Aberdeenshire COUNCIL

**SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE**

**WEDNESDAY, 30 NOVEMBER 2022** at **10.15 am**

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the **SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE** to be held by **VIRTUAL MEETING - TEAMS**, on **WEDNESDAY, 30 NOVEMBER 2022**, 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 November 2022 Direcotr of Business Services

To: Councillors S Dickinson (Chair), J Gifford (Vice-Chair), S Brown, 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.

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| 3 | Minute of the Meeting of 21 September 2022 | 4 - 7 |
| 4 | Statement of Outstanding Business | 8 - 11 |
| 5 | North East Climate Action Network (NESCAN) Hub. (Presentation) | |
| 6 | Maximising Local Supplier Inclusion in Council Contract Opportunities/Supply Chains. (Presentation) | |
| 7 | Carbon Emissions for Waste Disposal | 12 - 22 |
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| 9 | Scotland's Councils' Approach to Addressing Climate Change - Audit Scotland Report | 78 - 86 |

## 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

## VIRTUAL MEETING, 21 SEPTEMBER, 2022

**Present**: Councillors S Dickinson (Chair), S Brown, P Johnston, F Joji, A Kloppert, S Payne, M Sullivan (as substitute for Councillor J Gifford) and I Taylor.

**Apology:** Councillor J Gifford.

**Officers:** Head of Environment and Sustainability, Circular Economy Officer, Sustainable Development Officer, all Environment and Infrastructure Services; Business Partner, Finance (Moira Beverly), Principal Solicitor (Arlene Gibbs) and Committee Officer (Kasia Balina), all Business Services.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chair paid tribute to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the longest serving British Monarch, who passed away at Balmoral, Aberdeenshire, on 8 September 2022.

The admiration and respect for Her Majesty had been highlighted by the monumental outpouring of love, and affection, from the people of Aberdeenshire as the Royal cortege travelled through the region.

The Chair also welcomed a new era, with the accession of King Charles III as the new Monarch.

## 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 equality 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 15 JUNE, 2022

On consideration of the circulated Minute of the Meeting of the Committee of 15 June, 2022, 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 19 May, 2021.

The Head of Environment and Sustainability introduced the report and provided the Committee with an update on each of 4 outstanding actions and confirmed:

- Item 1 – no action had been undertaken so far, and there were no further publications or detail in respect of the outcomes of the second reading of the Local Electricity Bill;
- Item 2 - a report had been presented to all Area Committees and a workshop would be arranged by officers in due course; and
- Items 3 and 4 - the reports would be presented to the Committee in November 2022.

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

(1) note the current position in respect of actions arising from previous meetings;

(2) instruct officers to contact the sponsor of the Local Electricity Bill, MP David Johnston, to seek an update on the timeline and further information.

## 5. RESOURCES AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY COMMITMENT UPDATE

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of Aberdeenshire Council of 21 November, 2019 (Item 5), when the approval had been given to the first Resources and Circular Economy Commitment, there was circulated a report dated 1 August, 2022, by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services, which (1) provided an update on progress against the Commitment, and (2) shared the key areas where the Commitment was being, or could have been, worked out across the Council to enable the Committee to follow, scrutinise and support that progress.

The Circular Economy Officer introduced the report and presented examples of activities relating to maximising value from resources, reducing waste and other ‘circular’ principles being part of Council work.

Members made comments on the delivery of the internal project ‘Reuse at Household Recycling Centres’, the Joint Equipment Centre, the Aberdeenshire Conservation Recycle Store, the role of Sustainability Champions and regional business support and funding.

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

(1) note the progress update against the Council’s Resources and Circular Economy Commitment;

(2) instruct officers to provide information on progress made in relation to the involvement of the Third Sector; and

(3) instruct officers to consider delivering a workshop on the Circular Economy to various teams and Services across the Council.

## 6. CARBON BUDGET 2022-23 UPDATE.

With reference to the Minute of the Aberdeenshire Council meeting of 9 March, 2022 (Item 7), when the Council agreed a total Carbon Budget for 2022/23 of 47,383 tonnes of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent (CO2e) in line with linear progression towards a 75% reduction in Council owned emissions by 2030, there was circulated a report dated 31 August, 2022 by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services, which provided an update to the Committee on progress to date towards the actions listed in the Carbon Budget 2022/23.

The Head of Environment and Sustainability introduced the report and advised the Committee that due to supply chain issues in materials and equipment, as well as capacity challenges and budget constraints, progress had not been as hoped, and Appendix 2 provided information on progress on each of the actions listed. It was also noted that work was underway on a number of projects, including the continued identification of funding opportunities to support Aberdeenshire Council in reaching its emission reduction targets.

There followed a discussion on funding opportunities to support Aberdeenshire Council in reaching its emission reduction targets, the Sustainability Champions event, and cooperation with the North East Climate Action Network (NESCAN).

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

(1) acknowledge the Carbon Budget six-monthly update, as attached in Appendix 2 to the report;

(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;

(3) instruct officers to provide additional information on the successful expression of interest in the Just Transition Fund; and

(4) receive a report on cooperation with the North East Climate Action Network (NESCAN).

## 7. PUBLIC BODIES CLIMATE CHANGE DUTIES REPORT 2021/22.

There was circulated a report dated 31 August, 2022 by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services, which sought approval of Aberdeenshire Council's Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Annual Report for 2021/22.

Aberdeenshire Council's draft Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Annual Report 2021/22 was included as Appendix 1 to the report. The report also included a comparison of 2020/2021 consumption data, emission factors and emission data for 2021/2022 and presented the overview of Aberdeenshire Council's annual progress towards its 75% reduction by 2030 target. The report highlighted that the emissions had increased overall. However, that had been expected as Covid-19 played a significant part in driving down emissions in the previous year 2020/21.

Members commented on the emissions taken out of the atmosphere, landfill refuse and carbon sequestration methods.

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

(1) note Aberdeenshire Council's draft Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report 2021/22 and to delegate authority to the Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services to submit the finalised report to the Scottish Government by 30 November, 2022, following consultation with the Chair, Vice Chair and Opposition Spokesperson;

(2) note that the draft report would be updated as more data and information was received from officers across the organisation and a final copy would be presented to the Committee at the meeting on 30 November 2022 for noting;

(3) delegate authority to the Chief Executive to sign the declaration in Part 6e of the report once the final draft was completed; and

(4) instruct officers to provide additional information on emissions from natural gas, oil gas and liquefied petroleum gas through operational buildings and biomass (wood chips and pallets).

## 8. ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL ROUTE MAP 2030 AND BEYOND UPDATE.

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of the Committee of 5 June, 2022 (Item 6), when it had been agreed to instruct the Director of Environment and Infrastructure to circulate the report to Area Committees for their consideration and comments following which to progress the delivery of a workshop for Sustainability Committee Members and the Chairs, Vice Chairs and opposition spokespersons of Policy Committees on the Route Map and the methodology used within the toolkit, and thereafter finalise and present the report to Full Council for approval, there was circulated a report dated 13 August, 2022 by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure, which (1) provided the updated draft of Aberdeenshire Council's Route Map 2030 and Beyond which had been developed by consultants with the support of Aberdeenshire Council officers, (2) presented new estimated figures, and (3) provided feedback from Area Committees, where possible.

Members made comments on the Council's operational buildings, the role of hydrogen in energy transition and hydrogen strategy and tree planting. Thereafter, the Committee **agreed** to:-

(1) note the feedback provided by the Area Committees on the Route Map 2030 and Beyond, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report;

(2) note the updated draft Route Map 2030 and Beyond, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report; and

(3) instruct the Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services to finalise the Route Map 2030 and Beyond in order for it to be presented to Full Council on 29 September 2022 for approval.

**PROGRESS WITH OUTSTANDING ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE AS AT 30 NOVEMBER 2022**

| | Item Title | Date of Meeting | Action Agreed | Responsible Service | Progress to Date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1.** | Local Electricity Bill | 19 05 21 | 1. The Committee agreed that Local Electricity Bill would be added to the Outstanding Actions list. | Environment and Infrastructure Services | 1. No action undertaken so far; item added to allow Sustainability Committee to take watching brief.<br><br>The next stage for Local Electricity Bill, second reading, was scheduled to take place on 10 December 2021. It was then rescheduled for 25 February 2022 but now looks on the website like it was rescheduled again for 06 May 2022. There are no further publications or further detail to understand the outcomes of this second reading on the website at time of this publication.<br><br>Link to the Bill - Local Electricity Bill - Parliamentary Bills - UK Parliament |
| | | 21 09 22 | 2. Officers to contact the sponsor of the Local Electricity Bill, MP David Johnston, to seek an update on the timeline and further information. | | 2. A letter has been sent to MP David Johnston from Ewan Wallace. |

**PROGRESS WITH OUTSTANDING ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE AS AT 30 NOVEMBER 2022**

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **2.** | Aberdeenshire Council Route Map and Beyond. | 15 06 22 | The Committee agreed to instruct the Director of Environment and Infrastructure to circulate the report to Area Committees for their consideration and comments, following which to progress the delivery of a workshop for Sustainability Committee Members, the Chairs, Vice Chairs and opposition spokespersons of the Policy Committees, on the route map and the methodology used within the toolkit; and thereafter to finalise and present a report to Full Council for approval.<br><br>Officers to organise a briefing session on how to procure the local supply chain across the council. | Environment and Infrastructure Services | A report went to Area Committees on the following dates:<br><br>• Formartine – 23 August<br>• Kincardine & Mearns – 23 August<br>• Banff & Buchan – 30 August<br>• Marr – 30 August<br>• Buchan – 6 September<br>• Garioch – 6 September<br><br>A workshop where all elected members were invited to attend was held on 16 September 2022.<br><br>The report was approved by Full Council on 29 September 2022.<br><br>A presentation from Economic Development officers on work their service is doing at engaging the local supply chain is on the agenda for this meeting. |
| **3.** | UK Emissions Trading Scheme (UK ETS) Update. | 15 06 22 | 1. Officers to submit the report on carbon emissions from energy from the waste facilities.<br><br>2. Officers to bring back the information on how the UK ETS would be monitored. | Environment and Infrastructure Services | 1. This report is on the agenda for this meeting.<br><br>2. There is no further information available on the monitoring of the UK ETS at this stage. |

**PROGRESS WITH OUTSTANDING ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE AS AT 30 NOVEMBER 2022**

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| **4.** | Aberdeenshire Council Pollinator Action Plan 2022-2027 | 15 06 22 | Officers to bring back the report on the road verge management. | Environment and Infrastructure Services | We do have an existing verge management policy document which will need to be reviewed in association with Landscape colleagues. The Roads Service will seek to bring a report to the Committee meeting in February 2023. |
| **5.** | Resources and Circular Economy Commitment Update | 21 09 22 | 1. Officers to provide information on progress made in relation to the involvement of the third sector.<br><br>2. Officers to consider the delivery of a workshop on circular economy to various teams and services across the Council. | Environment and Infrastructure Services | 1. As part of the Reuse feasibility study a stakeholder engagement session will be conducted with potential partners, including the third sector.<br><br>2. The Circular Economy Officer is now on secondment to another post until October 2023. An ALDO course has been developed on the topic and is available to all services. Zero Waste Scotland is also supporting some services potential on circular economy opportunities. |
| **6.** | Carbon Budget 2022-23 Update | 21 09 22 | 1. Officers to provide additional information on successful Expression of Interest for the Just Transition Fund.<br><br>2. Officers to provide a report on cooperation with the North East Climate Action Network (NESCAN). | Environment and Infrastructure Services | 1. The EoIs, which the Sustainability Team were involved in, were not successful. All projects which were successful can be found here: Year one projects - Just Transition Fund: year one projects - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)<br><br>2. A presentation from NESCAN is on the agenda for this meeting. |

**PROGRESS WITH OUTSTANDING ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE AS AT 30 NOVEMBER 2022**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **7.** | Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report 2021/22 | 21 09 22 | Officers to provide additional information on emissions from natural gas, oil gas and liquefied petroleum gas through operational buildings and biomass (wood chips and pallets). | Environment and Infrastructure Services | This information has been provided in Item 8 - Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report 2021/22, paragraph 3.4. |

Aberdeenshire COUNCIL Environment & Infrastructure Services

**REPORT TO SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE – 30 NOVEMBER 2022**

# CARBON EMISSIONS FROM WASTE DISPOSAL

## 1 Executive Summary/Recommendations

1.1 The report presents detailed information to the Sustainability Committee as to the carbon impact generated by the different waste disposal methods currently available to Aberdeenshire Council and highlights the reduction in carbon impact once the residual waste is diverted from landfill to the NESS energy from waste facility once the build has been completed.

**1.2 The Committee is recommended to:**

**1.2.1 Note the carbon impact for each waste disposal method and the saving in carbon emissions that will be created once the residual waste is diverted from landfill disposal to energy from waste; and**

**1.2.2 Note that the NESS Energy Project is exploring the feasibility of Carbon Capture Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) facilities as a means of reducing carbon impact from the NESS Energy from Waste facility.**

## 2 Decision Making Route

2.1 Following a report to the Sustainability Committee on 15 June 2022 (Item 7) regarding an update on the UK Emissions Trading Scheme, a recommendation was agreed for Officers to submit a report on carbon emissions from Energy from Waste (EfW) facilities and waste disposal options in general.

## 3 Discussion

3.1 Recent Scottish Government consultations on Delivering Scotland's Circular Economy with regards to the Route Map to 2025 and beyond and the Circular Economy Bill (consultation responses reported to the Sustainability Committee 25 September 2022, Item 5) have focused on proposed measures that will have an impact in meeting several key principles, notably the commitment to achieve net zero by 2045 and align with the EU, and the need to reduce the material footprint of our resources and waste by maximizing the value of the circular economy.

3.2 The carbon metric impact (Zero Waste Scotland) is a measure of the whole-life carbon impacts of waste. Approximately 90% of the carbon impact of Scotland's waste is produced before disposal, during resource extraction, manufacturing, and transport. Proposals in the consultation for the Route Map to 2025 and beyond considered how products are designed and manufactured to increase how long a product will last, whether they can be reused or repaired, and how easily they can be recycled which can reduce the carbon impact of Scotland's waste.

3.3 Zero Waste Scotland have compiled carbon factors (CFs) to quantity the whole-life carbon impact of Scotland's waste and this is included at **Appendix 1** (ZWS Carbon Metric Factors 2011-2020 V02.00.xlsx (live.com)). The carbon factors are measured using a life cycle thinking approach and include the production (waste generated) through to the waste disposal impact which includes transport emissions from collection, waste management process emissions and disposal. Avoided production impacts are also included when waste is prevented and recycled.

3.4 Table 1 (below) details the carbon impact of household waste generated and managed by Aberdeenshire Council and compares this to its impact by weight. This is based on the SEPA data for 2021 calendar year for household waste generated in Aberdeenshire which was published on 28 September 2022.

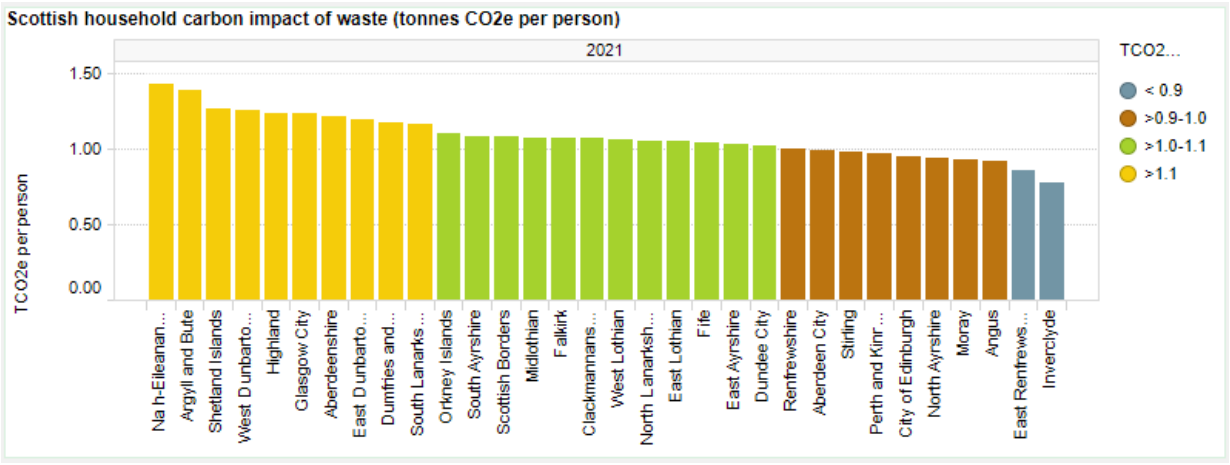
**Table 1. Waste Generated and Managed by Aberdeenshire Council in 2021**

| Activity | Tonnages | | Carbon | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Impact (tonnes) | Proportion of waste generated (%) | Impact (tCO2eq) | Proportion of waste generated (%) |
| Waste generated | 117,505 | | 314,558 | |
| Recycled | 48,268 | 41.1% | -27,598[1] | -8.8% |
| Incinerated | 2,945 | 2.5% | 718 | 0.2% |
| Landfilled | 66,292 | 56.4% | 29,669 | 9.4% |

3.5 Household waste makes up approximately 21% of Scotland's waste by weight, but 55% of the total waste carbon emissions.

