

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**

10,580

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	262,690	Aberdeenshire Profile 2023

1(e) Overall budget of the body

Specify approximate £/annum for the report year.

£700,000,000 (subject to audit)

Comments

This total is net revenue expenditure for whole Council.

1(f) Report year

Specify the report year.

2022/23 (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 2011 – 2021 making up around 5% of the Scottish population. In 2010 the population was 251,430.

The housing stock in Aberdeenshire is 120,946, which is an increase of 9% since 2011 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). 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

- Customer and Digital
- Finance
- 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

Education and Children's Services

Children's Social Work Services
 Education
 Communities, Wellbeing and Partnership
 Resource and Performance

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 2022/23 Aberdeenshire Council had 612 operational properties (7 fewer than 2021/22):

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
	Public Toilets	59

EDUCATION + CHILDRENS - EDUCATION	Primary Schools	149
	Academy Schools	17
	Special Schools	4
	Stand Alone Nurseries	3
EDUCATION + CHILDRENS - LLA	Community Centres	37
	Sports Centres	7
	Town Hall/Council Chambers	6
	Halls	18
	Libraries	36
	Museums/Visitor Attractions	11
	Swimming Pools	16
	Sports Pavilions	41
	Outdoor Centre	1
EDUCATION / CHILDRENS SERVICES	Children's Homes	5
	Family Centres	10
ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES – ROADS, LANDSCAPE	Depots	48
	Stores	17
	Quarries	3
	Country Parks	4
ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES – PASSENGER TRANSPORT UNIT	Park and Ride	2

ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES - WASTE	Household Recycling Centres	15
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The Council also had 31 Industrial Estates/Business Parks which include 317 non-operational buildings (shops and industrial units) in addition to further shops/arcades leased on behalf of Housing.

Key Facts:

- Number of Council Houses –13,207
- Refuse collection – number of properties serviced 122,600 domestic properties, 3419 trade waste properties.
- Planning Applications registered – 1,595 (full and in principle, of which 637 Householders)
- Length of roads maintained (km) – 5640
- Number of highway bridges maintained – 1,308
- Length of footway and footpath maintained (km) - 1605
- Car Parks – 113
- Streetlights (units) – 44,600
- Harbours - 7
- Burial Grounds – 231
- Play areas – 461
- Country Parks - 5

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 behavioural 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 Climate Change Declaration (2020) and Resources and Circular Economy Commitment (2019).
- **Initiatives, strategies and processes** – for example, Route Map to 2030 and Beyond, 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 has now been rolled out and is engaging officers from across the organisation to become involved and represent their service.

Climate Change Declaration – In March 2020 Aberdeenshire Council approved its Climate Change Declaration which recognises that the world faces a climate challenge and our responsibility is to provide leadership in order to move to a more sustainable and low carbon future. It is also where the Council commits to working towards a carbon free society by reducing internal emissions by 75% (against 2010/11 baseline) by 2030 and Net Zero by 2045. <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/25146/climatechangedeclaration.pdf>

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. <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/environment/green-living/environmental-policy/#carbonbudget>

Route Map 2030 Steering Group – The Route Map to 2030 and Beyond is Aberdeenshire Council's approved plan for reaching its carbon emissions reduction targets. Within the plan, 11 recommendations were developed from analysing the risks of not achieving the targets and trying to mitigate these. The first of these is the creation of a central steering group to take ownership of and monitor progress of delivery of relevant projects and the Route Map to 2030 and Beyond. It is also tasked with identifying and recommending measures to manage resistance to change <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/environment/green-living/environmental-policy/#routemap>

Sustainability Champions – The Aberdeenshire Council Sustainability Champions is a voluntary staff programme. It was launched in September 2022, with the aim to lead and support teams and Services in understanding and aligning with the Council's sustainability

aspirations and commitments. The key responsibilities of the Champions are to:

- a) Organise and support activities.
- b) Act as a source of knowledge, advice, and support.
- c) Proactively communicate and engage with teams and Services.

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.

Link to Sustainability Committee page with dates and reports of all meetings:

<https://aberdeenshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CIId=156&Year=0>

See here <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/about-us/service-structure/> for a diagram of Council service structure.

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 2022, Aberdeenshire Council approved its Carbon Budget for the 2022/23 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 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 (CRA) is a voluntary cross-sector network to create and coordinate Aberdeenshire's climate change adaptation and mitigation strategy. It brings together the views and expertise of a range of diverse stakeholders from public, private, and 3rd sector organisations, to set out how we can work collaboratively to meet the challenges of a changing climate in Aberdeenshire. CRA is led by a small Steering Group consisting of an independent Chair and Vice-Chair, and Project Lead from Aberdeenshire Council. A Member Group meets bi-monthly and consists of representatives from various organisations in the North East of Scotland working towards one or more defined Climate Priority Areas. A growing cohort with expertise, projects, or strategies that concern the Climate Priority Areas forms the broader CRA Network. CRA aims to capture current work and future plans of relevant groups and organisations in the region, including their strategic intents to 2030, to raise awareness of the risks and help tackle the challenges of climate change. Through this process, the network of CRA members will aim to identify potential gaps where particular issues are needing to be addressed and, consequently, opportunities for new projects and partnership working in Aberdeenshire. <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/environment/green-living/climate-ready-aberdeenshire/>

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.

