

REPORT TO SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE – 15 JUNE 2022

ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL ROUTE MAP 2030 AND BEYOND

1 Executive Summary/Recommendations

1.1 This report contains the draft of Aberdeenshire Council's Route Map 2030 and Beyond which has been developed by consultants with the support of Aberdeenshire Council officers.

1.1.1 The project looked at what the requirements will be across the Council to reach its own 75% reduction in emissions by 2030 target and Net Zero by 2045. Carbon Dioxide Equivalent (CO₂e) emissions and financial estimates have been made for projects identified. A part of this work included the development of a toolkit which will identify a complete view of decarbonisation progress against planned CO₂e reduction. This includes a view of the Capital/Revenue impact and cost effectiveness (£/tCO₂e) of each reduction project so that the Council can analyse the impact on the overall budget and prioritise project selection.

1.2 The Committee is recommended to:

1.2.1 Consider and comment on the draft Route Map 2030 and Beyond (Appendix 1); and

1.2.2 Instruct the Director of Environment & Infrastructure to finalise the Route Map 2030 and Beyond in order for it to be presented to Full Council for approval.

2 Decision Making Route

2.1 Section 44 of Part 4 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 places duties on public bodies relating to climate change which entered into force on 1 January 2011. These duties require that a public body must, in exercising its functions, act:

- in the way best calculated to contribute to delivery of the Act's emissions reduction targets;
- in the way best calculated to deliver Scotland's statutory climate change adaptation programme; and
- in a way that it considers most sustainable.

2.2 The Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019 sets national emissions reduction targets as:

- At least 75% lower than the baseline year by 2030;

- At least 90% lower than the baseline year by 2040; and
- Net Zero by 2045 ('Net Zero' refers to achieving an overall balance between emissions produced and emissions taken out of the atmosphere).

- 2.3 On 18 March 2020 Aberdeenshire Council ([item 9](#)), agreed a Climate Change Declaration committing to working towards a carbon free society by reducing its own emissions by 75% (2010/11 baseline) by 2030 and to work with others across the region to ensure that Aberdeenshire reaches Net Zero by 2045.
- 2.4 On 24 June 2021 Aberdeenshire Council ([item 10](#)), agreed a one-off allocation of £100,000 to support the next phase of developing the Carbon Budget setting process. The revised process has been to support the Council in developing a toolkit which has helped to cost out a Route Map to 2030. The next steps will be to fully integrate the Carbon Budget with the Council's financial budgets.
- 2.5 On 25 August 2021, the Sustainability Committee ([item 6](#)) agreed a project outline for the one-off allocation and consultants Arcadis began working on the Route Map 2030, Toolkit development (for estimating cost per tonne saved for all the significant measures through the creation of a Marginal Abatement Cost Curve - MACC), and Carbon Budget 2022-23 on 22 November 2021.
- 2.6 On 16 February 2022, the Sustainability Committee ([item 6](#)) was provided an update on the progress of the development of the Carbon Budget 2022/23, Route Map 2030, and Toolkit.
- 2.7 On 9 March 2022, Aberdeenshire Council ([item 7](#)) approved the Carbon Budget 2022 – 2023. At the same meeting, £500,000 was approved to support the further development of the Route Map through necessary feasibility work on a cross section of the Council's operational buildings. Some other opportunities for feasibility/technical studies are also being considered as outlined by the recommendations in section 2.2 of the Route Map 2030 and Beyond document (**Appendix 1**).

3 Discussion

- 3.1 On 29 October 2021 the Scottish Government, in partnership with Sustainable Scotland Network (SSN), published the [Public Sector Leadership on the Global Climate Emergency](#) guidance. 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 for reporting periods commencing on or after 1 April 2021. Public bodies' annual Climate Change reports must now also include:
- where applicable, 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;

- where applicable, targets for reducing indirect emissions of greenhouse gases;
- how the body will align its spending plans and use of resources to contribute to reducing emissions and delivering its emissions reduction targets;
- how the body will publish, or otherwise make available, its progress to achieving its emissions reduction targets; and
- where applicable, what contribution the body has made to helping deliver Scotland's Climate Change Adaptation Programme (currently the 2019 - 2024 Programme)

3.2 This initial guidance is fairly high level and will be augmented with greater detail via case study examples of action already happening across the public sector. This work is currently still under development with Scottish Government and SSN.

3.3 Aberdeenshire Council is already very well placed to demonstrate most of the additional requirements. The development of the Route Map 2030 and Beyond has captured the gaps in the above reporting requirements ensuring that the Council will be complying fully with the Amendment Order.

3.4 The Route Map 2030 and Beyond can be found in **Appendix 1**. The report covers:

- Introduction to the Route Map 2030 and Beyond – key activities and targets driving the development of the Route Map;
- Recommendations – these have been grouped by process and organisation, technology, information, people and culture;
- Future Carbon Budgets – these have been designed utilising the toolkit which was also developed as part of this project. Actions within these future carbon budgets focus on the Council's operational buildings, fleet and LED streetlight programme as these are the largest emitters.

