

Aberdeenshire
COUNCIL



SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 30 AUGUST 2023 at 10.15 am

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the **SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE** to be held **VIRTUALLY BY MICROSOFT TEAMS** on **WEDNESDAY, 30 AUGUST 2023**, at **10.15 am**

This meeting will be live streamed and a recording of the public part of the meeting will be made publicly available at a later date.

Tuesday, 22 August 2023

Director of Business Services

To: Councillors S Dickinson (Chair), J Gifford (Vice-Chair), G Hall, P Johnston, F Joji, A Kloppert, S Payne and I Taylor

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B U S I N E S S

| | | |
|---|---|---------|
| 1 | Sederunt and Declaration of Members' Interests | |
| 2 | Public Sector Equality Duty | 3 |
| | Consider, and if so desired, adopt the following resolution:- | |
| | (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. | |
| | (2) where an Integrated Impact Assessment is provided, to consider its contents and take those into account when reaching a decision. | |
| 3 | Minute of the Meeting of 17 May 2023 | 4 - 7 |
| 4 | Statement of Outstanding Business | 8 - 9 |
| 5 | Presentation - Local Climate Impact Profile | |
| 6 | Aberdeenshire Fairtrade Zone Renewal | 10 - 16 |
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PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY – GUIDANCE FOR MEMBERS

What is the duty?

In making decisions on the attached reports, Members are reminded of their legal duty under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to the need to:-

- (i) eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- (ii) advance equality of opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
- (iii) foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The “protected characteristics” under the legislation are: age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation; and (in relation to point (i) above only) marriage and civil partnership.

How can Members discharge the duty?

To ‘have due regard’ means that in making decisions, Members must consciously consider the need to do the three things set out above. This requires a conscious approach and state of mind. The duty must influence the final decision.

However, it is not a duty to achieve a particular result (e.g. to eliminate unlawful racial discrimination or to promote good relations between persons of different racial groups). It is a duty to have due regard to the need to achieve these goals.

How much regard is ‘due’ will depend upon the circumstances and in particular on the relevance of the needs to the decision in question. The greater the relevance and potential impact that a decision may have on people with protected characteristics, the higher the regard required by the duty.

What does this mean for Committee/Full Council decisions?

Members are directed to the section in reports headed ‘Council Priorities, Implications and Risk’. This will indicate whether or not an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) has been carried out as part of the development of the proposals and, if so, what the outcome of that assessment is.

An IIA will be appended to a report where it is likely, amongst other things, that the action recommended in the report could have a differential impact (either positive or negative) upon people from different protected groups. The report author will have assessed whether or not an IIA is required. If one is not required, the report author will explain why that is.

Where an IIA is provided, Members should consider its contents and take those into account when reaching their decision. Members should also be satisfied that the assessment is sufficiently robust and that they have enough of an understanding of the issues to be able to discharge their legal duty satisfactorily.

For more detailed guidance please refer to the following link:-

https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.equalityhumanrights.com%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2Ftechnical_guidance_psed_scotland.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK

ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

HYBRID MEETING, 17 MAY 2023

Present: Councillors S Dickinson (Chair), J Gifford (Vice-Chair), M Grant (as substitute for Councillor F Joji), G Hall, P Johnston, A Kloppert, S Payne and I Taylor.

Apologies: Councillor F Joji.

Officers: Head of Service (Environment and Sustainability), Team Leader (Environment and Sustainability), all Environment and Infrastructure Services; Team Leader (Youth and Communities), Education and Children's Services; Engineering Services Manager (Property & Facilities), Principal Solicitor (Arlene Gibbs) and Committee Officer (Nicole Chidester), all Business Services.

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. PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY

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 Integrated Impact Assessment has been provided, its contents and to take those into consideration when reaching a decision.

3. MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF 23 FEBRUARY 2023

On consideration of the circulated Minute of the Meeting of the Committee of 23 February 2023, Members **agreed** to approve it as a correct record.

4. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

There was circulated a report by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services, which updated Members on the progress with actions agreed at previous meetings of the Committee held since 21 September 2022.

The Environment and Sustainability Team Leader introduced the report and provided the Committee with further details on the following outstanding actions:

Item 1 – A report with the full results of the Reuse Feasibility Study would come to the Committee 30 August 2023 as part of a Route Map update.

Item 2 – It was **noted** that the date of publication of the 'How the Scottish Government is set up to deliver climate change goals' should have been listed as 20 April 2023.

The Environment and Sustainability Team Leader confirmed that (1) Items 1, 3 and 4 were complete and, if agreed, could be removed from the list and that Item 2 would remain on the list until the Environmental Standards Scotland report was published and a link was shared. Members expressed a desire to further discuss the audits/investigations listed under item 2.

Thereafter, the Committee **agreed**:-

- (1) to note the current position in respect of actions arising from previous meetings;
- (2) that those actions which had been completed should be removed from the outstanding actions list; and
- (3) to instruct officers to prepare a report updating members on Audit Scotland's 'How the Scottish Government is set up to deliver climate change goals' and results from 'The Environmental Standards Scotland' report, once the latter was published.

5. PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING IN SCHOOLS – CLIMATE CHALLENGE (PRESENTATION)

A presentation was made to the Committee on the recent Participatory Budgeting exercises in schools focused on climate change and carbon reduction, by Madelene MacSween, Team Leader Youth and Communities.

Members were informed that of 36 schools which submitted projects over two different rounds, 9 Academy projects and 18 primary school projects were successful. Projects for 2022/23 varied in focus including: wildlife and biodiversity, food growing, learning resources, accessing environment for education, improving the school environment, technology focused, and upcycling/reusing/recycling.

The end life of this project would be the end of the school year, rather than the fiscal year which enabled pupils to see their projects through. Early anecdotal feedback from successful projects was shared, as well as a detailed list of which schools had gained funding. This participatory budgeting project aimed to help children learn about climate change and carbon reduction, while empowering them to have the resources to take positive action. The process was currently being reviewed, including timescales, with an aim to involve more young people in 2023/24. The presentation concluded with a review of the next steps for the project.

After the presentation, the Chair emphasised the importance of establishing legacy with these projects. She opened it up to a question and answer session during which Members praised the wide involvement and varied nature of each project. Members queried those schools who were not successful and the likelihood of them reapplying; if structured feedback would be sought from young people; sought clarity on the voting and selection process; if all the funding had been allocated; and which age groups were engaged and most involved with these projects. Members praised the participatory budgeting project which allowed young people to see how budgets work, learn the democratic process, and gain important skills for the future, including resilience, awareness of climate change, and how to be an agent for change. Members expressed their support for this project to continue.

Thereafter, the Committee concurred with the Chair in thanking Ms MacSween for an excellent presentation and commended the young people for the scope, range, and sophistication of their projects and hoped for their projects to leave a legacy.

6. CARBON BUDGET 2022/2023 FINAL UPDATE

With reference to the Minute of the Meeting of Aberdeenshire Council of 9 March 2022 (Item 7), where the Carbon Budget for 2022/2023 was agreed, there was circulated a report dated 4 May 2023, by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services, which presented the final update on actions listed in the Carbon Budget 2022/2023. The report indicated that the Carbon Budget for 2022/23 was unlikely to be reached due to challenges which delayed projects from starting at the anticipated time. However, many of those projects had now been moved into 2023/24 for actioning or were revised to become more cost effective.

Members were informed that the report only captured projects, other factors that could have reduced emissions may not be captured. Emission Factors would be published in June 2023, then Sustainable Scotland Network would update the reporting spreadsheets, following which Reporting Leads for each of the public sector bodies would be notified. Data from Services would then be gathered for a report to Committee in November 2023.

Members raised questions and comments regarding how the targets were calculated and reasons for missing targets; further details on the role of Sustainability Champions; if emission figures took into account the recent IPCC report; the Deposit Return Scheme (DRS); setting realistic targets with built-in flexibility; concerns with delays due to partnership working; resource and funding pressures; progress with LED changeover; The Energy Sparks Project and improved recycling and composting in schools.

Thereafter the Committee **agreed** to:-

- (1) acknowledge the final Carbon Budget 2022/2023 six-monthly update as attached in Appendix 2.
- (2) instruct officers to contact Sustainable Scotland Network to seek a response/ identify the appropriate department within Scottish Government to approach, regarding future adjustments to emission figures given the

recent IPCC report, including timetables for adjustments and discussions with local authorities. Officers to then update the Committee with the response provided;

- (3) instruct officers to include carbon emissions data associated with the Council's residual waste that goes to the Energy for Waste Plant in the 6-monthly Carbon Budget updates to Policy Committees, if the data was available; and
- (4) instruct officers to include information on the impact of, including tonnage figures, the Deposit Return Scheme on waste collection streams within future reports to the Infrastructure Services Committee.