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 several key principles. They are: Learning for Life; Resilient Communities; Economic Growth;	Aberdeenshire Council Plan 2022 - 2027	https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-plan/

Health and Wellbeing; Climate Change ; Infrastructure and Public Assets.		
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://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/environment/green-living/environmental-policy/#routemap>

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 2023	https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/plans-and-policies/ldp-2023/	2023-2027	Adaptation is covered in Section 13: Climate Change.
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	Environmental challenges are identified as a risk in the Corporate, Business Services

				and Infrastructure Services Risk Registers
Adaptation	North East Local Flood Risk Management Plan 2022 - 2028	Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 (aberdeenshire.gov.uk)	2022 - 2028	
Adaptation	Tay Estuary and Montrose Basin Local Flood Risk Management Plan 2016-2022	https://www.angus.gov.uk/media/tay_estuary_and_montrose_basin_local_flood_risk_management_plan	2016 onwards	Includes part of Aberdeenshire.
Business Travel	Travel and Subsistence Procedure	http://arcadialite.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/TandSPprocedure.pdf	2014 onwards	Refer to sections 1 & 4 for climate change/sustainability aspects.
Business Travel	Route Map to 2030 and Beyond	https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/environment/green-living/environmental-policy/#routemap	2022-2030	
Staff Travel	Low Emission Vehicle (LEV) Delivery Plan	http://publications.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/dataset/03cfdc-e3-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/2374/2012finalts.pdf	2012 onwards	New LTS being developed ready for launch summer 2024 with strong emphasis on climate as key driver to many actions alongside health.

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. A further 6 plans under development for Banff & Macduff, Mintlaw, Turriff, Westhill, Stonehaven, Banchory.
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://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/environment/green-living/environmental-policy/#routemap	2022-2030	
Energy Efficiency	Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2023	https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/plans-and-policies/ldp-2023/	2023 - 2027	
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://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/environment/green-living/environmental-policy/#routemap	2022-2030	

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	https://aberdeenshire.sharepoint.com/sites/Arcadia/services/Pages/Business%20Services/Custom%20Communication%20and%20Improvement/Design,%20Photography%20and%20Print/Printsmart.aspx	2015 onwards	
Renewable Energy	Route Map to 2030 and Beyond	https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/environment/green-living/environmental-policy/#routemap	2022-2030	
Renewable Energy	Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2023	https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/plans-and-policies/ldp-2023/	2023-2027	
Sustainable/ Renewable Heat	Route Map to 2030 and Beyond	https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/environment/green-living/environmental-policy/#routemap	2022-2030	
Sustainable/ Renewable Heat	Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2023	https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/plans-and-policies/ldp-2023/	2023-2027	
Waste Management	Route Map to 2030 and Beyond	https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/environment/green-living/environmental-policy/#routemap	2022-2030	
Waste Management	Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2023	https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/plans-and-policies/ldp-2023/	2023-2027	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://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/environment/green-living/environmental-policy/#routemap	2022-2030	
Water and sewerage	Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2023	https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/plans-and-policies/ldp-2023/	2023-2027	
Land Use	Aberdeenshire Land Use Strategy Pilot Final Report 2015	http://publications.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/dataset/aberdeenshire-land-use-strategy-pilot	2015-020	
Land Use	Aberdeenshire Forestry and Woodland Strategy 2023	http://publications.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/dataset/0ceb7c55-b43d-45c4-a311-798f4bc9fa75/resource/0dc09e1e-a83c-4bfb-bd10-72b7128dbd29/download/pa2023-01---planning-advice---aberdeenshire-forest-and-woodland-strategy-2021.pdf	2023-2028	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 2023	https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/plans-and-policies/ldp-2023/	2023-2027	
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)	Resources and Circular	https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/24872/resourcesandcirculareconomycommitment.pdf	2019 - onwards	Circular Economy.

covered in the comments)	Economy Commitment			
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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. Route Map to 2030 and Beyond – set up steering group and develop an action plan for delivery of the Route Map;
2. To begin delivery on the mitigations set out in the Council's Internal Audit report on the Carbon Budget process;
3. Develop and publish the Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES) for Aberdeenshire;
4. To progress work on Adaptation including updating the Local Climate Impact Profile (LCLIP) and Climate Change Risk Register; 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), updating the climate change risk register, developing adaptation guidance for Aberdeenshire Council services and officers, regional awareness raising through Climate Ready Aberdeenshire.
- 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 Engage for internal comms, internal newsletter, weekly sustainability blog 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.
- Developed a successful and active Sustainability Champions programme.
- The Route Map 2030 and Beyond and Carbon Budget process devolves control of relevant emissions to operational areas – work is being done to ensure this commitment is strengthened.