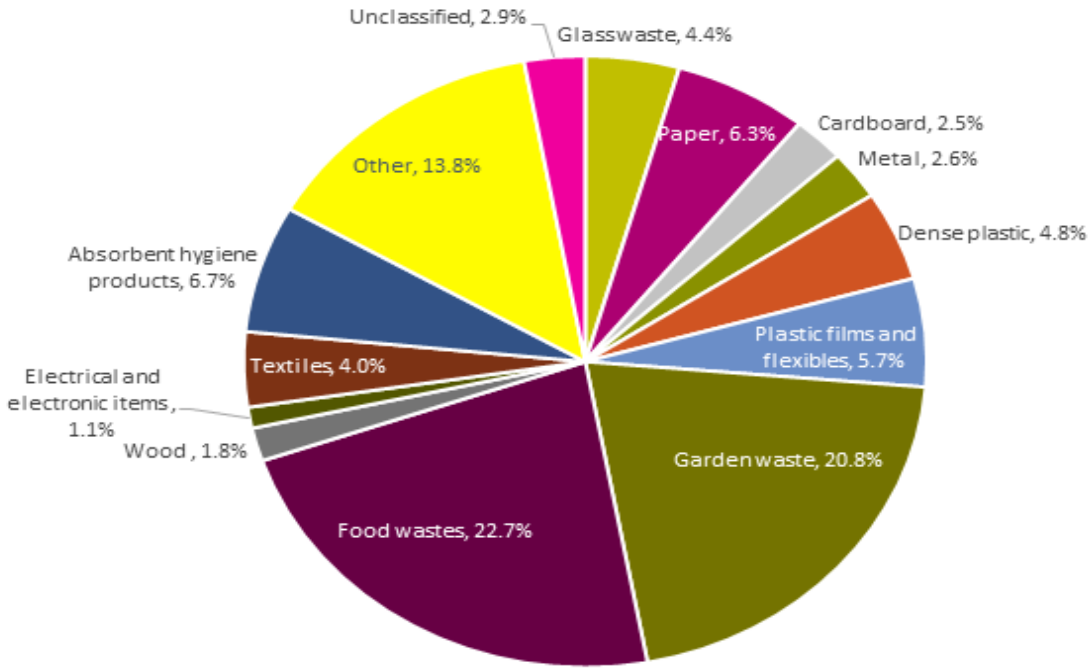
3.6 In 2021, the total waste produced per person for Aberdeenshire was 450kg (0.45t), which had a carbon impact of 1.21 $tCO_2e$ (7th highest local authority in Scotland – see Figure 1 overleaf). For comparison, the average figures for Scotland were 0.45t per person of waste produced with an impact of 1.08 $tCO_2e$ – highlighting that Aberdeenshire is above the Scottish average for carbon impact per person for waste disposal. The difference in carbon impact per person is in part due to the recycling tonnage per person being less for Aberdeenshire (0.18t per person for Aberdeenshire compared to 0.19t per person as an average for Scotland) however the main factor is due to the higher tonnage of waste being disposed of to Landfill by Aberdeenshire compared to other local authorities who have a higher disposal tonnage in the category of Other Diversion, being disposal by energy from waste. **Appendix 2** summarises the Scottish household waste generated and managed per person in 2021, as published by SEPA (Household Waste (sepa.org.uk)).
Figure 1 Scottish Household Carbon Impact of Waste 2021

[1] A negative value for carbon indicates a net saving in impact. Recycling creates secondary material which can be used to replace virgin material extraction and production, saving associated emissions. It is these savings which are often the main environmental benefit of recycling.




3.7 The recent residual waste composition analysis carried out for Aberdeenshire has shown that on average almost 68% of the residual waste bin could have been recycled either through the kerbside recycling service or recycling centres and points. This material instead ended up in landfill which contributes to a higher carbon impact, especially material streams such as food, garden waste, wood, paper, cardboard and textiles which accounted for 58% of the residual waste bin in total – Figure 2 below shows the analysis of the residual waste bin from the 3 week sampling programme which included sampling waste from 749 households across the whole of Aberdeenshire.

Figure 2: Overall composition of residual waste in Aberdeenshire




3.8 The introduction of the improved recycling service from March 2023 will encourage residents to consider the resources they are throwing away in the residual waste bin. By reducing the collection frequency of the residual waste

bin (therefore reducing capacity) whilst increasing recycling capacity and quality by providing an additional recycling bin to split the mixed recycling stream, this will divert material streams that could be recycled from the restricted residual waste bin into the recycling containers provided at the kerbside or at the recycling centres and points. This is expected to divert between 1,249 – 6,434 tonnes of material from disposal into recycling and could reduce the carbon impact on waste disposal to landfill by up to 2,908 $tCO_2e$ if the maximum tonnage is diverted. This does not include the negative carbon impact with regards to the recycling/composting element of the diverted waste which would offset the total carbon impact. This amount would depend on the tonnages that were sent for each different material stream for recycling/composting however using an average based on a general household stream this could save a further estimated 4,442 $tCO_2e$ therefore in total an estimated carbon saving of 7,350 $tCO_2e$ if the maximum tonnage is diverted from landfill to recycling/composting.

3.9 Food waste is a global problem that has significant economic, environmental, and societal impacts. Almost one million tonnes of food and drink is thrown away every year in Scotland, with food wasted in the household representing around 20% of all food purchased in Scotland by weight. In 2018 food waste generated 2.648 million tonnes $CO_2e$ accounting for 3.8% of Scotland's total carbon footprint. The recent residual waste analysis highlighted that almost 23% of the residual waste was food waste. Tackling food waste by preventing and recycling is one of the most important ways we can reduce the carbon impact of our waste.

3.10 A study carried out by Zero Waste Scotland in 2018 identified that, on average, disposal via energy from waste carbon impacts was 15% lower than landfill when considering one tonne of residual municipal waste based on full life carbon impact. Based on the category Household and Similar Wastes, an average tonne of residual municipal waste has a carbon impact of 0.452 $tCO_2e$ when disposed of to landfill compared to 0.382 $tCO_2e$ when disposed of through energy from waste, providing a carbon reduction of 0.07 $tCO_2e$ per tonne to divert from landfill to energy from waste. Based on an approximate annual amount of 70,000 tonnes of residual waste going to landfill that is managed by Aberdeenshire Council (both household and commercial waste), this should see a carbon impact saving of approx. 4,900 $tCO_2e$ when disposal option changes to energy from waste.

3.11 It should be noted that the carbon data in this report is based on the carbon metric impact tool from Zero Waste Scotland which is utilised by SEPA in reporting the full impact of waste generated in Scotland and is aimed at better understanding the impacts of different waste management options as it considers the emissions from the production of the waste right through to the disposal including transport emissions from collecting and transporting the waste, the emissions from the disposal method e.g. landfill, combustion of waste, recycling, etc., as well as relative carbon intensity of the electricity generated at an EfW compared to the marginal carbon intensity of the grid. The aggregated landfill emissions $tCO_2e$ has been identified through sources including the UK Greenhouse Gas Inventory, WRATE (the Waste and

Resources Assessment Tool for the Environment), and IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change). The latest assumptions around methane capture are that on average 62% methane is captured, and of this 57% is used for energy generation with 4% assumed to be oxidised at the cap.

3.12 The climate change reporting by the Sustainability team is managed by Sustainability Scotland who use the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) Greenhouse Gas Conversion Factors for carbon impact which differs from Zero Waste Scotland carbon metric factors based on what is being considered for each analysis. The BEIS factors are provided to support company reporting and therefore do not take into account the full impact from waste generation and disposal and relates only to the activity that the reporting company carries out. For Aberdeenshire Council reporting, this means that the carbon impact being reported in relation to the waste being produced by the Council includes the collection of the waste and recycling streams, and onward transportation to the disposal/recycling facility, however only the emissions from landfill are included in the BEIS factors with the carbon impact of waste generation, recycling, diversion and combustion not being included as a factor in the Council reporting as it is the responsibility of the companies that are generating the waste and disposing/recycling/incinerating the waste to report on the carbon impact of those activities. The BEIS reporting for 2020 therefore shows an increased difference of $tCO_2e$ between landfill and EfW disposal when compared with ZWS carbon reporting. The BEIS carbon impact factors show an average tonne of residual municipal waste having a carbon impact of 0.437 $tCO_2e$ when disposed of to landfill compared to 0.021 $tCO_2e$ when disposed of to energy from waste giving a difference of 0.416 $tCO_2e$ per tonne due to the BEIS factors comparing the carbon impact of landfill waste disposal which includes transport emissions and landfill emissions against energy from waste disposal which only includes the transport emissions.

3.13 As from late Spring 2023, the Council's residual waste will be sent to the NESS energy from waste facility instead of landfill, therefore complying with the landfill waste ban from 1 January 2026 and reducing the carbon impact from waste disposal.

3.14 The development of the waste route map in Scotland will set out the strategic direction for the management of residual waste up to 2045 for achieving net zero and will consider restrictions with regards to what waste streams will be accepted for energy from waste. It is a possibility that the plan will restrict the incineration of fossil materials and require the removal of more plastics from the energy from waste input stream which will either be by improved source segregation by the Council or the requirement for pre-treatment of residual waste to remove plastics. The Council are currently trialing a collection of rigid plastics at two Household Recycling Centres as part of a feasibility study into increasing plastic recycling options.

3.15 In support of the UK and Scottish Government's commitment to decarbonise the economy, the UK government has been consulting on when to include energy from waste in the UK Emissions Trading Scheme (UK ETS). Should

this happen, it will significantly increase the costs of operating the NESS Energy facility. An option to reduce the emissions produced by the facility, and also reduce any financial impact from inclusion in the UK ETS, would be to consider carbon capture. Carbon capture would reduce the overall emissions generated by the NESS Energy facility with the potential to be carbon negative.

3.16 The UK Government recognises that Carbon Capture Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) facilities are part of the Net Zero solution and is developing a financial support mechanism to support the development of CCUS clusters in the UK with the potential for a Scottish cluster being progressed with the consequential opportunity for NESS Energy to be a supplier to the cluster if a case can be made.

3.17 Post-combustion carbon capture technologies could be integrated in the flue gas path at the tail-end of the EfW plant and is the most practical technology for retrofit installation of $CO_2$ capture at NESS Energy Project. Captured $CO_2$ would be required to be transported from the EfW plant to the final storage/utilisation destination to ensure a net reduction of $CO_2$ emissions to atmosphere.

3.18 There are currently no end-storage locations in operation and ready for receiving $CO_2$ for storage at large scale however several $CO_2$ storage projects are currently under development in the UK and North Europe, with the UK government recently announcing funding for the two CCUS clusters in the north of England which are considered to be deployed by mid- 2020s. St Fergus (Acorn) facility is also being developed to connect to $CO_2$ storage under the North Sea and should a Scottish cluster be developed then it would feed $CO_2$ to the redundant oil and gas fields in the North Sea. A further option would be the Northern Lights project in Norway.

3.19 In order to be in a position to take advantage of this opportunity a detailed feasibility study is to be developed for considering $CO_2$ capture at NESS Energy Project.

## 4 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

4.1 This report helps deliver the Strategic Priorities “Infrastructure” within the Pillar “Our Environment” and “Economy & Enterprise” within the Pillar “Our Economy” by utilising the key principles of responsible finances; climate and sustainability; and economy when considering the carbon impact of disposal methods and the costs associated with this.

4.2 Considering carbon emissions from waste disposal options would support the delivery of one of the Council’s Priorities “Provision of a waste and recycling services that supports our attractive environment and reduces emissions”. This priority is also included in the Infrastructure Services Directorate Plan 2020-22.

4.3 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the proposed options 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 |

4.4 There are no staffing or financial implications with regard to reporting on carbon emissions from waste disposal options.

4.5 The screening section as part of Stage One of the Integrated Impact Assessment process has not identified the requirement for any further detailed assessments to be undertaken. This report on carbon emissions from waste disposal is only for providing information and data to Committee on the carbon emission impact based on disposal options and is not proposing any activity or policy that would require assessment.

4.6 The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate (Corporate Risk Register):

- ACORP002 Changes in government policy, legislation and regulation in that potential changes in legislation by way of the Circular Economy Bill which is due to go before parliament by summer 2023 and any future legislative changes could have an impact on carbon factors used for reporting purposes. This is an ongoing risk that the Service has to adapt to with regards to any changes in legislation.

## 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 and 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 promoting awareness of the need for sustainability within the Council and the wider community of Aberdeenshire.

**Alan Wood**
**Director of Environment & Infrastructure Services**

Report prepared by Diane Rotherham, Strategy Development Officer (Waste)
Date: 18 November 2022

**List of Appendices***:*

Appendix 1 - Zero Waste Scotland Carbon Metric Factors (2020)
Appendix 2 - Scottish Household waste data summary 2020 (SEPA)

**Appendix 1**

Zero Waste Scotland Carbon Metric Factors (2020)

| Material type (WSR) | Household (kgCO2eq per tonne of material) | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Generated | Recycled/Composted | Incinerated | Landfilled | Other diversion |
| Acid, alkaline or saline wastes | | | | | |
| Animal and mixed food waste | 3,744 | -17 | 1 | 989 | 17 |
| Animal faeces, urine and manure | | | | | |
| Batteries and accumulators wastes | 12,107 | -579 | | | |
| Chemical wastes | 1,320 | 4,040 | 382 | | |
| Combustion wastes | | | | 8 | -3 |
| Common sludges | | | | | |
| Discarded equipment (excluding discarded vehicles, batteries and accumulators wastes) | 1,754 | -181 | 41 | 4 | |
| Discarded vehicles | 6,850 | -1,621 | 328 | | |
| Dredging spoils | | | | | |
| Glass wastes | 1,210 | -755 | 49 | 4 | |
| Health care and biological wastes | | | 210 | 420 | |
| Household and similar wastes | 3,207 | -649 | 382 | 452 | 17 |
| Industrial effluent sludges | | | | | |
| Metallic wastes, ferrous | 2,920 | -1,768 | | | |
| Metallic wastes, mixed ferrous and non-ferrous | 3,891 | -2,537 | 41 | 4 | -2,496 |
| Metallic wastes, non-ferrous | 12,943 | -9,961 | | | |
| Mineral waste from construction and demolition | 20 | 2 | 41 | 3 | |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mineral wastes from waste treatment and stabilised wastes | | | | | |
| Mixed and undifferentiated materials | 1,893 | -1,209 | 41 | 107 | |
| Other mineral wastes | | | | | |
| Paper and cardboard wastes | 879 | -547 | -94 | 499 | |
| Plastic wastes | 3,182 | -536 | 1,885 | 4 | |
| Rubber wastes | 3,100 | -514 | 1,807 | | |
| Sludges and liquid wastes from waste treatment | | | | | |
| Soils | | 1 | | 1 | |
| Sorting residues | | | | | |
| Spent solvents | | | | | |
| Textile wastes | 20,444 | -5,828 | 216 | 571 | |
| Used oils | 1,401 | -725 | | | |
| Vegetal wastes | | -50 | -14 | 214 | 17 |
| Waste containing PCB | | | | | |
| Wood wastes | 514 | -287 | -145 | 861 | |

## Appendix 2

### Scottish Household waste generated and managed per person in 2021 - summary data[1]

| Local Authority | Generated (tonnes per person) | Recycled (tonnes per person) | Other diversion from landfill (tonnes per person) | Landfilled (tonnes per person) | Carbon Impact (TCO2e per person) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aberdeen City | 0.41 | 0.19 | 0.18 | 0.04 | 0.99 |
| Aberdeenshire | 0.45 | 0.18 | 0.01 | 0.25 | 1.21 |
| Angus | 0.47 | 0.25 | 0.20 | 0.01 | 0.91 |
| Argyll and Bute | 0.57 | 0.22 | 0.08 | 0.27 | 1.39 |
| City of Edinburgh | 0.39 | 0.15 | 0.23 | 0.01 | 0.94 |
| Clackmannanshire | 0.46 | 0.23 | 0.00 | 0.23 | 1.07 |
| Dumfries and Galloway | 0.44 | 0.18 | 0.22 | 0.05 | 1.17 |
| Dundee City | 0.44 | 0.14 | 0.28 | 0.02 | 1.02 |
| East Ayrshire | 0.44 | 0.21 | 0.04 | 0.18 | 1.03 |
| East Dunbartonshire | 0.53 | 0.24 | 0.23 | 0.06 | 1.19 |
| East Lothian | 0.49 | 0.27 | 0.18 | 0.05 | 1.05 |
| East Renfrewshire | 0.42 | 0.24 | 0.17 | 0.01 | 0.85 |
| Falkirk | 0.47 | 0.23 | 0.02 | 0.22 | 1.07 |
| Fife | 0.45 | 0.19 | 0.04 | 0.21 | 1.04 |
| Glasgow City | 0.41 | 0.11 | 0.14 | 0.15 | 1.23 |
| Highland | 0.49 | 0.18 | 0.03 | 0.28 | 1.23 |
| Inverclyde | 0.35 | 0.17 | 0.03 | 0.14 | 0.78 |
| Midlothian | 0.46 | 0.22 | 0.19 | 0.06 | 1.07 |
| Moray | 0.44 | 0.23 | 0.00 | 0.21 | 0.92 |
| Na h-Eileanan Siar | 0.53 | 0.18 | 0.00 | 0.35 | 1.42 |
| North Ayrshire | 0.47 | 0.26 | 0.18 | 0.03 | 0.93 |
| North Lanarkshire | 0.47 | 0.20 | 0.21 | 0.06 | 1.05 |
| Orkney Islands | 0.42 | 0.10 | 0.20 | 0.09 | 1.09 |
| Perth and Kinross | 0.50 | 0.25 | 0.04 | 0.21 | 0.97 |
| Renfrewshire | 0.47 | 0.25 | 0.19 | 0.04 | 1.00 |
| Scottish Borders | 0.47 | 0.26 | 0.21 | 0.00 | 1.07 |
| Shetland Islands | 0.42 | 0.07 | 0.24 | 0.10 | 1.27 |
| South Ayrshire | 0.51 | 0.29 | 0.05 | 0.18 | 1.08 |
| South Lanarkshire | 0.51 | 0.21 | 0.19 | 0.12 | 1.16 |
| Stirling | 0.47 | 0.24 | 0.01 | 0.22 | 0.97 |
| West Dunbartonshire | 0.48 | 0.17 | 0.06 | 0.25 | 1.25 |
| West Lothian | 0.47 | 0.19 | 0.24 | 0.04 | 1.06 |
| **Total Scotland** | **0.45** | **0.19** | **0.14** | **0.12** | **1.08** |

1 Note: The carbon impact of mixed residual household waste is based on a national waste composition study and therefore does not reflect any difference in waste composition which may exist between Local Authorities. Population data is from the National Records of Scotland 2021 mid-year population estimates.