7. THE DRAFT ENERGY STRATEGY AND JUST TRANSITION PLAN CONSULTATION

There was circulated a report dated 5 May 2023, by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services, that presented the Aberdeenshire Council response – with comments from officers across different key Services, including Economic Development, Planning, and Environment and Infrastructure Services, as well as from some Members – to the 'Draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan – delivering a fair and secure zero carbon energy system for Scotland' consultation which opened on 10 January 2023 and closed on 9 May 2023.

Members were informed that some officers also attended a workshop provided by the Scottish Government where they heard presentations and attended breakout discussions. The Council's response was submitted on 5 May 2023.

Members made comments on the resource intensive nature of responding to this consultation and thanked officers for their work. Further comments and questions focussed on the importance of engaging with the Third Sector and community bodies who were positioned to communicate effectively with communities about available renewable technology resources, the importance of engaging with North East Climate Action Network (NESCAN), the scope for community based projects or schemes, what incentives were available for landlords, wind turbines and challenges with grid capacity/public perception, and that food security should reflect the entire food supply chain, including processing.

Thereafter, the Committee **agreed** to acknowledge the Aberdeenshire Council submission on the consultation of the Draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan which was submitted under delegated powers and following internal consultation.

PROGRESS WITH OUTSTANDING ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE AS AT 30 AUGUST, 2023

| | Item Title | Date of Meeting | Action Agreed | Responsible Service | Progress to Date |
|----|--|------------------------|--|---|--|
| 1. | Scotland's Councils' Approach to Addressing Climate Change - Audit Scotland Report | 31 11 22 | Officers to give an update to Members on the 2 other audits/investigations underway. | Environment and Infrastructure Services | <p>The Environmental Standards Scotland report has not yet been published. Audit Scotland published their report – ‘How the Scottish Government is set up to deliver climate change goals’ on 20 April 2023. Link: https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2023/nr_230420_climate_change.pdf</p> <p>Officers to prepare a report for Committee updating members on Audit Scotland's 'How the Scottish Government is set up to deliver climate change goals' and results from 'The Environmental Standards Scotland' report, once the latter was published.</p> <p>A summary of Audit Scotland's 'How the Scottish Government is set up to deliver climate change goals' has been provided as Item 7 on today's Agenda.</p> |

PROGRESS WITH OUTSTANDING ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE AS AT 30 AUGUST, 2023

| | | | | | |
|-----------|---|-----------------|---|--|--|
| <p>2.</p> | <p>Carbon Budget 2022-2023 Final Update</p> | <p>17 05 23</p> | <p>Contact Sustainable Scotland Network to seek a response/ identify the appropriate department within the Scottish Government to approach, regarding future adjustments to emission figures given the recent IPCC report, including timetables for adjustments and discussions with local authorities. Officers to circulate the response provided.</p> <p>Include carbon emissions data associated with the Council's residual waste that goes to the Energy for Waste Plant in the 6-monthly Carbon Budget updates to Policy Committees, if the data is available.</p> <p>Include information on the impact of, including tonnage figures, the Deposit Return Scheme on waste collection streams within future reports to the Infrastructure Services Committee.</p> | <p>Environment and Infrastructure Services</p> | <p>A response from Sustainable Scotland Network was provided to all Members of the Committee on 30 May 2023.</p> <p>Data is currently not available which would allow the calculations for the carbon emissions associated with all the different types of waste in the Council's residual waste stream that is now going to the Energy for Waste Plant. This is an area of work that the Waste teams will continue to look at as we monitor the impact of the 3 weekly roll out and the operation of the Energy from Waste plant.</p> <p>The Deposit Return Scheme is on now on hold until at least October 2025.</p> |
|-----------|---|-----------------|---|--|--|

REPORT TO SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE – 30 AUGUST 2023

ABERDEENSHIRE FAIRTRADE ZONE RENEWAL

1 Executive Summary/Recommendations

1.1 This report requests Aberdeenshire Council's continued commitment to Fairtrade. It provides a summary of the online Fairtrade Zone renewal application which is currently under development by the Aberdeenshire Fairtrade Steering Group. The application is due by 1 October 2023 and part of the process requires that Aberdeenshire Council demonstrates a renewed support to Fairtrade.

1.2 The Committee is recommended to:

1.2.1 Agree on behalf of Aberdeenshire Council, to commit the Council to its continued support of Fairtrade Zone status in Aberdeenshire; and

1.2.2 Consider and comment on the draft Fairtrade Zone Application attached as Appendix 1.

2 Decision-Making Route

2.1 Aberdeenshire Council has been notified by the Fairtrade Foundation that Fairtrade Zone status is due for renewal on 1 October 2023. Aberdeenshire became the 17th Fairtrade Zone in 2013, making a contribution to Scotland becoming a Fairtrade Nation. Therefore, the Council's continued support of Fairtrade is important both locally and nationally.

2.2 The last Fairtrade Zone application and continual support for Fairtrade on behalf of Aberdeenshire Council was approved by the Sustainability Committee on 19 February 2020 ([Item 6](#)). The renewal process is typically every 2 years however a delay in the new online application template has extended Aberdeenshire's current certification from May 2020 to October 2023.

3 Discussion

3.1 Aberdeenshire Fairtrade Steering Group is made up of dedicated volunteers from across the region who work hard to promote Fairtrade in their local area. The group typically meets twice a year in person but has regular contact through emails. The meetings are organised and chaired by the Team Leader for Sustainability and Climate Change to ensure that there is always representation and support from the Council at every meeting.

3.2 In addition, Aberdeenshire Council is a member of the Scottish Fair Trade Forum and the Team Leader for Sustainability and Climate Change is the Aberdeenshire representative for the Grampian region.

- 3.3 Great work has been done over the past three years to help promote Fairtrade across the region during a challenging time when the pandemic put a stop to the usual face to face events. This work is highlighted under part 7 of **Appendix 1**. Part 8 covers what the Group is planning to continue to develop in the coming years ahead.
- 3.4 The renewal form (**Appendix 1**) has been distributed to the Aberdeenshire Fairtrade Steering Group for comments and to gather further data, which is now required in relation to parts 2, 3, 4, and 6. Any comments made to parts 7 and 8 by the Sustainability Committee will be sent back to the Group for its final approval and sign off before being returned to the Fairtrade Foundation for consideration.

4 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

- 4.1 This report helps deliver the Strategic Priority “Climate Change” within the Pillar “Our Environment” and “Learning for Life” within the Pillar “Our People”.

| 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. There is no fee for renewing Fairtrade Zone status.
- 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 Fairtrade Zone renewal application although it should be recognised that supporting Fairtrade can support climate change mitigation and adaptation in the countries where Fairtrade products are grown and/or made.

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

- Risk ID ACORP006 as it relates to reputation management

4.5.1 Mitigation of this risk can be addressed by Aberdeenshire Council supporting this Fairtrade Zone application.

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 approving, 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
17 August 2023

List of Appendices

Appendix 1 Summary of Draft Aberdeenshire Fairtrade Zone Application

Appendix 1 Summary of Draft Aberdeenshire Fairtrade Zone Application

Fairtrade Zone Draft Application

The online application is broken down as follows:

1. Key Contact and Group Information

2. Online Activity

- a. Links to the Website ([Fairtrade - Aberdeenshire Council](#)) and Facebook pages of the groups will be provided online

3. Your Group Connections (these figures below are combined from each of the groups estimated interactions in their area of Aberdeenshire)

- a. How many local Fairtrade groups have you been communicating with in your area?
 - i. Community Organisations = 11
 - ii. Places of Worship = 11
 - iii. Colleges and universities = 1
 - iv. Schools = 32
- b. How many businesses have you engaged with since your last application? = 83

4. Events and Media Coverage (these figures below are combined from each of the groups estimated interactions in their area of Aberdeenshire)

- a. How many events has your group held or taken part in since your last application? This could include events organised by your group or bigger events that you participated in. = 53
- b. What are the total attendees (approx.) of all events that your group has held or taken part in combined since your last renewal? = 1500
- c. If your group has been involved with online or print media what would (approx.) the number of media articles your group has been able to generate? = 100

5. Your Local Authority

- a. If your Local Authority has recently renewed their support to Fairtrade you can upload their resolution/letter of support here or include a link to where the resolution is hosted.

A link to this Agenda meeting will be provided as evidence.

6. Engagement with political representatives

- a. Some individual groups in the region have engaged with their MSP and MP on Trade Policy and Human Rights.

7. What have you been up to as a Fairtrade group? Use this space to tell us about what you have been doing and we can then share this with other groups. (Max 3000 characters)

The Aberdeenshire Fairtrade Steering Group is made up of dedicated volunteers from across groups in the region who work hard to promote Fairtrade in their community area. The group typically meets twice a year but has regular contact through emails, phone calls etc. This provides an opportunity for the community groups in Aberdeenshire to get together and share knowledge, ideas, opportunities and challenges. The group continues to be Chaired by an officer from Aberdeenshire Council who organises the meetings, provides the minutes and ensures continued communication in between meetings as the main point of contact for sharing information and events.

