

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

---

<b>COMMITTEE</b>	City Growth and Resources
<b>DATE</b>	5 December 2019
<b>EXEMPT</b>	No
<b>CONFIDENTIAL</b>	No
<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	Aberdeen Adapts: Aberdeen's Climate Adaptation Framework
<b>REPORT NUMBER</b>	PLA/19/407
<b>DIRECTOR</b>	N/A
<b>CHIEF OFFICER</b>	Gale Beattie – Chief Officer
<b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>	Alison Leslie
<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE</b>	2.2 determine the Council's strategies for city growth and place planning except in relation to major infrastructural planning and the Local Development Plan.

---

### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report seeks approval for the final version of the Aberdeen Adapts: Climate Adaptation Framework, along with the associated Environmental Report; and provides information on proposals for a governance model for climate change as requested by City Growth and Resources Committee on 25 April 2019.

### 2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee:-

- 2.1 Approve the final text version of Aberdeen Adapts: Climate Adaptation Framework as outlined in Appendix 2;
- 2.2 Approve the final Aberdeen Adapts, Environmental Report, Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), as outlined in Appendix 3; and
- 2.3 Instruct the Chief Officer – Strategic Place Planning, to align the governance arrangements for climate emission reduction (Powering Aberdeen), with adaptation (Aberdeen Adapts).

### 3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 A draft version of Aberdeen Adapts: Climate Adaptation Framework and associated impact assessments was approved for public consultation by City Growth and Resources Committee in April 2019. Committee instructed officers to report back for approval of the final document in November, along with the findings of the public consultation; and to provide an update on governance proposals.

- 3.2 Aberdeen Adapts sets out a long-term city-wide framework for collaborative working to prepare for and adapt to climate change. Adaptation Scotland provided support for the development of Aberdeen Adapts to Aberdeen City Council, working with the University of Aberdeen and a wide range of city stakeholders. It was developed through stakeholder input and builds on local adaptation actions that are already in place and delivering multiple benefits in the city. The final Aberdeen Adapts: Climate Adaptation Framework document is attached as *Appendix 2*.
- 3.3 The Aberdeen Adapts: Climate Adaptation Framework aligns with Planning and Implementation stage *PI2C*, under the Scotland Adapts, a Capability Framework which aims to help public sector organisations to adapt to climate change. This stage encourages organisations to set strategic direction through adaptation goals or outcomes; and define actions which are the starting point of a longer term process of adapting to climate change.
- 3.4 ACC, alongside other public bodies in Scotland, has a duty to adapt to climate change under part 4 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 and must report on progress through an annual Climate Change Report. Annual progress on Aberdeen Adapts, will be included as part of ACC's annual Climate Change Report.
- 3.5 Aberdeen Adapts was informed by an evidence base of climate risks for the city and current adaptation action, *Appendix 4*.

### **Consultation**

- 3.6 Aberdeen Adapts and the associated (SEA) Environmental Report were issued for an 8 week public consultation in June-July, through the Consultation Hub. Information on the consultation went out through a press release, ACC social media channels, the consultation was circulated to Aberdeen Adapts stakeholders, to wider stakeholders; and to Community Councils.
- 3.7 70 responses were received to the consultation and a summary of the responses is set out in *Appendix 1*. The majority of respondents indicated they agreed with the Aberdeen Adapts, priorities, goals and action areas. Some respondents provided further comments and these have been incorporated into Aberdeen Adapts, as far as possible.
- 3.8 In addition, the (SEA) Environmental Report was issued to statutory consultees Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and Historic Environment Scotland, as required by the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. *Appendix 3* includes the final Environmental Report, which has been updated to reflect feedback.

### **Governance**

- 3.9 Feedback from stakeholders involved in the development of Aberdeen Adapts and received through the public consultation highlighted a strong preference for linking the governance on city-wide action to reduce emissions (Powering Aberdeen), with the approach to adjust to and prepare for a changing climate (Aberdeen Adapts).
- 3.10 ACC approved Powering Aberdeen, the city Sustainable Energy Action Plan in 2016, setting targets and actions to reduce emissions and meeting commitments as a signatory of the Covenant of Mayors. Governance arrangements for Powering Aberdeen were established at this time, including a

Steering Group to oversee progress, co-ordinated by ACC, with representation from a range of organisations.

