

Aberdeenshire Council

Integrated Impact Assessment

Carbon Budget 2024-25

Assessment ID	IIA-001823
Lead Author	Claudia Cowie
Additional Authors	Yvonne D'Ambruoso
Service Reviewers	Ewan Wallace
Subject Matter Experts	Claudia Cowie, Kakuen Mo, Caroline Hastings, Annette Johnston, Christine McLennan
Approved By	Ewan Wallace
Approved On	Wednesday January 31, 2024
Publication Date	Wednesday January 31, 2024

1. Overview

This document has been generated from information entered into the Integrated Impact Assessment system.

The report contains Aberdeenshire Council's Carbon Budget for 2024/25 and identified projects which will reduce operational emissions further as the Council continues to progress with its interim target of 75% reduction in emissions by 2030 (from its 2010-2011 baseline). Projects include LED replacements, building upgrades, and energy efficiency interventions. The report also highlights the progress to date made by Aberdeenshire Council in reducing its internal operational emissions.

During screening 7 of 10 questions indicated that detailed assessments were required, the screening questions and their answers are listed in the next section. This led to 3 out of 5 detailed impact assessments being completed. The assessments required are:

- Children's Rights and Wellbeing
- Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty
- Sustainability and Climate Change

In total there are 29 positive impacts as part of this activity. There are 0 negative impacts, all impacts have been mitigated.

A detailed action plan with 0 points has been provided.

This assessment has been approved by ewan.wallace@aberdeenshire.gov.uk.

The remainder of this document sets out the details of all completed impact assessments.

2. Screening

Could your activity / proposal / policy cause an impact in one (or more) of the identified town centres?	No
Would this activity / proposal / policy have consequences for the health and wellbeing of the population in the affected communities?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect greenhouse gas emissions (CO2e) in the Council or community and / or the procurement, use or disposal of physical resources?	Yes
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect the resilience to extreme weather events and/or a changing climate of Aberdeenshire Council or community?	Yes
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect the environment, wildlife or biodiversity?	Yes
Does the activity / proposal / policy have an impact on people and / or groups with protected characteristics?	Yes
Is this activity / proposal / policy of strategic importance for the council?	Yes
Does this activity / proposal / policy impact on inequality of outcome?	No
Does this activity / proposal / policy have an impact on children / young people's rights?	Yes
Does this activity / proposal / policy have an impact on children / young people's wellbeing?	Yes

3. Impact Assessments

Children's Rights and Wellbeing	No Negative Impacts Identified
Climate Change and Sustainability	No Negative Impacts Identified
Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty	No Negative Impacts Identified
Health Inequalities	Not Required
Town Centre's First	Not Required

4. Childrens' Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment

4.1. Wellbeing Indicators

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Safe		Yes		
Healthy		Yes		
Achieving	Yes			
Nurtured		Yes		
Active		Yes		
Respected	Yes			
Responsible	Yes			
Included	Yes			

4.2. Rights Indicators

UNCRC Indicators upheld by this activity / proposal / policy	Article 3 - Best interests of the child
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4.3. Positive Impacts

Impact Area	Impact
Achieving	Education and Children's Service have developed a Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy. Through this strategy young people will be encouraged to engage in climate action. For example, schools are encouraged to access the Council's internal website holding all of the energy data for their school and utilise this data for cross disciplinary learning. Pupils can learn new skills and can have an opportunity to lead on different energy saving initiatives as well as work collaboratively across the school and other schools if interested in competition or collaborative working. They can feel empowered to make a difference to emissions and therefore their impact on climate change. They can share opportunities at home and in their community too. Different schools engage in different ways. One example of this is the Excelerate programme which is supported by the Wood Foundation and Aberdeenshire Council at Banff Academy. Pupils will be working on the topic Climate & Conservation - Extinction is Forever - How can Scotland become a country where wildlife flourishes and people thrive?

