

REPORT TO FORMARTINE AREA COMMITTEE – 30 APRIL 2024

DRAFT HEATING POLICY

1 Executive Summary

1.1 This report provides an update to the Area Committee on progress with the development and implementation of Aberdeenshire Council's new Heating Policy. It contains the latest version of the policy document, with comments incorporated from the recently completed consultation exercise, as well as an implementation programme.

1.2 Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

1.2.1 Consider and comment on the progress with development and implementation of the proposed Aberdeenshire Council Heating Policy; and

1.2.2 Provide comments on the draft Heating Policy document for Business Services Committee.

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](#)). In order to meet a 75% reduction in emissions by 2030, this Route Map committed Officers to reporting against an annual Carbon Budget, with a Carbon Reduction Target for each Service. For the 2024/25 Carbon Budget, which was approved on 22 February 2024 ([Item 6](#)), Business Services were informed their Carbon Reduction Target would be 1,600 tCO₂e (tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent) In December 2023, when debating what to include for their Service in the 2024/25 Carbon Budget, Officers in Property and Facilities Management (P&FM) decided to explore the concept of a Council-wide Heating Policy.

2.2 The draft Policy was developed initially by the Engineering team in P&FM and issued for comments to the Sustainability and Climate Change team and P&FM Service Managers in late January 2024. Comments were incorporated, and the final Heating Policy document was issued for consultation to the Trade Union Joint Secretaries on 19 February 2024. The results of this consultation were received on 22 March 2024 and incorporated into the latest version of the proposed Heating Policy document which is attached as **Appendix 1**.

2.3 The development, governance, and implementation of this Heating Policy follows the 'Scheme of Governance Part 4B - Policy Development and Review Framework' document. This means the proposed Policy will need to go to the six Area Committees and then Business Services Committee for final approval.

In February 2024, a programme was prepared to reflect this route – see **Appendix 2**.

2.4 The programme in **Appendix 2** states an intention to go to the Sustainability Committee in May 2024 but this meeting has now been cancelled. Bringing this Policy before Sustainability Committee was always an optional measure, but not required as part of the Policy Development and Review Framework process noted in paragraph 3.4 above. Therefore, no additional changes or delays are needed to the programme – the overall timeline will not be affected.

3 Discussion

3.1 In line with other Local Authorities, the creation and implementation of a formal Heating Policy by Aberdeenshire Council should unlock significant savings through the prevention of energy waste. Services will be supported on this focus with tools and advice, but ultimately empowered at a site level to take direct action and apply best practice.

3.2 Ensuring heating is being operated within the most appropriate schedules and setpoints to meet operational needs, and identifying and tackling persistent overheating, should mean the release of cost and carbon savings with minimal investment.

3.3 The Policy is intended to be ready for communication in June 2024 after passing appropriate approvals. The Policy will however need support from all leadership levels to deliver the forecast benefits.

3.4 The Energy team in P&FM have calculated the Heating Policy will provide estimated Carbon Savings of 923 tCO₂e (tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent) in both 2024/25 and 2025/26, making it a key component of the Carbon Budget for Business Services in these years. This ties-in with the estimated timescales for development and implementation of the Heating Policy. It is likely to take until June 2024 for full approval and launch. There will then be an 18-month period for the behaviour change it formalises to take effect, which would fall equally between the two financial years.

4 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

4.1

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

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

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

4.3 As reported in the Carbon Budget paper to Full Council on [22 February 2024](#), the estimated Annual Cost Saving for this Heating Policy is £700,000.

4.4 There are no direct staffing implications arising from this Heating Policy,

4.5 As there is an impact on Sustainability and Climate Change with this Heating Policy, an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) has been carried-out, reviewed and approved. Refer **Appendix 3**. There are positive impacts from this Heating Policy in the following areas:

- Reduces energy consumption;
- Improves energy efficiency;
- Reduces amount of carbon being used by the specific building and Council as a whole;
- Reduces consumption of physical resources; and
- Reduces waste.

4.6 The following Risks in the [Corporate Risk Register](#) have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level. However, it is acknowledged that working towards a 75% reduction in Council owned emissions has the potential to impact upon any number of areas across the Council risk portfolio.

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

The above risks could be mitigated against with sufficient communication and engagement on the progress Aberdeenshire Council is making with regards to this Heating Policy and how it relates to wider objectives on climate change mitigation and the Carbon Budget.

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 have no comments to make and are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.
- 5.2 The Committee is able to consider this item in terms of Section B 11.1 of the [List of Committee Powers in Part 2A](#) of the Scheme of Governance as it relates to considering and commenting on proposals to amend Council policy and/or develop Council policy in line with the Policy Development and Review Framework and make recommendations to the relevant Policy Committee.

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27 March 2024

List of Appendices –

- Appendix 1 - Draft Heating Policy**
- Appendix 2 - Programme for implementation of Heating Policy**
- Appendix 3 - Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)**