The tool will be run again 2023/24 and the Leaders' Climate Emergency Checklist which was developed by Sustainable Scotland Network (SSN) and published in December 2022 will also be utilised to determine further areas of improvement.

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 has been developed.

Building on the Council's Resources and Circular Economy Commitment the Council has a new Circular Economy Business Development Officer post as well as officers working on Circular Economy (CE) opportunities within its Procurement service. Zero Waste Scotland's

Circular Economy team continue to look at ways to support Aberdeenshire and the wider North East region with opportunities for further CE development.

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	<p>This year we have included biomass wood chip and pellet tonnage. Also - Quarries switched from red diesel to kerosene.</p> <p>This total was amended in 2018/19 after an error was found with in Scope 1 emissions.</p>

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	An increase from previous year due to Covid-19 restrictions easing off.
Year 12 Carbon Footprint	2022/23	29530	11663	5142	46335	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 2022

Emission Source	Scope	Consumption Data	Units	Emission Factor	Units	Emissions (TCO2e)	Comments
Grid Electricity (generation)	Scope 2	51,655,669	kWh	0.19338	kgCO2e/kWh	9989.2	Operational Buildings
Grid Electricity (transmission & distribution losses)	Scope 3	51,655,669	kWh	0.01769	kgCO2e/kWh	913.8	Operational Buildings
Natural Gas	Scope 1	77,444,925	kWh	0.18254	kgCO2e/kWh	14,136.8	Operational Buildings
Gas Oil	Scope 1	6,589,203	kWh	0.25679	kgCO2e/kWh	1692.0	Operational Buildings
Burning Oil (kerosene)	Scope 1	10,404,862	kWh	0.24677	kgCO2e/kWh	2567.6	Operational Buildings
LPG	Scope 1	3,204,761	kWh	0.21449	kgCO2e/kWh	687.4	Operational Buildings
Biomass (wood chips)	Scope 1	1,294,543	kWh	0.01053	kgCO2e/kWh	13.6	Operational Buildings
Biomass (wood pellets)	Scope 1	7,132,213	kWh	0.01053	kgCO2e/kWh	75.1	Operational Buildings
Biomass (wood pellets) kWh	Scope 1	1,224,600	kWh	0.01053	kgCO2e/kWh	12.9	Operational Buildings - heat from third party
Water – Supply	Scope 3	409,021	m ³	0.10000	kgCO2e/m3	40.9	Water Usage
Water – Treatment	Scope 3	388,570	m ³	0.19000	kgCO2e/m3	73.8	Sewerage

Grid Electricity (generation)	Scope 2	8,654,997	kWh	0.19338	kgCO2e/kWh	1673.7	Street Lighting
Grid Electricity (transmission & distribution losses)	Scope 3	8,654,997	kWh	0.01769	kgCO2e/kWh	153.1	Street Lighting
Diesel (average biofuel blend)	Scope 1	2,892,182	litres	2.55784	kgCO2e/ litres	7397.7	Fleet Diesel
Petrol (average biofuel blend)	Scope 1	40,771	litres	2.16185	kgCO2e/ litres	88.1	Fleet Petrol
Diesel (average biofuel blend)	Scope 1	618,405	litres	2.55784	kgCO2e/ litres	1581.8	Roads – Depot Diesel
LPG litres	Scope 1	679,699	litres	1.55709	kgCO2e/ litres	1058.4	Roads - Quarries - total LPG purchased.
Gas Oil	Scope 1	2023	litres	2.75857	kgCO2e/ litres	5.6	Roads – Harbour
LPG	Scope 1	12,080	litres	1.55709	kgCO2e/ litres	18.8	Roads – Propane
LPG	Scope 1	19,499	litres	1.55709	kgCO2e/ litres	30.4	Landscape – Greenhouses
Diesel (average biofuel blend)	Scope 1	64,012	litres	2.55784	kgCO2e/ litres	163.7	Landscape – Red Diesel