Aberdeenshire COUNCIL Environment and Infrastructure Services

**REPORT TO SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE – 30 NOVEMBER 2022**

**PUBLIC BODIES CLIMATE CHANGE DUTIES REPORT 2021-2022**

## 1 Executive Summary/Recommendations

1.1 This report is Aberdeenshire Council's final Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report for 2021-22. The report is produced annually and is a mandatory requirement of all public bodies. The working draft was brought to the Sustainability Committee for consideration and comment on 21 September 2022 (Item 7) due to the deadline for submission clashing with this Committee meeting. Comments were addressed where possible including additional amendments to figures within the final report which was submitted to Scottish Government on 25 November 2022 and these are highlighted in the report below.

**1.2 The Committee is recommended to:**

**1.2.1 Note Aberdeenshire Council's Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report 2021-22 which was submitted to the Scottish Government on 25 November 2022 following final consultation with the Chair, Vice Chair and Opposition Spokesperson (Appendix 1).**

## 2 Decision-Making Route

2.1 The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 is a statutory framework for greenhouse gas emissions reductions in Scotland. Included within the Act are the following requirements on public bodies in the exercising of their functions:

- Act in the way best calculated to contribute to delivery of the Scotland's emissions reduction targets;
- Act in the way best calculated to deliver any statutory adaptation programme; and
- Act in a way that it considers most sustainable.

2.2 The Climate Change (Duties of Public Bodies: Reporting Requirements) (Scotland) Order 2015 require public bodies, including Aberdeenshire Council, to report annually on compliance with the climate change duties. The 2021-22 report was required to be submitted to the Scottish Government by 30 November 2022.

2.3 The Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019 which came into force on 9 November 2020 sets national emissions reduction targets as:

- At least 75% lower than the baseline year by 2030;
- At least 90% lower than the baseline year by 2040; and

- Net Zero by 2045 ('Net Zero' refers to achieving an overall balance between emissions produced and emissions taken out of the atmosphere).

2.4 Amendments made to the 2009 Act by the 2019 Act now apply to this report. The new reporting requirements for public bodies include the following:

- where applicable, a target date for achieving zero direct emissions of greenhouse gases, or such other targets that demonstrate how the body is contributing to Scotland achieving its emissions reduction targets;
- where applicable, any targets for reducing indirect emissions of greenhouse gases;
- how the body aligns its spending plans and use of resources to contribute to reducing emissions and delivering its emissions reduction targets;
- how the body will publish, or otherwise make available, its progress towards achieving its emissions reduction targets; and
- how the body is contributing to Scotland's Adaptation Programme.

## 3 Discussion

3.1 Aberdeenshire Council is already very well placed to demonstrate most of the additional requirements set out in paragraph 2.4. The development of the Route Map 2030 and Beyond has captured the gaps in the above reporting requirements ensuring that the Council will be complying fully with the Amendment Order. The 11 recommendations which are set out in the Route Map will need to be worked through for all requirements to be addressed.

3.2 Direct emissions fall under Scope 1 and are related to sources owned or controlled by the Council. This includes fuel use in fleet and heating fuels used across a number of services including the Council's operational buildings. Indirect emissions fall under Scope 2 and Scope 3 and are a consequence of the activities the Council undertakes. Scope 2 emissions are from the Council's purchased grid electricity. Scope 3 emissions come from the other areas of the Council's carbon footprint boundary. Currently the emissions reported on under Scope 3 cover internal waste, business travel, electricity transmission and distribution losses, water, and homeworking. There will be an additional requirement to consider other Scope 3 emissions out of boundary but through which the Council's influence could support reducing area wide emissions. Additional Scope 3 considerations are the Council's purchased goods and services, housing stock, wider estate, staff commuting and school transportation contracts.

3.3 Aberdeenshire Council's final Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report 2021-22 is included as **Appendix 1**. It was required to be submitted to the Scottish Government by the end of November 2022. The red font highlights the new questions which have been added in alignment with the Amendment Order (3d, 3da, 3db). The structure to question 4d has also changed but the Council's input remains the same.

3.4 In addition to the Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report 2021-22 a comparison of 2020-21 consumption data, emission factors and emission data with 2021-22 can be found in **Appendix 2**. The figures for Burning Oil (Kerosene) have been amended and therefore the total emissions figure has also changed since the draft which was provided to the Committee on 21 September 2022. In 2021-22 biomass is lower as a number of the biomass boilers have been offline for various reasons (mechanical issues etc). When a biomass boiler is off, the relevant fossil fuel will increase by roughly the same amount to compensate. The remainder of the increases in consumption are due to returning to normal operational levels post-covid.

3.5 An overview of Aberdeenshire Council's annual progress towards its 75% reduction by 2030 target can be found in **Appendix 3**. Emissions have increased overall however that was to be expected as Covid-19 played a big part in driving down emissions in 2020-21. The figures for 2017-18, 2018-19, and 2021-22 have been updated since the draft which was provided to the Committee on 21 September 2022 (Item 7).

3.6 Previous annual reports for Aberdeenshire Council submitted since 2014-15 can be found here: https://sustainablescotlandnetwork.org/reports/aberdeenshire-council

## 4 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

4.1 This Report helps deliver all of the Council's Strategic Priorities under the three Pillars by embedding the key principle of 'climate and sustainability' across Aberdeenshire Council.

| **Pillar** | **Priority** |
|---|---|
| Our People | • Education<br>• Health & Wellbeing |
| Our Environment | • Infrastructure<br>• Resilient Communities |
| Our Economy | • Economy & Enterprise<br>• Estate Modernisation |

4.2 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation is 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 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 there are no direct implications of approving this Climate Change Duties Report for submission as it is a performance monitoring report from 2021-22.

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.

## 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 (b) of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance as it relates to Public Bodies Climate Change Duties annual reporting.

**Alan Wood**
**Director of Environment & Infrastructure Services**

Report prepared by Claudia Cowie, Team Leader Sustainability and Climate Change
Date: 18 November 2022

**List of Appendices:**

Appendix 1 - Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report 2021-2022 for Aberdeenshire Council
Appendix 2 - Comparison data from 2020/21-2021/22
Appendix 3 - Annual progress towards 2030 target

**Appendix 1: Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report 2021/22**

## PART 1: PROFILE OF REPORTING BODY

**1(a) Name of reporting body – Aberdeenshire Council**

**1(b) Type of body - Local Government**

**1(c) Highest number of full-time equivalent staff in the body during the report year**

| |
|---|
| 10,360 |

**1(d) Metrics used by the body**
Specify the metrics that the body uses to assess its performance in relation to climate change and sustainability.

| Metric | Units | Value | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|
| Population size served | Population | 260,780 | Aberdeenshire Profile 2022<br>NRS 2020 data |

**1(e) Overall budget of the body**
Specify approximate £/annum for the report year.

| |
|---|
| £657,000,000 |

**Comments**

| |
|---|
| This total is net revenue expenditure for whole Council. |

**1(f) Report year**
Specify the report year.

| |
|---|
| 2021/22 (Financial Year) |

**1(g) Context**
Provide a summary of the body's nature and functions that are relevant to climate change reporting.

| |
|---|
| Aberdeenshire is a predominantly rural area in North East Scotland and includes the Cairngorm mountains, rich agricultural lowlands and varied coastal landscapes. Traditionally economically dependent on the primary sectors (Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing), over the past 50 years the development of the oil and gas industry has repositioned Aberdeenshire's economic focus. |

Aberdeenshire is largely rural in nature, covering an area of 6,339km2 (8% of Scotland's overall territory). Its population density is 41 people per km2.

Aberdeenshire's population has increased by 4% since 2010-2020 making up around 5% of the Scottish population. In 2010 the population was 251,430.

The housing stock in Aberdeenshire is 120,140 - an increase of 9% since 2010 and accounts for 5% of Scotland's total household stock. Source: NRS, Dwellings by Council Tax Band.

The large and rural nature of Aberdeenshire means that transport contributes significantly to the region's emissions. Many areas are also out with the mains gas network, relying largely on oil and electricity for heating.

Aberdeenshire is divided into 6 administrative areas (Kincardine & Mearns, Marr, Formartine, Garioch, Buchan and Banff & Buchan) (See Aberdeenshire Profile PowerPoint Presentation (aberdeenshire.gov.uk) Each area is covered by an Area Manager and officers and Area Committee.

There are 62 towns and villages in Aberdeenshire with a population greater than 500 and six towns with a population greater than 10,000:

| **Settlement** | **Population (2020 NRS)** |
|---|---|
| Peterhead | 19,060 |
| Inverurie | 14,660 |
| Fraserburgh | 12,570 |
| Westhill | 12,110 |
| Stonehaven | 11,150 |
| Ellon | 10,070 |

Source: National Records of Scotland

Aberdeenshire Council as an organisation comprised of 4 Directorates:

**Business Services**

- Audit
- Support Services
- Customer and Digital Services
- Finance

HR & OD
Legal and People
Commercial and Procurement
Property and Facilities Management

**Environment and Infrastructure Services**

Planning and Economy
Housing & Building Standards
Roads and Infrastructure
Environment and Sustainability
Support Services

**Education and Children's Services**

ASN, Inclusion, Equity and Wellbeing
Children's Social Work
Cross Service
Live Life Aberdeenshire
Education and Learning

**Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership**

Adult Services
Commissioning, Procurement and Contracts (Social Care)
Criminal Justice
Health and Social Care Partnership
Older People Services
Social Care
Strategy and Business services

**At the end of the financial year 2021/22 Aberdeenshire Council had 619 operational properties (5 fewer than 2020/21):**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **ABERDEENSHIRE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP** | Old People's Homes | 8 |
| | Respite Homes | 3 |
| | Hostels | 14 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Day Centres | 31 |
| | | |
| **BUSINESS** | Training Centres | 3 |
| | | |
| **BUSINESS – PROPERTY + FM** | Offices | 44 |
| | Town Hall/Council Chambers | 6 |
| | Halls | 19 |
| | Public Toilets | 59 |
| | | |
| **EDUCATION + CHILDRENS - EDUCATION** | Primary Schools | 151 |
| | Academy Schools | 17 |
| | Special Schools | 4 |
| | Stand Alone Nurseries | 3 |
| | | |
| **EDUCATION + CHILDRENS - LLA** | Community Centres | 38 |
| | Sports Centres | 7 |
| | Libraries | 36 |
| | Museums/Visitor Attractions | 11 |
| | Swimming Pools | 16 |
| | Sports Pavilions | 41 |
| | Outdoor Centre | 1 |
| | | |
| **EDUCATION / CHILDRENS SERVICES** | Children's Homes | 4 |
| | Family Centres | 10 |
| | | |
| **ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES – ROADS, LANDSCAPE** | Caravan Sites | 0 |
| | Depots | 48 |
| | Stores | 21 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Quarries | 3 |
| | Country Parks | 4 |
| | | |
| **ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES – PASSENGER TRANSPORT UNIT** | Park and Ride | 2 |
| | | |
| **ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES - WASTE** | Civic Amenity Sites | 15 |

The Council also had 48 Industrial Estates/Business Parks including 720 non-operational buildings (shops and industrial units).

**Key Facts:**

- Number of Council Houses – 13,083
- Refuse collection – number of properties serviced 125543 domestic properties
- Planning Applications registered – 2134 (full and in principle, of which 843 householder applications)
- Length of roads maintained (miles) - 3643 miles
- Number of bridges and culverts maintained - 1310
- Length of footway and footpath maintained (miles) - 1073
- Car Parks - 113
- Streetlights (units) - 52554 (Number includes –Bollards, Feeder Pillars, School Signs, Street Lights, Traffic Light Unit and Traffic Sign)
- Harbours - 7
- Burial Grounds – 224
- Play areas – 461
- Country Parks - 4

## PART 2: GOVERNANCE, MANAGEMENT AND STRATEGY

**2(a) How is climate change governed in the body?**

Provide a summary of the roles performed by the body's governance bodies and members in relation to climate change. If any of the body's activities in relation to climate change sit outside its own governance arrangements (in relation to, for example, land use, adaptation, transport,

business travel, waste, information and communication technology, procurement or behaviour change), identify these activities and the governance arrangements.

Aberdeenshire Council's overall response to and management of its sustainability and climate change duties and commitments is currently based around a number of areas, including the following:

- **Policies and commitments** – for example, the Environmental and Climate Change Policy (2017) and Resources and Circular Economy Commitment (2019).

- **Initiatives, strategies and processes** – for example, Climate Ready Aberdeenshire, the Pollinator Action Plan and Carbon Budget (details below).

- **Member oversight** – the Sustainability Committee meets quarterly to oversee the Council's work and ensure duty compliance, with items considered by other Policy Committees, including Full Council, as required.

- **Officer support** – the Sustainability and Climate Change Team provide coordination, expertise and guidance. A new Sustainability Champions Programme is being rolled out and is engaging officers from across the organisation to become involved and represent their service.

Aberdeenshire Council has an Environmental and Climate Change Policy. The policy was a reaffirmed by the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive in February 2017. All information regarding climate change action by Aberdeenshire Council, including the Environmental and Climate Change Policy can be found on the Aberdeenshire Council Climate Change website.
https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/environment/green-living/environmental-policy/

Carbon Budget - In 2017-18 Aberdeenshire Council became the first Local Authority in Scotland to develop and approve a Carbon Budget. The Carbon Budget was established with the aim of ensuring that an ongoing reduction in the Council's own emissions was managed and monitored alongside financial budgets and to encourage ownership of emissions across the organisation. The Carbon Budget is approved by Full Council in February/March each year at the Budget setting meeting. In March 2020 Carbon Budget targets for 2021/22 were set in line with a linear reduction in emissions towards a 75% reduction (from 2010-11 baseline) by 2030 and Directorates required to report their Carbon Budget updates six-monthly to their relevant Policy Committees and the Sustainability Committee.

Sustainability Committee - This Committee is responsible for matters relating to sustainable development and climate change. The following functions of the Council are delegated to this Committee:

a) To approve, review and monitor the Council's work in respect of sustainable development and climate change in order to ensure compliance with relevant statutory duties, with particular reference to the Climate Change Action Plan.

b) To respond, on the Council's behalf, to the Scottish Government and other relevant bodies regarding sustainable development and climate change issues, including reporting on Scotland's Climate Change Duties Report and the Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy.

c) To promote awareness of the need for sustainability within the Council and wider community of Aberdeenshire. Reports may also be considered by other Policy Committees, including Full Council, depending on content and remit.

**2(b) How is climate change action managed and embedded by the body?**

Provide a summary of how decision-making in relation to climate change action by the body is managed and how responsibility is allocated to the body's senior staff, departmental heads etc. If any such decision-making sits outside the body's own governance arrangements (in relation to, for example, land use, adaptation, transport, business travel, waste, information and communication technology, procurement or behaviour change), identify how this is managed and how responsibility is allocated outside the body (JPEG, PNG, PDF, DOC). Provide a diagram to show how responsibility is allocated to the body's senior staff, departmental heads etc. - Council Service Structure doc in section 1&2 folder.

