

REPORT TO SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE – 23 FEBRUARY 2023

ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL ROUTE MAP TO 2030 AND BEYOND PROGRESS UPDATE

1 Executive Summary/Recommendations

1.1 This report provides an update to the Sustainability Committee on progress to date of the Aberdeenshire Council Route Map to 2030 and Beyond which was approved by the Aberdeenshire Council on 29 September 2022 ([Item 14](#)). The report covers progress to date on the Council's emission reductions and future Carbon Budget targets. It also sets out the 11 recommendations in the Route Map including how they are being prioritised, the estimated timeline for action and the activity required to complete the action.

1.2 The Committee is recommended to:

1.2.1 Consider and comment on Aberdeenshire Council's progress towards its internal operational emission reduction targets and future Carbon Budgets required to meet a 75% reduction in emissions by 2030-2031 (Appendix 1); and

1.2.2 Consider and comment on Aberdeenshire Council's progress towards addressing the recommendations as set out in the Route Map to 2030 and Beyond (Appendix 2).

2 Decision-Making Route

2.1 On 29 September 2022 the Aberdeenshire Council Route Map to 2030 and Beyond was approved by Full Council ([Item 14](#)).

2.2 The Sustainability Committee is to support the monitoring of the Carbon Budgets and the 11 Recommendations as set out in the Route Map to 2030 and Beyond to ensure progress continues to be made in actioning the Route Map so that the Council meets its climate change targets as set out in the Aberdeenshire Council Climate Change Declaration.

2.3 On 30 November 2022 ([Item 9](#)), the Sustainability Committee instructed officers to include the Accounts Commission's 5 recommendations for Councils in future update reports on the Route Map. This progress update on the Route Map does not contain an additional update on the Accounts Commission's 5 recommendations for Councils as to date there is no change to the update provided on the 30 November 2022.

3 Discussion

3.1 **Appendix 1** contains the progress to date that Aberdeenshire Council has made on its internal operational emissions reduction. The graph illustrates the emissions of Aberdeenshire Council since 2010/11 and the continual annual

reduction in emissions since 2015/16. This reduction has been realised by both projects actioned by services to drive down consumption and also the decarbonisation of the electrical grid. **Appendix 1** also sets out future Carbon Budgets which are in line with the required linear reduction to a 75% drop in emissions by 2030-2031. This information will also be presented to Aberdeenshire Council on 9 March 2023 as part of the Carbon Budget 2023-2024 report.

- 3.2 **Appendix 2** contains progress to date on the 11 recommendations that were set out in the Route Map to ensure continued progress towards the Council’s climate change targets can be met. These recommendations are a mix of process and organisational opportunities which will support a people and culture shift that is required for embedded action, and technical studies that will be required for a better understanding of the challenges and opportunities. The update covers their progress to date including how they are being prioritised, the estimated timeline for action and the activity required to complete the action.

4 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

- 4.1 This report helps deliver the Strategic Priority “Climate Change” within the Pillar “Our Environment”.

Pillar	Priority
Our People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning for Life • Health & Wellbeing
Our Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change • Resilient Communities
Our Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Growth • Infrastructure and public assets

- 4.2 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendations are agreed.

Subject	Yes	No	N/A
Financial			X
Staffing			X
Equalities and Fairer Duty Scotland			X
Children and Young People’s Rights and Wellbeing			X
Climate Change and Sustainability			X
Health and Wellbeing			X
Town Centre First			X

- 4.3 There are no direct staffing or financial implications arising from this update report.
- 4.4 The screening section as part of Stage One of the Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process has not identified the requirement for any further detailed assessments to be undertaken. An IIA is not required as there are no

direct implications of considering this update as it is a performance monitoring report. An IIA was completed for the Route Map to 2030 and Beyond which was approved by Aberdeenshire Council 29 September 2022 (Item 14).

4.5 The following Risks in the Corporate Risk Register have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level:

- Risk ID ACORP010 as it relates to environmental challenges; and
- Risk ID ACORP006 as it relates to reputation management

The following Risk in the Directorate Risk Registers has been identified as relevant to this matter on a Strategic Level:

- Risk ID ISSR010 as it relates to Climate Change.

4.5.1 Mitigation of these risks could be addressed by sufficient communication and engagement on the progress Aberdeenshire Council is making with regards to climate change mitigation and adaptation both internally and externally. This includes being transparent on the challenges of addressing climate change as well as the opportunities for the organisation and region.

