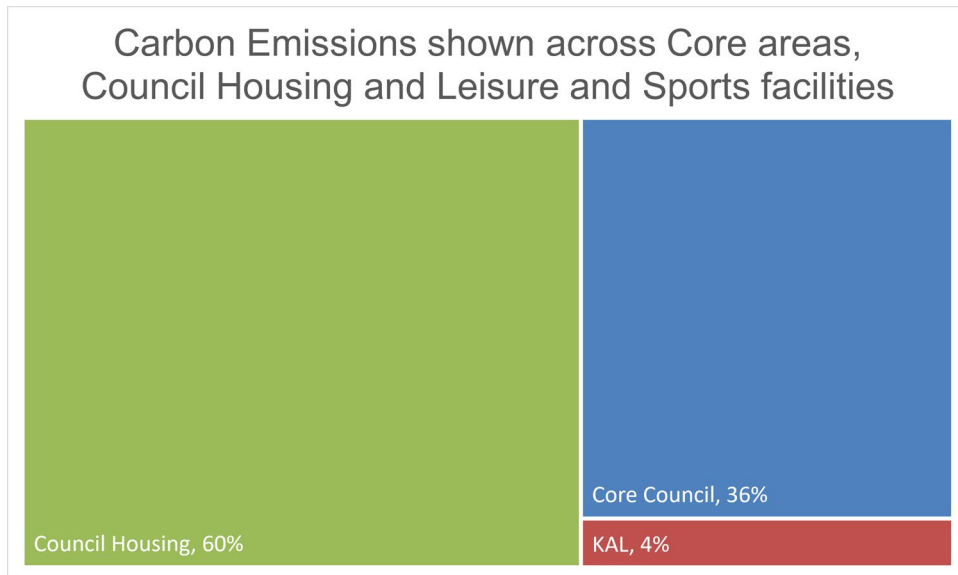
Area	% Carbon Emissions	2019/20 Carbon Emissions (tCO2)	% Carbon Reduction Since 2005/06	2019/20 Energy Spend (£, 000s)	% Energy Spend Increase Since 2005/06
Council Housing	60	52,374	-57.3	£29,403	11.6
Street Lighting	4	3,892	-68.8	£1,712	54.0
Corporate Landlord	8	7,170	-55.9	£2,371	5.7
Schools & Colleges	18	15,302	-38.2	£4,964	59.5
Leisure Centres	4	3,793	-28.1	£804	20.6
Fleet	5	4,777	-21.8	£1,893	8.6
TOTALS		87,307	-53.5	£41,150	16.8

Figure 4



2.18. Council Housing emissions are modelled based upon a typical tenancy and represent the greatest proportion of emissions for the council. These emissions can be separated into 'Core' and Council Housing and Leisure facilities (managed by Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing and Kirklees Active Leisure, respectively). These proportions are illustrated at Figure 5.

