

## ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL

### SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

#### SKYPE MEETING, 10 NOVEMBER, 2021

**Present:** Councillors I Taylor (Chair), I Davidson (Vice-Chair), N Baillie, R Cassie, S Dickinson, M Ford, J Hutchison, A Kloppert and A Wallace.

**Officers:** Head of Service (Transportation), Team Leader (Economic Development & Protective Services), Circular Economy Officer, Fleet Manager (Transportation), Waste Support Leader, all Environment & Infrastructure Services; Team Manager, Finance (Moirra Beverly), Principal Energy Management Engineer (Property & Facilities), Principal Solicitor (Arlene Gibbs) and Committee Officer (Kasia Balina), all Business Services.

**Also in attendance:** Alison Stuart, Director of Aberdeen Climate Action and Chair of Climate Week North East Steering Group.

#### 1. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

The Chair asked Members if they had any interests to declare, in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct. No interests were declared.

#### 2. STATEMENT ON EQUALITIES

In making decisions on the following items of business, the Committee **agreed**, in terms of Section 148 of the Equality Act 2010:-

- (1) to have due regard to the need to:-
  - (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, and victimisation;
  - (b) advance equality of opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
  - (c) foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
- (2) to consider, where an equality impact assessment has been provided, its contents and to take those into consideration when reaching a decision.

#### 3. MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE OF 25 AUGUST, 2021

On consideration of the circulated Minute of Meeting of the Committee of 25 August, 2021, Members **agreed** to approve it as a correct record.

#### 4. NORTH EAST SCOTLAND CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK. (PRESENTATION)

A presentation was made to the Committee on North East Scotland Climate Action

Network (NESCOAN) by Ms Alison Stuart, Director of Aberdeen Climate Action and Chair of Climate Week North East Steering Group.

The presentation covered aspects including: information on the community organisation members and associate members; the aims and work of the NESCOAN Hub for climate action organisations in North East Scotland; building the capacity and skills of those organisations and supporting their members and the local communities; the Regional Community Climate Action Hub covering Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City; the funding guaranteed for three further years; the creation of an ongoing business plan, action network and plans to grow NESCOAN, and to support its members events and services, create the toolkits and provide funding for community climate action.

There followed a question and answer session.

Thereafter, the Committee **agreed** to concur with the Chair in thanking Ms Stuart for an informative presentation.

## **5. PROGRESS WITH OUTSTANDING ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

There was circulated a report by the Director of Environment & Infrastructure Services, which updated Members on progress with actions agreed at previous meetings of the Sustainability Committee held since 19 May, 2021.

After consideration, the Committee **agreed**:-

- (1) to note the current position in respect of the actions arising at previous meetings; and
- (2) that those actions which had been completed be removed from the list.

## **6. CARBON BUDGET UPDATE 2021 – 2022**

There was circulated a report dated 26 October, 2021, by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services which presented an update on the Directorate Carbon Budget six monthly progress reports that had been reported, or were about to be reported, to each Policy Committee covering the agreed Carbon Budget 2021-2022 set out at the meeting of Aberdeenshire Council on 17 March, 2021 (Item 9 refers).

The report explained that all Directors were required to submit six monthly updates on in-year progress in relation to the reduction targets in the Carbon Budget to the relevant Policy Committees and additionally to the Sustainability Committee following the decision at the meeting of Aberdeenshire Council on 18 March 2020 (Item 10 refers). A total Carbon budget for 2021-22 had been set as 48,744 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e (Carbon Dioxide Equivalent) by the Council at the meeting on 17 March 2021 (Item 9 refers). At the same time Directors had been instructed to develop the Carbon Reduction Plan and Medium-Term Carbon Strategy.

Having considered Members' comments on the Office Space Strategy and Asset Management; consultants being appointed to develop carbon reduction plans for each Directorate; the possibility of hydrogen vehicles being added to the Fleet; the circular economy network in relation to Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership; a consistent approach to the installation of Electric Vehicle (EV) charges; maintenance and ownership of EV charges and on street charging points and LED street lighting, the Committee **agreed** to acknowledge and note:-

- (1) the Carbon Budget six monthly updates, as detailed in Appendices 1 to 4 of the report;
- (2) the ongoing responsibility of each Director to secure their reduction targets, as set out in the Carbon Budget, and to report progress on a six-monthly basis to the relevant Policy Committees and to the Sustainability Committee;
- (3) that the previous requirements for each Director to develop a Carbon Reduction Plan, which must set out how their Directorate would reach emission reduction targets by 2030 and 2045; and present this to the relevant Policy Committees by 31 October, 2021 had been incorporated into the Route Map to 2030 work which was ongoing; and
- (4) the requirement for the Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services to develop a Medium-Term Carbon Strategy, based on the four Directorate Carbon Reduction Plans, which would now be included in the Route Map to 2030 work and would be presented alongside the Carbon Budget 2022- 23.

## **7. PUBLIC BODIES CLIMATE CHANGE DUTIES REPORT 2020/21**

There was circulated a report dated 26 October, 2021, by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services which sought approval of Aberdeenshire Council's Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Annual Report for 2020-21.

Aberdeenshire Council's draft Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Annual Report 2020-21 was included as Appendix 1 to the report. The report also included, as Appendix 2, a comparison of 2019-2020 consumption data, emission factors and emission data with 2020-2021. The report highlighted that there had been further significant reduction in the electricity emissions factor due to the continued decarbonisation of the grid. Furthermore, the comparison demonstrated where implications from Covid-19 had forced a reduction in consumption of energy, most significantly through transportation (fleet and business travel).

The Committee heard Members' comments regarding staff working from home and the reduction in travelling to the office; the need for a reduction in consumption of energy, most significantly in respect of transportation (fleet and business travel); feedback provided to the Scottish Government in relation to traffic and home working; achieving emissions reduction targets and Net Zero in Council buildings; the new reporting requirements for public bodies with home working included; reducing indirect emissions of greenhouse gases; the correlation between home working and actual emissions reported as detailed in Appendix 3; teaching staff being included in home working emissions; supporting healthy and diverse natural

environment; the North East Non-Native Species Project; and collaboration between groups to support a healthy and diverse natural environment with capacity to adapt.

Thereafter, the Committee **agreed** to:-

- (1) approve Aberdeenshire Council's Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Annual Report 2020-21 for submission to the Scottish Government (Appendix 1), subject to the amendment in section 3a of the response in relation to the impact that Covid-19 pandemic had on the large emission reductions for the reporting year 2020/21; and to delegate authority to the Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services to submit the finalised report to the Scottish Government by 30 November, 2021; and
- (2) delegate authority to the Chief Executive to sign the declaration in Part 6e of the Annual Report.

DRAFT