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Agenda Item: 12

Integration Joint Board

Date of Meeting: 19 February 2025.

Subject: Climate Change Duties Report.

1. Purpose

1.1. To provide members with sight of the Climate Change Report submitted to Scottish Government.

2. Recommendations

The Integration Joint Board is invited to note:

2.1. The Orkney Integration Joint Board Public Sector Report on Compliance with Climate Change Duties for 2023, attached as Appendix 1 to this report, which was submitted to the Scottish Government by the deadline of 30 November 2024.

2.2. Analysis of Orkney Islands Council and NHS Orkney's Climate Change Duties Reports, as detailed in sections 5 and 6 of this report.

3. Background

3.1. The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 and the subsequent Climate Change (Duties of Public Bodies: Reporting Requirements) (Scotland) Order 2015 requires significant public bodies to prepare a report on their compliance with climate change duties. This includes 'An integration joint board established by order under section 9(2) of the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014.

3.2. Integration Joint Boards (IJBs) are required to submit the report on or before 30 November.

3.3. The climate change duties report is a Scottish Government prescribed standard template, identical to that for all public bodies, such as local authorities and health boards, including Orkney Islands Council (OIC) and NHS Orkney (NHSO). Consequently, the Guidance accompanying the 2015 Order recognised that much of the standard report template related to the policies, procedures, and services of the local authority and NHS board, rather than IJBs. As such, it was further recognised in the Guidance that there would be a significant degree of proportionality in completion of the report.

4. Orkney IJB Climate Change Duties Report

4.1. The Climate Change Duties report, attached as Appendix 1, covers the reporting period 1 January to 31 December 2023. Whilst this differs to the reporting period of both NHSO and OIC, all previous iterations of this report have covered the calendar year.

4.2. Almost the entirety of the report relates to policies and emissions associated with the employment of staff, ownership and occupation of buildings, plant and vehicles, and the delivery of services. Consequently, the content of the report is very limited. As noted at section 3.3 above, Scottish Government recognises this in the Guidance issued to health and social care partnerships.

4.3. Given the limited nature of the content of the IJB's annual Climate Change Duties Report in previous years, members of the IJB had expressed frustration at the need for IJBs to prepare such a report. These frustrations were expressed to Scottish Government, by letter, in December 2020 and, again, in January 2023.

4.4. Although a specific reply to neither letter was forthcoming, Scottish Government issued further guidance for completion of the report template, specific to IJBs, in 2023. This included a request for information around governance, as well as the local authority and NHS Board areas responsible for service delivery.

4.5. Orkney IJB had included the governance information in previous iterations of this report and advised in last year's report that the interests of the IJB would be represented on the nascent OIC Officers Group, henceforth, with the inclusion of a member of staff from health and social care services.

4.6. During the last year this has included contributing to the Council's Vision for Net Zero, as seen at section 5.5 below.

4.7. The 2022 Climate Change Duties Report was presented to the IJB on 21 February 2024. The report included the Climate Change Duties Reports of the IJB's service delivery partners, Orkney Islands Council and NHSO.

4.8. Copies of both reports are included again this year and are attached at Appendices 2 and 3. Some of the highlights of these reports are included in sections 5 and 6 below.

5. OIC Climate Change Duties Report

5.1. The OIC Climate Change Duties Report 2022 was recommended for approval by the Council's Policy and Resources Committee on 26 November 2024 and ratified by Council at the General Meeting on 10 December 2024.

5.2. The report covers the financial year 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.

5.3. Climate Change milestones and commitments are embedded in the Council Plan 2023-2028 and associated Delivery Plan.

5.4. The Council has made the following Climate Change-related mitigation and adaptation objectives in The Council Plan 2023 – 2028, and declares these in the report:

- We will work towards becoming net-zero.
- Orkney is on track to become net-zero by 2030.
- We have reduced the carbon used during the course of our direct and indirect activities.
- We have grown our green and blue economies.
- Everyone in Orkney has reduced their carbon footprint (the greenhouse gasses generated by their actions).

5.5. The Council has recently adopted a vision for Net Zero, as follows:

- OIC shall be a Net Zero Local Authority, collaborating and innovating for a just transition where Orkney's economy, communities and natural environment all prosper. We will focus on:
 - Action and Ownership – to understand and reduce our emissions at the earliest opportunities.
 - Collaboration and Co-ordination – across Council services and with partners and the community.
 - Transparency – in the setting and addressing of our carbon targets.
- Sustainability – building our resilience and adapting to the changing climate.