Figure 5

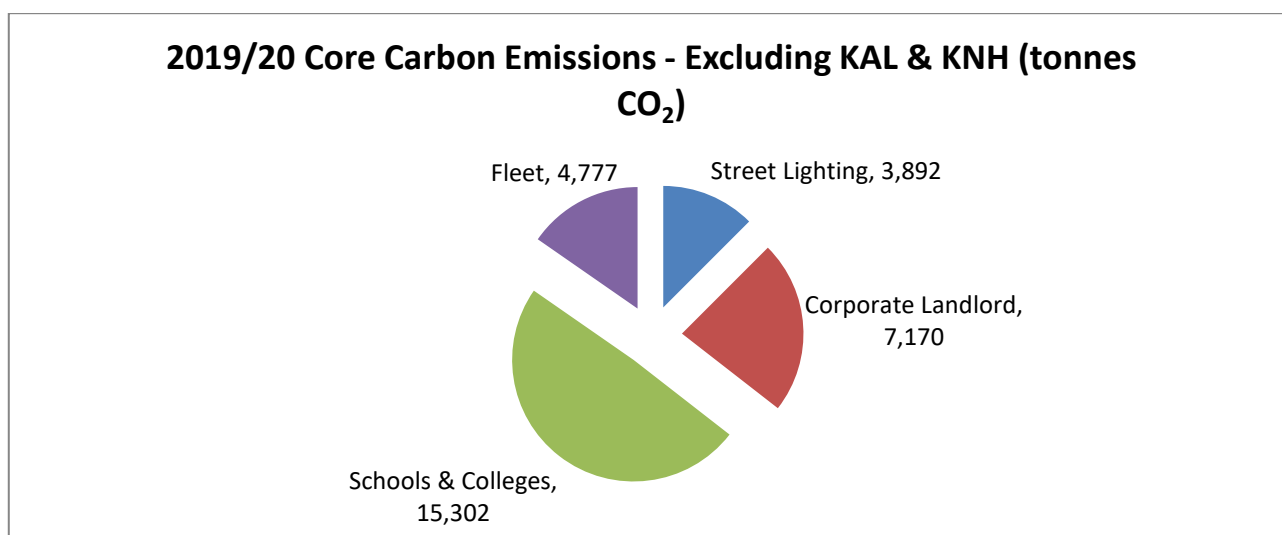


2.19. The results from the 'core' council sectors are shown in Figure 6 below and shown visually at the pie chart at Figure 7. Of these areas, schools and colleges show the most significant proportion of emissions.

Figure 6 Core Council summary breakdown

Core Area	% Carbon Emissions	2019/20 Carbon Emissions (tCO ₂)	% Carbon Reduction Since 2005/06	% Energy Reduction Since 2005/06	2019/20 Energy Spend (£,000s)	% Energy Spend Increase Since 2005/06
Street Lighting	12	3,892	-68.8	-39.1	1,712	54.0
Corporate Landlord	23	7,170	-55.9	-40.4	2,371	5.7
Schools & Colleges	49	15,302	-38.2	-20.8	4,964	59.5
Fleet	15	4,777	-21.8	-18.1	1,893	8.6
TOTALS		31,141	-47.8	-28.2	10,942	33.3

Figure 7



2.20. Since 2005/06 the rationalisation of Corporate assets (including the closure of buildings) has also made a significant impact in its contribution to the reduction in carbon emissions for Corporate Landlord:

- Estate rationalisation contributed approximately 21.5% of the 55.9% carbon reduction
- Investment in energy efficiency measures contributed to around 18% of the 55.9% carbon reduction
- Electricity grid decarbonisation provided the remaining 16.4% of the 55.9% carbon reduction.