The Council pay membership for the Scottish Fair Trade Forum (SFTF) and the group work very closely with them. The group have been involved in many online events organised by SFTF and engaged them to join our regional online events. For example, during Fairtrade Fortnight 2022 the Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City groups hosted an online event on Fairtrade and Climate. More recently our Chair was part of a small working group developing a SFTF Public Sector E-Learning module. The SFTF approached Aberdeenshire to take part in a series of short videos for the 10th Anniversary of Scotland becoming a Fair Trade Nation because of the relationship the group have and wanted to demonstrate youth involvement with a local group. The Alford Fairtrade group stepped up as they work closely with the Eco Club at Alford Academy and this demonstrated a perfect example for sharing wider. We have also been in discussion with SFTF on the opportunity of Fairtrade Town trails utilising QR Code technology to share information about area links to Fairtrade and what is on offer locally.

The group also works closely with Aberdeen for a Fairer World (AfW). For 2023 AfW, Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire groups have liaised to develop 4 online Lunch and Learn events. Two events have already taken place and covered Fashion, and the Fairtrade Principles/Story of a Product. The other 2 will take place in August and November with themes of food and Marketplace where local establishments will have the opportunity to share what they have on offer in the lead up to the Christmas period supporting both Fairtrade and Local.

The group has developed strong relationships with the Co-op and has Member Pioneers on the Steering Group. For Fairtrade Fortnight 2023 the

Appendix 1 Summary of Draft Aberdeenshire Fairtrade Zone Application

group came together with an idea of developing recipe cards utilising common Co-op fairtrade items. Each community group with a local Co-op approached the store managers to request setting up a table in store with recipe cards and products to engage shoppers in considering a new recipe and having conversations about fairtrade and local products. The group have also been involved in online events organised by Co-op for Fairtrade Fortnights during the pandemic (2021 & 2022).

The group have developed materials which are shared across the region. We have banners which read "Supporting Fairtrade and Local Producers in Aberdeenshire and the Nation, Aberdeenshire a Fairtrade Zone" with images of producers. Also have certificates to be handed out to local businesses across the region as a thank you for selling or using fairtrade products. Window decals which state "Supporting Fairtrade in Aberdeenshire" have also been distributed to businesses that sell Fairtrade products in the region.

8. What are your plans for the future? Use this space to tell us any ideas that you are planning or would like to do in our community that you want to share that might inspire other communities. (Max 3000 characters)

The group will meet again in the Autumn to share ideas for the holiday season and already begin to plan for Fairtrade Fortnight 2024. At the last Steering Group meeting some challenges were discussed that the group is looking to support and develop action on over the next year.

For example, one of the local groups has developed fairtrade and locally grown vegetable meal kits for selling at their local Veg Store as another way to engage communities with fairtrade. These kits have not been doing as well as the local group had hoped so our whole group shared some ideas including reaching out to local foodbanks about how they engage in meal kits for people they work with and support. A separate meeting has been arranged with members from the Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City group to see what can be done to encourage this type of engagement in food businesses across the region.

The group continues to be keen in looking at ways it can link with other groups to expand opportunities to share the importance of fairtrade. This includes continuing to build even stronger collaborative relationships with AfW, SFTF, Co-op and the Aberdeen City group.

The group will also look at ways to further engage with schools, further education establishments, businesses, and places of worship. A goal is to strengthen the current Steering Group membership. Consideration for developing networking events or looking for other events out with the region where we can get involved to share and learn from others will be undertaken.

Appendix 1 Summary of Draft Aberdeenshire Fairtrade Zone Application

Members of the group have recently shared their positive experiences with engaging with local MSPs and MPs. Others in the group will continue to take more political action learning from these positive experiences.

Pulling together some good case studies that the group can share through social media platforms, at events, with other groups etc. will take place. The group find that when we all come together twice a year to discuss what we have been up to that we learn great ideas we can take back to our own groups. We see the benefit of this work and want to look at ways to expand it further. Case studies is one way we think could help.

The group would like to build on the experience of regional Fairtrade Fortnight events and look to achieve something bigger and better. Aberdeenshire is such a large region that hosting one main event is a challenge. This is why the group usually chooses one theme which makes it easier for each community group to get involved. Previously the group has led on regional cafe crawls and this year was around utilising local Co-ops. We are keen to continue building on these successful regional events.

The group is also keen to look for more opportunities where having a stall is possible at larger organised events. For example, we supported the Aberdeen City group with their stall at the MELA festival last year by having some members volunteer their time on the stall engaging with the public. It is a great way to share fairtrade at events with large crowds already gathered.

Getting involved with online events such as lunch and learns will continue. These have been a great way to engage with others and share what we do.

REPORT TO SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE – 30 AUGUST 2023

HOW THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT IS SET UP TO DELIVER CLIMATE CHANGE GOALS AUDIT SCOTLAND REPORT

1 Executive Summary/Recommendations

1.1 This report contains a summary of the Audit Scotland report on How the Scottish Government is set up to deliver climate change goals. It focuses on how effective the Scottish Government's climate change governance and risk management arrangements are in supporting the delivery of Scotland's national net zero targets and climate change adaptation outcomes. It is being brought to the Sustainability Committee for consideration and comment. The report also highlights the additional investigation still underway by Environmental Standards Scotland which may have significant outcomes for the Council.

1.2 Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

1.2.1 Consider and comment on the Audit Scotland report on How the Scottish Government is set up to deliver climate change goals (a summary is provided in Appendix 1) and;

1.2.2 Note the upcoming investigation being finalised by Environmental Standards Scotland.

2 Decision-Making Route

2.1 On 20 April 2023 the Audit Scotland report on How the Scottish Government is set up to deliver climate change goals was published (https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2023/nr_230420_climate_change.pdf). The report focuses on how effective the Scottish Government's climate change governance and risk management arrangements are in supporting the delivery of Scotland's national net zero targets and climate change adaptation outcomes.

2.2 At the Sustainability Committee on 17 May 2023 it was requested that the Audit Scotland report be added to the business of this August Committee meeting. **Appendix 1** provides a short summary of the report.

3 Discussion

3.1 The report shares key findings and recommendations for the Scottish Government to improve on how climate change is currently governed and enhance the current method for climate change risk management.

3.2 With regards to improving governance, the report recommends the need for better alignment of governance groups and the overall development of a workforce plan which fully addresses climate change responsibilities. The

enhancement of current climate change risk management looks at developing contingency plans for the higher scoring risks with clear escalation processes in place. Using consistent evidence-based processes for identifying and monitoring risks is also highlighted as a need.

- 3.3 These recommendations could also be considered relevant to Aberdeenshire Council and the Sustainability and Climate Change team plan to consider what learnings can be taken from this report and put into process within the Council. For example, the recommendations around risk are already being considered by the officer group working on the climate change risk register update.
- 3.4 Environmental Standards Scotland (ESS) is also currently undertaking an investigation into ‘the systems in place to support local authorities in the delivery of climate change targets’. ESS is a relatively new organisation, with a focus on ‘monitoring the effectiveness of environmental law in Scotland, and public authorities’ compliance with it’. More information on this investigation can be found here: <https://www.environmentalstandards.scot/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/ESS-Investigations-Climate-change-website-information-June22.pdf>.
- 3.4.1 The investigation is complete. However, ESS, Scottish Government, and COSLA are still discussing the outcomes and working to agree on a set of recommendations for Local Authorities. These cover the need for Local Authorities to report on all of their scope 3 emissions (all indirect emissions other than the purchase and use of electricity that occur in the upstream and downstream activities of the organisation) and develop a standard for developing regional climate change strategies.

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 external performance monitoring 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 this report is providing a summary of an external report and information on a future external investigation being brought to the Committee for consideration and comment only.
- 4.5 The following Risks in the Corporate Risk Register have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level. However, it is acknowledged that working towards a 75% reduction in Council owned emissions has the potential to impact upon any number of areas across the Council risk portfolio.
- 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
17 August 2023

List of Appendices

Appendix 1: Summary of Audit Scotland report - How the Scottish Government is set up to deliver climate change goals

Appendix 1 - Summary of Audit Scotland report - How the Scottish Government is set up to deliver climate change goals

1.0 Overview:

1.1 The report focuses on how effective the Scottish Government's climate change governance and risk management arrangements are in supporting the delivery of Scotland's national net zero targets and climate change adaptation outcomes.

2.0 Key messages and findings:

2.1 *The Scottish Government has improved how it organises itself to support delivery of its climate change goals since the then First Minister declared a climate emergency in 2019.*

2.1.1 Better cross-government working is needed and although climate change governance arrangements have improved, there is a lack of clarity and consistency in defining roles and responsibilities. For example, there has been no workforce plan in place for the Director General for Net Zero area since it was established in November 2021, although one is expected. The report finds that there are risks of overlapping efforts or gaps in coordination, which could undermine effective implementation.