5.6. The Council declared its top five priorities for climate change governance, management, and strategy, for 2023/24 as:

- Finalise the Orkney Sustainable Energy Strategy Action Plan.
- Commence Development of the Council Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.
- Commence work on the Coastal Change Adaption Plan.
- Continue to support the county's energy transition, for example by the development of community wind projects.
- Support the growth of Climate Change and Net Zero elements of the Islands Growth Deal.

5.7. The Council's Internal Audit team reviewed the Council's Climate Change Duties Report, in October 2024, and confirmed the reported evidence of emissions is accurate.

5.8. The Council's carbon footprint was slightly down in the last reporting period, but, as in the previous five years, it is just a small reduction. In response to this, the Council has commissioned an external agency to undertake an independent study of more efficient pathways towards achieving Net Zero.

5.9. The Council's procurement activity and processes have contributed to compliance with climate change duties by the implementation of the Sustainable Procurement Policy and the Sustainable Procurement Impact Assessment, along with the introduction of the sustainable procurement award criteria into relevant contracts.

5.10. Construction of the new Kirkwall care facility, Kirkjuvagr House, is mentioned as evidence of energy efficient construction in support of emissions reduction.

5.11. There are no other specific references to services provided as part of the health and social care partnership.

6. NHSO Climate Change Duties Report

6.1. NHSO's Climate Change Duties Report covers the business year 2023/24.

6.2. It is not submitted to the Board of NHSO for approval, but rather it is taken to the Sustainability Steering Group, on completion, for information purposes.

6.3. The Sustainability Steering Group has responsibility for monitoring:

- Climate Change Mitigation.
- Climate Change Adaptation.
- Sustainability Action Campaign.
- Biodiversity Reporting.
- Other environmental issues e.g. plastics, air pollution.
- Waste Management.
- Sustainable Procurement.

6.4. NHSO has a Climate Change Risk Assessment and Adaptation Plan, is in the process of implementing an Environmental Management Policy, and follows the national NHS Scotland Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy.

6.5. NHSO declared its top five priorities for climate change governance, management, and strategy, for 2024/25 as:

- Continue working on our transition to Net Zero including action on greenhouse gases.
- Focusing on use of Greenspace.
- Sustainable Care.
- Reduce Waste.
- Widening Engagement on the climate change agenda.

6.6. NHSO has received funding to decarbonise all sites outwith The Balfour. By the end of the project all NHSO-owned buildings will be using renewable heat sources.

6.7. NHSO emissions have shown a consistent decline over the last five years, although the rate of decline appears to be slowing.

6.8. NHSO has declared a target for all its built estate to be Net Zero by 2025. This is facilitated by the award of an Energy Efficiency Grant.

6.9. The entirety of the NHSO van fleet is now electric.

6.10. There are no specific references to services provided as part of the health and social care partnership.

7. Contribution to quality

Please indicate which of the Orkney Community Plan 2025 to 2030 values are supported in this report adding Yes or No to the relevant area(s):

Resilience: To support and promote our strong communities.	Yes.
Enterprise: To tackle crosscutting issues such as digital connectivity, transport, housing, and fuel poverty.	No.
Equality: To encourage services to provide equal opportunities for everyone.	Yes.
Fairness: To make sure socio-economic and social factors are balanced.	Yes.
Innovation: To overcome issues more effectively through partnership working.	Yes.
Leadership: To involve partners such as community councils, community groups, voluntary groups, and individuals in the process.	No.
Sustainability: To make sure economic and environmental factors are balanced.	Yes.

8. Resource and financial implications

8.1. There are no financial implications directly related to this report.

9. Risk and equality implications

9.1. Officers do not consider there are any risk or equality implications associated with this report.

10. Direction required

Please indicate if this report requires a direction to be passed to:

NHS Orkney.	No.
Orkney Islands Council.	No.

11. Escalation required

Please indicate if this report requires escalated to:

NHS Orkney.	No.
Orkney Islands Council.	No.

12. Authors and contact information

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13. Supporting documents

13.1. Appendix 1: Orkney IJB Climate Change Duties' Report.

13.2. Appendix 2: Orkney Islands Council Climate Change Duties' Report.

13.3. Appendix 3: NHS Orkney Climate Change Duties' Report.