- 3.11 It is proposed that governance arrangements for Aberdeen Adapts are merged with the existing Steering Group arrangements for Powering Aberdeen. This would allow oversight of actions to address climate change in Aberdeen. The benefits include:
- Providing one place for organisations to access information, a single reporting point on the delivery of local climate actions.
  - Improved use of resources – making better use of stakeholder time and avoiding duplication across workstreams.
  - Allow co-benefits and synergies to be identified between emission reduction and adaptation actions.
  - Support work to monitor and mainstream climate action.
  - Aligns with the current Covenant of Mayors approach for integrated climate action, which brings together emission reduction and adaptation, through requirements for a Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Programme (SECAP).
- 3.12 For Aberdeen Adapts the Steering Group remit would include: Developing phase 1 of a 5 year Implementation Programme for adaptation, with options appraised against factors including: available resources, project feasibility, level of risk, costs and the potential for co-benefits. Investigating finance models and seek funding opportunities. Monitoring progress and activity, disseminating knowledge and engaging stakeholders.
- 3.13 It will be vital to review and adjust climate actions as more information becomes available or where any changes arise. Allowing for flexibility in the governance arrangements for the Energy and Climate Programme will enable adjustments in approach to be considered, where required, by any changes to legislation, targets, emission scenarios and resources.
- 3.14 The ACC communications team is assisting with work to summarise and cascade information on adaptation work to key city sectors.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.
- 4.2 There are significant financial risks for organisations in not taking action to adapt to climate change. For ACC and other organisations in the city, this could include costs for damage to land and property assets, increased insurance costs, delays to major project delivery, restrictions to capital programmes, increased demand for services, building closures from a loss in land and property values. Premises could be uninhabitable, and buildings not previously affected could be at significant likelihood of flooding affecting the corporate portfolio.
- 4.3 Aberdeen Adapts aims to assess and take timely adaptation action to avoid and reduce long term costs and prevent loss in asset value. Actions will include zero and low-cost adaptation measures, including changes to policy, procedure, and decision making.
- 4.4 Where relevant, bids for external funding may be sought for specific adaptation projects and potential sources of future funding for adaptation have been identified. Examples of funding that has been accessed to develop existing

adaptation projects include: Scottish Natural Heritage Green Infrastructure Funding, Scottish Environment Protection Agency Water Environment Fund and Interreg funding. All project proposals will be subject to the relevant Council governance and oversight arrangements.

## 5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Public Bodies Duties under Part 4 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 require the major public bodies in Scotland, including the Council, to act in the best way calculated to deliver any statutory adaptation programme. This is to make sure critical services and infrastructure are ready to meet future challenges. Climate Ready Scotland: the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Adaptation programme was published on 23 September 2019.
- 5.2 The Climate Change (Duties of Public Bodies: Reporting Requirements) (Scotland) Order 2015, requires the Council to report annually to the Scottish Ministers on progress with meeting these duties; including work to assess and manage climate risks and actions to adapt.

## 6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

Category	Risk	Low (L) Medium (M) High (H)	Mitigation
<b>Financial</b>	<b>Implementing</b> - costs of over adaptation if climate scenarios change.	L	Seek funding. Monitor climate projections. Ensure action is proportionate to risks.
	<b>Not implementing</b> - A loss of land and property value. Damage to assets/ infrastructure. Increase in costs for - repairs, materials, services, response and recovery arrangements and for insurance.	H	Climate risks integrated into risk processes; service planning; policy and procedures.
<b>Legal</b>	<b>Not implementing</b> - ACC has a duty to adapt under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 and report annually on progress.	H	Approval and implementation of Aberdeen Adapts.
<b>Employee</b>	<b>Not implementing</b> - Health, safety and well-being risks for staff working in response to/ or during severe weather events. Increased demands on staff time. Loss of work time due to weather impacts.	H	Training in climate risks and measures to adapt.
<b>Customer</b>	<b>Not implementing</b> - Increase demands for services. Service disruptions and delays. Impact on health, safety and wellbeing. For	H	Aberdeen Adapts Communication Plan will be updated to cover

	vulnerable people climate impacts could be greater, widening inequalities. Lack of awareness.		implementation of Aberdeen Adapts.
<b>Environment</b>	<b>Not implementing</b> - Degradation and fragmentation of habitats. Health, numbers and distribution of wildlife affected. Pests and disease is not managed. Impacts for water quality and availability, air and soil quality.	H	Climate risks will be reviewed in line with updates to the UK
<b>Technology</b>	<b>Not implementing</b> - Risk of power disruptions, digital and communication outages. Damage to digital infrastructure.	M	Climate risks will be reviewed in line with updates to the UK Climate Risk Assessment.
<b>Reputational</b>	<b>Not implementing</b> - Risks to public safety. Decisions are not resilient and cost-effective in the long term. Failure to deliver services and meet performance/ legal targets.	H	Approval and implementation of Aberdeen Adapts. Aligning with/ informing existing partnerships.