3.5 The 2 gaps requiring additional work ensuring that the Council will be complying fully with the Amendment Order are outlined within the recommendation section 2.2.2 of the Route Map 2030 and Beyond under recommended actions point 9:

- Residual emission action plan including an organisational carbon footprint scope and target review;
- Resilience/adaptation assessment.

3.6 There has been a great deal of stakeholder engagement across services to gather data for the project. Focus has very much been on the opportunities to

further reduce the Council's emissions from its operational buildings, fleet and street lighting as these areas are responsible for the largest portion. In addition, opportunities around reuse and recycling of resources, circular economy, road maintenance, business travel including in personal vehicles and flood lighting across our household recycling centres, sport areas and parks are also being considered.

4 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

4.1 This report helps deliver all six of the Council's Strategic Priorities.

Pillar	Priority
Our People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education • Health & Wellbeing
Our Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure • Resilient Communities
Our Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economy & Enterprise • Estate Modernisation

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	IJA attached as Appendix 2		
Children and Young People's Rights and Wellbeing	IJA attached as Appendix 2		
Climate Change and Sustainability	IJA attached as Appendix 2		
Health and Wellbeing			X
Town Centre First			X

4.3 The financial implications in reaching carbon emission reduction targets are significant and will need to be addressed and identified for the organisation as a whole. This work will inform the Council's Medium -Term Financial Strategy and in doing so seeks to ensure that the programme of activities and projects represent best value in how the Council helps to deliver the Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019. The target of 75% by 2030 is more challenging and will involve the need for considerable investment by both the Council, UK and Scottish Government and other stakeholders. The development of the toolkit has supported this requirement by identifying the need and amount of investment required.

4.3.1 Capital expenditure of implementing a reduction in Aberdeenshire Council's emissions has been estimated within Table 6 of the Route Map 2030 and Beyond. The estimates are broken down to the level of annual expenditure with an estimated total of £89,088,347 to reach a 75% reduction in emissions by 2030. These indicative costs focus on only operational buildings, fleet and streetlighting. It is estimated a further 10% of funding should be considered to

cover actions in other areas where we report emissions. The bulk of the investment (approximately 60%) is required within the next 3 years (2023/24 - 2025/26) in order for the 75% reduction in emissions to be realised by 2030. It is also important to note that the toolkit is still to be finalised and so this figure may still change. Further feasibility studies to be completed in 2022/23 will provide more detailed and robust whole life costings. In addition, there will always be some fluidity with these figures as costs behind assumptions change with current market climate.

4.3.2 The figures above do not include Revenue consequences of borrowing which will be around £4million for 40 years. They also do not include future Revenue savings being made by some of the interventions, for example energy efficiency projects. Some of the funding required will already be set out in the Capital Plan. For example, £5 million per annum from 2025/26-2030/31 has already been approved for fleet replacement. Therefore, the total of additional funding for the Council to meet its targets is still to be determined. Once this has been identified, changes to the Capital Plan would need to be agreed by the Capital Plan Group for affordability and would then need approval by Full Council. Some work is still required to complete this before the Route Map 2030 and Beyond is put before Full Council for approval.

4.3.3 In achieving the Council's targets we will also have to include a general evolution of staff roles to incorporate consideration of climate change as part of the day job. In the next 2 - 5 year period Services and Directorates will be supported through augmenting the corporate lead team on Climate Change as well as putting in place project specific leads. The options for funding this approach will be developed further in discussion with Finance and Service leads. This is likely to be a combination of sourcing external funding, building into the Capital Programmes of work, gaining support as part of collaborations and putting in place secondment opportunities.

4.4 An Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) has been carried out as part of the development of the proposals set out above. It is included as **Appendix 2** and there is a positive impact as follows:

- The Route Map 2030 and Beyond identifies many projects which will support a reduction in the Council's own emissions and therefore its contribution to regional emissions, demonstrating a positive impact towards supporting action on climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- Reducing emissions from actions within the Council will support a cleaner, safer environment for children, young people, staff and residents of Aberdeenshire as well as provide exciting opportunities for development and learning.

4.5 The following Risks 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 and Risk ID ACORP006 as it relates to reputation management within the [Corporate Risk Register](#)).

4.6 The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Strategic Level:

- Risk ID ISSR004 as it relates to Climate Change in the ([Directorate Risk Registers](#))

5 Scheme of Governance

- 5.1 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and their comments are incorporated within the report. They are satisfied that the report complies with the [Scheme of Governance](#) and relevant legislation.
- 5.2 The Committee is able to consider and take a decision on this item in terms of Section R paragraph 1.1 (a) of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance as it relates to monitoring the Council's work in respect of sustainable development and climate change.

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Date: 6 June 2022

List of Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Aberdeenshire Council Route Map 2030 and Beyond
Appendix 2 – Integrated Impact Assessment