Impact Area	Impact
Included	<p>Education and Children's Service have developed a Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy. Through this strategy young people will be encouraged to engage in climate action. For example, schools are encouraged to access the Council's internal website holding all of the energy data for their school and utilise this data for cross disciplinary learning. Pupils can learn new skills and can have an opportunity to lead on different energy saving initiatives as well as work collaboratively across the school and other schools if interested in competition or collaborative working. They can feel empowered to make a difference to emissions and therefore their impact on climate change. They can share opportunities at home and in their community too. Different schools engage in different ways. One example of this is the Excelerate programme which is supported by the Wood Foundation and Aberdeenshire Council at Banff Academy. Pupils will be working on the topic Climate & Conservation - Extinction is Forever - How can Scotland become a country where wildlife flourishes and people thrive?</p>
Responsible	<p>Education and Children's Service have developed a Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy. Through this strategy young people will be encouraged to engage in climate action. For example, schools are encouraged to access the Council's internal website holding all of the energy data for their school and utilise this data for cross disciplinary learning. Pupils can learn new skills and can have an opportunity to lead on different energy saving initiatives as well as work collaboratively across the school and other schools if interested in competition or collaborative working. They can feel empowered to make a difference to emissions and therefore their impact on climate change. They can share opportunities at home and in their community too. Different schools engage in different ways. One example of this is the Excelerate programme which is supported by the Wood Foundation and Aberdeenshire Council at Banff Academy. Pupils will be working on the topic Climate & Conservation - Extinction is Forever - How can Scotland become a country where wildlife flourishes and people thrive?</p>

Impact Area	Impact
Respected	Education and Children's Service have developed a Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy. Through this strategy young people will be encouraged to engage in climate action. For example, schools are encouraged to access the Council's internal website holding all of the energy data for their school and utilise this data for cross disciplinary learning. Pupils can learn new skills and can have an opportunity to lead on different energy saving initiatives as well as work collaboratively across the school and other schools if interested in competition or collaborative working. They can feel empowered to make a difference to emissions and therefore their impact on climate change. They can share opportunities at home and in their community too. Different schools engage in different ways. One example of this is the Excelerate programme which is supported by the Wood Foundation and Aberdeenshire Council at Banff Academy. Pupils will be working on the topic Climate & Conservation - Extinction is Forever - How can Scotland become a country where wildlife flourishes and people thrive?

4.4. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
External Consultation	https://www.childrensparliament.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Childrens-Parliament_Climate_Assembly_2021.pdf	This report tells explains how children have been involved in Scotland's Climate Assembly, and what children across Scotland think needs to happen in Scotland to tackle the climate emergency.	The climate emergency is a human rights issue. Any plan, solution or action to tackle climate emergency in Scotland must respond to the needs, and rights, of everyone living here, and this means listening to the diversity of views and lived experiences of Scotland's citizens. This includes children.
Internal Consultation	Officers across different services	A number of different services within Business, Infrastructure, Education and Children, and the Health and Social Care Partnership have provided data and information for this report.	Gathered many lists of project ideas some of which have been included as actions for 2022/23. Others will be worked on over the year to provide an action plan for mitigation and adaptation work including the development of the Route Map to 2030 and Toolkit.

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Internal Data	Data from across different services on on consumption of energy and waste.	Internal energy, transport and waste consumption data has been used to determine the carbon emissions of the Council. Data has come from Property and Facilities, Transportation, Roads, Landscape and Waste Services, HR&OD.	The data has been used to determine the Council's total annual emissions up to 2020/21.

4.5. Information Gaps

Climate Change information and data changes frequently as the science and research improves. There are likely gaps but we use all the information provided to us by the Scottish Government alongside all other Public Sector bodies.

4.6. Measures to fill Information Gaps

Measure	Timescale
We will continue to consult on documents put forward by the Scottish Government on the expectations of the Public Sector.	Ongoing

4.7. Accounting for the Views of Children and Young People

The report produced by the Children's Parliament and Scotland's Climate Assembly (2020-21) was considered when pulling together the Carbon Budget.

4.8. Promoting the Wellbeing of Children and Young People

Reducing emissions from actions within the Council will support a cleaner, safer environment for children / young people and therefore improve their wellbeing. For example, reducing emissions will positively impact air quality, improve biodiversity and supports a future where climate change may not be as impactful as predicted if we do not contribute to reducing global emissions. In addition, children / young people who engage in ways to reduce emissions may find a new interest and therefore could impact their wellbeing by providing exciting opportunities for future development, employment, learning opportunities etc.