Refuse Municipal to Landfill	Scope 3	2933	tonnes	446.20411	kgCO2e/tonnes	1308.7	Internal Waste
Refuse Municipal/Commercial/Industrial to combustion	Scope 3	247	tonnes	21.28019	kgCO2e/tonnes	5.3	Internal Waste
Mixed Recycling	Scope 3	1326	tonnes	21.28019	kgCO2e/tonnes	28.2	Internal Recycling
WEEE (Mixed Recycling)	Scope 3	48	tonnes	21.28019	kgCO2e/tonnes	1	Internal Mixed WEE, Lamps, ICT
Construction (Average) Recycling	Scope 3	290	tonnes	0.98471	kgCO2e/tonnes	0.3	Internal Waste - construction
Organic Garden Waste and food waste -Composting	Scope 3	1462	tonnes	8.91058	kgCO2e/tonnes	13	Landscape Garden Waste, and internal food waste
Average Car – unknown fuel	Scope 3	9,440,320	km	0.17067	kgCO2e/km	1611.2	Business miles – car
Rail (National)	Scope 3	132,713	Passenger km	0.03549	kgCO2e/passenger km	4.7	Business National Rail
Domestic Flight (average passenger)	Scope 3	79,194	Passenger km	0.24587	kgCO2e/passenger km	19.5	UK Internal Flights
Short Haul Flights (average passenger)	Scope 3	102,625	Passenger km	0.15353	kgCO2e/passenger km	15.8	UK-Europe Flights

Homeworking Emissions	Scope 3	2,795,897	FTE Working Hour	0.34075	kgCO2e/FTE Working Hour	952.7	27% of FTE WFH 60% of the week.
TOTAL						46,335	

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.

Technology*	Renewable Electricity		Renewable Heat		Comments
	Total consumed by the organisation (kWh)	Total exported (kWh)	Total consumed by the organisation (kWh)	Total exported (kWh)	
Solar PV	1,579,041	0			All power generated used internally other than proportion of Crow's Nest (Banchory HRC).
Biomass			8,426,756		
Biomass			1,579,041		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	195678 kWh	357747 kWh			Welfare facility utilising electricity generated on site by landfill gas Microgeneration unit. Issues last year calculating readings due to personnel changes, figures submitted for this year are an average of the usage/generation of the two-year period since last reported.
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*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	46,335	Including a fair range of emissions but not all. 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	46,335	As above. The net zero target will also require options for sequestration.

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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. In addition to this, the Finance Service is looking at how to embed the Carbon Budget into the Medium Term Financial Strategy. This work will begin in 2023-24.

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 inseting 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://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/environment/green-living/environmental-policy/#routemap>

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 all the goods and services the organisation procures). There are projects underway where identifying and reducing these scope 3 emissions are being developed and considered. For example, the Council's Housing Service is identifying opportunities across the housing stock. In addition, the Procurement service is currently working with CO2 Analysis and SustainIQ to determine Scope 3 emissions, what the top emitting goods and services are so a plan to reduce these can be developed alongside services. This work will also be used to support integrating the Carbon Budget with the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

In addition, further 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 is being explored.

3db How will the body publish, or otherwise make available, its 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, 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 ₂ e)	Comments
Electricity	227	Estimate: Replacement of old street lighting - reduced programme due to Covid 19, procurement and resource.
Electricity	13	Non domestic energy efficiency Framework (NDEEF).
Natural Gas	53	Non domestic energy efficiency Framework (NDEEF).
Other heating fuels	0	
Waste	18	From continued use of the Warp-It portal – this data has come from the Warplt platform.
Water and sewerage	0	
Business Travel	77	Estimated: Constraints on business travel and new ways of working within the Health and Social Care Partnership.
Fleet Transport	0	Zero savings due to emission factor increase even though consumption of diesel and petrol is down.
Other (specify in comments)	10	Quarries team took on warm mix instead of hot mix in March 2023 so savings have been amended to address

this for 1 month – rest of the savings will be seen in 2023/24.

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	2022/23	Estimated	800,000		20 years savings.	Grid Electricity	227	117,629	N/A	Replacement of old HID street lighting –Original part of 5 year programme, but now extended to 7 years
EC Fan	Capital Programme	2022/23	Actual	£44,441		10-15yrs	Electricity	13	£8,351	N/A	
Pipework insulation	Capital Programme	2022/23	Actual	£59,317		20yrs	Gas	28	£4,501	N/A	
BMS	Capital Programme	2022/23	Actual	£135,947		10-15yrs	Gas	25	£7,685	N/A	
Roads Resurfacing – Warm Mix	Revenue Budget for Roads Maintenance	2023/24	Estimated			NA	LPG	220	£0	N/A	Cost neutral project – product costs more but uses less energy. Was delayed due to supply so full savings will be in 2023/24. In 2022/23 only 10 tCO2e estimated

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 (tCO ₂ e)	Increase or decrease in emissions	Comments
Estate Changes			
Service provision	834	Decrease	Due to reduction of additional ventilation for COVID mitigation. (Calc from % reduction in kWh, less this year adjusted for change in emission factors)
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 ₂ e)	Comments
Electricity	208	Non-Domestic Energy Efficiency Framework (NDEEF)
Electricity	230	Estimated: Replacement of old street lighting with LED units
Natural Gas	59	Estimated: Upgrade works are ongoing and part of the P&FM capital plan. As completed, details of each project and achieved savings will be updated.
Other heating fuels	220	Change from hot mix to warm mix of bitumen within the road service. Project brought forward into 2023/24 from 2022/23 however 10tCO ₂ e estimated for 22/23 as project started March 2023.

