

## REPORT TO SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE – 17 MAY 2023

### CARBON BUDGET 2022-2023 FINAL UPDATE

#### 1 Executive Summary/Recommendations

1.1 This report presents the final update to the Sustainability Committee on the actions which were listed in the Carbon Budget 2022-2023 that were agreed by Aberdeenshire Council on 9 March 2022 ([Item 7](#)). The final update indicates that the Carbon Budget for 2022-23 is unlikely to be reached due to challenges which have delayed projects from starting at the anticipated time. However, many of those projects have now been moved into 2023/24 for actioning or have been revised to become more cost effective.

#### 1.2 Recommendations

**The Committee is recommended to:**

**1.2.1 Consider and comment on the final Carbon Budget 2022-2023 six-monthly update as attached in Appendix 2.**

#### 2 Decision-Making Route

2.1 On 9 March 2022 ([Item 7](#)) a total Carbon Budget for 2022-2023 was set as 47,383 tonnes Carbon Dioxide Equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e) by Aberdeenshire Council in line with linear progression towards a 75% reduction in Council owned emissions by 2030. A list of CO<sub>2</sub>e reduction measures was presented at this meeting to support the Council in reaching its Carbon Budget for the year. At the same meeting, it was agreed that all Directors were required to submit six-monthly updates on in-year progress in relation to these reduction measures to their relevant Policy Committees and additionally to the Sustainability Committee.

2.2 This report contains the final update that has been provided from each Directorate. **Appendix 1** contains the agreed Carbon Budget for 2022-2023 and **Appendix 2** contains the final update on each of the actions listed.

2.3 In addition to the Carbon Budget 2022-2023 being agreed on 9 March 2022, the responsibility for developing and delivering feasibility studies was delegated to the Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services. A budget of £500,000 was approved for spend to support the further development of the Route Map to 2030 and Beyond through necessary feasibility work on a cross section of the Council's operational buildings. An update on progress to date is provided in paragraph 3.3.

#### 3 Discussion

3.1 The final update in **Appendix 2** demonstrates the estimated savings made by each of the projects which were listed for the Carbon Budget 2022-23. It also sets out an explanation for projects which have been delayed due to different

factors (mainly resource and supply chain challenges) and if the project has been rolled forward into 2023-24.

- 3.2 As the figures in **Appendix 2** suggest, the target set for the Carbon Budget 2022-23 is unlikely to have been met. This will not be officially established until the Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report (PBCCDR) for 2022-23 is completed by the Sustainability and Climate Change team by November 2023. The PBCCDR template will not be released by Scottish Government until July 2023 for completion by 30 November 2023.
- 3.3 A scope has now been agreed for feasibility work on a cross section of the Council's operational buildings. This work is required to determine a better understanding of the work which will be required on the different types of non-domestic buildings the Council owns and operates. Results from these studies will also support identifying actions and costs for future carbon budget projects and will update the Carbon Budget Toolkit with latest data available making the assumptions behind the tool more rigorous. This work was due to be completed in 2022-23 but due to internal resource capacity this will now roll over into 2023-24.
- 3.4 In addition to the actions which were listed in the Carbon Budget 2022-2023, work is also underway on a number of different projects. This includes the continued identification of funding opportunities to support Aberdeenshire Council in reaching its emission reduction targets, and some examples are set out below:
  - 1) The development of Aberdeenshire's Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES). By December 2023, the Council is to have in place a strategy and delivery programme. This work will have a positive impact on future Carbon Budgets as it includes Council buildings.
  - 2) A grant through the Local Authority Covid Economic Recovery (LACER) was awarded to take forward a consultant led Aberdeenshire Heat Decarbonisation Supply Chain and Skills Feasibility study. The Consultants appointed by the Council identified the potential supply chain demand and skills required, in order to decarbonise heat and drive down energy consumption from Public Sector buildings in the region no later than 2038. The draft report is currently being finalised and will be presented at a future Sustainability Committee.
  - 3) Surveys and interviews have taken place across services in the organisation to identify how climate change has impacted on service delivery and measures in place for climate change adaptation and resilience building. The Local Climate Impact Profile (LCLIP) has been updated with this latest data and the Climate Change Risk Register is also under review. A Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Framework to be utilised by services is also under development.
  - 4) The Sustainability Champions programme has been rolled out with currently 35 officers signed up and meeting monthly.

- 5) The Route Map Steering Group has been set up and meetings are underway. The group is made up of senior management representatives from key services and will help to deliver the Route Map to 2030 and Beyond.
  
- 6) Climate Ready Aberdeenshire (CRA) draft strategy is in its final stages and currently under final review with the CRA Steering Group. An Activity Log of actions currently underway by different organisations across Aberdeenshire has been developed. This is also trying to capture future opportunities for partnership working and identifying funding to expand on these projects if it becomes available.

#### 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 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 There are no direct staffing or financial implications arising from this Carbon Budget update monitoring 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 Carbon Budget 2022-2023 which was approved by Aberdeenshire Council 9 March 2022 ([Item 7](#)).

- 4.5 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; and
  - Risk ID ACORP006 as it relates to reputation management.

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

- Risk ID ISR010 as it relates to Climate Change.
- 4.5.1 The above risks could be mitigated against with sufficient communication and engagement on the progress Aberdeenshire Council is making with regards to climate change mitigation and adaptation beyond 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 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 this item in terms of Section R paragraphs 1.1a and 1.1c of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance as it relates to approving, reviewing and monitoring the Council's work in respect of sustainable development and climate change and, also to promote awareness of the need for sustainability within the Council.

**Alan Wood**  
**Director of Environment & Infrastructure Services**

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Date: 4 May 2023

### **List of Appendices:**

Appendix 1: Carbon Budget 2022-2023, Identified Costs and Financial Budget Lines  
Appendix 2: Carbon Budget 2022 – 2023 Final Update