In March 2020, Aberdeenshire Council approved its Carbon Budget for the 2020/21 financial year. This process has further embedded Climate Change action throughout all services by placing responsibility for emission reductions to all Service Directors. The Carbon Budget contains projects throughout Council Services which will bring about emission reductions. Projects include renewables, energy efficiency in building stock and street lighting, electric vehicles (EVs), EV infrastructure, battery operated landscaping equipment, waste reduction and reuse initiatives, and behaviour change etc. Each of the four Council Directorates are now required to report their Carbon Budget updates six-monthly to their relevant Policy Committees and Sustainability Committee. This step further passes responsibility and decision-making around the Carbon Budget to the Directorates.

Decision making with regard to climate change action ultimately rests with the Strategic Leadership Team, Heads of Service and management structure of the Council, with the oversight from Elected Members. The Sustainability and Climate Change Team provide coordination, expertise and guidance to encourage and support decision-making in this area and the integration of sustainability and climate change duties and commitments into Council operations.

In 2021 the Council created an online Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) tool covering 5 areas: Equalities and Fairer Duty Scotland, Children's Rights and Wellbeing, Climate Change and Sustainability, Health and Wellbeing, and Town Centre First. Climate Change and Sustainability guidance produced alongside the IIA supports report authors in their consideration, assessment and reporting of climate change and sustainability implications (positive, negative and neutral) when composing and submitting reports to all Committees for

consideration. Report authors are asked to consider risks and actions related to climate change mitigation, climate change adaptation, biodiversity and general sustainability.

Climate Ready Aberdeenshire is a cross-sector initiative to create a regional Aberdeenshire Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy. It brings together the views and expertise of a range of diverse stakeholders from communities, public, private and third sector organisations, to set out how we can work collaboratively to meet the challenges of a changing climate within Aberdeenshire. Climate Ready Aberdeenshire is led by a Steering Group consisting of representatives from organisations throughout the North East of Scotland. The group is led by a Chair and Vice-Chair and supported by a project lead provided by the initiative's sponsor, Aberdeenshire Council. Some of the Steering Group members are also members of various Adaptation Scotland groups, including the Adaptation Scotland Benchmarking Working Group and Climate Adaptation Finance Working Group.

Aberdeenshire Council utilises events such as Scotland Climate Week, Earth Hour and World Earth Day to share communication around Climate Change every year. In partnership with many other organisations around the North East, the Council has been involved in developing an annual North East Climate Week in March. There are many events geared at raising public awareness and discussions around climate change as well as engaging communities and youth through our libraries and ranger led activities. The World Wild Fund for Nature (WWF) awarded Aberdeenshire Council a runner up 'Super Local Authority' for all the efforts to promote Earth Hour in March 2019.

**2(c) Does the body have specific climate change mitigation and adaptation objectives in its corporate plan or similar document?**
Provide a brief summary of objectives if they exist.

| **Wording of Objective** | **Name of Document** | **Link** |
|---|---|---|
| We commit to working towards a carbon free society by reducing our emissions by 75% (against our 2010/11 baseline) by 2030 and become Net Zero by 2045. | Climate Change Declaration | https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/25146/climatechangedeclaration.pdf |
| We will provide support and leadership to empower our communities to also take action and be resilient to the impacts of climate change. | Climate Change Declaration | https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/25146/climatechangedeclaration.pdf |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Offset all residual emissions generated which we cannot eliminate by 2045. | Climate Change Declaration | https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/25146/climatechangedeclaration.pdf |
| Work with others across the region to ensure that Aberdeenshire reaches Net Zero by 2045, by promoting energy transition and a circular economy. | Climate Change Declaration | https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/25146/climatechangedeclaration.pdf |
| The six strategic priorities sit under three pillars which are: Our People, Our Environment, Our Economy. Underpinning the Priorities are a number of key principles. They are: right people, right places, right time; responsible finances; **climate and sustainability**; Community Planning Partnership Local Outcome Improvement Plans; human rights and public protection; tackling poverty and inequalities; digital infrastructure and economy. | Aberdeenshire Council Plan 2020-2022 | https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-plan/strategic-priorities/ |
| Sustainability and Climate Change Commitment | Infrastructure Services Service Plan 2020-2022 | https://committeesinternal/FunctionsPage.aspx?dsid=106877&action=GetFileFromDB |

**2(d) Does the body have a climate change plan or strategy?**
If yes, provide the name of any such document and details of where a copy of the document may be obtained or accessed.

| |
|---|
| A Route Map to 2030 and Beyond was approved on 29 September 2022 – the report can be found here: https://committees.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/committees.aspx?commid=1&meetid=20082 (item 14) |

**2(e) Does the body have any plans or strategies covering the following areas that include climate change?**
Provide the name of any such document and the timeframe covered.

| Topic Area | Name of document | Link | Time period covered | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Adaptation | Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2017. | http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/plans-and-policies/aberdeenshire-local-development-plan-2017/ | To 2021 | Adaptation is covered briefly in Section 18. A specific Climate Change Adaptation Strategy is proposed for development in the coming years. |
| Adaptation | Aberdeen City & Shire Strategic Development Plan | https://www3.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/plans-and-policies/strategic-development-plan/ | 2020-2040 | |
| Adaptation | Aberdeenshire Corporate Risks | http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/about-us/single-outcome-agreement-council-and-service-plans-and-reports/ | 2016 onwards | |
| Adaptation | North East Local Flood Risk Management Plan 2016-2022 | https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/17174/north-east-local-flood-risk-management-plan-2016-2022-web-version.pdf | 2016-2022 | |
| Adaptation | Tay Estuary and Montrose Basin | https://www.angus.gov.uk/media/tay_estuary_and_montrose_basin_local_flood_risk_management_plan | 2016 onwards | Includes part of Aberdeenshire. |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Local Plan District 2016-2022 | | | |
| Business Travel | Travel and Subsistence Procedure | http://arcadialite.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/TandSProcedure.pdf | 2014 onwards | Refer to sections 1 & 4 for climate change/sustainability aspects. |
| Business Travel | Route Map to 2030 and Beyond | https://committees.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/committees.aspx?commid=1&meetid=20082 | 2022-2030 | Item 14 |
| Staff Travel | Low Emission Vehicle (LEV) Delivery Plan | http://publications.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/dataset/03cfdce3-ae2d-47f9-ac25-1a6a41943b45/resource/cf088e2b-d413-4b5e-9aaa-4fb3631fb8aa/download/cusersspellascdocumentslev-delivery-plan.pdf | October 2018 onwards | Details actions to support update of LEV vehicles, in particular expanding the Council's charging network. |
| Staff Travel | Local Transport Strategy | https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/2374/2012finallts.pdf | 2012 onwards | To be refreshed during 2020/21 to align with revised Regional Transport Strategy and National Transport Strategy. |
| Staff Travel | Integrated Travel Town Masterplans | https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/transportation/integrated-travel-towns/ | 2018 – 2023 | Five year masterplans for Fraserburgh, Ellon, Huntly, Inverurie and Portlethen to promote active travel and develop new infrastructure. |
| Staff Travel | Office Space Strategy | | TBC | Office Space Strategy under review – now called WorkStyle. |
| Staff Travel | Worksmart Policy | http://worksmart.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Website_Worksmart-Policy.pdf | 2015 onwards | |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Energy efficiency | Route Map to 2030 and Beyond | https://committees.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/committees.aspx?commid=1&meetid=20082 | 2022-2030 | Item 14 |
| Energy Efficiency | Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2017 | https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/plans-and-policies/aberdeenshire-local-development-plan-2017/ | 2017 - 2021 | Now being replaced by an Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2022. |
| Energy Efficiency | Office Space Strategy | | TBC | Office Space Strategy under review – now called WorkStyle. |
| Fleet transport | Fleet Services Strategic Plan 2020-2030 | http://committeesinternal.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/committees.aspx?commid=495&meetid=19808 | 2020-2030 | Link provides update as provided at Infrastructure Services Committee. |
| Fleet transport | Route Map to 2030 and Beyond | https://committees.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/committees.aspx?commid=1&meetid=20082 | 2022-2030 | Item 14 |
| Information and communication technology | Team ICT - Innovate Aberdeenshire | https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/14808/element-3-item-008-innovate-aberdeenshire-digital-strategy-2015-2020.pdf | 2015 – 2020 | |
| Information and communication technology | PrintSmart | | 2015 onwards | |
| Renewable Energy | Route Map to 2030 and Beyond | https://committees.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/committees.aspx?commid=1&meetid=20082 | 2022-2030 | Item 14 |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Renewable Energy | Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2017 | https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/plans-and-policies/aberdeenshire-local-development-plan-2017/ | 2017 - 2021 | Now being replaced by an Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2022. |
| Sustainable / Renewable Heat | Route Map to 2030 and Beyond | https://committees.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/committees.aspx?commid=1&meetid=20082 | 2022-2030 | Item 14 |
| Sustainable / Renewable Heat | Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2017 | http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/plans-and-policies/aberdeenshire-local-development-plan-2017/ | 2017-2021 | Now being replaced by an Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2022. |
| Waste Management | Route Map to 2030 and Beyond | https://committees.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/committees.aspx?commid=1&meetid=20082 | 2022-2030 | Item 14 |
| Waste Management | Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2017 | https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/plans-and-policies/aberdeenshire-local-development-plan-2017/ | 2017 - 2021 | Now being replaced by an Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2022. |
| Waste Management | Waste Strategy 2019 - 2023 | https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/waste/waste-strategy/ | 2019 - 2023 | This document replaces the Integrated Waste Management Strategy 2001 – 2020. |
| Water and sewerage | Route Map to 2030 and Beyond | https://committees.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/committees.aspx?commid=1&meetid=20082 | 2022-2030 | Item 14 |
| Water and sewerage | Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2017 | https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/plans-and-policies/aberdeenshire-local-development-plan-2017/ | 2017 - 2021 | Now being replaced by an Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2022. |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Land Use | Aberdeenshire Land Use Strategy Pilot Final Report 2015 | http://publications.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/dataset/aberdeenshire-land-use-strategy-pilot | 2015 -2020 | |
| Land Use | Aberdeenshire Forestry and Woodland Strategy 2017 | http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/20174/8-aberdeenshire-forestry-and-woodland-strategy.pdf | 2017 – 2021 | Includes adaptation and mitigation and covers both Council-owned and managed land as well as other forests and woodlands. |
| Land Use | Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2017 | https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/plans-and-policies/aberdeenshire-local-development-plan-2017/ | 2017 - 2021 | Now being replaced by an Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2022. |
| Other (state topic area covered in the comments) | Corporate Asset Management Plan 2015 – 2020 | https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/17318/cam-plan-january-15.pdf | 2015 – 2020 | Management of roads and water infra-structure, housing, fleet and ICT. |
| Other (state topic area covered in the comments) | Resources and Circular Economy Commitment | https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/24872/resourcesandcirculareconomycommitment.pdf | 2019 - onwards | Circular Economy. |

**2(f) What are the body's top 5 priorities for climate change governance, management and strategy for the year ahead?**
Provide a brief summary of the body's areas and activities of focus for the year ahead.

1. Development and approval of a Route Map to 2030 and Beyond – this piece of work will identify what actions and investment need to happen within the Council in order to reach the 75% reduction target by 2030;

2. Development of a tool to include methodology which creates a carbon abatement curve (or similar) to support best value carbon reductions;

3. Begin the development of the Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES);

4. Determine how best to embed circular economy across Aberdeenshire Council and the region building on the Resources and Circular Economy Commitment; and

5. Assessing how the Council could further engage to 'work with others across the region to ensure that Aberdeenshire reaches Net Zero by 2045', as committed to in the Climate Change Declaration through Climate Ready Aberdeenshire.

**2(g) Has the body used the Climate Change Assessment Tool** (**a**) **or equivalent tool to self-assess its capability / performance?**
If yes, please provide details of the key findings and resultant action taken.

**a)** This refers to the tool developed by Resource Efficient Scotland for self-assessing an organisation's capability / performance in relation to climate change.

The tool was run in late 2017/18 by the Sustainability & Climate Change team. The following were the key findings:

- Adaptation – 5 steps and performance improvement.
- Communication of external reporting – do this internally, externally, develop a comms strategy and determine best way to reach most people.
- Committee reports to consider climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- Develop a climate change champion programme.

- Devolve control of relevant emissions to operational area.

We have been addressing these as follows:

- Completed a Local Climate Impact Profile (LCLIP) 2011–2018, work ongoing to update the climate change risk register, strategy and action plan development through Climate Ready Aberdeenshire.

- Have developed a webpage to keep all up-to-date information on action regarding Climate Change and Sustainability within Aberdeenshire Council; created a separate Climate Ready Aberdeenshire webpage, use of Yammer for internal comms, internal newsletter etc.

- Creation of an online Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) which requires all reports to consider sustainability and climate change mitigation and adaptation impacts – neutral, negative and positive.

- After trialing a number of different pilots, a Sustainability Pioneers and Champions programme has been developed for launch in 2022/23.

- The carbon budget process is devolving control of relevant emissions to operational areas. The Route Map 2030 and Beyond development also supports this.

**2(h) Supporting information and best practice**
Provide any other relevant supporting information and any examples of best practice by the body in relation to governance, management and strategy.

As a Lead Local Authority for the North East Region, the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act introduces a more sustainable and modern approach to flood risk management, suited to the needs of the 21st century and to the impact of climate change.

A Net Zero Strategy for the Council's non domestic buildings is currently under development and will be approved by the relevant Policy Committee in 2022/23.

Aberdeenshire Council has been utilising support from the Circular North East project (funded by Zero Waste Scotland) to work strategically across Services to identify circular economy opportunities for the Council, building on the Council's pioneering Resources and Circular Economy Commitment. This work is now continuing with support from Zero Waste Scotland.

## PART 3: CORPORATE EMISSIONS, TARGETS AND PROJECT DATA

**Emissions:**

**3a Emissions from start of the year which the body uses as a baseline (for its carbon footprint) to the end of the report year.**

Complete the following table using the greenhouse gas emissions total for the body calculated on the same basis as for its annual carbon footprint /management reporting or, where applicable, its sustainability reporting. Include greenhouse gas emissions from the body's estate and operations (a) (measured and reported in accordance with Scopes 1 & 2 and, to the extent applicable, selected Scope 3 of the Greenhouse Gas Protocol (b)). If data is not available for any year from the start of the year which is used as a baseline to the end of the report year, provide an explanation in the comments column.

(a) No information is required on the effect of the body on emissions which are not from its estate and operations.

(b) This refers to the document entitled "The greenhouse gas protocol. A corporate accounting and reporting standard (revised edition)", World Business Council for Sustainable Development, Geneva, Switzerland / World Resources Institute, Washington DC, USA (2004), ISBN: 1-56973-568-9.

| Reference Year | Year | Scope 1 | Scope 2 | Scope 3 | Total | Units | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Baseline Carbon footprint | **2010/11** | 37436 | 40159 | 8560 | 86155 | tCO2e | Back-cast using Carbon Budget analysis figures. This includes amending waste emission factors to 2016/17 factor and including data from additional services we can now report. |
| Year 1 Carbon Footprint | **2011/12** | 33899 | 36789 | 7712 | 78400 | tCO2e | Back-cast using Carbon Budget analysis figures. |
| Year 2 Carbon Footprint | **2012/13** | 35922 | 39012 | 7848 | 82782 | tCO2e | Back-cast using Carbon Budget analysis figures. |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Year 3 Carbon Footprint | **2013/14** | 33415 | 36108 | 7742 | 77265 | tCO2e | Back-cast using Carbon Budget analysis figures. |
| Year 4 Carbon Footprint | **2014/15** | 34222 | 39857 | 7726 | 81805 | tCO2e | A like for like on what we recorded this year compared to our baseline year (2010/11). |
| Year 5 Carbon Footprint | **2015/16** | 35862 | 37112 | 6563 | 79537 | tCO2e | A like for like on what we recorded this year compared to our baseline year (2010/11). |
| Year 6 Carbon Footprint | **2016/17** | 34221 | 32243 | 7123 | 73587 | tCO2e | A like for like on what we recorded this year compared to our baseline year (2010/11). |
| Year 7 Carbon Footprint | **2017/18** | 32742 | 26817 | 7261 | 66820 | tCO2e | This year we have included biomass wood chip and pellet tonnage. Also - Quarries switched from Red Diesel to Kerosene.<br><br>This total has been amended after an error was found with in Scope 1 emissions (where double accounting took place). |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | Previous Scope 1 total was 34274 and previous overall total was 68352. |
| Year 8 Carbon Footprint | **2018/19** | 30990 | 20691 | 6289 | 57970 | tCO2e | See amendments made to 2017/18 total in comments above. |
| Year 9 Carbon Footprint | **2019/20** | 31313 | 18326 | 6048 | 55687 | tCO2e | 66tCO2e was found as double accounted for in 2019/20 emissions so this has now been removed from the Scope 3 total and overall total. |
| Year 10 Carbon Footprint | **2020/21** | 26936 | 13141 | 5205 | 45282 | tCO2e | The large reduction seen in 2020/21 is mainly due to Covid 19 restrictions and the change in the way of working across the organisation. |
| Year 11 Carbon Footprint | **2021/22** | 30820 | 13570 | 4914 | 49304 | tCO2e | Figures accurate at time of submission |

**3b Breakdown of emission sources**

Complete the following table with the breakdown of emission sources from the body's most recent carbon footprint (greenhouse gas inventory); this should correspond to the last entry in the table in 3(a) above. Use the 'Comments' column to explain what is included within each category of emission source entered in the first column. If there is no data consumption available for an emission source enter the emissions in kgCO2e in the 'Consumption' column of one of the "Other" rows and assign the scope and an emission factor of 1.