2.1.2 The report highlights decision-making challenges regarding the level of resourcing and expertise dedicated to climate change governance, and that additional resources and capacity-building efforts are required to strengthen governance arrangements. Climate change continues to compete with other priority policy areas for funding and staff.

2.1.3 Scottish Government does not routinely assess the impact that policies and spending have on emissions. The report highlights a lack of clarity on how far policies in the current Climate Change Plan contribute to net zero and how much these policies will cost. However, it is a legal requirement that the next version of the Climate Change Plan is fully costed.

2.2 *Systematic risk management is needed so the Scottish Government can identify the key risks to meeting its climate change goals and take effective action to address them.*

2.2.1 Since the appointment of a Director General for Net Zero, improvements to risk management processes and documents have been made. The report provides an overview of key risks to achieving climate change goals. These feed into corporate risk management structures which are used to inform decision-makers at all levels of government. However, progress to address identified risks is slow and the longer-term risks of failing to adapt to climate change have had less focus compared to emissions reduction risks.

2.2.2 The evidence base and process to identify and score risks is not always clear, and actions to address risks are sometimes vague. To address weaknesses in risk management arrangements, the report emphasises the need for robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to track progress, identify areas for improvement, and ensure transparency and accountability. Not doing so could increase the chances of

Appendix 1 - Summary of Audit Scotland report - How the Scottish Government is set up to deliver climate change goals

net zero targets being missed and Scotland not being adequately prepared to cope with the impacts of climate change.

3.0 Recommendations:

- 3.1 Improve climate change governance by aligning governance groups, establishing clear roles and reporting lines, implementing effective assurance arrangements, and developing a workforce plan to address climate change responsibilities.
- 3.2 Enhance climate change risk management by effectively identifying, managing, and monitoring climate change risks through consistent and evidence-based processes. Develop contingency plans for high-scoring risks and establish clear escalation mechanisms. Ensure that the Global Climate Emergency Programme Board maintains a risk register with clear reporting lines to broader climate change and corporate risk management systems.

REPORT TO SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE – 30 AUGUST 2023

CARBON BUDGET 2023-2024 PROGRESS UPDATE

1 Executive Summary/Recommendations

1.1 This report presents an update to the Sustainability Committee on progress to date towards the actions listed in the Carbon Budget 2023-2024 that were agreed by Aberdeenshire Council on 9 March 2023 ([Item 5](#)).

1.2 Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

1.2.1 Consider and comment on the Carbon Budget 2023-2024 six-monthly update as attached in Appendix 1; and

1.2.2 Note the ongoing responsibility of each Director to secure their reduction targets as set out in the Carbon Budget, and to report progress at six-monthly intervals to the relevant Policy Committees and to the Sustainability Committee.

2 Decision-Making Route

2.1 On 9 March 2022 ([Item 5](#)) a total Carbon Budget for 2023-2024 was set as 44,152 tonnes Carbon Dioxide Equivalent (tCO₂e) by Aberdeenshire Council in line with linear progression towards a 75% reduction in Council owned emissions by 2030. A list of CO₂e reduction measures was presented at this meeting to support the Council in reaching its Carbon Budget for the year. At the same meeting, it was agreed that all Directors were required to submit six-monthly updates on in-year progress in relation to these reduction measures to their relevant Policy Committees and additionally to the Sustainability Committee.

3 Discussion

3.1 This report contains the progress update that was provided by officers from each Directorate. **Appendix 1** contains the progress update on each of the actions originally listed in the approved Carbon Budget 2023-2024. It sets out if projects are still running to schedule, have been delayed, if estimates have changed and includes additional projects rolled over from the 2022-2023 Carbon Budget.

3.2 As the figures in **Appendix 1** suggest, there is a risk that the target of 44,152tCO₂e set for the Carbon Budget 2023-24 is unlikely to be met. Additional projects have not been added by Directorates since the Carbon Budget was agreed on 9 March 2023. In addition to this, the emission factor for electricity which was estimated to bring a reduction of around 500tCO₂e annually has actually increased for 2023. This means that overall emissions for electricity use are very likely to increase so the 500tCO₂e estimated savings

has been removed. This highlights the challenges around relying on this emission factor to support Aberdeenshire Council's progress towards its target going forward.

- 3.3 However, the overall total of estimated emissions savings from projects in the Carbon Budget 2023-2024 has increased from an estimate of 1972tCO₂e presented on 9 March 2023 to 2098tCO₂e which is positive.
- 3.3.1 This is due to all the Council's internal waste now going direct to the Energy from Waste Plant. The original 900tCO₂e estimate was made on the assumption that this would not start until August 2023 but now that estimate is expected to be around 1351tCO₂e. This will be a one-off saving for 2023-2024 and we will not see this kind of saving for waste in future years unless tonnage for residual waste and recycling drops significantly. The total emission reduction for Environment and Infrastructure Services has now increased from 1392tCO₂e to 1812tCO₂e.
- 3.3.2 In addition, the rollover of the LED programme within our operational non-domestic buildings into 2023-2024 which was delayed from last year due to ongoing supply chain challenges has also contributed to the increase in total emission reduction for Business Services from 79tCO₂e to 286tCO₂e.
- 3.4 There are still some 'TBDs' (to be determined) in the report for projects where it is anticipated that estimated CO₂e savings can be calculated if estimated reduction in consumption figures can be provided by services. Some TBDs have been changed to 'Unknown' and these are projects which will not have consumption data available and therefore estimated emissions savings will not be made in 2023-2024.

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 Carbon Budget update monitoring 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 Carbon Budget 2023-2024 which was approved by Aberdeenshire Council 9 March 2022 ([Item 5 – IIA is Appendix 5](#)).
- 4.5 The following Risks in the Corporate Risk Register have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level. However, it is acknowledged that working towards a 75% reduction in Council owned emissions has the potential to impact upon any number of areas across the Council risk portfolio.
- 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 The above risks could be mitigated against with sufficient communication and engagement on the progress Aberdeenshire Council is making with regards to climate change mitigation and adaptation beyond the Carbon Budget.

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 this item in terms of Section R paragraphs 1.1a and 1.1c of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance as it relates to approving, reviewing and monitoring the Council's work in respect of sustainable development and climate change and, also to promote awareness of the need for sustainability within the Council.

Alan Wood
Director of Environment & Infrastructure Services

Report prepared by Claudia Cowie, Team Leader Sustainability and Climate Change
17 August 2023

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Appendix 1: Carbon Budget 2023 – 2024 Progress Update

Table 1: Abbreviations/Acronyms within the following table (2):

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| E&CS | Education and Children Services |
| EfW | Energy from Waste |
| H&SCP | Health and Social Care Partnership |
| kWh | Kilowatt Hour |
| LED | Light-Emitting Diode |
| LLA | Live Life Aberdeenshire |
| NDEEF | Non-Domestic Energy Efficiency Framework |
| P&FM | Property and Facilities Management |
| RTPI | Real Time Passenger Information |
| TBD | To Be Determined |
| tCO ₂ e | Tonnes of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent |

Table 2: Carbon Budget 2023 – 2024 Progress Update

| BUSINESS SERVICES | Proposed Identified tCO₂e Savings 2023/24 | Anticipated tCO₂e Savings 2023/24 | August 2023 Update on Projects |
|---|---|---|---|
| Upgrade Windows | 19 | 19 | Upgrade works are ongoing and part of the P&FM Capital Plan. As completed, details of each project and achieved savings will be updated. |
| Upgrade Roof | 40 | 40 | |
| Lighting Upgrades | 20 | 20 | |
| NDEEF – LED upgrades <i>* carried forward from 2022/23</i> | | *207 | The LED upgrades as part of the NDEEF project have been delayed, due to material supply issues – they are expected to be completed by end December 2023 with carbon savings attributable to 2023/24. |
| Business Services Total | 79 | 286 | |
| ENVIRONMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES | Proposed Identified tCO₂e Savings 2023/24 | Anticipated tCO₂e Savings 2023/24 | August 2023 Update on Projects |
| High Specification Bus Shelters - off-grid | 1 | 1 | 5 x high specification bus shelters and 3 x RTPI battery powered e-paper displays installed at Peterhead Bus Station (July 2023) total cost £98k. Plan to install 3 x high spec shelters with battery powered e-paper displays at Fraserburgh and 1 x similar specification at Stonehaven by no later than 31 March 2024 at a total cost of £95k – all products are off grid and combined are delivering the identified tCO ₂ e savings. |