Waste	10	Estimated: From continued use of the Warp-It portal.
Waste	1351	Energy from Waste Plant taking all waste from 2023-24.
Waste	1	Update of raw food policy in Education and Children Services.
Water and sewerage	0	
Travel	Unknown	Changes to the needs for business travel and new ways of working will impact travel figures but these are unknown at this time (grey fleet, trains, planes).
Fleet Transport	Unknown	Electric landscaping equipment – 3 more squads Two additional leased electric cars Battery rammer to trial alongside traditional petrol machines. Emissions savings unknown at this time.
Other (specify in comments)	1	High Specification Bus Shelters - off-grid

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 (tCO ₂ e)	Increase or decrease in emissions	Comments
Estate Changes			
Service provision			
Staff numbers			
Other (specify in comments)	700	Increase	Estimated: Electricity emission factor increase for 2023/24 report year.

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 (tCO ₂ e)	Comments
Total project savings since the baseline year	39,820	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.
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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 2022 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'.

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. They are also now developing a Waste Strategy for schools.

Aberdeenshire Council are operating 5 hydrogen vehicles on operational duties in the rural environment under the HyTrEc2 project which is bringing high public visibility of hydrogen in action. This has created a saving of approximately 19 tCO₂e so far in the project. In addition, we have conducted a detailed analysis of the fleet using tracked vehicles to assess likely future hydrogen vehicle usage (once suitable vehicles and funding are available) and assess both the hydrogen consumption of those vehicles and the location points of consumption in order to inform hydrogen supply chain stakeholders. A byproduct of this work is also a more detailed assessment of the requirements for battery electric vehicles (BEV). The project encourages working transnationally and with other local regional partners on disseminating cutting edge ideas, market intelligence, and best practice about hydrogen in transport - <https://northsearegion.eu/hytrrec2/>

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 in 2015 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 then reviewed in 2018/19 by the Sustainability and Climate Change team and Risk Manager and updated to consider 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 2020/2021 following the formation of Climate Ready Aberdeenshire (CRA) to ensure the risks were 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 service managers have been asked to ensure these, and other climate associated risks, are included in their appropriate Risk Registers.

The Register will be updated in the last quarter of 2023 as part of the long-term climate change adaptation and resilience programme which began in January 2023 when a Sustainability and Climate Change officer was appointed with a climate adaptation focus. The register will be updated using the 2023 LCLIP (which covers 2019 – 2022) led by the Officer with support from the Risk and Resilience Team and a short life working group of representatives from across Council services. It will correspond with Aberdeenshire Council's Corporate and Directorate Risk Register. The latest LCLIP and updated Climate Change Risk Register 2023 will be published on the Climate Change and Sustainability webpage once approved.

In February 2023, the Sustainability and Climate Change Team issued a Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience questionnaire to all Council employees followed by interviews. This was to assess the impacts of extreme weather events on employees and services between January 2019 and December 2022. It included the level of awareness and perceived risk of climate change and extreme weather events across services and what employees think the Council should do to mitigate these risks to increase our adaptation capabilities and resilience. The results of this were used to inform the 2023 LCLIP and will be used to inform the Climate Change Risk Register, the Employee Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Guidance document and Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Action Plan (all currently under development).

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 (CRA) a voluntary cross-sector network to create and coordinate a strategy for action on climate change in the region. It brings together the views and expertise of a range of diverse stakeholders from public, private, and 3rd sector organisations, to set out how we can work collaboratively to meet the challenges of a changing climate in Aberdeenshire. CRA aims to capture current work and future plans of relevant groups and organisations in the region, including their strategic intents to 2030, to raise awareness of the risks and help tackle the challenges of climate change. Through this process, the network of CRA members will aim to identify potential gaps where particular issues are needing to be addressed and, consequently, opportunities for new projects and partnership working in Aberdeenshire. The draft CRA Strategy has been developed and will be published in 2023/2024 considering the results of the 2023 LCLIP. One of the outputs of CRA will be a regional Climate Change Risk Register to compliment Aberdeenshire Council's Climate Change Risk Register.

In January 2023, Aberdeenshire Council appointed a Sustainability & Climate Change Officer to complete their long-term adaptation and resilience programme. This includes completing the 2023 LCLIP, updating the Climate Change Risk Register, completing and publishing an Employee Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Guidance document, creating a Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience training module made available to all employees, and benchmarking the organisation's adaptation capabilities using Adaptation Scotland's Benchmarking Tool and reporting this to Adaptation Scotland in March 2023 and annually thereafter.

In addition to the Climate Change Risk Register and LCLIP, 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”).