(a) Emissions factors are published annually by the UK Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy Emission Factor Year is 2021

| Emission Source | Scope | Consumption Data | Units | Emission Factor | Units | Emissions (TCO2e) | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Grid Electricity (generation) | Scope 2 | 53,918,367 | kWh | 0.21233 | kgCO2e/kWh | 11,448.5 | Operational Buildings |
| Grid Electricity (transmission & distribution losses) | Scope 3 | 53,918,367 | kWh | 0.01879 | kgCO2e/kWh | 1,013.1 | Operational Buildings |
| Natural Gas | Scope 1 | 81,457,335 | kWh | 0.18316 | kgCO2e/kWh | 14,919.7 | Operational Buildings |
| Gas Oil | Scope 1 | 7,485,830 | kWh | 0.25679 | kgCO2e/kWh | 1,922.3 | Operational Buildings |
| Burning Oil (kerosene) | Scope 1 | 11,715,452 | kWh | 0.24677 | kgCO2e/kWh | 2,891.0 | Operational Buildings |
| LPG | Scope 1 | 3,014,066 | kWh | 0.21449 | kgCO2e/kWh | 646.5 | Operational Buildings |
| Biomass (wood chips) | Scope 1 | 1,485,892 | kWh | 0.01513 | kgCO2e/tonne | 22.5 | Operational Buildings |
| Biomass (wood pellets) | Scope 1 | 7,201,610 | kWh | 0.01513 | kgCO2e/tonne | 109.0 | Operational Buildings |
| Biomass (wood pellets) kWh | Scope 1 | 1,633,400 | kWh | 0.01513 | kgCO2e/kWh | 24.7 | Operational Buildings - heat from third party |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Water – Supply | Scope 3 | 301,456 | $m^3$ | 0.11000 | kgCO2e/m3 | 33.2 | Water Usage |
| Water – Treatment | Scope 3 | 286,383 | $m^3$ | 0.23000 | kgCO2e/m3 | 65.9 | Sewerage |
| Grid Electricity (generation) | Scope 2 | 9,989,763 | kWh | 0.21233 | kgCO2e/kWh | 2,121.1 | Street Lighting |
| Grid Electricity (transmission & distribution losses) | Scope 3 | 9,989,763 | kWh | 0.01879 | kgCO2e/kWh | 187.7 | Street Lighting |
| Diesel (average biofuel blend) | Scope 1 | 2,924,842 | litres | 2.51233 | kgCO2e/ litres | 7,348.2 | Fleet Diesel |
| Petrol (average biofuel blend) | Scope 1 | 38,922 | Litres | 2.19352 | kgCO2e/ litres | 85.4 | Fleet Petrol |
| Diesel (average biofuel blend) | Scope 1 | 598,674.49 | Litres | 2.51233 | kgCO2e/ litres | 1,504.1 | Roads – Depot Diesel |
| LPG litres | Scope 1 | 743331 | litres | 1.55709 | kgCO2e/ litres | 1157.4 | Roads - Quarries - total LPG purchased not necessarily used in 2020/21. |
| Gas Oil | Scope 1 | 1586 | litres | 2.75857 | kgCO2e/ litres | 4.4 | Roads – Harbour |
| LPG | Scope 1 | 13181 | litres | 1.55709 | kgCO2e/ litres | 20.5 | Roads – Propane |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| LPG | Scope 1 | 17514 | litres | 1.55709 | kgCO2e/ litres | 27.3 | Landscape – Greenhouses |
| Diesel (average biofuel blend) | Scope 1 | 54539 | litres | 2.51233 | kgCO2e/ litres | 137.0 | Landscape – Red Diesel |
| Refuse Municipal to Landfill | Scope 3 | 3188 | tonnes | 446.24150 | kgCO2e/tonnes | 1422.6 | Internal Waste |
| Refuse Municipal/Commercial/ Industrial to combustion | Scope 3 | 4 | tonnes | 21.29357 | kgCO2e/tonnes | 0.1 | Internal Waste |
| Mixed Recycling | Scope 3 | 1371 | tonnes | 21. 29357 | kgCO2e/tonnes | 29.2 | Internal Recycling |
| WEEE (Mixed Recycling) | Scope 3 | 27 | tonnes | 21. 29357 | kgCO2e/tonnes | 0.6 | Internal Mixed WEE, Lamps, ICT |
| Construction (Average) Recycling | Scope 3 | 270 | tonnes | 0.98914 | kgCO2e/tonnes | 0.3 | Internal Waste – construction |
| Organic Garden Waste and food waste -Composting | Scope 3 | 1572 | tonnes | 8.95070 | kgCO2e/tonnes | 14.1 | Landscape Garden Waste, and internal food waste |
| Average Car – unknown fuel | Scope 3 | 7570394 | km | 0.17148 | kgCO2e/km | 1298.2 | Business miles – car |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rail (National) | Scope 3 | 106084 | Passenger km | 0.03549 | kgCO2e/passenger km | 3.8 | Business National Rail |
| Domestic Flight (average passenger) | Scope 3 | 24140 | Passenger km | 0.24587 | kgCO2e/passenger km | 5.9 | UK Internal Flights |
| Short Haul Flights (average passenger) | Scope 3 | 3144 | Passenger km | 0.15353 | kgCO2e/passenger km | 0.5 | UK-Europe Flights |
| Homeworking Emissions | Scope 3 | 27 | percentage of total FTEs home-based | 0.30000 | tCO2e/FTE/annum | 839.2 | 27% is the total estimate of the percentage FTE that were able to work from home, if required. |
| **TOTAL** | | | | | | 49,303.7 | |

**3c Generation, consumption and export of renewable energy**

Provide a summary of the body's annual renewable generation (if any), and whether it is used or exported by the body.

| | Renewable Electricity | | Renewable Heat | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Technology*** | **Total consumed by the organisation (kWh)** | **Total exported (kWh)** | **Total consumed by the organisation (kWh)** | **Total exported (kWh)** | **Comments** |
| Solar PV | 1,303,175 | | | | All power generated used internally other than proportion of Crow's nest. |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Biomass | | | 8,687,502 | 0 | |
| Biomass | | | 1,633,400 | | Heat consumed by Aberdeenshire Council, generated from Biomass by HoBESCo. |
| Solar Thermal | | | | | Solar thermal systems not metered - all heat used by Aberdeenshire Council. |
| Air Source Heat Pump | | | | | Air Source Heat Pump systems not metered - all heat used by Aberdeenshire Council. |
| Ground Source Heat Pump | | | | | Ground Source Heat Pump systems not metered - all heat used by Aberdeenshire Council |
| Landfill Gas CHP | Unknown | Unknown | | | Welfare facility utilising electricity generated on site by Microgen unit. Changes in site personnel have meant that the data is not complete/accurate for the time period and will be resolved by the next submission. |

*These are the list of entries provided within the form that can be selected from the dropdown menu and the corresponding consumption / export data can be entered under the appropriate heading.

**Targets:**

**3d Organisational Targets**

List all of the body's targets of relevance to its climate change duties. Where applicable, targets for reducing indirect emissions of greenhouse gases, overall carbon targets and any separate land use, energy efficiency, waste, water, information and communication technology, transport, travel and heat targets should be included. Where applicable, you should also provide the body's target date for achieving zero direct emissions of greenhouse gases, or such other targets that demonstrate how the body is contributing to Scotland achieving its emissions reduction targets.

| Name of target | Type of target | Target | Units | Boundary / Scope of Target | Year used as baseline | Baseline figure | Units of baseline | Target completion year | Progress against target | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Carbon emission reduction target | % | 75 | Total % reduction | Other (please specify in comments) | 2010/11 | 86155 | tCO2e | 2030/31 | 49,303.7 | Including a fair range of emissions but far from complete. For example, Scope 3 emissions associated with procurement not included. |
| Net Zero | % | 100 | Total % reduction | Other (please specify in comments) | 2010/11 | 86155 | tCO2e | 2045/46 | 49,303.7 | As above. The net zero target will also require options for sequestration. |

3da How will the body align its spending plans and use of resources to contribute to reducing emissions and delivering its emission reduction targets? Provide any relevant supporting information

Aberdeenshire Council has had a Carbon Budget process since 2017 which annually identifies all CO2e reduction projects and the services leading on those projects. Budget is aligned to those projects, so it is easily identifiable how the organisation is aligning its spend and use of resources towards the organisation's targets.

The Route Map 2030 and Beyond demonstrates what is required across the Council's highest emission areas, including the costs in order to reach a 75% by 2030 target. Work will continue to be ongoing to identify further emission reduction and to calculate the estimated residual emissions which will require further work on insetting projects to mitigate and achieve Net Zero by 2045. The Route Map to 2030 and

Beyond was approved on 29 September 2022 – the report can be found here: https://committees.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/committees.aspx?commid=1&meetid=20082 (Item 14)

In addition, work will need to begin on identifying further scope 3 emissions (for example, from the Council's Housing Service, school transport and through what the organisation procures). There are projects underway where identifying and reducing these Scope 3 emissions are being developed and considered especially across the Council's Housing stock. In addition, discussions are currently underway on exploring opportunities to join up efforts/collaborate across the Grampian region (NHS Grampian, Councils and HSCPs in Moray, Shire and City) over the next couple of years to develop a coordinated approach for identifying and reducing scope 3 emissions.

3db How will the body publish, or otherwise make available, it's progress towards achieving its emissions reduction targets? Provide any other relevant supporting information. In the event that the body wishes to refer to information already published, provide information about where the publication can be accessed.

Aberdeenshire Council has a public facing webpage titled Climate Change and Sustainability. On this page you can find out more about what the Council is doing to tackle climate change. Information can be found on: Carbon Budgets (since 2017/18), Climate change adaptation, Environmental and climate change policy, Resources and circular economy commitment, Transportation, Biodiversity and natural heritage, Procurement, Climate change declaration, Sustainability Committee, and a link to all of the Council's annual Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Reports since 2014/15. The page also has a graph showing emissions since the baseline of 2010/11 demonstrating progress towards the target of 75% by 2030. The Sustainability and Climate Change team email is also available should there be further support required on the information provided by those accessing the page.

https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/environment/green-living/environmental-policy/

All progress is also made available through Committee reporting. Mainly through the Sustainability Committee (which can be viewed live by members of the public) and annually at the Aberdeenshire Council Budget setting meeting in February/March.

**3e Estimated total annual carbon savings from all projects implemented by the body in the report year**

If no projects were implemented against an emissions source, enter ""0"".
If the body does not have any information for an emissions source, enter "Unknown".
If the body does not include the emissions source in its carbon footprint, enter "N/A"."

| Emissions Source | Total estimated annual carbon savings ($tCO_2e$) | Comments |
|---|---|---|
| Electricity | 152 | Estimate: Replacement of old street lighting - reduced programme due to Covid-19, procurement and resource. |
| Natural Gas | 0 | |
| Other heating fuels | 0 | |
| Waste | 10 | Estimated: From continued use of the Warp-It portal. |
| Water and sewerage | 0 | |
| Business Travel | 180 | Estimated: Constraints on business travel and new ways of working |
| Fleet Transport | 86 | Hydrogen vehicles added to the fleet, electric vans replacing diesel, utilising telematics – new Alison gearbox software. |
| Other (specify in comments) | 0 | |

**3f Detail the top 10 carbon reduction projects to be carried out by the body in the report year**

Provide details of the 10 projects which are estimated to achieve the highest carbon savings during report year.

| Project Name | Funding Source | First full year of CO2e savings | Are these savings estimated or actual? | Capital Cost (£) | Operational cost (£ / annum) | Project lifetime (years) | Primary fuel / emission source saved | Estimated carbon savings (tCO2e/annum) | Estimated costs savings / annum (£) | Behaviour Change aspects including use of ISM | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Street Lighting | Capital Programme | 2021/22 | Estimated | £1,600,000 | | 5yrs project with 20 years savings. | Grid Electricity | 380 | | N/A | Replacement of old HID street lighting – part of 5 year programme. |

**3g Estimated decrease or increase in the body's emissions attributed to factors (not reported elsewhere in this form) in the report year.**
If the emissions increased or decreased due to any such factor in the report year, provide an estimate of the amount and direction.

| Emissions source | Total estimated annual emissions ($tC0_2e$) | Increase or decrease in emissions | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|
| Estate Changes | | | |
| Service provision | 1985 | Increase | Recovery towards normal post Covid 19. |
| Staff numbers | | | |
| Other (specify in comments) | | | |

**3h Anticipated annual carbon savings from all projects implemented by the body in the year ahead**

If no projects were implemented against an emissions source, enter "0".
If the body does not have any information for an emissions source, enter "Unknown" into the comments box.
If the body does not include the emissions source in its carbon footprint, enter "N/A" into the comments box.

| Emissions Source | Total estimated annual carbon savings ($tCO_2e$) | Comments |
|---|---|---|
| Electricity | 200 | Non-Domestic Energy Efficiency Framework (NDEEF) (400 total exact split TBC) - delayed from last year, will be complete by March-23. |
| Electricity | 228 | Estimated: Replacement of old street lighting with LED units. |
| Natural Gas | 200 | NDEEF (400 total exact split TBC) - delayed from last year, will be complete by March-23. |
| Other heating fuels | 220 | Change from hot mix to warm mix of bitumen within the road service (may be moved to following year due to supply issues). |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Waste | 11 | Estimated: From continued use of the Warp-It portal. |
| Water and sewerage | 0 | |
| Travel | Unknown | No specific projects with figures against them however, a reduction in travel is evident from a more flexible work environment and use of Teams for both internal and external meetings. |
| Fleet Transport | Unknown | Introduce/trial more electric landscaping equipment - savings still to be determined (the pilot will have tracking information allowing for savings to be measured accurately). |
| Other (specify in comments) | | |

**3i Estimated decrease or increase in the body's emissions attributed to factors (not reported elsewhere in this form) in the year ahead.**

If the emissions are likely to increase or decrease due to any such factor in the year ahead, provide an estimate of the amount and direction.

| **Emissions source** | **Total estimated annual emissions ($tC0_2e$)** | **Increase or decrease in emissions** | **Comments** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Estate Changes | | | |
| Service provision | 3,105 | Increase | Further post Covid-19 return to "normal" operations. |
| Staff numbers | | | |
| Other (specify in comments) | | | |

**3j Total carbon reduction project savings since the start of the year which the body uses as a baseline for its carbon footprint**

If the body has data available, estimate the total emissions savings made from projects since the start of that year ("the baseline year").

| Total savings | Total estimated emissions savings ($tC0_2e$) | Comments |
|---|---|---|
| Total project savings since the baseline year | 36,851 | Figure given is total reduction in recorded emissions from 2010/11 baseline year to current reporting year. Specific 'project' savings not identified so figure will include savings from reduced emissions factors and other organisational and external changes including impacts of Covid-19 restrictions. |

**3k Supporting information and best practice**

Provide any other relevant supporting information and any examples of best practice by the body in relation to its emissions, targets and projects.

In 2017-18 Aberdeenshire Council became the first Local Authority in Scotland to develop and approve a Carbon Budget. The Carbon Budget was established with the aim of ensuring that an ongoing reduction in the Council's own emissions was managed and monitored alongside financial budgets and to encourage ownership of emissions across the organisation. The Carbon Budget is approved by Full Council in February/March each year at the Budget setting meeting and the process encourages Directorates and Services to consider emissions in their day to day work and to bring forward emissions reduction projects.

In March 2020 Carbon Budget targets were set in line with a linear reduction in emissions towards a 75% reduction (from 2010-11 baseline) by 2030 and Directorates required to report their Carbon Budget updates six-monthly to their relevant Policy Committees, which further passes responsibility and decision-making around the Carbon Budget to the Directorates. The Climate Change Declaration also sets the new target to 'work with others across the region to ensure that Aberdeenshire reaches Net Zero by 2045'.

The large reduction seen in 2020/21 was mainly due to Covid-19 restrictions and the change in the way of working across the organisation due to lockdowns. This reduction was not maintained in 2021/22 due to a number of factors: Continued guidance relating to ventilation and the challenges this imposed on heating building stock, Council operations resuming 'back to normal' with offices opening back up for hybrid working etc.

Education and Children Services have developed an online and interactive Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy which is also housed on Glow. It was developed by a small team within the service working closely with young people.

## PART 4: ADAPTATION

### 4(a) Has the body assessed current and future climate-related risks?

If yes, provide a reference or link to any such risk assessment(s).

Yes. Aberdeenshire Council has a Climate Change Risk Register developed by a group of representatives from SEPA, Scottish Enterprise, Scottish Flood Forum, Adaptation Scotland & Aberdeenshire Council, to assess current and future climate-related risks.