Appendix 1: Carbon Budget 2023 – 2024 Progress Update

| | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| Electric landscaping equipment – 3 more squads | TBD | Unknown | In Service trial on going. We are unable to determine the emission savings from this project due to a lack of data. |
| Two additional lease electric cars | TBD | Unknown | Delivery expected in August. We are unable to determine the emission savings from this project due to a lack of data. |
| Battery rammer to trial alongside traditional petrol machines | TBD | Unknown | To be progressed. We are unable to determine the emission savings from this project due to a lack of data. |
| Roads resurfacing – warm mix | 220 | 220 | Switched to warm mix in March 23. |
| Reduced Greenspace maintenance | TBD | Unknown | We are unable to determine the emission savings from this project due to a lack of data. |
| Energy from Waste | 900 | 1351 | All waste is currently going to the NESS EfW plant during the commissioning phase. The plant is due to be fully operational by the end of August 2023. With all waste now going to EfW plant the estimate for emission saving has increased. An average of 3180tonnes of waste diverted from landfill (1419tCO ₂ e) to EfW (68tCO ₂ e) gives an estimated saving of 1351 tCO ₂ e. |
| LED street lighting | 261 | 230 | Anticipated savings less than proposed estimate due to procurement issues. Still looking to gain a consumption saving of 1,190,900kWh or 14%. We are experiencing issues with procurement of the lanterns. We had a delay with a framework which held up purchasing so trying to catch up from this. |
| Warp-It | 10 | 10 | Current savings from April – July is sitting at 3.6tCO ₂ e. |
| Environment & Infrastructure Services Total | 1392 | 1812 | |
| EDUCATION AND CHILDREN SERVICE | | | |
| EDUCATION AND CHILDREN SERVICE | Proposed Identified tCO₂e Savings 2023/24 | Anticipated tCO₂e Savings 2023/24 | August 2023 Update on Projects |
| E&CS Energy Project | TBD | Unknown | An E&CS Education Waste Strategy is being drafted which will directly support the Aberdeenshire Council Waste Strategy and Route Map. The draft strategy is committed to reducing the overall level of waste within schools, by encouraging the reduction in waste which is not currently recyclable, and |

Appendix 1: Carbon Budget 2023 – 2024 Progress Update

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|---------|--|
| | | | <p>optimising the levels of waste which may be recycled or repurposed. The strategy will further aim to encourage the participation of young persons in the development of local initiatives and projects to enhance behavioural changes in support of waste reduction.</p> <p>E&CS further awaits confirmation from the Scottish Government into the next academic session for the removal of pandemic related recommendations with regard to ventilation in schools, which should encourage a return to lower pre-pandemic levels of energy use across the educational estate.</p> |
| Reduction in pool temp | TBD | TBD | Officers continue to look at best practice regarding pool water temperature and previously reduced temperatures by a degree in main pool basins with reductions in energy usage estimated at potential savings of £50,000 per annum across those sites. Customer feedback is monitored. |
| Heating review in smaller sites | TBD | Unknown | No further information provided by LLA. |
| Industry assessment of main sites | TBD | Unknown | Officers carefully consider the design of future projects to both a) ensure appropriate re-use of existing infrastructures to minimize new build requirements and b) ensuring new designs work towards carbon neutrality both in terms of utility costs and building materials. |
| Asset rationalisation | TBD | Unknown | No further information provided. |
| Princh Printing | TBD | Unknown | The Princh Printing app allows users to print documents at local locations which potentially saves travel time for those who do not have printing facilities at home and require access to hard copy material, for example to support an application of one kind or another. The initial introduction of this facility across the Library service, is being extended to include printers available in community sports buildings, which will extend the community access points for those wishing to use this facility and potentially reduce travel miles. |
| Digital access to resources | TBD | Unknown | No further information provided by LLA. |
| Update of Raw Food Policy | 1 | 1 | Policy underway. |

Appendix 1: Carbon Budget 2023 – 2024 Progress Update

| | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| Participatory Budget Projects in Primary Schools | TBD | TBD | No further information provided. |
| Education & Children Services Total | 1 | 1 | |
| HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP | | | |
| | Proposed Identified tCO2e Savings 2023/24 | Anticipated tCO2e Savings 2023/24 | August 2023 Update on Projects |
| Reduction in business miles | TBD | TBD | No further information provided by H&SCP. |
| Resources and Circular Economy Frameworks | TBD | TBD | No further information provided by H&SCP. |
| Health & Social Care Partnership Total | TBD | TBD | |
| Grid Decarbonisation | 500 | 0 | The emission factor has increased. No emissions will therefore be reduced further by the electricity emission factor. |
| Total Reductions Identified in March 2023 (tCO2e) | 1972 | | |
| Total Reductions currently anticipated for 2023-24 (tCO2e) | | 2098 | |

*TBD = Data still to be determined for tCO2e savings if consumption data can be provided by services

REPORT TO SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE – 30 AUGUST 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 Aberdeenshire Council on 29 September 2022 ([Item 14](#)). It sets out the 11 recommendations in the Route Map including how they are being prioritised, the estimated timeline for action, the activity required to complete the action and progress on each to date. Additional summary reports have also been included as outputs of some of the recommendations. The report also contains an update on Aberdeenshire Council's progress on the Accounts Commission's 5 recommendations for Councils which came out of the Audit Scotland report on Scotland's Councils' Approach to Addressing Climate Change.

1.2 The Committee is recommended to:

1.2.1 Consider and comment on Aberdeenshire Council's progress towards addressing the recommendations as set out in the Route Map to 2030 and Beyond (Appendix 1); and

1.2.2 Consider and comment on Aberdeenshire Council's progress towards addressing the recommendations as set out in the Accounts Commission's 5 recommendations for Councils (Appendix 5).

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. This is 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 report contains this additional update on the Accounts Commission's recommendations in **Appendix 5**.

3 Discussion

- 3.1 **Appendix 1** 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, the activity required to complete the action and any progress to date.
- 3.2 Included as progress to date are some additional reports which have now been completed that support parts of the outputs required for 3 of the 11 recommendations.
- 3.2.1 **Appendix 2** contains a summary of a report that looked at identifying the pipeline of work which will be required in relation to non-domestic public sector buildings in the region supporting part of recommendation 3.
- 3.2.2 **Appendix 3** contains a summary of the draft of the updated Local Climate Impact Profile (LCLIP) which has been completed for years 2019-2022. This provides an evidence base alongside previously completed LCLIPs for examining climate risks to the Council. It also will support the development of adaptation and resilience guidance and therefore supports part of recommendation 9.2.
- 3.2.3 **Appendix 4** contains a summary of the Reuse feasibility study which was completed in March 2023 supporting part of recommendation 9.4.
- 3.3 In addition to progress on the Route Map, **Appendix 5** contains an update on the Accounts Commission’s 5 recommendations for Councils as outlined in their report Scotland’s Councils’ Approach to Addressing Climate Change (<https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/publications/scotlands-councils-approach-to-addressing-climate-change>) which was published on 8 September 2022. The update covers the progress made by Aberdeenshire Council on these 5 recommendations between November 2022 to July 2023.

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 overleaf.

| 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
17 August 2023

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- Appendix 1 11 Recommended Actions and Progress to Date
- Appendix 2 Quantifying the Skills Gap and Potential for Investment in the North East of Scotland Related to Net Zero Heating and Retrofitting Opportunities Study Summary
- Appendix 3 Local Climate Impact Profile 2019 – 2022 Summary
- Appendix 4 Reuse Feasibility Study Summary
- Appendix 5 The Accounts Commission's 5 Recommendations for Councils to Consider Progress Update

Appendix 1: 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, the activity required to complete the action and progress on each to date.

| <i>Process & Organisation</i> | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| | Recommended Actions | Timeline/Prioritisation/Activity | Key Stakeholders |
| 1 | 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>The central Steering Group has been set up and is currently meeting bi-monthly. It is led by the Head of Environment and Sustainability and its members are also Heads of Service or Service Managers. To date discussions have been based around knowledge sharing including challenges and opportunities within services and across directorates.</p> <p>SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-Bound) Objectives for the 11 recommendations in the Route Map are currently being developed by officers for consideration by the senior leadership team. This will include interim targets within each of the recommendations and provide a more rigorous approach to action and reporting.</p> | Senior representatives from all Directorates. Led by Ewan Wallace |
| 2 | Define clear roles & responsibilities: Define accountabilities, roles, | This action is underway and being led by the Steering Group. It is anticipated that this will take some time to | Environment & Sustainability |

Appendix 1: 11 Recommended Actions and Progress to Date

| | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| | <p>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>work through so progress will be provided as part of the next 6 month update.</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>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 continually reviewed by the 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 in the region has now been completed. A summary of this can be found in Appendix 2. This work was produced by consultants and funded through the Local Authority Covid Economic Recovery (LACER) Fund.</p> <p>At this stage it is evident that there is capacity in the consultancy supply chain to undertake the feasibility studies. Furthermore, it is increasing evident that the</p> | <p>Commercial and Procurement</p> <p>Property and Facilities</p> <p>Roads and Infrastructure</p> |