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:

- An Integrated Impact Assessment which examines the impacts of proposals on climate change adaptation has been introduced and requires consideration for every Policy and Strategy development and all Committee reports.
- The Active Travel 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, boost biodiversity and support wildlife and people to be more resilient. 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. From a climate change adaptation perspective, this has/will result in improved natural flood plains, natural shelter, and heat reduction from trees.
- The Aberdeenshire Council Pollinator Action Plan – 2022 - 2027 identifies the work Aberdeenshire Council will undertake to help address the significant threats facing pollinating insects, including the impacts of a changing climate.
- 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, Inch, 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 to develop the most sustainable range of options.
- Stonehaven Flood Protection Scheme to protect homes and businesses which have previously been badly affected by flooding events around the River Carron. It is to provide a standard of protection well above the current Association of British Insurers requirements, reducing flood risk to 372 residential properties, 2 public utility sites, a school, and an emergency service site. It will provide a 0.5% chance of occurrence standard of protection (1 in 200-year flood event). It will also include an allowance for climate change (33% increase to 2080) and a safety margin catering for uncertainties.

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

Building Adaptive Capacity:

- A joint study between CRA and the University of Aberdeen in 2022 to identify community climate change across the region has allowed us to share this information with CRA members and community groups and link them together, identify what matters to communities and businesses, where there are adaptation action gaps and how CRA and Aberdeenshire Council can provide support.
- In March 2023, officers from across the Council took part in Adaptation Scotland's Becoming Climate Resilient Training co-hosted by members of the Sustainability and Climate Change team.
- A climate change adaptation and resilience short life working group will be formed in 2023/24 to create Aberdeenshire Council's Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Guidance document and contribute to the Council's Climate Change Risk Register. The purpose of this document is to be a useable and accessible guide for all Council employees and services regarding how they as employees and their services are impacted by climate change and extreme weather events, and what they can do, as employees and within their services, to adapt to and build resilience to these events to safeguard themselves, their services and service users. These impacts include the 15 key consequences of Climate Change for Scotland.
- Sustainability and Climate Change team is also working with the Community Emergency Planning Team, who are responsible for working with communities to ensure they are aware of and prepared for emergency events and risks, to ensure climate change and extreme weather events are included in these risks.
- Aberdeenshire Council are also helping to develop Scotland's first Flood Resilience Strategy which aims to set us on a path to support prosperous places and healthy communities that are more flood resilient. The Strategy will outline Scotland's flood resilience ambitions and associated outcomes and set out the principles by which flood resilience will be delivered over the coming decades.
- 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.
- The Sustainability Champions are supporting their services with identifying and managing climate change risks to their service.
- North East Scotland Climate Action Network (NESCAN) 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.

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. See the Local Development Plan 2023:

<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/plans-and-policies/ldp-2023/>

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 December 2022. <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/27479/local-flood-risk-management-plan-2022-2028.pdf>

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.
- Helping to develop Scotland's first Flood Resilience Strategy which aims to set us on a path to support prosperous places and healthy communities that are more flood resilient. The Strategy will outline Scotland's flood resilience ambitions and associated outcomes and set out the principles by which flood resilience will be delivered over the coming decades.

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 2023.

<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/plans-and-policies/ldp-2023/>

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 masterplans.”

- Aberdeenshire Forest and Woodland strategy published as supplementary guidance alongside Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2023. Protective policies now in place to conserve woodland and other habitats from development.
<http://publications.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/dataset/0ceb7c55-b43d-45c4-a311-798f4bc9fa75/resource/0dc09e1e-a83c-4bfb-bd10-72b7128dbd29/download/pa2023-01---planning-advice---aberdeenshire-forest-and-woodland-strategy-2021.pdf>

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 completed the Stonehaven Coastal Flood Study (<http://www.stonehavenbaycoastalfloodstudy.com/links/>). The study took a sustainable and integrated approach by coordinating with the river basin management plan and the planned surface water management plan/study. It undertook due consideration to internationally, nationally and locally designated sites including listed buildings. It also explored opportunities for enhancing biodiversity and for promoting economic activity and social wellbeing. The interactions between actions and effects on coastal processes along the shoreline was also considered. The study considered 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 ensures the actions avoid or minimise the potential loss of natural habitat and detrimental interference with coastal processes. The flood protection study also considered how to avoid or minimise potential negative effects on the Garron Point Site of Special Scientific Interest to the north.

- 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 December 2022.