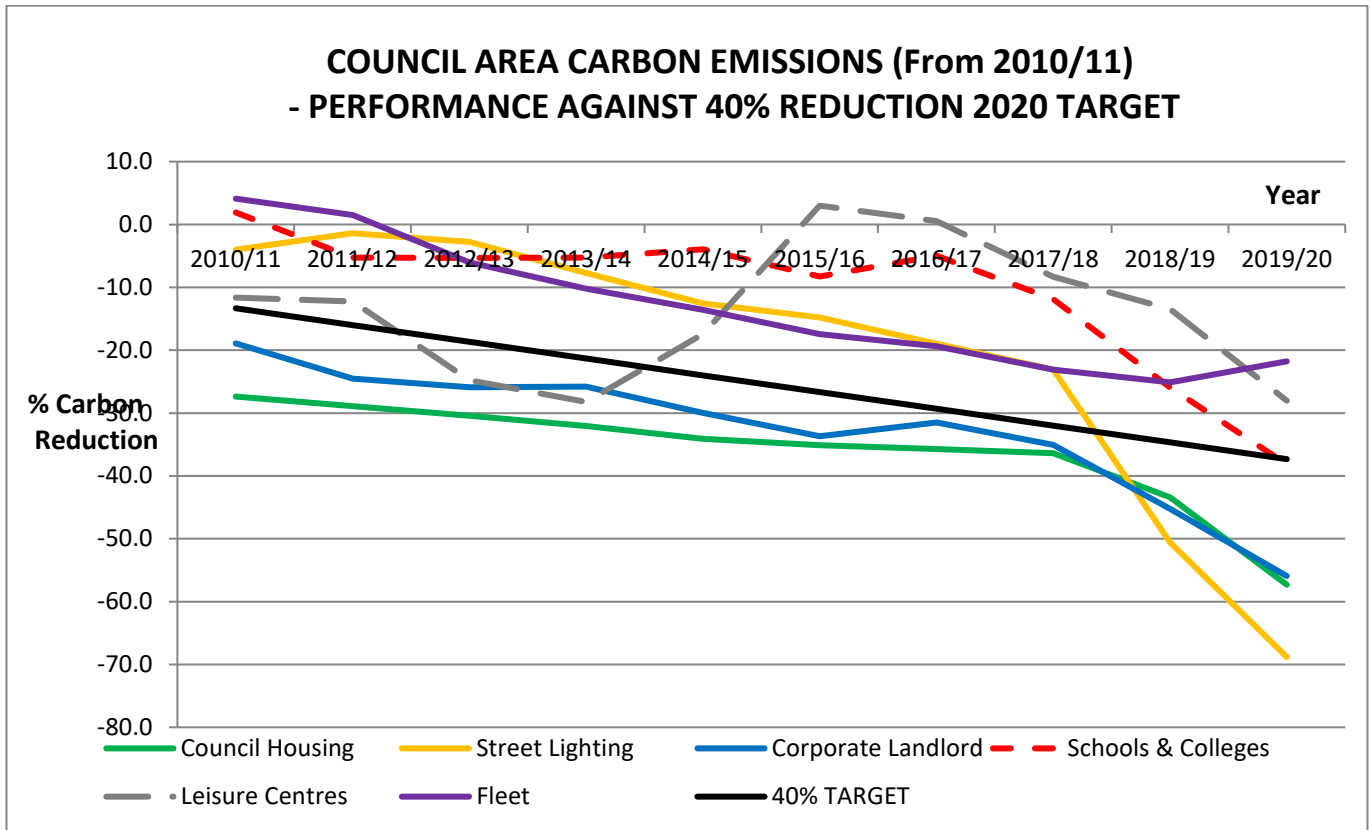
2.21. A summary of the key results for each Council area is included in the following table:

Figure 8 Summary of each Council area

<p>Council Housing</p>	<p>Between 2005/6 and 2019/20 there has been a 57.3% reduction in carbon emissions from council owned homes, this exceeds the original target set for Council Housing (30%).</p> <p>The age, layout and construction of some council properties is becoming an ever-increasing limiting factor to future options. The KNH and the Council have successfully applied for Government LAD funding and are piloting a whole house 'deep-retrofit' approach for up to ten properties.</p>
<p>Street lighting</p>	<p>Between 2005/6 and 2019/20 there has been a 69% reduction in carbon emissions from street lighting, despite there being a rise in the number of lights of 5 %. The street lighting energy costs are now over £1.71m in 2019/20. It should be noted that energy tariff continues to increase and more than a 70% increase since 2005/6.</p>
<p>Corporate Landlord</p>	<p>The Corporate Estate has seen a 55.9% reduction in carbon emissions since 2005/6. A 22% decrease from 2015/16 to 2019/20 has contributed to Corporate Landlord not only being over 20% in excess of the required 34.7% carbon reduction target for 2019/20, but has also exceeded the 40% carbon reduction target by over 15%.</p> <p>The 55.9% carbon reduction has been brought about through a combination of investment, behaviour change and the reduction in the number of council assets. It should also be noted that the total annual energy consumption (kWh) for the Corporate Estate has been reduced by at least 40%.</p>
<p>Schools & Colleges</p>	<p>Between 2005/6 and 2019/20 there has been a 38.2% reduction in carbon emissions from schools and colleges on the corporate energy contracts. Excluding PPP schools (external Facilities Management companies), the non-PPP schools performance is 45.8% reduction in carbon emissions over the same period, which has exceeded the 40 % carbon reduction target by over 5%.</p> <p>The total carbon emissions for the PPP schools has reduced by 18.3% since 2005/06. (It should be noted that the total carbon emissions for the PPP Schools managed by SPIE Ltd reduced by 20.1%).</p>
<p>Leisure Centre and Swimming Pools</p>	<p>The Carbon Emissions in 2019/20 from leisure centres and swimming pools have reduced by 28.1% since the 2005/6 baseline.</p> <p>The largest increase in Kirklees Active Leisure's carbon emissions figures was when the old Huddersfield Sports Centre closed and the new, larger, Huddersfield Leisure Centre opened. The difference in carbon emissions, between the two sites, added around 1,000 tonnes CO₂/annum to KAL's portfolio in 2015/16. This was a very significant increase given KAL's carbon emissions figure in 2005/6 was 5,180 tonnes CO₂.</p> <p>Using a per-capita indicator for KAL, Carbon Emissions of tonnes CO₂ per thousand customer visits, then this has consistently dropped, year on year, from 3.41 in 2007/08 to around 1.26 in 2019/20.</p>
<p>Council Fleet Vehicles</p>	<p>Carbon emissions from council fleet have reduced by 25.1 % since the 2005/6 baseline. This can be attributed to ongoing improvements in the efficiency and emissions of new vehicles, improved 'whole life costings' policies and a reduction in the overall numbers of vehicles.</p>

2.22. The progress of each of these council sectors is shown in the graph below, from 2010 to 2020 (NB. The spike in emissions from the Leisure Centres in 2015-16 can be attributed to the opening of the new Huddersfield Leisure Centre and the transfer of several assets from Corporate Landlord to KAL).

Figure 9



Future Challenges – Carbon Emissions

2.23. When considering the future reporting requirements for the ‘net zero’ target and the resulting emissions reduction required, the following are considered to be key challenges:

- **Climate Emergency** – the Council’s declaration of a climate emergency and adoption of the subsequent ‘science-based’ carbon budget and ‘net zero’ target of 2038 for the district represents a significant increase in the council’s ambition. This will need to be reflected in the actions and measures that the council takes in relation to its own footprint and its approach to further reduction in carbon emissions.
- **Increasing energy costs** – since the 40% carbon reduction target was introduced in 2005/6 the Council’s electricity prices have doubled overall. Supplier indications are that despite the market prices being forecast to remain relatively flat, the overall cost of electricity is forecast to **increase by around 10% per annum**. This is mainly due to the effect of additional charges driven by the Electricity Market Reform (EMR).
- **Poor Energy Performing Buildings** – the Council is dealing with a number of buildings which are technically challenging and have a poor energy performance compared to National Benchmarks. These buildings will need to be further assessed in terms of potential opportunities for investment to improve energy efficiency, or more radical approaches to building usage to minimise energy consumption and revenue impacts.
- **The age and construction of some council housing** is becoming an ever increasing limiting factor to future investment options.
- **Fuel Poverty** - due to increasing energy costs, particularly electricity, it is predicted that fuel poverty will worsen in Kirklees over the next few years in line with national projections.

- **Energy Efficiency works in schools** – A wide range of schools building types plus more complex governance arrangements (including the programme of academisation) means that energy efficiency improvements are more challenging to achieve.
- **Potential Changes to Government-mandated Carbon Reporting/Levies** – The Council is not currently obliged to report on emissions by the Government (having ceased to be eligible for the previous Carbon Reduction Commitment scheme). It is considered likely that a future scheme will be introduced to capture this reporting.