4.9. Upholding Children and Young People's Rights

Climate Change is a human rights issue. Any plan, solution or action to tackle climate change in Scotland must respond to the needs, and rights, of everyone living here. Actions in the Carbon Budget should also benefit the children the Council look after through its different services. Many of the actions in the carbon budget will do this including the energy efficiency measures which will be completed in schools, and future engagement within the Council's Education and Children Services Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy.

4.10. Overall Outcome

No Negative Impacts Identified.

Reducing emissions from actions within the Council will support a cleaner, safer environment for children / young people as well as provide exciting opportunities for development and learning.

5. Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty Impact Assessment

5.1. Protected Groups

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Age (Younger)		Yes		
Age (Older)		Yes		
Disability		Yes		
Race		Yes		
Religion or Belief		Yes		
Sex		Yes		
Pregnancy and Maternity		Yes		
Sexual Orientation		Yes		
Gender Reassignment		Yes		
Marriage or Civil Partnership		Yes		

5.2. Socio-economic Groups

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Low income		Yes		
Low wealth		Yes		
Material deprivation		Yes		
Area deprivation	Yes			
Socioeconomic background		Yes		

5.3. Positive Impacts

Impact Area	Impact
Area deprivation	Improving the Council's operational non-domestic building stock to make it more energy efficient can improve the quality of the building and therefore improve the conditions that people who come into contact with our buildings face (internally and externally). This includes the Council's schools, offices, leisure centres etc. Future proofing the Council's estate will therefore support improving area deprivation. In addition to this, the Council's contribution to reducing emissions will also support other social and environmental impacts on area deprivation such as improving air quality and biodiversity.

5.4. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
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Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
External Consultation	https://www.gov.scot/publications/transition-commission-national-mission-fairer-greener-scotland/documents/	The report sets out the view of the The Just Transition Commission on key opportunities and challenges for Scotland and recommends practical steps to achieving a just transition.	Fairness and climate ambition must go hand in hand. The pathway to net-zero emissions may be ambitious, but it can be a unique opportunity to build a Scotland that is healthier, fairer and greener.
External Consultation	https://www.climateassembly.scot/full-report	Scotland's Climate Assembly is made up of over 100 citizens from all walks of life tasked with examining expert evidence and agreeing recommendations for tackling the climate emergency in a fair and effective way. This report lays out Scotland's Climate Assembly's recommendations for Scottish society to tackle the climate emergency. It begins with a Statement of Ambition, calling for radical and decisive action, then details 16 goals and 81 recommendations.	It means that Scotland's Public Sector and therefore Aberdeenshire Council have a duty to consider the recommendations put forward by the Assembly and determine ways in which it can support those of which it has direct influence over via the Council's Carbon Budget process.
Internal Consultation	Officers across different services	A number of different services within Business, Infrastructure, Education and Children, and the Health and Social Care Partnership have provided data and information for this report.	Gathered many lists of project ideas some of which have been included as actions for 2022/23. Others will be worked on over the year to provide an action plan for mitigation and adaptation work including the development of the Route Map to 2030 and Toolkit.
Internal Data	Data from across different services on on consumption of energy and waste.	Internal energy, transport and waste consumption data has been used to determine the carbon emissions of the Council. Data has come from Property and Facilities, Transportation, Roads, Landscape and Waste Services, HR&OD.	The data has been used to determine the Council's total annual emissions up to 2020/21.

5.5. Information Gaps

Climate Change information and data changes frequently as the science and research improves. There are likely gaps but we use all the information provided to us by the Scottish Government

alongside all other Public Sector bodies.

5.6. Measures to fill Information Gaps

Measure	Timescale
We will continue to consult on documents put forward by the Scottish Government on the expectations of the Public Sector.	Ongoing

5.7. Engagement with affected groups

Consultation for the production of the Carbon Budget has been to review Scotland's Climate Assembly and Children's Parliament reports. These reports represent a range of people who are broadly representative of a population.

5.8. Ensuring engagement with protected groups

There are no impacts identified on those with protected characteristics.

5.9. Evidence of engagement

There has not been engagement to evidence other than the consultation of the documents mentioned above.

5.10. Overall Outcome

No Negative Impacts Identified.

Action to address and improve climate change mitigation and adaptation performance will benefit all staff and residents of Aberdeenshire.