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 (EESH). 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. Funding of £3,364,062 via the Energy Efficient Scotland: Area Based Schemes (ABS) enabled 321 energy efficiency measures, including external wall insulation, cavity wall insulation, loft insulation, solar PV and battery storage to be installed in private sector housing across Aberdeenshire. The measures installed via ABS will provide total annual fuel bills savings of £146,478 and over the lifetime of the measures (25 years) £3,661,950. The annual carbon savings will be approximately 421.8 tCO₂e and over the lifetime of the measures this will be 10,545tCO₂e. These measures also support climate change adaptation so have been included here.
- A Fuel Poverty strategic outcome statement and action have been developed in association with SCARF and other partners.
- Year 4 of the Housing Improvement Programme (HIP) started in 2022. Along with the reactive heating contract and Internal Wall Insulation at voids, have resulted in multiple properties with improved energy efficiency. 1541 upgrades were carried out in 1058 properties during 2022/23, so some had multiple works. These upgrades have contributed to an overall carbon emission saving of 1171tCO₂e. These works have been delivered through the Council’s HIP and Smart Solar Storage project (SSS). Carbon saving figures for windows, doors or battery storage are not included in our modelling so actual savings could be higher. All of year 3 of the HIP programme was completed in 2022/23. For properties where new upgrades have been installed the reduction in emissions has been modelled based on data obtained from energy performance certificates (EPCs).
- 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.
- 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, EESH 2, due to a potential increase in SAP rating with using batteries and further reductions in 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 2023 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/climate-ready-aberdeenshire/>
- Sustainability and Climate Change Officer is working with the Community Emergency Planning Team to understand the effects of climate change and extreme weather impacts on communities and ensure they are aware of and prepared for these.
- Working with the North East Scotland Climate Action Network (NESCAN) to engage with communities.

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

- Climate Change is a specific chapter and policy within the current Local Development Plan and climate change mitigation and adaptation are featured heavily throughout the document <https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/ldpmedia/LDP2021/AberdeenshireLocalDevelopmentPlan2023IntroductionAndPolicies.pdf>
- 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/climate-ready-aberdeenshire/>

- Climate Ready Strathdon was a partnership project between Aberdeenshire Council and Adaptation Scotland 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 highlighted four themes to be progressed in future: Housing and energy; Work; Transport; and Community Preparedness.

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 2023 Local Climate Impact Profile (LCLIP) will be completed and published in 2023/24 with recommendations from the report considered for future progress in adaptation.

Aberdeenshire Council's adaptation capabilities are reviewed annually and submitted to Adaptation Scotland in an annual report in March each year. The exercise is used to benchmark the Council's adaptation capabilities and the latest will be used for the updated Climate Change Risk Register to identify areas for action.

The Climate Change Risk Register will be reviewed and published in late 2023/24 considering the findings of the 2023 LCLIP and Employee Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience questionnaire and interviews. This will be monitored and reviewed in 2024/25 following the 2024 annual Adaptation Scotland Adaptation Capability Report submission.

The Employee Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Guidance document will be published in the first quarter of 2024/25, monitored and reviewed in the third quarter of 2024/25.

The final CRA Strategy will be finalised by the last quarter of 2023/24 taking on the information from the updated LCLIP and Climate Risk Register.

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 2022 and 2028, and these plans will be reviewed. Aberdeenshire Council 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 latest LDP was adopted in late October 2022 and published in January 2023. 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 were considered in the national prioritisation process for Scottish Government funding, for construction as an action in the 2022 – 2028 Local Flood Risk Management Plan published in December 2022. 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 CRA will also continue to use the Adaptation Scotland benchmarking tool to monitor and evaluate their 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 and publish the CRA strategy considering the results and recommendations of the 2023 LCLIP.
2. Review, update and publish the LCLIP 2023 and Aberdeenshire Climate Change Risk Register.

3. Finalise and publish the Employee Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience document.
4. Create and launch a Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience training module.
5. Benchmark Aberdeenshire Council's adaptation capabilities using Adaptation Scotland's Benchmarking Tool and report this to Adaptation Scotland.

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/>

Aberdeenshire Council are members of the North Sea Commission and active participants in the Energy and Climate Change thematic group. One of the main focuses of the group for 2022 – 2024 is Adaptation and a programme of workshops has been pulled together to share best practice across the active regions based in Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Holland, Germany and Scotland.

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 the Scottish Climate Commitments: <https://www.gov.scot/policies/climate-change/>. 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 (e.g. flood prevention) and maximising added social, economic and environmental value.

The Commercial and Procurement Shared Service (C&PSS)

Embraces the procurement function in: Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council and The Highland Council. The 2017-2022 Joint Procurement Strategy (<https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2019-01/Joint%20Procurement%20Strategy.pdf>) is 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 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. Embedded and reinforced communication leads to climate positive measures receiving early, considered focus resulting in higher quality, more innovative bids aligned to local/national priorities and climate change duties.

Policy/guidance reinforces messaging that not all sustainability measures 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) wastewater standards/accreditation and production methods at any stage of the lifecycle of supply or service promoted. [Zero Waste Scotland Circular Procurement Guidance and Best Practice](#) is promoted in policy/guidance. Procurers are encouraged to consider utilising community benefits and the specification to maximise environmental wellbeing. In addition, the Edinburgh Science Net Zero Toolkit (<https://thenetzerotoolkit.org/about/>) strongly promoted as a free resource to support suppliers on their own journeys to a net zero future.