The Climate Change Risk Register was reviewed in 2018/19 by the Sustainability and Climate Change team and Risk Manager and updated to take into account the outcomes from the latest Local Climate Impact Profile (LCLIP) which was published in 2019. This is the second LCLIP completed by Aberdeenshire Council and covers the period from 2011 to 2018 (formerly 2000 – 2010). The 2019 LCLIP can be found here: http://publications.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/dataset/ca4d686c-f8a8-4390-af0f-8088d2b536bb/resource/dbb94611-c5f0-492f-9ed1-a762fb0813bc/download/cusersspellascdocumentslclip2019final.pdf

The latest review of the Climate Change Risk Register was carried out by the Sustainability and Climate Change Officer and Risk Manager in 2020/21 following the formation of Climate Ready Aberdeenshire (CRA) and to ensure risks are in line with the latest climate projections for Scotland. Climate change is also identified as a risk within both the Corporate Risk Register and Directorate Strategic Risk Register and, following the 2020/21 revision, service managers were asked to ensure these, and other climate associated risks, are included in their appropriate Risk Register. A further review and update of the Climate Change Risk Register will be carried out in 2022/23.

### 4(b) What arrangements does the body have in place to manage climate-related risks?

Provide details of any climate change adaptation strategies, action plans and risk management procedures, and any climate change adaptation policies which apply across the body.

Aberdeenshire Council are the lead partner of Climate Ready Aberdeenshire, a cross-partner initiative to create a vision, strategy and action plan for Aberdeenshire to mitigate climate change and adapt to its impact while protecting our biodiversity. This is led by a Steering Group of public, private and third sector organisations and is using a place-based approach to support the region in adaptation and building resilience to climate change and extreme weather events. The Strategy and Action Plan is being developed and will be finalised in 2022/23. One of the

outcomes of Climate Ready Aberdeenshire is a regional Climate Change Risk Register to compliment Aberdeenshire Council's Climate Change Risk Register. Aberdeenshire Council are also devising an organisational Climate Adaptation Strategy to be completed during 2022/23 with an Action Plan. The Adaptation Scotland Benchmarking tool will be used to achieve this. The Sustainability and Climate Change Officer is also a member of Adaptation Scotland's Benchmarking Working Group.

Aberdeenshire Council have several risk management procedures and adaptation policies in place: Flood Risk Management Plans are in place, including Flood Prevention Schemes. In line with the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, all services have Business Continuity Plans in place which cover their Critical Activities. These are not specific to extreme weather but could be used during such an event. Aberdeenshire Council and the Local Resilience Partnership have generic emergency response arrangements in place to cover extreme weather events. Environment and Infrastructure Services have an Operational Flood Plan in place, and Education and Children Services have protocols in place for school closures due to extreme weather.

**4(c) What action has the body taken to adapt to climate change?**

Include details of work to increase awareness of the need to adapt to climate change and build the capacity of staff and stakeholders to assess risk and implement action. The body may wish to make reference to the Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme ("the Programme").

Climate Ready Aberdeenshire are working with community groups and have hosted public events to raise the awareness of the importance of climate change adaptation, increase the understanding of climate change risks, support decision-makers to make climate friendly and climate ready decisions, provide knowledge, advice and support and link businesses, community groups, public and 3rd sector organisations to resources, projects and funding opportunities. Climate Ready Aberdeenshire and the University of Aberdeen have undertaken a study identifying climate change adaptation actions (current and planned) being undertaken by climate change community groups across Aberdeenshire. This allowed us to share this information across the groups and link them together, identify what matters to communities and businesses, where there are adaptation action gaps and how Climate Ready Aberdeenshire and Aberdeenshire Council can provide support.

Aberdeenshire Council are working to further embed adaptation, future proofing and resilience throughout services and communities. Some examples of actions already underway across services include:

*Delivering Adaptation Actions:*

- The Paths team are building more resilient, sustainable paths to an appropriate specification to deal with climate change.

- Greenspace Officers are continuing to work within Landscape Services to reduce the management intensity of Council owned/managed greenspace. These measures cut carbon emissions and boost biodiversity. Community engagement is key in the project and is on-going. To date, many areas of greenspace have had grass cutting reduced. Other measures include a significant reduction in the use of traditional bedding displays in favour of perennial planting or meadow seed mixes.

- The Aberdeenshire Council Pollinator Action Plan 2019-2021 identifies the work we will undertake to help address the significant threats facing pollinating insects, including the impacts of a changing climate. A new 2022-2027 Action Plan was agreed in Summer 2022.

- Council housing stock are being upgraded to increase their resilience to extreme weather events and temperatures.

- The Bridges Service operates a bridge scour alert system so that any approaching severe rainfall weather patterns can be monitored prior to and during an event so that appropriate reactive monitoring and inspection action can be taken on a RED/AMBER/GREEN alert system. In addition, certain major bridges over major water courses have an emergency closure plan in place which will allow rapid closure if required using the Alert System described above.

- Flood studies have been completed for Ellon, Inverurie & Port Elphinstone, Insch, Stonehaven (coastal) and Ballater. These studies will primarily focus on direct defences, relocation of properties and property level protection, but other actions may also be considered in order to develop the most sustainable range of options.

- An Integrated Impact Assessment which examines the impacts of proposals on climate change adaptation has been introduced and requires consideration for every Committee report.

- Business-critical operational buildings having backup generators in case of power failure during extreme weather events.

*Building Adaptive Capacity:*

- Local Development Plans have identified climate change adaptation as an element of their vision and plans include flood risks and prevention.

- Officers from Aberdeenshire Council are working with partner organisations to adapt to climate change, assess risk and implement actions. This includes our Environmental Health Services working with SEPA to manage drought in the region due to higher temperatures and dry/heat spells.

- A Sustainability Champions programme is being developed for staff to further embed adaptation actions across services. The programme is due to launch in Summer/Autumn 2022.

**4(d) Where applicable, what contribution has the body made to helping deliver the Programme?**

Provide any other relevant supporting information

***N-1: Understand the effects of climate change and their impacts on the natural environment.***

**N1-8:** Understand the risks associated with coastal flooding through development and implementation of local flood risk plans.

- Policies exist on avoidance of development in areas at risk from coastal flooding. https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/plans-and-policies/aberdeenshire-local-development-plan-2017/

- Aberdeenshire Council as Lead Local Authority for the North East Local Plan District under the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009, published the Local Flood Risk Management Plan for the North East in June 2016. Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 - Aberdeenshire Council

**N1-10:** Developing datasets to support flood risk, river and coastal management. A requirement of the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act is to develop a programme to integrate necessary data.

- Working in partnership with SEPA, Aberdeen City Council and the James Hutton Institute, flood studies have been progressed. These have provided an opportunity to share data and hydraulic models with organisations such as SEPA to refine their Flood Warning Schemes.

***N-2: Support a healthy and diverse natural environment with capacity to adapt.***

**N2-2:** "The Scottish Planning Policy includes green networks, green space, street trees and other vegetation, green roofs, wetlands and other water features, and coastal habitats in helping Scotland to mitigate and adapt to climate change."

- Initial identification of green networks within major urban areas in Local Development Plan 2017 and additional settlements identified and reviewed for green networks on the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2021. https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/plans-and-policies/aberdeenshire-local-development-plan-2017/

**N2-7:** “Reduce the pressure on ecosystems from invasive non-native species (INNS).”

- Aberdeenshire Council has worked in partnership with the River Dee Trust with LEADER funding to establish the North East Non-Native Species Project. The project provides a vehicle for information sharing and support for on the ground projects which will continue through an annual Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) Forum. https://www.nennis.org/

**N2-11:** “Embed climate change adaptation considerations, and potential responses such as habitat networks and green networks, into wider land use planning decisions through the use of Forestry and Woodland Strategies, regional land use strategies, and Strategic and Local Development Plans and development master-plans.”

- Aberdeenshire Forest and Woodland strategy published as supplementary guidance alongside Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2017. Protective policies now in place to conserve woodland and other habitats from development. https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/plans-and-policies/aberdeenshire-local-development-plan-2017/

**N2-18:** “Support the development of Local Flood Risk Management Plans. This will manage waters and coasts at a river catchment level and include local flood risk management plans.”

- As part of the North East Local Flood Risk Management Plan, several flood studies have been completed and further studies will take place. These studies will take a sustainable and integrated approach by coordinating with the river basin management plan. Studies will be undertaken with due consideration to internationally, nationally and locally designated sites including listed buildings.

- They will also explore opportunities for enhancing biodiversity and for promoting economic activity and social wellbeing. The studies will consider natural flood management measures along with traditional flood defences by exploring opportunities for online and offline flood storage, flow control structures, modification to conveyance capacity of watercourses by sediment and channel management, modifications to the bridges to improve conveyance, the construction of direct defences, river/floodplain restoration, runoff control through catchment and riparian tree planting, land-use and land management changes, etc.

- Additionally, the studies will also consider property level protection and property relocation. It is expected that the recommended flood protection scheme will comprise a combination of such measures to ensure a sustainable and integrated approach to flood risk management by due consideration of impacts on economy, society, environment and cultural heritage.

**N2-20:** "Assess and manage coasts, promoting adaptive coastal management that works with natural processes."

- Locations where habitats are most vulnerable to coastal erosion and sea level rise have been used to inform debate on future land bids. Aberdeenshire Council are progressing the Stonehaven Coastal Flood Study. The study will take a sustainable and integrated approach by coordinating with the river basin management plan and the planned surface water management plan/study. It will be undertaken with due consideration to internationally, nationally and locally designated sites including listed buildings. It will also explore opportunities for enhancing biodiversity and for promoting economic activity and social wellbeing. The interactions between actions and effects on coastal processes along the shoreline will also be considered. The study will consider wave attenuation (beach management/recharge), coastal management actions (revetments), the construction of direct defences, relocation of properties and property level protection. Beach recharge will very often involve proposals to obtain the donor sediment from the low intertidal or shallow sub tidal zone in the vicinity. There are potential adverse effects on biodiversity, active coastal processes and even coastal flood risk if sediment extraction allows greater wave attack inshore. The Flood Protection Study will ensure the proposed actions avoid or minimise the potential loss of natural habitat and detrimental interference with coastal processes. The Flood Protection Study will consider how to avoid or minimise potential negative effects on the Garron Point Site of Special Scientific Interest to the North. It is expected that the recommended flood protection scheme will comprise a combination of such measures to ensure a sustainable and integrated approach to flood risk management by due consideration of impacts on economy, society, environment and cultural heritage.

- Aberdeenshire Council will coordinate with SEPA, Scottish Water, SNH, The Crown Estate, Marine Scotland, Stonehaven Harbour and community groups as well as other relevant agencies and organisations.

***B-1: Understand the effects of climate change and their impacts on buildings and infrastructure networks.***

**B1-13: "**Research to assess the benefits of property level flood protection products."

- Policies exist on avoidance of development in areas at risk from coastal flooding. Aberdeenshire Council as Lead Local Authority for the North East Local Plan District under the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 and published the Local Flood Risk Management Plan for the North East in June 2016.

***B-2: Provide the knowledge, skills and tools to manage climate change impacts on buildings and infrastructure.***

**B2-6:** "Liaise with industry on thermal generation (generation of electricity from sources that create heat, such as coal, gas and nuclear)."

- Through a sustained 30-year programme of planned investment informed by a comprehensive and robust stock condition database, the housing stock will be modernised and adapted to meet the changing needs of tenants and those targets in relation to the Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS) and the Energy Efficiency Standards for Social Housing (EESSH). Appropriate information and

support will be offered to tenants to encourage them to take upgrades. To help improve the energy efficiency of homes in the private sector the service will ensure that all households have access to services to identify possible energy efficiency improvements within their homes and will provide assistance to source any grants or schemes available to help with these measures. A Fuel Poverty strategic outcome statement and action have been developed in association with SCARF and other partners.

- The Housing Improvement Programme (HIP) in 2021/22, along with the reactive heating contract and Internal Wall Insulation at voids, have resulted in multiple properties with improved energy efficiency. 2,986 upgrades were carried out in 2,496 properties, so some had multiple works. These upgrades have contributed to an overall carbon emission saving of 778 tonnes of $CO_2$ per year. For properties where new upgrades have been installed the reduction in $CO_2$ emissions has been modelled based on data obtained from Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs).

- There has also been a slight decrease in the overall running costs, from £6,165,260 (2020/21) to £6,132,223 (2021/22). This will mainly be down to the new heating systems, insulation and PVs that have been installed.

- The average Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) rating of the stock is C70. This is based on actual EPC figures with some modelled data where new upgrades have been carried out and a new EPC not yet provided.

- The focus for 2022/23 is continuing to work towards the Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing (EESSH and EESSH 2). The contracts for EESSH are still ongoing and are focused on Insulation, Heating and Renewables in the continued drive to increase energy efficiency, reduce carbon emissions and eradicate fuel poverty. EESSH 2 contracts are being developed in the same form with a view to Net Zero. We will be working with Changeworks who will assist us in reaching these targets as fully as practicable.

- A trial project of Smart Solar Storage using batteries and Smart Technology with PVs is currently being undertaken and if successful could be extended. This will be useful when looking at the next target, EESSH 2, due to a potential increase in SAP rating with using batteries and further reductions in $CO_2$ emissions and running costs.

***B3: Increase the resilience of buildings and infrastructure networks to sustain and enhance the benefits and services provided.***

**B3-3:** "Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) (Climate Change) identifies that short and long term impacts of climate change should be taken into account in all decisions throughout the planning system."

- The Local Development Plan 2017 is compliant with Scottish Planning Policy
  Also covered under B2-6.

**B3-7: "**The Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing sets a minimum standard for energy efficiency in social housing. All social housing will be expected to meet the standard by 2020."

- Please see relevant points under B2-6.

**B3-8:** "Improve Housing Quality by ensuring all houses meet the tolerable standard, and that all social housing meets the Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS) by 2015."

- Please see relevant points under B2-6.

***S1: Understand the effects of climate change and their impacts on people, homes and communities.***

- Climate Ready Aberdeenshire work to influence this in the future. https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/environment/green-living/environmental-policy/

***S2: Increase the awareness of the impacts of climate change to enable people to adapt to future extreme weather events.***

- Climate change issues are given a specific chapter within the current Local Development Plan. https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/plans-and-policies/aberdeenshire-local-development-plan-2017/

- Aberdeenshire Council have a duty to raise public awareness of flood risk under the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 and to plan and inform of risks to communities under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004. Over the six years of the Plan, 2016-2022, Aberdeenshire Council has sought opportunities to raise awareness of both flood risk and actions that enable individuals, homes and businesses to reduce the overall impact of flooding. In partnership with Education Scotland Aberdeenshire Council will look to engage schools in activities relating to flooding, extreme weather, climate change and other community resilience issues. Aberdeenshire Council will also develop emergency response plans and work with community flood action groups where these exist.

- Climate Ready Aberdeenshire work to influence this also. https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/environment/green-living/environmental-policy/

- Climate Ready Strathdon is a partnership project between Aberdeenshire Council and Adaptation Scotland aimed to bring together those who live and work in Strathdon, and those who make decisions that affect the area, to act together to build climate resilience. The project outcomes highlight four themes that could be progressed in future: Housing and energy; Work; Transport; and Community Preparedness. Aberdeenshire Council aims to address these outcomes and help disseminate any lessons learned.

**4(e) What arrangements does the body have in place to review current and future climate risks?**
Provide details of arrangements to review current and future climate risks, for example, what timescales are in place to review the climate change risk assessments referred to in Question 4(a) and adaptation strategies, action plans, procedures and policies in Question 4(b).

The Climate Change Risk Register will be reviewed by 2022/23. The Climate Ready Aberdeenshire Strategy will also be finalised in 2022/23 with an Action Plan which will consist of actions up until 2030. The Regional Adaptation Strategy, which is one of the outcomes of Climate Ready Aberdeenshire, will be out in 2023 and reviewed annually, and the organisational adaptation strategy is due for completion in 2022/23. The Aberdeenshire Council procedures and policies examples given in 4(b) will be ongoing and continually monitored and reviewed. For example, current and future climate change risks in land use policy will continue to be evaluated through occasional papers designed to inform Local Development Plans.

Aberdeenshire Council is also the Local Authority Lead for Local Flood Risk Plans for the North East of Scotland which set out how risks will be managed between 2016 and 2022, and these plans will be reviewed.

Aberdeenshire will continue to collaborate with partner organisations and utilise information from organisations including SEPA, Adaptation Scotland and the James Hutton Institute's UKCP18 data as well as data from UK Climate Projections and UK Climate Change Risk Assessments.

The Council are also revising their overall approach to Risk and following initial consideration at Strategic Leadership Team our Elected members are being consulted on the revised approach via our Committees.

**4(f) What arrangements does the body have in place to monitor and evaluate the impact of the adaptation actions?**

Please provide details of monitoring and evaluation criteria and adaptation indicators used to assess the effectiveness of actions detailed under Question 4(c) and Question 4(d).

Local Development Plans (LDP) are continually monitored and reviewed and a new LDP is published every 5 years. The 2022 LDP is at Stage 4 of the LDP process, where we anticipate seeking to adopt the plan in late October 2022. The Aberdeenshire Council examples given in 4(c) are monitored and evaluated by the relevant services using the required indicators.