5.11. Improving Relations

Continuous communication across services within Aberdeenshire Council and Aberdeenshire communities will be required to ensure any impacts are identified, considered and mitigated if feasible as early as possible.

5.12. Opportunities of Equality

It is well understood that Climate Change impacts are likely to affect people disproportionately. Any transition through climate change mitigation and adaptation must always be considered just and socially fair so that everyone can benefit from the opportunities and no one is left suffering the consequences worse than others.

6. Sustainability and Climate Change Impact Assessment

6.1. Emissions and Resources

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Consumption of energy	Yes			
Energy efficiency	Yes			
Energy source	Yes			
Low carbon transition	Yes			
Consumption of physical resources	Yes			
Waste and circularity	Yes			
Circular economy transition		Yes		
Economic and social transition	Yes			

6.2. Biodiversity and Resilience

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Quality of environment	Yes			
Quantity of environment	Yes			
Wildlife and biodiversity	Yes			
Infrastructure resilience	Yes			
Council resilience	Yes			
Community resilience	Yes			
Adaptation	Yes			

6.3. Positive Impacts

Impact Area	Impact
Adaptation	Utilisation of the Nature Restoration Fund for investing in a variety of Nature Based Solutions will help to deliver insetting projects for the Council estate as well as some communities sequestering carbon and mitigating against the interlinked climate change and nature emergency crises. Projects may also support climate change adaptation for the region of Aberdeenshire.
Council resilience	By improving energy efficiency and installing renewables such as the solar PVs the Council is already improving its own resilience for future climate change events such as extreme weather events.
Council resilience	By improving energy efficiency and installing renewables such as the solar PVs the Council is already improving its own resilience for future climate change events such as extreme weather events. Supporting nature based solutions will also enhance Council resilience.

Impact Area	Impact
Infrastructure resilience	By improving energy efficiency and installing renewables such as the solar PVs the Council is already improving its own infrastructure resilience for future climate change events such as extreme weather events.
Infrastructure resilience	By improving energy efficiency and installing renewables such as the solar PVs the Council is already improving its own infrastructure resilience for future climate change events such as extreme weather events. Improving green space also supports future infrastructure resilience.
Quality of environment	By reducing emissions the Council is supporting other benefits for the environment such as improving air quality in the region. In addition, reduced maintenance for biodiversity enhancement in certain areas will also improve the quality of the environment.
Quality of environment	By reducing emissions the Council is supporting other benefits for the environment such as improving air quality in the region. Utilisation of the Nature Restoration Fund for investing in a variety of Nature Based Solutions will help to deliver insetting projects for the Council estate as well as some communities sequestering carbon and mitigating against the interlinked climate change and nature emergency crises. Projects may also support climate change adaptation for the region of Aberdeenshire. Each of the projects funded through this initiative will support improving the quality of the environment.
Quantity of environment	Utilisation of the Nature Restoration Fund for investing in a variety of Nature Based Solutions will help to deliver insetting projects for the Council estate as well as some communities sequestering carbon and mitigating against the interlinked climate change and nature emergency crises. Projects may also support climate change adaptation for the region of Aberdeenshire. Some of the projects funded through this initiative could also support improving the quantity of the environment.
Community resilience	Utilisation of the Nature Restoration Fund for investing in a variety of Nature Based Solutions will help to deliver insetting projects for the Council estate as well as some communities sequestering carbon and mitigating against the interlinked climate change and nature emergency crises. Projects may also support climate change adaptation for the region of Aberdeenshire.
Wildlife and biodiversity	Utilisation of the Nature Restoration Fund for investing in a variety of Nature Based Solutions will help to deliver insetting projects for the Council estate as well as some communities sequestering carbon and mitigating against the interlinked climate change and nature emergency crises. Projects may also support climate change adaptation for the region of Aberdeenshire. Each of the projects funded through this initiative will support improving the environment for more wildlife and increased biodiversity.