Appendix 1: 11 Recommended Actions and Progress to Date

| | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| | | <p>contracting supply chain are gearing themselves up for increased activity to address the carbon agenda; a lot will depend on the scale of demand linked to capacity, but this will continue to be monitored. As is the norm, there will be meet the buyer tailored events for the carbon programme.</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 continue 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. This work is still under development so no further update can be provided at this time. The following still remains as the options being looked into:</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>Environment and Sustainability working closely with other services across all the Directorates.</p> |

Appendix 1: 11 Recommended Actions and Progress to Date

| | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| | | <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 is also considering 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, 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.</p> | |
|--|--|---|--|

Appendix 1: 11 Recommended Actions and Progress to Date

| Technology | | | |
|-------------------|--|--|------------------------------------|
| | 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. | The feasibility studies have all been planned with the selection process for consultants underway. The governance is in place for the budget, procurement plan and the PAF. The studies are due to commence in Autumn and be completed by the end of the calendar year. | Property and Facilities Management |
| 6 | EV/H2 Fleet Assessment | <p>Fleet continue to have regular meetings with suppliers to keep up to date with vehicle and technology developments, arranging trials and demos for Service users to provide feedback.</p> <p>Planning continues for the hydrogen van trial, aim to have vehicles available mid-2024.</p> <p>Monitoring of the energy requirements of our refuse trucks continues as part of a project to look into the possibility of designing a hydrogen refuse truck to meet our current requirements.</p> <p>Discussions and fact finding into the use of Oxyhydrogen as a means to reduce emissions and improve fuel efficiency have recently started.</p> <p>Trials of battery handheld equipment continues across several Service users.</p> | Roads and Infrastructure |

Appendix 1: 11 Recommended Actions and Progress to Date

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| | | As part of the fleet decarbonisation plans, a pathfinder project is 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. Outcomes are not yet available. | |
| 7 | Develop Hydrogen Strategy | There have been further meetings about the approach on Hydrogen with Commercial and Procurement Service colleagues and how it links to the revised Regional Economic Strategy that has the energy transition at its core. | Environment and Infrastructure Services/Business Services |
| 8 | 8.1 Electrification Risk/Resilience Study | Through the Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES) development engagement with the utility providers is ongoing. These discussions are also ongoing across the LHEES network and include Scottish Government. 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 | Zero Waste Scotland held 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. This included an overview of the Net Zero Public Sector Buildings Standard – what is in it and what is required to comply with it. | Property and Facilities Management Environment and Sustainability |

Appendix 1: 11 Recommended Actions and Progress to Date

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| | | The current New Build projects are being designed to Passivhaus standards; the retrofiting approach will be informed by the outputs from the feasibility studies (and also asset management and increasingly budget availability). | |
| 9 | 9.1 Residual Emission Action Plan including an organisational carbon footprint scope and target review | <p>The below need is still under development. An officer group is currently being put together to begin determining what is required, what can be done within current resource and where external support may be required:</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.) | Environment & Sustainability |
| | 9.2 Resilience/Adaptation Assessment | <p>Current work completed under this recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employee Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Questionnaire. | Environment & Sustainability |

Appendix 1: 11 Recommended Actions and Progress to Date

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|--|---|--|------------------------------|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Interviews. • Local Climate Impact Profile 2019-2022 development (summary provided as Appendix 3 in this report) • A short life working groups has been set up to review and update the Climate Change Risk Register over the next 6 months. | |
| | 9.3 Develop Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES) | <p>This is under development 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>Consultation on the draft will begin in the autumn with the final draft going to Full Council in January 2024.</p> | Environment & Sustainability |
| | 9.4 Develop Re-use Business Case | <p>A feasibility study to objectively assess the practicality and viability of a reuse venture in Aberdeenshire is now complete and a summary is provided as Appendix 4 in this report. The next steps are the setting up of a group of key officers and stakeholders to further develop a business case.</p> | Environment & Sustainability |

Appendix 1: 11 Recommended Actions and Progress to Date

| Information | | | |
|--------------------|--|---|---|
| | 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 task is being led by the Steering Group. Options have been shared for consideration and a template currently utilised by Education and Children Services has been amended for use to support this. Consideration on the use of Pentana and options for this are now currently being reviewed.</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>The expenditure and deliverability aspects will be included on the budget reports to Policy Committees and Full Council.</p> | <p>Environment & Sustainability</p> |

Appendix 1: 11 Recommended Actions and Progress to Date

| <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. | <p>A communication plan has not yet been developed.</p> <p>A survey has gone out to Sustainability Champions to try and gain a better understanding on how current communication is going and what/how they would like to see in future communication. The outcomes of this will support any plan going forward.</p> | Environment & Sustainability, supported by senior representatives from all Directorates |

Quantifying the Skills Gap and Potential for Investment in the North East of Scotland Related to Net Zero Heating and Retrofitting Opportunities

- 1.1 Aberdeenshire Council engaged consultants to undertake analysis of the workforce and skills currently available and required in the drive to Net Zero in the North East area. These skilled workers are required for carrying out energy improvement work in buildings and installing zero emissions heating systems.
- 1.2 It was thought there would be huge potential for businesses to be set up or expand in the region to complete energy efficiency installations as well as renewable and heat pump technologies but this was not based on data. Commissioning this feasibility study, we sought to quantify the skills required in the region to ensure the Public Sector buildings can reach the 2038 target of zero direct emissions (current Scottish Government target). In addition, we wanted to understand the scale of skills required in the area to ensure our own housing stock, that of Registered Social Landlords and private homeowners could all be retrofitted, as required, in order to meet the area Net Zero target of 2045 (Scottish Government target). Progress of this nature also fits into the requirements of the Council's Route Map.
- 1.3 Heating buildings is a major source of emissions. To hit climate targets the Council needs to upgrade, or 'retrofit' these public buildings prior to addressing the carbon intensity of the heating system, known as a 'fabric first' approach. This is recommended because by addressing the building fabric first, you reduce the energy required to achieve comfort whatever the season.
- 1.4 The benefits of backing green skills are enormous. Support for green skills tackles the climate crisis, takes on fuel poverty, and provides green jobs. It can drive new opportunities for young people, marginalised groups or those in less wealthy areas including communities currently reliant on fossil-fuel for heating which is prevalent in the many off-gas grid areas within Aberdeenshire. This will help to drive a just transition, reducing inequality, as well as emissions.
- 1.5 The study identified a total labour requirement of circa 3000-5000 FTE in the North East to meet Net Zero targets. This includes a labour requirement of between 2,800 to 4,657 FTE roles in the residential sector, over the 20-year period to 2045, plus between 176 and 287 FTE roles to carry out the retrofit of the public sector building estate in the region to 2038.
- 1.6 Points to note are that this assessment is the total volume of jobs to deliver the pipeline, some of these will be in the current workforce but require some upskilling to work to new standards such as plumbers and electricians to move from gas systems to alternatives such as heat pumps and PV systems. Nevertheless, some skills do not exist such as Retrofit Co-ordinator to comply with PAS 2035 domestic retrofit standards. The analysis highlights a requirement for between 450 and 760 Retrofit Co-ordinators in the residential retrofit segment and a further 17-29 in the public sector.

Appendix 2 - Quantifying the skills gap and potential for investment in the North East of Scotland related to Net Zero heating and retrofitting opportunities study summary

- 1.7 The numbers noted are totals and have a wide tolerance due to unknowns such as speed of deployment of retrofitting and heating changes for the area. It is anticipated that public buildings and Registered Social Landlords will lead the way due to earlier target requirements. Perhaps this will give confidence to the market to upskill and retrain employees or expand the workforce.
- 1.8 The study showed there is a requirement for a deeper knowledge and understanding of air tightness, ventilation, and thermal bridging in order to achieve the required efficiency gains from retrofitting homes and public buildings. There are already significant shortages in the number of Retrofit Insulators available, according to the industry.
- 1.9 Next steps recommended are to consider a full gap analysis with assessment of specific segments of accredited and non-accredited workforce in the region to analyse the size of the capacity and capability gap and economic opportunity. Part of this would be to identify how much of the workforce are already working in the retrofit arena, so shortages in skills can be defined more accurately. It is also recommended that there is engagement with education partners to highlight training opportunities and encourage development of the right courses to play a role in upskilling the workforce.