5 Scheme of Governance

5.1 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and their comments are incorporated within the report. They are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.

5.2 The Committee is able to consider and take a decision on this item in terms of Section R paragraph 1.1 (a) of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance as it relates to reviewing and monitoring the Council's work in respect of sustainable development and climate change.

Alan Wood
Director of Environment & Infrastructure Services

Report prepared by Claudia Cowie, Team Leader Sustainability and Climate Change
Date: 8 February 2023

List of Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Carbon Budget 2023-2024 Determination
Appendix 2 - 11 Recommended Actions and Progress to Date

Appendix 1 - Carbon Budget 2023-2024 Determination

Table 1: Annual Carbon Budget requirements to reach 2030 target (75%)

Financial Year	Actual Emissions Reported (tCO2e)	Carbon Budget Required to reach Target (tCO2e)
2010/11	86,155	86,155
2011/12	78,400	82,924
2012/13	82,782	79,693
2013/14	77,265	76,462
2014/15	81,805	73,231
2015/16	79,537	70,000
2016/17	73,587	66,769
2017/18	66,820	63,538
2018/19	57,970	60,307
2019/20	55,687	57,076
2020/21	45,281	53,845
2021/22	49,304	50,614
2022/23	Determined 11/2023	47,383
2023/24	Determined 11/2024	44,152

Table 2: Future Carbon Budgets to reach 2030 target (75%)

Financial Year	Carbon Budget Required to reach Target (tCO2e)
2024/25	40,921
2025/26	37,690
2026/27	34,459
2027/28	31,228
2028/29	27,997
2029/30	24,766
2030/31	21,539

Figure 1 - Annual progress towards 2030 target (75%):

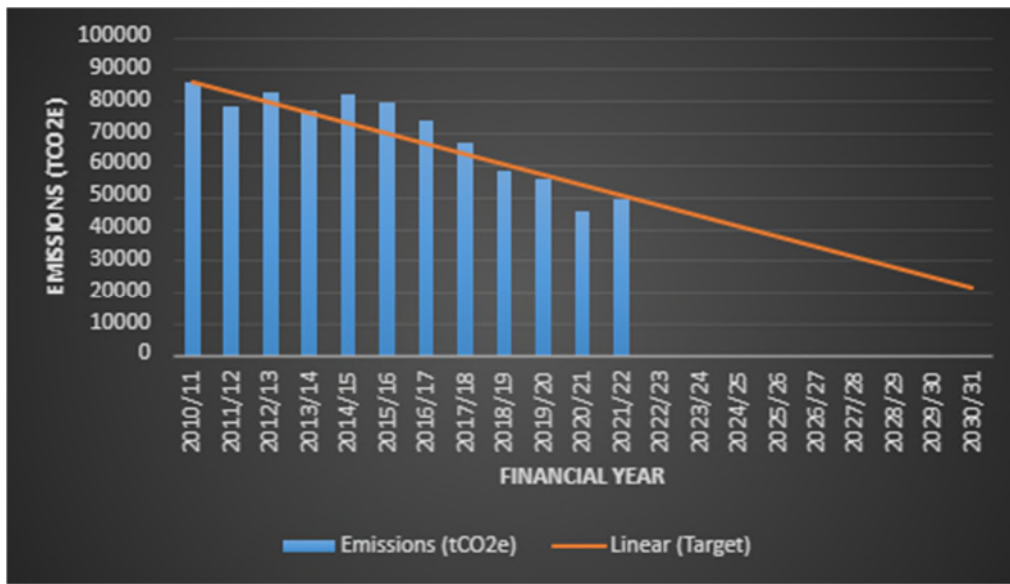
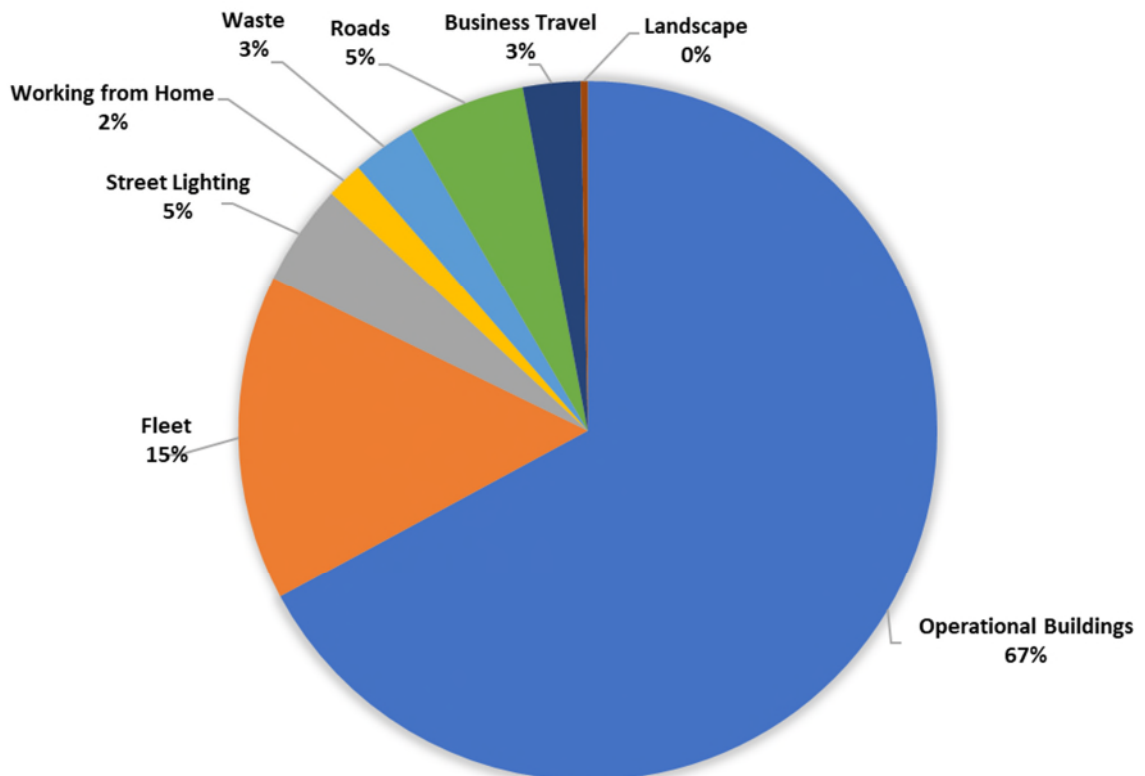