Carbon Emissions – Next Steps

- 2.24. The Council has recognised that achieving the above 40% target is no longer enough and that the authority needs to do more to address the pressing climate emergency. That is why the council has adopted the more ambitious ‘net zero’ carbon emissions target for 2038, and is currently developing a detailed plan to achieve this target.
- 2.25. The Council has also been successful in securing 100% renewable electricity for the remaining two years of the corporate electricity contract from April 2021. This will contribute significantly to the further reduction in carbon emissions associated with electricity consumption and will essentially make this supply ‘net zero’ compliant.
- 2.26. There will be a final year of reporting against the 40% target for 2020/21, after which the Council will transition to a more comprehensive regime of ‘net zero’ compliant carbon monitoring. The Council has taken the first step in this new reporting regime by disclosing the district’s carbon emissions to the CDP in August this year, which was a Phase 1 Climate Emergency action.

3. Implications for the Council

Working with People

- 3.1. Addressing climate change and air pollution are both areas that need to be addressed by working with members of the public, for example in influencing vehicle, travel and lifestyle choices. Whilst many actions will be taken at national and local authority level, partners and citizens also need to be assisted in making the right decisions. Both the proposed Commission and the Council are considered to have a key role in influencing and changing the behaviour of residents.

Working with Partners

Place Based Working

- 3.2. A key theme of tackling the Climate Emergency is collaborating with other partners, regionally and on the national stage. Addressing climate change is not something that the Council can achieve alone for the borough of Kirklees. Instead, a strong working relationship with partners is essential in order to develop real action in Kirklees. It is proposed that this will be achieved through establishing the Kirklees Climate Commission.

Climate Change and Air Quality

- 3.3. The recording and monitoring of carbon emissions and also the establishment of the Climate Commission are both important steps in the Council’s long-term priority of tackling the climate emergency in Kirklees.

Improving outcomes for children

- 3.4. As above, ongoing monitoring of climate emissions along with the establishment of the Kirklees Climate Commission are both considered important elements of a long-term plan to address the

climate emergency. This will help mitigate any potential negative impacts for children caused by future climate impacts.

Other (e.g. Legal/Financial or Human Resources)

3.5. The Council has committed to support the implementation of the Climate Commission and will continue to do so. However, this will also be balanced with a need to retain the independence of the Commission. The Council will continue to work with local partners as well as the University of Leeds to ensure that the Commission is appropriately supported and resourced.

4. Consultees and their opinions

No opinions have been sought at this stage.

5. Next steps and timelines

- For the internal carbon emissions reporting, there is one further year (20/21) of reporting against the 2010 targets. In parallel with this, the Council will be developing a new reporting regime linked to the 'net zero' target of 2038.
- For the Kirklees Climate Commission, it is intended that the first meeting of the advisory panel will take place in early 2021, with the intention of introducing the full commission in the new financial year.

6. Officer recommendations and reasons

- Officers recommend that the Committee notes the updates provided in the report with regard to the Climate Commission and internal carbon emissions reporting.

7. Cabinet Portfolio Holder's recommendations

Not applicable.

8. Contact officer

John Atkinson, Project Manager, Public Protection

9. Background Papers and History of Decisions

16th January 2019 – Full Council declaration of a Climate Emergency

<https://democracy.kirklees.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=138&MId=5651>

12th November 2019 – Cabinet Decision relating to Climate Change and Air Quality

<https://democracy.kirklees.gov.uk/documents/s32319/Item%207%20Kirklees%20Climate%20Emergency%20Report%200002.pdf>

(N.B. this includes the following documents as appendices:

- Final Report of the Climate Emergency Working Party as an Appendix
- Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research Carbon Budget and methodology for Kirklees)

13th November 2019 Full Council Paper relating to Climate Change and Air Quality

<https://democracy.kirklees.gov.uk/documents/s32341/Climate%20Emergency%20report%20for%20Council%20on%2013%20November%202019.pdf>

10. Service Director responsible

Sue Procter, Service Director Environment