The outputs from the Flood Protection studies will be considered in the national prioritisation process for Scottish Government funding, for construction as an action in the 2022 – 2028 Local Flood Risk Management Plan. Achievable actions identified in the Surface Water Management Plans for Aboyne, Peterhead, Fraserburgh, Portlethen, Huntly, Stonehaven, Inverurie and Westhill will also be taken forward for

consideration in Cycle 2. In the report the assessment of progress with actions is shown using the traffic light system. The actions that apply across the Local Plan District are marked as Red, Amber or Green: Green – action has been delivered is on programme and within budget; Amber – action is behind programme and/or over budget, but the key dates are still anticipated to be met; Red – action is behind programme and/or over budget, with key dates unlikely to be met and/or the outputs unlikely to achieve what was anticipated.

Aberdeenshire Council and Climate Ready Aberdeenshire will also continue to use the Adaptation Scotland benchmarking tool to monitor and evaluate our actions and their effectiveness.

The Sustainability Committee will monitor and evaluate the impact of the adaptation actions moving forward.

**4(g) What are the body's top 5 priorities for the year ahead in relation to climate change adaptation?**
Provide a summary of the areas and activities of focus for the year ahead.

1. Finalise the draft Climate Ready Aberdeenshire Strategy.

2. Reassess Aberdeenshire Council progress against adaptation by running the Adaptation Scotland Benchmarking Tool again.

3. Consider and action some of the outcomes of the Climate Ready Strathdon project.

4. Review the Aberdeenshire Climate Change Risk Register

5. Further embed adaptation, resilience and climate change risk into the organisation through supporting services, in particular with identifying and managing climate change risks to their services with support of the Sustainability Champions Programme.

**4(h) Supporting information and best practice**
Provide any other relevant supporting information and any examples of best practice by the body in relation to adaptation.

Further information can be found at https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/environment/green-living/environmental-policy/

## PART 5: PROCUREMENT

**5(a) How have procurement policies contributed to compliance with climate change duties?**
Provide information relating to how the procurement policies of the body have contributed to its compliance with climate changes duties.

The Council is guided by internal policy covering sustainable procurement and community benefits at a strategic and operational level, contributing positively and progressively to duties and commitments under Scottish Climate commitments. The policy is sufficiently agile to contribute to broader climate positive aspirations which support global energy transition, application of meaningful circular economy measures and a net zero future for Aberdeenshire. Strategic and practical guidance is provided at key stages: identification of need, specification development, selection/award and contract management. Policy/guidance assists procurers to proactively address key aspects of the duties: mitigation (ensuring reduction in greenhouse gases/enhancing carbon storage), adaptation (eg flood prevention) and maximising added social, economic and environmental value in our procurements and national frameworks call offs.

**The Commercial and Procurement Shared Service (C&PSS)**

Embraces the procurement function in: Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council and The Highland Council. 2017-2022 Joint Procurement Strategy fully aligned to: i) Scottish Model of Procurement (balance of quality, cost and sustainability) ii) National Performance Framework iii) Public Service Reform Agenda and iv) Scottish Government aspirations to: "support Scotland's economic growth by delivering social and environmental benefits, supporting innovation and promoting public procurement processes and systems which are transparent, streamlined, standard, proportionate, fair and business-friendly"

The Council's Procurement Mission Statement followed commits to delivery of "ethical and sustainable value for money solutions that support the operational needs and wider strategic aims of the councils and the communities they service to further local and national priorities to the fullest extent possible." This converges with the National Performance Framework outcome "valuing, enjoying, protecting and enhancing our environment" and wider vision for the environment. Policy/strategy/guidance emphasises a commitment (beyond mandatory thresholds) to identify: "leverage opportunities (including social, economic and environmental value) aligned to the needs and priorities of our communities"

**Policy**

"The partner councils aim to act as a role model within the public sector by carrying out activities in a responsible and sustainable manner, considering how the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the area can be improved by working with all sectors of the business community to achieve increased prosperity. As responsible and ethical buyers, the partner councils aim to embed the key principles of sustainability into procurement activity for the benefit of society, the economy and the environment." The policy statement appears prominently in sourcing strategies and tender documents guiding procurers and bidders. Communication in this manner leads to climate

positive measures receiving early, considered focus resulting in higher quality, more innovative bids aligned to local priorities and climate change duties.

Policy/guidance explains not all sustainability measures are solely achieved through community benefits. Outcomes can be specified as contractual conditions e.g. particular eco standards (or equivalent), product composition and opportunities to introduce circular economy measures. Methods of production, lifecycle costing, environmental performance, reduction of packaging (particularly single use plastic) waste water standards/accreditation and production methods at any stage of the lifecycle of supply or service promoted. Example Climate Clause

Zero Waste Scotland Specification Development (Category and Commodity) guidance is promoted. Sustainable procurement measures achieved in the specification regarded as "community benefits" and procurers are encouraged to consider utilising community benefits and the specification to maximise environmental wellbeing.

Sustainability tools are promoted in policy and guidance: i) Sustainability Test, ii) Prioritisation Tool and iii) Lifecycle Impact Mapping. As with procurement strategy, linkages to The Scottish Model of Procurement; The National Performance Framework and Local Outcome Improvement Plans.

Policy/guidance recognises that Councils have influence and responsibilities beyond the geographic areas they serve. Sustainable procurement measures/community benefits can be captured at the following levels: Local (Council/area specific); National (Scotland/UK) or Global (e.g. fairly traded/ethically sourced goods/carbon emission reduction). Guidance prompts that many national strategic objectives are addressable locally (employment & skills, Real Living Wage, health and wellbeing, poverty, biodiversity, reduced road miles/reduced carbon emissions etc).

To simplify, sustainable procurement strongly recognised as a means of increasing prosperity. Prosperity of the (local) economy; Prosperity of (local) people; Prosperity of (local) places and Prosperity of the (local) environment.

**5(b) How has procurement activity contributed to compliance with climate change duties?**
Provide information relating to how procurement activity by the body has contributed to its compliance with climate changes duties.

The following represent illustrative samples of procurement activity i) delivering a reduction in CO2 ii) improving energy efficiency and iii) incorporating meaningful sustainability criteria:

- **Construction** – follows industry terms/best practice (NEC3, SBCC ICE etc), Building Standards/Building Performance polices. Specifications incorporate sustainability, energy and environmental considerations to a challenging but proportionate extent per project. Strong ethos that value for money demonstrated by whole of life costing/best price-quality ratio. Current and future climate

risks factored into procurement processes where relevant to safeguarding assets/infrastructure and communities. In the reporting period, procurer and supplier knowledge/awareness of circular economy principles and opportunities increased.

- **Managed Print Contract** (Aberdeen City/Aberdeenshire) From original estate of over 5,000 unmanaged print devices (2016), contract systematically eliminated use of small, inefficient desktop printers requiring regular consumable replacement and rationalised to under 50% by 2018 to ENERGY STAR® power saving models. Supported by a Print Policy driving duplex and mono print as default with imperative to scan and move paper to digital to reduce resources and eliminate waste. Outcomes include reduced print volumes averaging 10% year on year, with estimated 270M fewer sheets of paper used since 2016 (the equivalent to 32,393 trees). Xerox Sustainability Calculator reports a 30% reduction in: Energy: (annualised BTUs), Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Annualised Pounds GHG) and Solid Waste (annualised Pounds SW.) From 2018 - 2022 CO2 emissions from electricity have reduced by approximately 13% and from paper by 50%. Contract ensures all removed devices governed via WEEE compliant processes. Used consumables managed through the Xerox Green World Alliance programme to recycle – minimising environmental impacts/maximising opportunities to positively contribute to the global circular economy agenda.

- **Energy from Waste** (Aberdeen City/Aberdeenshire/Moray Councils) Construction of an Energy from Waste plant working towards fulfilling Zero Waste Plan requirements with the facility targeted to be operational by 2023. Facility aims to provides a long-term solution for non-recyclable waste produced in the North East of Scotland and will provide a viable solution for residual waste that will generate significant, wider benefits eg electricity generation and heat for local residents as a sustainable means of reducing fuel poverty. Forecasts indicate plant will process circa 150,000 tonnes of non-recyclable waste pa. Modern combustion technology utilises flexible, future-proof, cutting-edge process control. High temperature combustion provides electricity and heat from production of steam. Project has potential to heat 10,000 homes otherwise reliant on fossil fuels. Forecasts show around 12MW of electricity, and/or 20MW of heat as steam or hot water will be produced.

- **Fleet vehicles** – The new Fleet Services Strategic Plan 2020-30 sets decarbonisation aims and in 2021/22 Fleet have added two low level minibuses. Work is ongoing with the Energy Savings Trust to look at our Fleet and future options.

- **Stonehaven Flood Protection Scheme** - Stonehaven Flood Protection Scheme is an example of work across the Council to improve preparedness for future extreme weather events. Major flooding events over the last century have significantly impacted local residences and businesses within lower reach of the River Carron, Stonehaven. Major flooding events have occurred in Stonehaven over many years, most recently 1988, 1995, 2001, 2002, 2007, 2009 and 2012 which have caused the evacuation of nearby residents. The scheme is designed with a long life, the impacts of climate change (predicted by the UK Climate Predictions (UKCP09) on flood flows have been considered. Construction work is progressing and due to be completed in 2023.

**National Frameworks**

- Via participation in User Intelligence Groups, the Council works in close collaboration with Scotland Excel (SXL) to improve sustainability credentials in the development of new national frameworks. Comprehensive sustainability test carried out by SXL for each new framework eg policies on managing waste, minimising carbon footprint, fair work, innovation and commitments to delivering community benefits explored and subject to robust contract/supplier management.

- Extensive use made of national frameworks. SXL Contracts Register lists each operative framework and contains a summary of sustainability considerations representing a **minimum** standard which can be enhanced through purchasing decisions made in "call offs". In any framework involving delivery of supplies, increasingly superior emissions class of vehicles/willingness to work towards a particular standard during engagement promoted. Food related frameworks incorporate reduced packaging/waste and circular economy principles.

- **Scottish Government Frameworks and Contracts** cover a wide range of goods and services. Sustainability standards represent a **minimum** which can be enhanced through purchasing decisions made in "call offs."

**Utilities**

- **Electricity** - Promoting greener power, Renewable Energy Guarantee of Origin (REGO) certificates at fixed rates; range of Energy Efficiency Services as additional services and opportunities to sell energy back to the grid.

- **Natural Gas** – sustainable measures and energy performance guarantee option to ensure a range of energy conservation measures.

- **Water** – intelligent water management programme for reducing usage with associated reduction in CO2.

**5(c) Supporting information and best practice**
Provide any other relevant supporting information and any examples of best practice by the body in relation to procurement.

In the reporting period, the Commercial and Procurement Shared Service (CPSS) continued to engage actively and positively in the net zero/sustainable procurement agenda at a local, regional and national level e.g. via working groups, User Intelligence Groups and statutory consultations. Options continued to be challenged in cross-functional teams e.g. Climate Friendly criteria options (including appraisal of

carbon calculator tools) and assessment of how impacts can be reliably monitored and reported upon. Internally, CPSS continue to contribute to themed corporate climate groups. Activity feeds into the Climate Change Plan supporting enabling actions to integrate actions into systems/processes, build internal and supplier awareness, knowledge and capacity building of climate positive/circular economy principles.

An **Example Climate Clause 2021-2022** evolved to encourage suppliers to explore the Edinburgh Science Net Zero Toolkit (https://thenetzerotoolkit.org/about/) as a free resource to support their own journeys to a net zero future. The reach of the toolkit amplified via the Supplier Development Programme (https://www.sdpscotland.co.uk/), relationships with Edinburgh Science and the Supplier Development Programme deepened in the reporting period and CPSS instrumental in the development of an ambassador programme. Contributions also made to the Climate & Procurement Forum and Aberdeen and Grampian Chamber of Commerce "Circular North-East" initiative.

Despite the continued impacts of Covid-19, significant community benefit outcomes have been secured in the reporting period. Guided by the Council's Sustainable Procurement and Community Benefits Policy, **847** community benefit outcomes were imposed or delivered during 2021/2022 (including 800 hours of community support committed, £20,000 committed to local charitable causes and commitment to 8 foodbank collections over a 4-year period) in regulated contracts. The realisation of the benefits are in process or were delivered fully in the reporting period. In regulated contracts, this represents a community benefits inclusion rate of 96% and an inclusion rate of 91% in respect of fair work criteria.

Strategic and practical guidance covers key stages: identification of need, specification development, selection/award and contract management. Policy/guidance assists procurers to proactively address key aspects of the duties: mitigation (ensuring reduction in greenhouse gases/enhancing carbon storage), adaptation (e.g. flood prevention) and maximising added social, economic and environmental value in our procurements. A significant and increasing number of outcomes relate to "environmental measures" promoting the Council's leadership role in net zero transition. Community benefits continue to evolve and improve in close alignment to Aberdeenshire Council's Local Outcome Improvement Plan and National Performance Framework. Great care is taken to ensure that requirements do not inadvertently create bidder discrimination and bids evaluated fairly on a "like for like" basis.

Forward pipeline of procurements for Financial Year 2022-2023 reviewed opportunities to include climate friendly criteria identified. Projects reviewed on a continuous basis. Systems options will be reviewed with a view to adopting a system to monitor, measure and report on community benefits, Fair Work, sustainability/climate outcomes achieved.

**Go Awards Scotland -** CPSS were finalists in three categories in a ceremony held on 19 April 2022: Social Value Award – City Region Deal Gigabyte Framework (outright winner) Covid 19 Outstanding Response Award - (Finalist) and Procurement Team of the Year (Finalist)

| |
|---|
| **Effective Collaboration/Partnership Working -** CPSS has strengthened relationships with Edinburgh Science, the Supplier Development Programme, community planning partners, the local business community, local third sector interface organisations, and Senscot to raise awareness of and capability within the third sector regarding sustainable procurement/community benefits/net zero. Approach ensures as far as possible, social value is aligned to community priorities. If social/economic value can be supported by the local third sector, this allows increased scope for procurers and suppliers to address "environmental measures" and the net zero agenda. |

## PART 6: VALIDATION AND DECLARATION

### 6(a) Internal validation process

Briefly describe the body's internal validation process, if any, of the data or information contained within this report.

| |
|---|
| The Sustainability Committee has reviewed and validated this report. |

### 6(b) Peer validation process

Briefly describe the body's peer validation process, if any, of the data or information contained within this report.

| |
|---|
| This report was peer reviewed by the Sustainability & Climate Change team within – Environment and Sustainability. |

### 6(c) External validation process

Briefly describe the body's external validation process, if any, of the data or information contained within this report.

| |
|---|
| N/A |

### 6(d) No validation process

If any information provided in this report has not been validated, identify the information in question and explain why it has not been validated.

| |
|---|
| N/A |

### 6(e) Declaration

I confirm that the information in this report is accurate and provides a fair representation of the body's performance in relation to climate change.

| |
|---|
| Name: Jim Savege |
| Role in the body: Chief Executive |
| Date: 30/11/2022 |