Figure 2 - Breakdown of Council's Carbon Footprint in 2021/22 of 49,304 tCO2e



Appendix 2 - 11 Recommended Actions and Progress to Date

The 11 recommended actions were grouped as follows for implementing the Route Map:

- **Process & Organisation**
- **Technology**
- **Information**
- **People and Culture**

The below table covers their progress to date including how they are being prioritised, the estimated timeline for action and the activity required to complete the action.

<i>Process & Organisation</i>		
Recommended Actions	Timeline/Prioritisation/Activity	Key Stakeholders
1	<p>Set up a central steering group: Take ownership of and monitor progress of delivery of the projects and Route Map 2030. Identification and recommend measures to manage resistance to change.</p> <p>Terms of Reference (ToR) for this group have now been developed and sent out to all Heads of Service (HoS) in order to bring forward the most appropriate senior officers to the group.</p> <p>First meeting is planned for March 2023. Monthly meetings will take place between March and June and then frequency will be reduced to approximately every 8 weeks. The first part of the groups work will be to bring together all of the workstreams across services that are currently supporting the Route Map. This will include the work done before the Route Map was adopted and in the period since September 2022. It will bring together the work across the key functional areas of buildings, transport and energy as well as the activities in each Directorate where we can look to mitigate for identified impacts and adapt our practices in the future.</p>	Senior representatives from all Directorates. Led by Ewan Wallace