Impact Area	Impact
Consumption of energy	The Carbon Budget report contains a number of projects which will support reducing energy consumption by the organisation. This is through energy efficiency projects as well as projects reducing waste and also reducing energy consumption by other services.
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Energy efficiency	The Carbon Budget report contains a number of projects which will support reducing energy consumption by the organisation. This is through energy efficiency projects as well as projects reducing waste and also reducing energy consumption by other services. Many projects are focused on energy efficiency improvements to building stock.
Energy efficiency	The Carbon Budget report contains a number of projects which will support reducing energy consumption and being more energy efficient across the organisation. This is through energy efficiency projects as well as projects reducing waste and also reducing energy consumption by other services.
Energy source	The carbon budget includes the addition of solar PVs to some of the Council's buildings generating renewable energy.
Energy source	The carbon budget includes the addition of solar PVs to some of the Council's buildings generating renewable energy.
Economic and social transition	The Council is demonstrating leadership in reducing emissions through its carbon budget process and therefore is supporting the low carbon transition in the region. Part of the feasibility work as mentioned in the report will also look at local supply chains and skills gaps for energy efficiency and heat decarbonisation in the region. The Council can then look at opportunities to support the growth of these needs in the region.
Economic and social transition	The Council is demonstrating leadership in reducing emissions through its carbon budget process and therefore is supporting the low carbon transition in the region.
Low carbon transition	The Council is demonstrating leadership in reducing emissions through its carbon budget process and therefore is supporting the low carbon transition in the region.
Low carbon transition	The Council is demonstrating leadership in reducing emissions through its carbon budget process and therefore is supporting the low carbon transition in the region.
Consumption of physical resources	The continued membership to the Warplt reuse online platform means the Council can reduce its consumption of physical resources by ensuring items no longer required in one service can be reused in another part of the Council. The platform links the Council to external organisations also so sharing can happen across the region. In addition energy efficiency projects will reduce the Council's consumption of other resources such as fossil fuel.

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Consumption of physical resources	The continued membership to the Warplt reuse online platform means the Council can reduce its consumption of physical resources by ensuring items no longer required in one service can be reused in another part of the Council. The platform links the Council to external organisations also so sharing can happen across the region. In addition energy efficiency projects will reduce the Council's consumption of other resources such as fossil fuel.
Waste and circularity	The continued membership to the Warplt reuse online platform means the Council can reduce its consumption of physical resources by ensuring items no longer required in one service can be reused in another part of the Council. The platform links the Council to external organisations also so sharing can happen across the region. Improving food waste recycling in some of the Council's schools will also reduce waste to landfill and will supply circularity through the contract with Keenans which converts the food waste into soil improver for the region.
Waste and circularity	The continued membership to the Warplt reuse online platform means the Council can reduce its consumption of physical resources by ensuring items no longer required in one service can be reused in another part of the Council. The platform links the Council to external organisations also so sharing can happen across the region.

6.4. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Internal Consultation	Officers across different services	A number of different services within Business, Infrastructure, Education and Children, and the Health and Social Care Partnership have provided data and information for this report.	Gathered many lists of project ideas some of which have been included as actions for 2022/23. Others will be worked on over the year to provide an action plan for mitigation and adaptation work including the development of the Route Map to 2030 and Toolkit.
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External Consultation	https://www.gov.scot/publications/transition-commission-national-mission-fairer-greener-scotland/documents/	The report sets out the view of the The Just Transition Commission on key opportunities and challenges for Scotland and recommends practical steps to achieving a just transition.	Fairness and climate ambition must go hand in hand. The pathway to net-zero emissions may be ambitious, but it can be a unique opportunity to build a Scotland that is healthier, fairer and greener.
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Other Evidence	Public Sector Leadership on the Global Climate Emergency	The guidance is in part to support the Climate Change (Duties of Public Bodies: Reporting Requirements) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2020 which set out additional requirements and expectations for Public Body response to the Climate Emergency.	The document lays out consideration for Public Sector Bodies to embed climate change action across the organisation in order to reduce emissions in line with the National targets. Aberdeenshire Council's Carbon Budget process supports some of these expectations.

6.5. Information Gaps

Climate Change information and data changes frequently as the science and research improves. There are likely gaps but we use all the information provided to us by the Scottish Government alongside all other Public Sector bodies.

6.6. Measures to fill Information Gaps

Measure	Timescale
We will continue to consult on documents put forward by the Scottish Government on the expectations of the Public Sector.	Ongoing

6.7. Overall Outcome

No Negative Impacts Identified.

The Carbon Budget 2024-25 identifies many projects which will support a reduction in the Council's own emissions and improve the environment, demonstrating a positive impact towards supporting action on climate change mitigation and adaptation.