Sustainability tools are promoted in policy and guidance: i) Sustainability Test, ii) Prioritisation Tool and iii) Lifecycle Impact Mapping. 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) and **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.) As an overarching theme, 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.

The Council has a **Resource and Circular Economy Commitment** which also helps supports compliance with its climate change duties: <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/24872/resourcesandcirculareconomycommitment.pdf>

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.

Construction – follows industry terms/best practice (NEC3, SBCC ICE etc), Building Standards/Building Performance polices whilst noting ambitions within the Scottish Government to move to ensure all new housing in Scotland is built to Passivhaus standard. In general, specifications incorporate sustainability, energy and environmental considerations to a challenging but proportionate extent per project.

In Passivhaus terms, the Council has three primary schools in various design stages to be fully Passivhaus-certified buildings, an office project starting on-site shortly which incorporates Passivhaus principles and a community campus at RIBA Stage 4 design, with contractor appointed (via a Two-Stage Design & Build process through a Pre-Construction Services Agreement) to develop a fully Passivhaus-certified project.

Strong ethos that value for money demonstrated by whole of life costing/best price-quality ratio. Current and future climate/adaptation risks factored into procurement processes where relevant to safeguarding assets/infrastructure/communities. In the reporting period, procurer and supplier knowledge/awareness of circular economy principles and sustainable 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, Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Solid Waste.

Compared to 2018, 2023 annual electricity consumption and paper use have both reduced approximately 46%. The cumulative reduction over the 5 years is estimated to be 124.8M fewer sheets of paper resulting in saving the equivalent of 14,976 trees. Furthermore, cumulative greenhouse gas emissions avoidance estimated to be 654,000 kg CO₂e as a result of reducing electricity, toner, and paper use each year. Contract ensures all removed devices governed via WEEE (waste electrical and electronic equipment) 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 now in commissioning and to be fully operational in 2023. Facility will provide a long-term solution for non-recyclable waste produced in the North East of Scotland and will generate significant, wider benefits e.g. low carbon electricity generation and heat for local residents as a sustainable means of reducing fuel poverty. The 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. The facility will export around 12MW of electricity, and/or 20MW of heat as steam or hot water.

Fleet vehicles – The new Fleet Services Strategic Plan 2020-30 sets decarbonisation aims 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.

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 e.g. 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 continue to be developed and challenged in cross-functional teams e.g. Climate Friendly criteria options 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 and processes, build internal and supplier awareness, knowledge and capacity building of climate positive/circular economy principles.

In the reporting period, **four** specific commodity areas targeted for specific action to minimise the Council’s carbon footprint in: i) Food ii) Building Maintenance Materials iii) Road Maintenance and iv) Office Materials. A pilot of two complementary systems underway looking for reliable and consistent measurement of change/effectiveness in these specific commodity areas and across other procurement activity

1. CO2 Analysis – Scope 3 Emissions Calculations
2. SustainIQ – Community Benefits, Environmental Outcome reporting

This activity will begin to set baselines and thereafter an auditable, transparent route to monitor the Council’s journey, recording impacts using common language/metrics and support the creation of real time reporting via dashboards

Sustainable Procurement and Community Benefits Policy guides sustainable procurement at a strategic and operational level, contributing positively and progressively to duties and commitments under [Scottish Climate commitments](#). A template Climate Clause 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.

Significant community benefit outcomes were secured in the reporting period guided by the Council's **Sustainable Procurement and Community Benefits Policy, 761** community benefit outcomes imposed or delivered during 2022/23 (including significant high quality job & apprenticeship opportunities underpinned by Fair Work considerations, over 369 hours of local community/3rd sector support imposed or volunteered by preferred bidders, encouragement of donations anticipated to benefit a significant number of local initiatives and nearly £2.5M of local subcontracting.) In regulated contracts, the community benefit and fair work criteria inclusion rate was **100%** across 23 contracts.

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 the [Aberdeenshire Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2017-2027 \(LOIP\)](#) 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 2023-2024 reviewed opportunities to include climate friendly criteria identified. Projects reviewed on a continuous basis.

Go Awards Scotland - CPSS were finalists in several categories in a ceremony held in October 2022 and secured "highly commended" status in the "Best Net Zero Initiative" category for a submission relating to Hydrogen Hub.

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, Social Enterprise Networks and Social Enterprise Scotland to raise awareness of and capability within the 3rd sector re 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 3rd 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.
This report was also peer reviewed by the Sustainability team at Moray Council.

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 awaiting confirmation of this signoff after 15/11/2023 committee meeting

Role in the body: Chief Executive

Date: 30/11/2023