2	<p>Define clear roles & responsibilities: Define accountabilities, roles, responsibilities across the Authority for delivering the Route Map 2030. This should be followed by delivering an internal capability and capacity gap analysis against this for all services and recommend actions to address the gaps and resource challenges.</p>	<p>This action will be included as a first task for the above Steering Group and would take at least 6 months to work through.</p> <p>Two parts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Define accountability, roles, responsibilities for delivery of aspects within Route Map. This will involve looking at the Carbon Budgets and these recommendations and determining how services can support their delivery. 2. Identify a lead for each service with support as required from the Sustainability Team to identify the capability and capacity gap across their service. Develop recommended actions to address these and determine ways that these actions can be delivered. 	<p>Environment & Sustainability working closely with HR and Legal.</p> <p>All key services will be required to support part 2.</p>
3	<p>Supply Chain Capacity and Capability Gap Analysis: Confirm the ability for current and local suppliers to deliver the future type and volume of hard interventions and services. This includes procurement strategy review, frameworks and existing (long term and FM) contract gap analysis.</p>	<p>This is a joint piece of work which will need to be done between Commercial and Procurement Service and the key services working on decarbonisation as listed in Route Map (Property and Facilities Management, Roads and Infrastructure).</p> <p>Identifying the pipeline of work in relation to buildings is currently being progressed after a successful application for Local Authority Covid Economic Recovery (LACER) funding and is being led by the Sustainability Team. Consultants Arcadis were the successful bidder for this piece of work and have been engaging with a number of stakeholders in their research. The project will be completed by 31 March 2023.</p>	<p>Commercial and Procurement</p> <p>Property and Facilities</p> <p>Roads and Infrastructure</p>

		<p>Future and existing contracts/frameworks will need to ensure they align with the Route Map and targets. Support from Commercial and Procurement Service is required but it is the responsibility of all services to ensure this is done. This will need to be monitored and supported through the Steering Group.</p>	
4	<p>Set targets for reducing Direct and Indirect emissions: Requirement as set out in the Climate Change (Duties of Public Bodies: Reporting Requirements) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2020 for reporting periods commencing on or after 1 April 2021. These will need to be identified and then different targets set for different sources.</p>	<p>Different scopes need identifying and achievable targets decided by services before their consideration by the Sustainability Committee and then official approval by Full Council.</p> <p>Scope 1 – Direct Emissions: Should consider aligning with the targets set for Public Sector Buildings which is zero direct emissions by 2038. Fleet is already aligned to Scottish Government targets although this is heavily reliant on the supply chain meeting the needs of the Council. The remaining Scope 1 emissions are from Roads, and Landscape services. Opportunities for these to become zero will need to be considered by these services.</p> <p>Scope 2 – Indirect Emissions: These are already in place as part of net zero by 2045 as these come from purchased electricity. The Council therefore is relying on the further greening of the grid but could also consider further opportunities to generate its own renewable electricity.</p> <p>Scope 3 – Indirect Emissions: This needs full consideration on all of the Scope 3 emissions which the Council currently reports on (e.g. internal waste, water,</p>	<p>Environment and Sustainability working closely with other services across all the Directorates.</p>

		<p>business travel, grey fleet) and the additional emissions we need to consider that we do not currently report on (e.g. emissions from the goods and services we procure including School Transport, and the Council's own Housing stock). There is a strong possibility that this will require external support and therefore additional funding will need to be identified and sourced by services. One project that has just been confirmed and will begin in March is Commercial and Procurement Services leading on work to utilise Artificial Intelligence to examine supply chain data in our finance system to assess some scope 3 emissions.</p>	
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<i>Technology</i>			
	Recommended Actions	Timeline/Prioritisation/Activity	Key Stakeholders
5	Delivery of the Feasibility studies at operational buildings, to support definition of the 2023/24 Carbon Budget by January 2023.	<p>This work is currently underway and is being led by Property and Facilities Management. It will not be completed in time for the setting of the Carbon Budget 2023/24.</p> <p>Property and Facilities Management are currently working with consultants to draft up the feasibility study needs to ensure the outputs can feed into the Carbon Budget Toolkit. This will build in continual accuracy of its use at estimating costs and savings for initiatives taken forward on the Council's operational non-domestic building stock.</p>	Property and Facilities Management
6	EV/H2 Fleet Assessment	<p>The Fleet team are consistently monitoring the supply chain including technology advancement to assess future fleet availability that maintains services. They are also supporting manufacturers by being part of monitoring exercises on vehicles to determine future power requirements for hydrogen refuse vehicles.</p> <p>As part of the fleet decarbonisation plans, a pathfinder project is about to get underway with Urban Foresight to plan out how Fleet will transition those vehicles that can be Battery EV over a 5 year period. The project is looking at an area based approach, the infrastructure required and costs.</p>	Roads and Infrastructure

