

## REPORT TO SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE – 21 FEBRUARY 2024

### ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL ROUTE MAP TO 2030 AND BEYOND PROGRESS UPDATE

#### 1 Executive Summary/Recommendations

1.1 This report provides an update to the Sustainability Committee on progress to date of the Aberdeenshire Council Route Map to 2030 and Beyond which was approved by Aberdeenshire Council on 29 September 2022 ([Item 14](#)). It contains the newly developed draft Route Map Action Plan which breaks down the 11 Recommendations within the Route Map into timebound actions as well as including how these relate to the additional recommendations from a number of National reports.

#### 1.2 The Committee is recommended to:

**1.2.1 Consider and comment on Aberdeenshire Council's progress towards addressing the recommendations as set out in the Route Map to 2030 and Beyond through the development of a new Route Map Action Plan (Appendix 1); and**

**1.2.2 Consider and comment on the update provided by Property and Facilities Management on the ongoing progress with the various Renewables-related projects (Appendix 2).**

#### 2 Decision-Making Route

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

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

2.3 On 30 November 2022 ([Item 9](#)), the Sustainability Committee instructed officers to include the Accounts Commission's 5 recommendations for Councils in future update reports on the Route Map. This will now be done through updates on the Route Map Action Plan.

2.4 The last Route Map to 2030 and Beyond update was provided to the Sustainability Committee on 30 August 2023 ([Item 9](#)).

#### 3 Discussion

3.1 **Appendix 1** contains a newly developed Route Map Action Plan which sets out specific actions to address each of the 11 recommendations which were agreed

as part of the Route Map to 2030 and Beyond. The recommendations are a mix of process and organisational opportunities. Each support a people and culture shift that is required for embedded action, and then there are technical studies that will be required for a better understanding of the challenges and opportunities. The recommendations were developed following a risk analysis on the barriers which may prevent the Council from reaching its targets through the Carbon Budget process and Route Map development.

3.2 Included in the Route Map Action Plan are a number of additional internal and National report outcomes and recommendations. This has been done so that the Council are able to demonstrate where they are addressing these additional recommendations within its Route Map. It will also support the monitoring of these going forward.

3.3 In addition, a separate update on progress with the various Renewables-related projects led by Property and Facilities Management has been provided by the Service in **Appendix 2**.

#### 4 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

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

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

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

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

4.3 There are no direct staffing or financial implications arising from this update report.

4.4 The screening section as part of Stage One of the Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process has not identified the requirement for any further

detailed assessments to be undertaken. An IIA is not required as there are no direct implications of considering this update as it is a performance monitoring report. An IIA was completed for the Route Map to 2030 and Beyond which was approved by Aberdeenshire Council 29 September 2022 ([Item 14](#)).

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

- Risk ID ACORP010 as it relates to environmental challenges; and
- Risk ID ACORP006 as it relates to reputation management
- Risk ID ACORP001 as it relates to budget pressure

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

- Risk ID ISSR010 as it relates to Climate Change.

4.5.1 Mitigation of these risks could be addressed by sufficient communication and engagement on the progress Aberdeenshire Council is making with regards to climate change mitigation and adaptation both internally and externally. This includes being transparent on the challenges of addressing climate change as well as the opportunities for the organisation and region. Budget pressures can only be mitigated against if additional sufficient long term funding is made available to support the significant Capital investment required to meet climate change targets.

## **5 Scheme of Governance**

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

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

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**Director of Environment & Infrastructure Services**

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9 February 2024

## **List of Appendices**

- Appendix 1 Route Map to 2030 and Beyond Action Plan
- Appendix 2 Property & Facilities Management Renewables Update