

REPORT TO SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE – 15 NOVEMBER 2023

PUBLIC BODIES CLIMATE CHANGE DUTIES REPORT 2022-2023

1 Executive Summary/Recommendations

1.1 This report is Aberdeenshire Council's draft Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report for 2022-23. This report is produced annually and is a mandatory requirement of all public bodies. The report demonstrates Aberdeenshire Council's compliance with the Public Bodies Climate Change Duties as stated within the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009. It is for the consideration of the Sustainability Committee before its submission to the Scottish Government by 30 November 2023.

1.2 The Committee is recommended to:

1.2.1 Consider and comment on Aberdeenshire Council's draft Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report 2022-23 (Appendix 1); and

1.2.2 Delegate authority to the Chief Executive to sign the declaration in Part 6e of the report once the final draft is completed and submit to Scottish Government before the 30 November 2023 deadline.

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 2022-23 report is required to be submitted to the Scottish Government by 30 November 2023.

3 Discussion

3.1 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).

3.2 Amendments made to the 2009 Act by the 2019 Act now apply to this report. The additional 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.

3.3 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.

3.3.1 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, staff commuting and school transportation contracts. Work is currently being undertaken by the Commercial and Procurement Service to assess some of these through purchased goods and services. Wider work in progressing the Route Map will begin to consider the impacts of the others highlighted.

3.4 Aberdeenshire Council is already very well placed to demonstrate most of the additional requirements set out in paragraph 3.2. 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.

3.5 Currently, Aberdeenshire Council does not have separate emission reduction targets for direct and indirect emissions. Consideration of the appropriate

targets and any amendments or additions to the current targets is ongoing and is part of the Route Map to 2030 and Beyond Action Plan being developed.

- 3.6 Aberdeenshire Council’s draft Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report 2022-23 is included as **Appendix 1**.
- 3.7 In addition to the Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report 2022-23 a comparison of 2021-22 consumption data, emission factors and emission data with 2022-23 can be found in **Appendix 2**.
- 3.8 An overview of Aberdeenshire Council’s annual progress towards its 75% reduction by 2030 target can be found in **Appendix 3**. Total emissions have reduced and the Council remains on target.
- 3.9 Previous annual reports for Aberdeenshire Council submitted since 2014-2015 can be found here: [Reports \(sustainable-scotland.org\)](https://www.sustainable-scotland.org/reports).

4 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

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

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

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

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

- 4.3 There are no direct staffing or financial implications arising from this 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 2022-23.
- 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

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Date: 2 November 2023

List of Appendices:

- Appendix 1 - Draft Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report 2022-2023 for Aberdeenshire Council
Appendix 2 - Comparison data from 2021/22 - 2022/23
Appendix 3 - Annual progress towards 2030 target (75%)