Appendix 2 – Comparison Data from 2020/21 – 2021/22

| Emission Source | Consumption Data 2020/21 | Consumption Data 2021/22 | Difference | Unit | Emission Factor 2020/21 | Emission Factor 2021/22 | Difference | Unit | Emissions (tCO2e) 2020/21 | Emissions (tCO2e) 2021/22 | Difference | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Grid Electricity (generation) | 45602630 | 53918367 | 18.2% | kWh | 0.23314 | 0.21233 | -8.9% | kgCO2e/ kWh | 10632 | 11448.5 | 7.7% | Operational Buildings |
| Grid Electricity (transmission & distribution losses) | 45602630 | 53918367 | 18.2% | kWh | 0.02005 | 0.01879 | -6.3% | kgCO2e/ kWh | 914 | 1013.1 | 10.8% | Operational Buildings |
| Natural Gas | 73978042 | 81457335 | 10.1% | kWh | 0.18387 | 0.18316 | -0.4% | kgCO2e/ kWh | 13602 | 14919.7 | 9.7% | Operational Buildings |
| Gas Oil | 6651007 | 7485830 | 12.6% | kWh | 0.25672 | 0.25679 | 0.0% | kgCO2e/ kWh | 1708 | 1922.3 | 12.5% | Operational Buildings |
| Burning Oil (kerosene) | 12152246 | 11715452 | -3.6% | kWh | 0.24666 | 0.24677 | 0.0% | kgCO2e/ kWh | 2998 | 2891 | -3.6% | Operational Buildings |
| LPG | 2549734 | 3014066 | 18.2% | kWh | 0.21448 | 0.21449 | 0.0% | kgCO2e/ kWh | 547 | 646.5 | 18.2% | Operational Buildings |
| Biomass (wood chips) | 2655432 | 1485892 | -44.0% | kWh | 0.01545 | 0.01513 | -2.1% | kgCO2e/ kWh | 55 | 22.5 | -59.1% | Operational Buildings |
| Biomass (wood pellets) | 6882000 | 7201610 | 4.6% | kWh | 0.01545 | 0.01513 | -2.1% | kgCO2e/ kWh | 118 | 109 | -7.6% | Operational Buildings |
| Biomass (wood pellets) | 1713000 | 1633400 | -4.6% | kWh | 0.01545 | 0.01513 | -2.1% | kgCO2e/ kWh | 27 | 24.7 | -8.5% | Operational Buildings - heat from third party |
| Water – Supply | 471933 | 301,456 | -36.1% | $m^3$ | 0.11 | 0.11 | 0.0% | kgCO2e/ m3 | 52 | 33.2 | -36.2% | Water Usage |

| Emission Source | Consumption Data 2020/21 | Consumption Data 2021/22 | Difference | Unit | Emission Factor 2020/21 | Emission Factor 2021/22 | Difference | Unit | Emissions (tCO2e) 2020/21 | Emissions (tCO2e) 2021/22 | Difference | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Water – Treatment | 448336 | 286383 | -36.1% | $m^3$ | 0.23 | 0.23 | 0.0% | kgCO2e/ m3 | 103 | 65.9 | -36.0% | Sewerage |
| Grid Electricity (generation) | 10644949 | 9989763 | -6.2% | kWh | 0.23314 | 0.21233 | -8.9% | kgCO2e/ kWh | 2482 | 2121.1 | -14.5% | Street Lighting |
| Grid Electricity (transmission & distribution losses) | 10644949 | 9989763 | -6.2% | kWh | 0.02005 | 0.01879 | -6.3% | kgCO2e/kWh | 213 | 187.7 | -11.9% | Street Lighting |
| Diesel (average biofuel blend) | 2597995 | 2924842 | 12.6% | litres | 2.54603 | 2.51233 | -1.3% | kgCO2e/ litres | 6615 | 7348.2 | 11.1% | Fleet Diesel |
| Petrol (average biofuel blend) | 34845 | 38922 | 11.7% | Litres | 2.16802 | 2.19352 | 1.2% | kgCO2e/ litres | 76 | 85.4 | 12.4% | Fleet Petrol |
| Diesel (average biofuel blend) | 235337 | 598674 | 154.4% | Litres | 2.54603 | 2.51233 | -1.3% | kgCO2e/ litres | 599 | 1504.1 | 151.1% | Roads – Red Diesel |
| LPG litres | 309518 | 743331 | 140.2% | Litres | 1.55537 | 1.55709 | 0.1% | kgCO2e/ litres | 481 | 1157.4 | 140.6% | Roads - LPG Quarries |
| Gas Oil | 1568 | 1586 | 1.1% | litres | 2.75776 | 2.75857 | 0.0% | kgCO2e/ litres | 4 | 4.4 | 10.0% | Roads – Harbour |
| LPG | 8528 | 13181 | 54.6% | kWh | 1.55537 | 1.55709 | 0.1% | kgCO2e/ kwh | 13 | 20.5 | 57.7% | Roads – Propane |

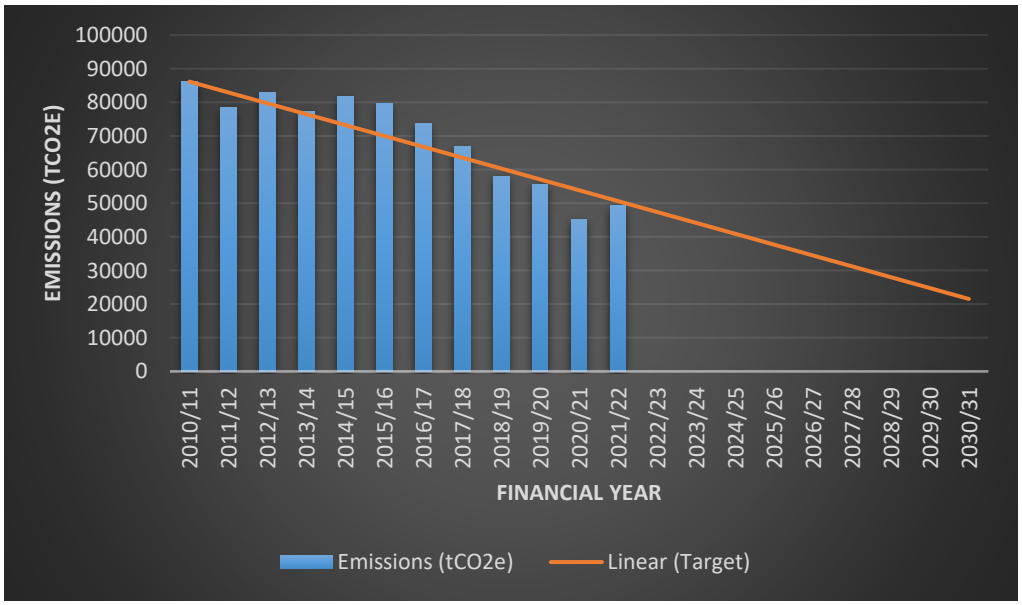
| Emission Source | Consumption Data 2020/21 | Consumption Data 2021/22 | Difference | Unit | Emission Factor 2020/21 | Emission Factor 2021/22 | Difference | Unit | Emissions (tCO2e) 2020/21 | Emissions (tCO2e) 2021/22 | Difference | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| LPG | 5609 | 17514 | 212.2% | litres | 1.55537 | 1.55709 | 0.1% | kgCO2e/ litres | 9 | 27.3 | 203.3% | Landscape – Greenhouses |
| Diesel (average biofuel blend) | 43829 | 54539 | 24.4% | litres | 2.54603 | 2.51233 | -1.3% | kgCO2e/ litres | 112 | 137 | 22.3% | Landscape – Red Diesel |
| Refuse Municipal to Landfill | 2641 | 3188 | 20.7% | tonnes | 437.372 | 446.2415 | 2.0% | kgCO2e/ tonnes | 1155 | 1422.6 | 23.2% | Internal Waste |
| Refuse Municipal/Commercial/ Industrial to combustion | 4 | 4 | 0.0% | tonnes | 21.317 | 21.29356589 | -0.1% | kgCO2e/ tonnes | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.0% | Internal Waste |
| Mixed Recycling | 1238 | 1371 | 10.7% | tonnes | 21.317 | 21.29356589 | -0.1% | kgCO2e/ tonnes | 26 | 29.2 | 12.3% | Internal Recycling |
| WEEE (Mixed Recycling) | 136 | 27 | -80.1% | tonnes | 21.317 | 21.29356589 | -0.1% | kgCO2e/ tonnes | 3 | 0.6 | -80.0% | Internal Mixed WEE, Lamps, ICT |
| Construction (Average) Recycling | NA | 270 | NA | tonnes | NA | 0.98914 | NA | kgCO2e/ tonnes | NA | 0.3 | NA | Internal Waste – construction (new this year) |
| Organic Garden Waste and food waste - Composting | 1575 | 1572 | -0.2% | tonnes | 10.204 | 8.950697674 | -12.3% | kgCO2e/ tonnes | 16 | 14.1 | -11.9% | Landscape Garden Waste and arisings |

| Emission Source | Consumption Data 2020/21 | Consumption Data 2021/22 | Difference | Unit | Emission Factor 2020/21 | Emission Factor 2021/22 | Difference | Unit | Emissions (tCO2e) 2020/21 | Emissions (tCO2e) 2021/22 | Difference | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Average Car – unknown fuel | 5277248 | 7570394.4 | 43.5% | Miles | 0.1714 | 0.17148 | 0.0% | kgCO2e/mile | 905 | 1,298.2 | 43.4% | Business miles - car |
| Rail (National) | 60796 | 106084 | 74.5% | Passenger km | 0.03694 | 0.03549 | -3.9% | kgCO2e/ passenger km | 2 | 3.8 | 90.0% | Business National Rail |
| Domestic Flight (average passenger) | 35464 | 24140 | -31.9% | Passenger km | 0.2443 | 0.24587 | 0.6% | kgCO2e/ passenger km | 9 | 5.9 | -34.4% | UK Internal Flights |
| Short Haul Flights (average passenger) | 5626 | 3144 | -44.1% | Passenger km | 0.15553 | 0.15353 | -1.3% | kgCO2e/ passenger km | 1 | 0.5 | -50.0% | UK-Europe Flights |
| Homeworking Emissions | 57 | 27 | -52.6% | percentage of total FTEs home-based | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.0% | tCO2e/FTE/ annum | 1805 | 839.2 | -53.5% | Estimated %FTE staff WFH |
| **TOTAL** | | | | | | | | | **45282** | **49304** | **8.9%** | **-4022** |

Appendix 3: Annual progress towards 2030 target:

## Annual progress towards 2030 target:

| Financial Year | Actual Emissions Reported (tCO2e) | Carbon Budget Required to reach Target (tCO2e) |
|---|---|---|
| 2010/11 | 86,155 | 86,155 |
| 2011/12 | 78,400 | 82,924 |
| 2012/13 | 82,782 | 79,693 |
| 2013/14 | 77,265 | 76,462 |
| 2014/15 | 81,805 | 73,231 |
| 2015/16 | 79,537 | 70,000 |
| 2016/17 | 73,587 | 66,769 |
| 2017/18 | 66,820 | 63,538 |
| 2018/19 | 57,970 | 60,307 |
| 2019/20 | 55,687 | 57,076 |
| 2020/21 | 45,282 | 53,845 |
| **2021/22** | **49,304** | **50,614** |
| 2022/23 | Determined 11/2023 | 47,383 |
| 2023/24 | Determined 11/2024 | 44,152 |
| 2024/25 | Determined 11/2025 | 40,921 |
| 2025/26 | Determined 11/2026 | 37,690 |
| 2026/27 | Determined 11/2027 | 34,459 |
| 2027/28 | Determined 11/2028 | 31,228 |
| 2028/29 | Determined 11/2029 | 27,997 |
| 2029/30 | Determined 11/2030 | 24,766 |
| 2030/31 | Determined 11/2031 | 21,539 |



Aberdeenshire COUNCIL Environment and Infrastructure Services

**REPORT TO SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE – 30 NOVEMBER 2022**

**SCOTLAND'S COUNCILS' APPROACH TO ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE AUDIT SCOTLAND REPORT**

## 1 Executive Summary/Recommendations

1.1 This report contains a summary of the Audit Scotland report (Scotland's Councils' Approach to Addressing Climate Change) and how Aberdeenshire Council is addressing the recommendations which were published on 8 September 2022. It is being brought to the Sustainability Committee for consideration and comment. The report also highlights additional audits currently underway by Audit Scotland and Environmental Standards Scotland.

**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 by the Accounts Commission in the Audit Scotland report (Appendix 1); and**

**1.2.2 Note the upcoming audits and investigations underway by Audit Scotland and Environmental Standards Scotland.**

## 2 Decision-Making Route

2.1 On 8 September 2022 the Accounts Commission report on Scotland's Councils' approach to addressing climate change was published (https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/publications/scotlands-councils-approach-to-addressing-climate-change). The report highlights that Councils have a critical role in helping Scotland achieve its national climate change goals, in particular reducing CO2 emissions, adapting, transforming services and therefore climate change must be central and integral to all Council activity. The briefing covered climate change ambitions and the approaches of Councils to date and highlighted some of the work from individual Councils, including case studies on areas considered good practice.

2.2 At the Sustainability Committee on 21 September 2022 it was requested that the Audit Scotland report be added to the business of this November Committee meeting.

## 3 Discussion

3.1 The report is broken down by the following main topics and provides information on the challenges and opportunities as well as some case studies for examples under the following points:

- Councils have a critical role in meeting national climate change targets
- Councils have a duty to act and an important leadership role

- Councils need to be clear about what is included in emissions targets
- Councils need to be clear about how they are dealing with residual emissions
- Councils need up-to-date delivery plans for emissions reduction that are transparent about the challenges
- Councils need to be clear about the level of risk posed by climate change and transparent about the extent to which current plans will minimise impacts
- Councils need to build on and increase collaboration with partners and communities
- Councils need to put climate change at the heart of decision-making

3.2 The report puts together 5 recommendations for successfully addressing climate change and the enormous challenge, which it recognises that no Council can tackle in isolation. The report highlights that action will need to involve collaboration across all parts of government and society to bring about the required transformational change. It also states that this will be an ongoing area of interest for the Accounts Commission through its annual audit, Best Value and performance audit work.

3.3 The Accounts Commission would like Councils to consider 5 key recommendations. **Appendix 1** contains a table of these recommendations and the suggested actions under each of these as listed in the report. Aberdeenshire Council is already very well placed to demonstrate delivery on these recommendations. Added to the table in **Appendix 1** are the current and future considerations on how the Council is actioning the delivery of them.

3.4 There are currently also 2 other audits/investigations underway. Audit Scotland published a flyer in September 2022 for the performance audit that they are carrying out on the Scottish Government's governance and risk management arrangements for driving delivery of key climate change commitments. The flyer which provides further information on the audit, including its scope can be found here: https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/publications/climate-change-audit-scope.

3.5 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'. ESS approached Sustainable Scotland Network (SSN) to help arrange a consultation meeting with SSN local authority members, which took place on the 9 November 2022. The meeting was an important opportunity to inform ESS's understanding of how the Public Bodies Climate Change Duties are enacted and to share views on the Scottish Government's role in supporting effective implementation. The key areas discussed were: Support and resources available for climate delivery; Reporting climate activity; and Development of climate change plans. 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

## 4 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

4.1 This Report helps deliver all of the Council's Strategic Priorities under the three Pillars by embedding the key principle of 'climate and sustainability' across Aberdeenshire Council.

| Pillar | Priority |
|---|---|
| Our People | • Education<br>• Health & Wellbeing |
| Our Environment | • Infrastructure<br>• Resilient Communities |
| Our Economy | • Economy & Enterprise<br>• Estate Modernisation |

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 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 future external audits and investigations 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:

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

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

- Risk ID ISSR010 as it relates to Climate Change.

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

## 5 Scheme of Governance

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

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

**Alan Wood**
**Director of Environment & Infrastructure Services**

Report prepared by Claudia Cowie, Team Leader Sustainability and Climate Change
Date: 18 November 2022

**List of Appendices:**

Appendix 1 - The Accounts Commission's 5 Recommendations for Councils to Consider

Appendix 1 - The Accounts Commission's 5 Recommendations for Councils to Consider

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

### 1. Ensure clear and transparent emissions targets are in place

| **To help achieve this, councils should consider taking action to:** | **How is Aberdeenshire Council addressing these suggested actions:** |
|---|---|
| Be clear and transparent about what is and is not included in corporate and area-wide targets | 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. |
| 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 | This was identified as a recommendation within the Route Map to 2030 and Beyond and work is currently underway to begin this process. |
| Utilise appropriate interim targets to ensure ongoing progress can be measured and monitored effectively | 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 determined. |
| 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 | 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. |
| Develop an overarching adaption plan which pulls together all the council's actions and allows an assessment of the impact of these actions | 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. |
| Ensure adaptation and climate resilience are considered in decision-making | These are included in the Council's Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process. |
| Regularly report progress against actions in a clear and transparent way | This is completed annually through the Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Reporting |

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

| **To help achieve this, councils should consider taking action to:** | **How is Aberdeenshire Council addressing these suggested actions:** |
|---|---|
| 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 | 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. |
| Include detailed route maps to achieving climate goals | 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. |
| 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 | These are included in the Route Map to 2030 and Beyond under the 11 recommendations and transformation map. |
| Improve information on costs and budgets of actions | 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. |
| Ensure the co-benefits or potential negative impacts of net zero actions and adaptation actions on each other are clearly understood | 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. |

**4. Increase collaboration efforts**

| **To help achieve this, councils should consider taking action to:** | **How is Aberdeenshire Council addressing these suggested actions:** |
|---|---|
| Work with partners to further develop existing support networks to ensure learning and good practice is shared across the sector | 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 |

Appendix 1 - The Accounts Commission's 5 Recommendations for Councils to Consider

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| | Sustainable Scotland Network (SSN). Regular Climate Ready Aberdeenshire (CRA) Steering Group meetings also allow learning from across different sectors in the region. Engagement with North East Scotland Climate Action Network (NESCAN) on events like Climate Week North East is another example of developing relationships across the sector. |
| 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 | 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. |
| Work collaboratively with local communities and ensure that people are able to effectively contribute to the design and delivery of climate change actions | 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. |

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

| **To help achieve this, councils should consider taking action to:** | **How is Aberdeenshire Council addressing these suggested actions:** |
|---|---|
| Ensure senior level buy-in and leadership by integrating climate change into their strategic priorities and setting out accountability arrangements | This was identified as a recommendation within the Route Map to 2030 and Beyond and work will begin on this in due course. |

Appendix 1 - The Accounts Commission's 5 Recommendations for Councils to Consider

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| Integrate climate change into key overarching organisational annual reports and plans | This was identified as a recommendation within the Route Map to 2030 and Beyond and work will begin on this in due course. |
| Ensure climate change is fully integrated into existing governance and business processes, including risk management and internal audits | 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. |
| Develop mechanisms to ensure that the potential impact of policies on climate change goals is considered fully in decision-making | This is currently addressed through the completion of Integrated Impact Assessments (IIA). |
| 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 | This was identified as a recommendation within the Route Map to 2030 and Beyond and work will begin on this in due course. |