Aberdeenshire Local Climate Impact Profile 2019 - 2022 Summary

- 1.1 The Aberdeenshire Council Sustainability and Climate Change team has used [a Local Climate Impacts Profile](#) (LCLIP) to look at how extreme weather events have affected people, the environment, and Aberdeenshire Council services between 2019 and 2022.
- 1.2 The purpose of the LCLIP and its report is to develop a story for Aberdeenshire Council employees, elected members, the public and other council stakeholders, to raise awareness of the impact of weather events and the need to adapt and build resilience to these. The LCLIP report has also consolidated existing evidence to provide an evidence base for future climate change adaptation and resilience actions and provided recommendations for improving the preparedness of Aberdeenshire Council to future weather events.
- 1.3 Data for the LCLIP was collected through:
 - A media trawl.
 - [UKCIP](#), [Climate Change Committee](#) (CCC) and [Met Office](#) data.
 - Aberdeenshire [Council's Adaptation Scotland Capability Benchmarking](#) Framework submissions.
 - Aberdeenshire Council's annual [Public Duties Climate Change Reports](#).
 - Aberdeenshire Council's [Bellwin Scheme](#) 2021 - 2022 and 2023 - 2024 Reports.
 - Employee Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Questionnaire.
 - Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Interviews.
- 1.4 Between 1 January 2019 and 31 December 2022, Aberdeenshire Council was affected by 51 weather events, including extreme low temperatures with snow and ice, extreme high temperatures and heatwaves, excessive rainfall events, high winds, and storms:
 - 13 incidents of excessive rainfall
 - 18 storms and high winds
 - 11 snow and ice events
 - 9 heatwaves
- 1.5 The main impacts to Aberdeenshire Council because of these were damage to Council buildings, housing stock, infrastructure, land, vegetation and local ecosystems and biodiversity; disruption to and an increase in demand for services; risks to employees and public health and wellbeing; and an increase in engagement and support to communities.
- 1.6 The total financial cost of the storms was estimated to be approximately £1.075 million. As this figure was below the 1% threshold (£1.2 million) set by Scottish Government there was no additional funding made available to the Council from the Bellwin Scheme. The Council therefore had to absorb the cost of the storms with no extra financial support.

Appendix 3 - Local Climate Impact Profile 2019 – 2022 Summary

1.7 These figures, and the results behind them, emphasise the importance of identifying Aberdeenshire Council's vulnerabilities to weather events and using these to prepare for a longer-term adaptation and resilience programme to minimise the expense and damage of future weather events.

1.8 Recommendations of the 2019 – 2022 LCLIP:

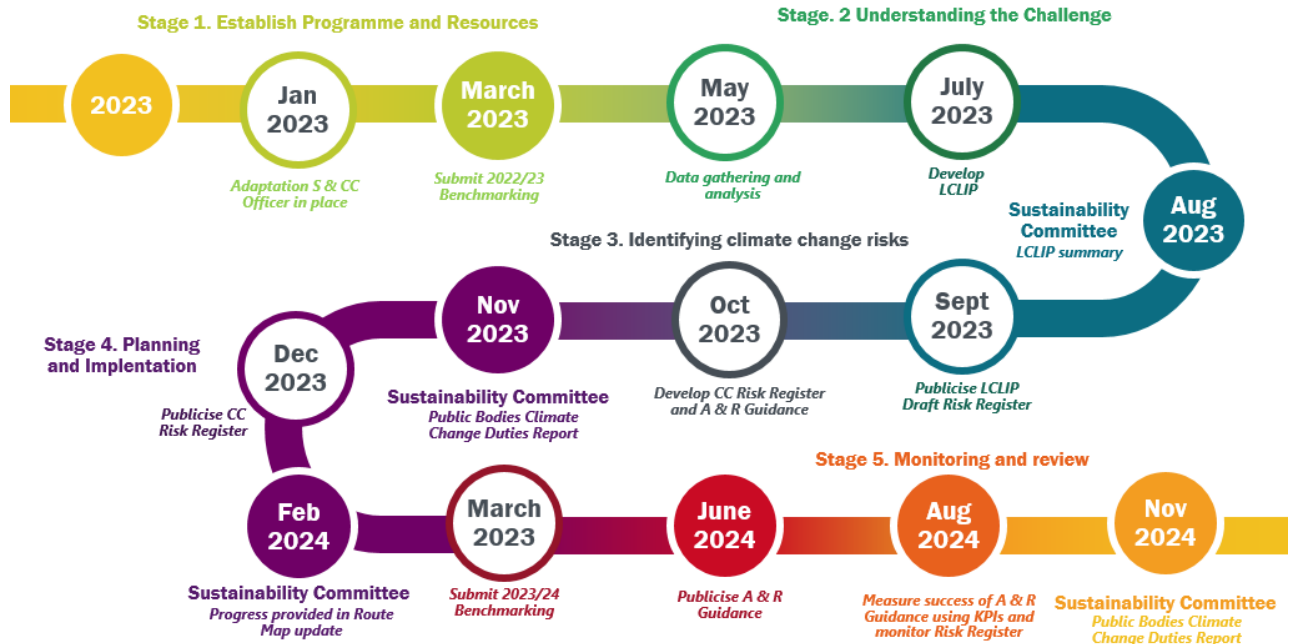
1. Climate change adaptation and resilience training programme.
2. Management plan or model to ensure all extreme weather events are given equal prioritisation.
3. Cost code to capture costs from all extreme weather events and a central fund for climate change costs and adaptation measures.
4. Employee redeployment and volunteer programme for extreme weather events.
5. Adaptation and Resilience communication and engagement plan for communities.

1.9 Following the publication of the report, the next steps for Aberdeenshire Council are:

- Discuss the recommendations within this report with leaders and service managers and at appropriate group meetings and Committees, and if they are approved, create an agreed Action Plan.
- Finalise the Climate Ready Aberdeenshire Strategy considering the results and recommendations within this report.
- Further embed adaptation, resilience, and climate change risk in Aberdeenshire Council by supporting services with identifying and managing climate change risks to their service, with the support of the Sustainability Champions programme.
- Collate and share the results of Employee Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience questionnaire and interviews across the Council.
- Continue with the Council's long-term climate adaptation and resilience programme.

Appendix 3 - Local Climate Impact Profile 2019 – 2022 Summary

Please see the Adaptation and Resilience (A & R) Programme Route Map for details.



Reuse Feasibility Study Summary

1. Scope

The feasibility study was carried out to take forward the proposed Aberdeenshire Council idea of a large-scale reuse project in the region. The aim of the study was to objectively assess the practicality and viability of the venture and identify any potential opportunities or issues.

2. Outcomes

The outcome of the study included two main recommendations:

- 1) Increase capacity of reuse containers at HRCs throughout Aberdeenshire
 - Managed by an umbrella organisation able to deliver the required reuse and socio-economic outcomes.
- 2) The development of a Reuse Hub in a central Aberdeenshire location.

The Reuse Hub would:

- Take items from Household Recycling Centres
- Act as a donation centre and reuse retail hub
- Provide education/training workshops, upcycling and innovative circular economy support and activities.

3. Next Steps

The following next steps are underway:

- 1 - Set up an advisory group with key Council services.
- 2 - Develop and implement a Reuse Action Plan (including KPIs).

The Accounts Commission's 5 Recommendations for Councils to Consider:

1. Ensure clear and transparent emissions targets are in place

| <p>To help achieve this, councils should consider taking action to:</p> | <p>How is Aberdeenshire Council addressing these suggested actions:</p> |
|--|---|
| <p>Be clear and transparent about what is and is not included in corporate and area-wide targets</p> | <p>This is covered in both the Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Reporting and Route Map to 2030 and Beyond. Work is ongoing through Climate Ready Aberdeenshire (CRA) on what is and is not included with regards to area wide emissions.</p> <p>Additional Update: A Climate Intelligence Service (CIS) is currently under development. This will be funded by Scottish Government and Local Authorities. The role of CIS will be to support identifying area wide emissions so that all 32 Local Authorities are reporting on the same ones.</p> |
| <p>Be clear and transparent in policies about how the Council will deal with residual emissions if net zero or carbon neutral targets are in place</p> | <p>This was identified as a recommendation within the Route Map to 2030 and Beyond and work is currently underway to begin this process.</p> <p>Additional Update: The Sustainability and Climate Change team and Natural Environment team have met to discuss ways to approach a residual emissions plan for net zero that also compliments the work to support biodiversity and adaptation.</p> |
| <p>Utilise appropriate interim targets to ensure ongoing progress can be measured and monitored effectively</p> | <p>The Council has an interim target of 75% by 2030. During the next year, consideration of Scope 3 emissions and different targets for these will be need to be determined.</p> |

Appendix 5 - The Accounts Commission's 5 Recommendations for Councils to Consider Progress Update

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| | Additional Update: Different targets will also need to be determined for Scope 1 & 2 emissions which will also support interim target setting for monitoring on the pathway to Net Zero. |
| Regularly report progress against targets in a clear and transparent way | This is completed annually through the Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Reporting but also through our annual carbon budgeting process. |

