

REPORT TO SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE – 30 AUGUST 2023

CARBON BUDGET 2023-2024 PROGRESS UPDATE

1 Executive Summary/Recommendations

1.1 This report presents an update to the Sustainability Committee on progress to date towards the actions listed in the Carbon Budget 2023-2024 that were agreed by Aberdeenshire Council on 9 March 2023 ([Item 5](#)).

1.2 Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

1.2.1 Consider and comment on the Carbon Budget 2023-2024 six-monthly update as attached in Appendix 1; and

1.2.2 Note the ongoing responsibility of each Director to secure their reduction targets as set out in the Carbon Budget, and to report progress at six-monthly intervals to the relevant Policy Committees and to the Sustainability Committee.

2 Decision-Making Route

2.1 On 9 March 2022 ([Item 5](#)) a total Carbon Budget for 2023-2024 was set as 44,152 tonnes Carbon Dioxide Equivalent (tCO₂e) by Aberdeenshire Council in line with linear progression towards a 75% reduction in Council owned emissions by 2030. A list of CO₂e 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.

3 Discussion

3.1 This report contains the progress update that was provided by officers from each Directorate. **Appendix 1** contains the progress update on each of the actions originally listed in the approved Carbon Budget 2023-2024. It sets out if projects are still running to schedule, have been delayed, if estimates have changed and includes additional projects rolled over from the 2022-2023 Carbon Budget.

3.2 As the figures in **Appendix 1** suggest, there is a risk that the target of 44,152tCO₂e set for the Carbon Budget 2023-24 is unlikely to be met. Additional projects have not been added by Directorates since the Carbon Budget was agreed on 9 March 2023. In addition to this, the emission factor for electricity which was estimated to bring a reduction of around 500tCO₂e annually has actually increased for 2023. This means that overall emissions for electricity use are very likely to increase so the 500tCO₂e estimated savings

has been removed. This highlights the challenges around relying on this emission factor to support Aberdeenshire Council's progress towards its target going forward.

- 3.3 However, the overall total of estimated emissions savings from projects in the Carbon Budget 2023-2024 has increased from an estimate of 1972tCO₂e presented on 9 March 2023 to 2098tCO₂e which is positive.
- 3.3.1 This is due to all the Council's internal waste now going direct to the Energy from Waste Plant. The original 900tCO₂e estimate was made on the assumption that this would not start until August 2023 but now that estimate is expected to be around 1351tCO₂e. This will be a one-off saving for 2023-2024 and we will not see this kind of saving for waste in future years unless tonnage for residual waste and recycling drops significantly. The total emission reduction for Environment and Infrastructure Services has now increased from 1392tCO₂e to 1812tCO₂e.
- 3.3.2 In addition, the rollover of the LED programme within our operational non-domestic buildings into 2023-2024 which was delayed from last year due to ongoing supply chain challenges has also contributed to the increase in total emission reduction for Business Services from 79tCO₂e to 286tCO₂e.
- 3.4 There are still some 'TBDs' (to be determined) in the report for projects where it is anticipated that estimated CO₂e savings can be calculated if estimated reduction in consumption figures can be provided by services. Some TBDs have been changed to 'Unknown' and these are projects which will not have consumption data available and therefore estimated emissions savings will not be made in 2023-2024.

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"> • 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 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 2023-2024 which was approved by Aberdeenshire Council 9 March 2022 ([Item 5 – IIA is Appendix 5](#)).
- 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 ISSR010 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.

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17 August 2023

List of Appendices

Appendix 1: Carbon Budget 2023 – 2024 Progress Update