

REPORT TO SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE – 30 AUGUST 2023

ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL ROUTE MAP TO 2030 AND BEYOND PROGRESS UPDATE

1 Executive Summary/Recommendations

1.1 This report provides an update to the Sustainability Committee on progress to date of the Aberdeenshire Council Route Map to 2030 and Beyond which was approved by Aberdeenshire Council on 29 September 2022 ([Item 14](#)). It sets out the 11 recommendations in the Route Map including how they are being prioritised, the estimated timeline for action, the activity required to complete the action and progress on each to date. Additional summary reports have also been included as outputs of some of the recommendations. The report also contains an update on Aberdeenshire Council's progress on the Accounts Commission's 5 recommendations for Councils which came out of the Audit Scotland report on Scotland's Councils' Approach to Addressing Climate Change.

1.2 The Committee is recommended to:

1.2.1 Consider and comment on Aberdeenshire Council's progress towards addressing the recommendations as set out in the Route Map to 2030 and Beyond (Appendix 1); and

1.2.2 Consider and comment on Aberdeenshire Council's progress towards addressing the recommendations as set out in the Accounts Commission's 5 recommendations for Councils (Appendix 5).

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](#)).

2.2 The Sustainability Committee is to support the monitoring of the Carbon Budgets and the 11 Recommendations as set out in the Route Map to 2030 and Beyond. This is to ensure progress continues to be made in actioning the Route Map so that the Council meets its climate change targets as set out in the Aberdeenshire Council Climate Change Declaration.

2.3 On 30 November 2022 ([Item 9](#)), the Sustainability Committee instructed officers to include the Accounts Commission's 5 recommendations for Councils in future update reports on the Route Map. This report contains this additional update on the Accounts Commission's recommendations in **Appendix 5**.

3 Discussion

- 3.1 **Appendix 1** contains progress to date on the 11 recommendations that were set out in the Route Map to ensure continued progress towards the Council's climate change targets can be met. These recommendations are a mix of process and organisational opportunities which will support a people and culture shift that is required for embedded action, and technical studies that will be required for a better understanding of the challenges and opportunities. The update covers their progress to date including how they are being prioritised, the estimated timeline for action, the activity required to complete the action and any progress to date.
- 3.2 Included as progress to date are some additional reports which have now been completed that support parts of the outputs required for 3 of the 11 recommendations.
- 3.2.1 **Appendix 2** contains a summary of a report that looked at identifying the pipeline of work which will be required in relation to non-domestic public sector buildings in the region supporting part of recommendation 3.
- 3.2.2 **Appendix 3** contains a summary of the draft of the updated Local Climate Impact Profile (LCLIP) which has been completed for years 2019-2022. This provides an evidence base alongside previously completed LCLIPs for examining climate risks to the Council. It also will support the development of adaptation and resilience guidance and therefore supports part of recommendation 9.2.
- 3.2.3 **Appendix 4** contains a summary of the Reuse feasibility study which was completed in March 2023 supporting part of recommendation 9.4.
- 3.3 In addition to progress on the Route Map, **Appendix 5** contains an update on the Accounts Commission's 5 recommendations for Councils as outlined in their report Scotland's Councils' Approach to Addressing Climate Change (<https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/publications/scotlands-councils-approach-to-addressing-climate-change>) which was published on 8 September 2022. The update covers the progress made by Aberdeenshire Council on these 5 recommendations between November 2022 to July 2023.

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 overleaf.

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 update 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 Route Map to 2030 and Beyond which was approved by Aberdeenshire Council 29 September 2022 ([Item 14](#)).

4.5 The following Risks in the Corporate Risk Register have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level:

- 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 Mitigation of these risks could be addressed by sufficient communication and engagement on the progress Aberdeenshire Council is making with regards to climate change mitigation and adaptation both internally and externally. This includes being transparent on the challenges of addressing climate change as well as the opportunities for the organisation and region.

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 reviewing and monitoring the Council's work in respect of sustainable development and climate change.

Alan Wood
Director of Environment & Infrastructure Services

Report prepared by Claudia Cowie, Team Leader Sustainability and Climate Change
17 August 2023

List of Appendices

- Appendix 1 11 Recommended Actions and Progress to Date
- Appendix 2 Quantifying the Skills Gap and Potential for Investment in the North East of Scotland Related to Net Zero Heating and Retrofitting Opportunities Study Summary
- Appendix 3 Local Climate Impact Profile 2019 – 2022 Summary
- Appendix 4 Reuse Feasibility Study Summary
- Appendix 5 The Accounts Commission's 5 Recommendations for Councils to Consider Progress Update