2. Increase action on adaptation and climate resilience

| To help achieve this, Councils should consider taking action to: | How is Aberdeenshire Council addressing these suggested actions: |
|---|--|
| Set interim targets with clear performance indicators to ensure focus on adaptation goals | <p>The development of climate change resilience/adaptation assessments and plans are currently underway and are included as a recommendation within the Route Map to 2030 and Beyond. Consideration on how best to include interim targets with clear performance indicators will be part of this work.</p> <p>Additional Update: The Local Climate Impact Profile (summary in Appendix 3 of this report) draft has now been completed. Work is still required to understand what interim targets for adaptation will look like. Officers recently attended a workshop where opportunities and challenges on setting Adaptation targets were discussed as part of a research project. The aim of the research is to understand if there is a role for adaptation targets in the UK by gathering a diverse range of perspectives on their potential use from policy makers, practitioners, and researchers. The outcome of this research is to produce a commentary piece providing a base for potential</p> |

Appendix 5 - The Accounts Commission's 5 Recommendations for Councils to Consider Progress Update

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| | <p>future empirical analysis. The research is conducted in partnership with Place Based Climate Action Network (PCAN) researchers and researchers based at the Universities of Leeds, Edinburgh, and Lincoln.</p> |
| <p>Develop an overarching adaption plan which pulls together all the council's actions and allows an assessment of the impact of these actions</p> | <p>The development of climate change resilience/adaptation assessments and plans are currently underway and are included as a recommendation within the Route Map to 2030 and Beyond. Consideration on how best to develop an overarching plan pulling together all the actions allowing for an assessment of their impact will be part of this work.</p> <p>Additional Update: The Local Climate Impact Profile (summary in Appendix 3 of this report) draft has now been completed. A Working Group has been set up to update and further develop a climate change risk register. This will feed into the development of a Climate Change Adaptation guidance document for services.</p> |
| <p>Ensure adaptation and climate resilience are considered in decision-making</p> | <p>These are included in the Council's Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process.</p> |
| <p>Regularly report progress against actions in a clear and transparent way</p> | <p>This is completed annually through the Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Reporting.</p> |

Appendix 5 - The Accounts Commission's 5 Recommendations for Councils to Consider Progress Update

3. Make action plans clear about the gaps and challenges that remain

| <p>To help achieve this, Councils should consider taking action to:</p> | <p>How is Aberdeenshire Council addressing these suggested actions:</p> |
|---|--|
| <p>Regularly update action plans. Given the scale of the emergency and the speed at which action is required, an annual review of actions would help to ensure that the actions identified are the most effective options</p> | <p>The recently approved Route Map to 2030 and Beyond will require annual updates on progress against the recommendations within the plan. In addition, the annual Carbon Budget provides a 6 monthly update on progress against mitigation projects and is now firmly connected to the Route Map.</p> <p>Additional Update: The Route Map Steering Group has developed a template which will be used to streamline the process for updating actions in both the Route Map and annual Carbon Budget projects. This has been done in relation to recommendation 10 in the Route Map which covers central assurance and reporting.</p> |
| <p>Include detailed route maps to achieving climate goals</p> | <p>The Route Map to 2030 and Beyond is the Council's own detailed Route Map to achieving its climate goals. The strategy and action plan development currently underway with the Climate Ready Aberdeenshire (CRA) partnership will cover Aberdeenshire as a region.</p> <p>Additional Update: The role of Climate Intelligence Service (CIS) as mentioned previously will be to support identifying area wide emissions and in addition, support gathering actions from across different sectors in the region to begin to identify a Route Map of regional action.</p> |

Appendix 5 - The Accounts Commission's 5 Recommendations for Councils to Consider Progress Update

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| <p>Include details of the extent to which individual actions in the plans will impact on climate goals for reducing emissions and adapting to climate change, so the scale of the challenge can be clearly seen</p> | <p>These are included in the Route Map to 2030 and Beyond under the 11 recommendations and transformation map.</p> |
| <p>Improve information on costs and budgets of actions</p> | <p>The Route Map to 2030 and Beyond is an estimated costed plan to 2030. Identifying budgets and funding to address these costs will be done annually alongside the annual Carbon Budget process and when funding opportunities become available.</p> <p>Additional Update: The scope for feasibility work on a variety of architypes across the non-domestic building stock has been developed and will be going out to tender soon. This work will further improve the information on costs and budgets of actions and support evidence for funding applications.</p> |
| <p>Ensure the co-benefits or potential negative impacts of net zero actions and adaptation actions on each other are clearly understood</p> | <p>As and when these are identified for projects they can be considered through the Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process so they are clear for decision makers. Additional ways for consideration could be through business cases and procurement processes.</p> <p>Additional Update: The Sustainability and Climate Change team and Natural Environment team have met to discuss ways to approach identifying all the co-benefits associated with action on climate change. The work is specifically looking at the Council Plan and how action on climate change can support each of the priorities within it.</p> |

Appendix 5 - The Accounts Commission's 5 Recommendations for Councils to Consider Progress Update

4. Increase collaboration efforts

| <p>To help achieve this, Councils should consider taking action to:</p> | <p>How is Aberdeenshire Council addressing these suggested actions:</p> |
|--|--|
| <p>Work with partners to further develop existing support networks to ensure learning and good practice is shared across the sector</p> | <p>Sustainability and Climate Change Officers from Moray, Aberdeen City, Highland and Angus Councils meet monthly for catch ups and quarterly for a more formal meeting where current projects, opportunities and challenges in each region are discussed and shared. This also happens frequently with Sustainable Scotland Network (SSN). Regular Climate Ready Aberdeenshire (CRA) Member Group meetings also allow learning from across different sectors in the region. Engagement with North East Scotland Climate Action Network (NESCOAN) on events like Climate Week North East is another example of developing relationships across the sector.</p> <p>Additional Update: Officers have joined the Strategic Territory Partnering Board & Built Environment Smarter Transformation Collaboration Net Zero Leadership Programme. The purpose is to support the hub North territory shareholders to develop a collaborative, co-ordinated and collective Net Zero programme of projects with the programme used to inform an investment and funding strategy.</p> |
| <p>Work collaboratively to tackle some of the key challenges involved in defining and setting targets and monitoring progress, combining resources where it is more effective to do so, and focusing on maximising impact and adding value</p> | <p>The Council's membership of Sustainable Scotland Network (SSN) is key to this as are the close relationships built across the Sustainability and Climate Change teams from Moray, Aberdeen City, Highland and Angus Councils.</p> <p>Additional Update: Officers have joined the Strategic Territory Partnering Board & Built Environment Smarter</p> |

Appendix 5 - The Accounts Commission's 5 Recommendations for Councils to Consider Progress Update

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| | <p>Transformation Collaboration Net Zero Leadership Programme. The purpose is to support the hub North territory shareholders to develop a collaborative, co-ordinated and collective Net Zero programme of projects with the programme used to inform an investment and funding strategy.</p> |
| <p>Work collaboratively with local communities and ensure that people are able to effectively contribute to the design and delivery of climate change actions</p> | <p>The Council will look at ways to engage with NESCAN who has been set up to support this work. Current resources constrain the amount of work we are doing on the design and delivery of climate change actions across Aberdeenshire communities. The recently launched internal Sustainability Champions programme may provide more opportunities to support different services who work more closely with communities.</p> |

5. Embed climate change into decision-making at all levels

| <p>To help achieve this, Councils should consider taking action to:</p> | <p>How is Aberdeenshire Council addressing these suggested actions:</p> |
|--|---|
| <p>Ensure senior level buy-in and leadership by integrating climate change into their strategic priorities and setting out accountability arrangements</p> | <p>This was identified as a recommendation within the Route Map to 2030 and Beyond and work will begin on this in due course.</p> <p>Additional Update: The Route Map Steering Group has now been set up and is leading on this work.</p> |
| <p>Integrate climate change into key overarching organisational annual reports and plans</p> | <p>This was identified as a recommendation within the Route Map to 2030 and Beyond and work will begin on this in due course.</p> <p>Additional Update: The Route Map Steering Group has now been set up and is leading on this work.</p> |

Appendix 5 - The Accounts Commission's 5 Recommendations for Councils to Consider Progress Update

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| <p>Ensure climate change is fully integrated into existing governance and business processes, including risk management and internal audits</p> | <p>This was identified as a recommendation within the Route Map to 2030 and Beyond and work will begin on this in due course. Some examples are already in place, like the Sustainability Committee.</p> <p>Additional Update: The Route Map Steering Group has now been set up and is leading on this work. Internal Audit is currently auditing the Carbon Budget process and outcomes of this will be actioned as agreed.</p> |
| <p>Develop mechanisms to ensure that the potential impact of policies on climate change goals is considered fully in decision-making</p> | <p>This is currently addressed through the completion of Integrated Impact Assessments (IIA).</p> |
| <p>Assess whether the council has sufficient capacity, skills and knowledge to support effective decision-making on climate change and to implement the necessary actions by, for example, carrying out a skills and competencies review</p> | <p>This was identified as a recommendation within the Route Map to 2030 and Beyond and work will begin on this in due course.</p> <p>Additional Update: The Route Map Steering Group has now been set up and is leading on this work.</p> |