## 7. OUTCOMES

Local Outcome Improvement Plan Theme	
	Impact of Report
<b>Prosperous Economy</b>	Without Aberdeen Adapts there may be climate impacts that affect LOIP outcomes for infrastructure and economic growth. The proposals in this report support the delivery of stretch outcome 1 - 10% increase in employment across priority and volume growth sectors by 2026. The paper include action to investigate options for business growth from the adaptation sector; including through innovation, technology and skills.
<b>Prosperous People</b>	Proposals support the delivery of LOIP stretch outcome 11 – Health expectancy is 5 years longer by 2026. The paper includes actions to encourage green infrastructure and expand greenspace networks that can support LOIP aims for community green spaces.
<b>Prosperous Place</b>	The proposals in this report support the delivery of stretch outcome 14 - Addressing climate change by reducing Aberdeen's carbon emissions by 42.5% by 2026 by 2026 and adapting to the impacts of our changing climate. The paper seeks approval for a framework for long term city-wide action to adapt to climate change.

Design Principles of Target Operating Model	
	Impact of Report
<b>Customer Service Design</b>	Aberdeen Adapts seeks to plan ahead to: protect the delivery of customer services and build understanding of increasing pressures on functions from climate change.
<b>Organisational Design</b>	Aberdeen's organisations and businesses will all be facing climate challenges. Partnership working can make best use of local resources, improve co-operation & business continuity; and avoid duplication.

<b>Governance</b>	Governance on climate risks and gaps; and embedding climate change in decision making, helping to ensure planned investment is secure.
<b>Workforce</b>	Aberdeen Adapts seeks to engage with relevant staff and city partners and increase knowledge and understanding of ways to address climate change. Climate change will affect health, safety and wellbeing and for vulnerable people the impacts could be even greater.
<b>Process Design</b>	There are many interdependencies in climate change. Building consistent understanding, skills development and team/ partnership working seeks to improve efficiency and reduce the potential for duplication in activity.
<b>Technology</b>	Aberdeen Adapts seeks to encourage resilience in digital infrastructure. The approach will also explore opportunities to use technology to adapt.
<b>Partnerships and Alliances</b>	Partnership working will increase co-operation. Improve use of resources.

## 8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<b>Equality &amp; Human Rights Impact Assessment</b>	Full EHRIA has been undertaken and lodged with the nominated Equalities officer.
<b>Data Protection Impact Assessment</b>	A Data Protection Impact Assessment is not required.
<b>Duty of Due Regard / Fairer Scotland Duty</b>	Applicable. Climate change may result in widening and increasing inequalities caused by social - economic disadvantage. Work will take place to consider climate justice, developing actions to reduce climate inequalities.
<b>Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)</b>	Full SEA required and Environmental Report is included in <i>Appendix 3</i> . This report seeks consultation with public and statutory consultees on the Environment Report for Aberdeen Adapts completed as part of the SEA process.
<b>Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA)</b>	Screening undertaken for Aberdeen Adapts. Further assessment may be required as projects develop.

## 9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- [Powering Aberdeen – city Sustainable Energy Action Plan October 2016](#)
- Climate Change Risk & Adaptation CHI bulletin January 2017
- [Aberdeen Adapts PLA/19/102 – 25 April 2019](#)
- [Aberdeen Adapts – SEA Screening, Scoping reports](#)
- [UK Climate Risk Assessment](#)
- [Climate Ready Scotland: Scottish Adaptation Programme](#)
- [UK Climate Projections 2018](#)
- [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\) – Climate change impacts, adaptation and vulnerability](#)
- [Scotland Adapts: A Capability Framework for a Climate Ready Public Sector.](#)

## 10. APPENDICES

- Appendix 1 – Consultation summary
- Appendix 2 – Aberdeen Adapts - final text version

- Appendix 3 – Strategic Environmental Assessment – Final Environmental Report
- Appendix 4 – Informing Aberdeen Adapts – Evidence Base

## **11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS**

Alison Leslie

Senior Sustainability Officer

Email: [alleslie@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:alleslie@aberdeencity.gov.uk)

Tel: 01224 522792