7	Develop Hydrogen Strategy	This is currently under consideration by the Commercialisation Board.	Environment and Infrastructure Services/Business Services
8	8.1 Electrification Risk/Resilience Study	Needs liaising with the electricity networks. What work have they done to determine risk and resilience of the network (especially after recent storms)? Is there data the Council can use to overlay risks with where our buildings are? How will this impact heat decarbonisation of Council building stock, the Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES), fleet etc as we become more reliant on the electricity grid. It may be possible to develop a study utilising funding that has been provided by Scottish Government for LHEES. This would need to be done after December 2023 as this year resources will need to be focused solely on the Strategy development due to this tight Statutory timeline.	Property and Facilities Management Environment and Sustainability
	8.2 Embed zero carbon standard for both new build and retrofit initiatives	<p>To support this recommendation, Zero Waste Scotland is holding a workshop for Officers across the key services on the 29 March 2023 on integrating net zero and circular economy into the design and build of new and refurbished buildings. The training will cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An overview of the recently published Net Zero Public Sector Buildings Standard – what is in it and what is required to comply with it; and • How to integrate the circular economy into construction including case study examples. 	

		The session will conclude with a discussion on how Aberdeenshire Council can take forward some of the principles learnt and how Zero Waste Scotland might support this.	
9	9.1 Residual Emission Action Plan including an organisational carbon footprint scope and target review	<p>This action requires a breakdown of work as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The first part of this is to examine and determine the estimated residual emissions once all possible emission reduction projects have been completed as these will not remove 100% of our emissions. This combines with recommendation 4 on different targets for different scopes. 2. We also need to establish a better understanding of the green space we currently own and manage, potential for purchase and/or lease, green roof/wall potential, types of ecosystems and their sequestration potential to then determine an action plan to maximise this for Net Zero and all the other co-benefits associated with this (biodiversity enhancement, adaptation, resilience etc.) <p>Some work is underway internally to begin the data gathering however it is already clear that external support and funding is required to fully develop a Net Zero plan.</p>	Environment & Sustainability
	9.2 Resilience/Adaptation Assessment	In January 2023, a newly appointed Sustainability and Climate Change Officer joined the Sustainability team. This is not a new post, but resources are being utilised from the currently seconded Circular Economy Officer post. The role of this new officer is to:	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pull together adaptation and resilience work happening in different services across the organisation already and identify gaps needing addressed; • Utilise the Adaptation Scotland Benchmarking toolkit updating previous work already done on this by the Sustainability team; • Update the climate change risk assessment with the support of key services; • Develop a Resilience/Adaptation Assessment/ Framework; and • This work is to be completed by March 2024 when resource for this post will cease. 	
	<p>9.3 Develop Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES)</p>	<p>This is under development already with a completion date of December 2023. Scottish Government confirmed funding of £75,000 per annum over the next 5 years to cover a post and any additional support as required.</p>	
	<p>9.4 Develop Re-use Business Case</p>	<p>A feasibility study to develop a re-use Business Case is currently underway. The overall outcome of the study will determine whether a large-scale reuse program would be viable in Aberdeenshire. Additionally, it will include: a detailed cost analysis of start-up and projected costs, recommendations for an operational model and an examination of potential community, environmental and economic benefits.</p>	

		<p>In addition to this, the Council will also need to consider better models/needs to improve internal re-use across the organisation and linking to wider public, private and third sector bodies. This will need to be developed and considered by the Steering Group.</p>	
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<i>Information</i>			
	Recommended Actions	Timeline/Prioritisation/Activity	Key Stakeholders
10	<p>Central assurance and reporting: Design and implement a central reporting function, possibly incorporated in the current carbon budget tool. All services should centrally store progress data to track if projects are on track, delivered on or under budget and risks to successful delivery can be identified on time to be mitigated.</p>	<p>This is a task for the Steering Group to consider options and best way around having a central system for monitoring progress.</p> <p>By monitoring work throughout the year (more frequently than the current 6 monthly reporting) services will be better equipped to capture challenges and additional opportunities ensuring the Council stays on track for targets.</p>	<p>Environment & Sustainability</p>

<i>People and Culture</i>			
	Recommended Actions	Timeline/Prioritisation/Activity	Key Stakeholders
11	Communications to support and implement the change and generate buy-in of the people and Directorates at all levels: Design and management of the communications and map the impact on the people and what it means for them.	A communication plan has not yet been developed. This will be part of the early discussions of the Steering Group.	Environment & Sustainability, supported by senior representatives from all Directorates