

## SERVICE UPDATE

<b><u>Name of Function:</u></b>	Place
<b><u>Date:</u></b>	05/12/2019
<b><u>Title of Update:</u></b>	Climate Change Report 2018/2019
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### **UPDATE:**

- 1.1 Aberdeen City Council (the Council) along with all other public sector organisations have a statutory duty to complete a Climate Change Report (CCR) on progress against Public Bodies Duties under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009. Public Bodies Duties are:
- To reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions (mitigation)
  - Adapt to the impacts of a changing climate (adaptation)
  - To have sustainable development as a core value (acting sustainably)
- 1.2 The primary function of the report is to monitor performance against legislative requirements and the council's relevant corporate plans, policies and strategies. The report has two sections: "Required<sup>1</sup>" and "Recommended<sup>2</sup>" reporting.
- 1.3 This paper provides an update on the Climate Change Report covering the period from 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2019 that was submitted to Scottish Government on the 21<sup>st</sup> of November 2019.
- 1.4 Aberdeen City has committed to emission reduction of 50% by 2030 with an interim target of 31% by 2020 (from 2005 baseline) as set out in the Aberdeen Sustainable Energy Action Plan – Powering Aberdeen<sup>3</sup>. The Climate Change Report shows the progress made towards achieving this target.

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<sup>1</sup> The "Required" section provides evidence of corporate climate change governance, internal waste, business travel, street lighting, council building utilities, water and projects focusing upon efforts to reduce emissions at a corporate level as well as information on adaptation and sustainable procurement.

<sup>2</sup> The "Recommended" section reflects the influential functions that the Council has in supporting efforts on climate change mitigation and adaptation city-wide, beyond its estate boundary.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/environment/powering-aberdeen>

1.5 Table 1 below shows a reduction in council’s carbon emissions of 4,802 tCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2018/2019 when compared to 2017/2018. Several areas showed notable decreases in emissions including rail travel, car-diesel (average – unknown engine size) from co-wheels, petrol (average biofuel blend) used in fleet travel, energy consumption from building (gas oil), glass recycling, street lighting and short haul flights.

**Table 1: Overall Emissions**

Reporting Period	Overall emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)
2018/2019	31090
2017/2018	35892
2016/2017	39225
2015/2016	46371
2014/2015	44993

2.0 The Environmental Policy Team delivered a presentation to the Extended Corporate Management Team (CMT) in February 2019. The aim was to further engage with Chief Officers to look at the issue of climate governance, performance monitoring and reporting. A cross function approach is essential if the council is to continue to ensure accountability and progress in meeting its emissions reduction target.

2.1 It should be noted that Scottish Government declared a Climate Emergency in May 2019 and the Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019 set a new target for net -zero Scottish greenhouse gases by 2045. Consultations relating to climate mitigation and adaptation have been on the increase as a result of these changes, with the potential to place further requirements on public bodies in the delivery monitoring and reporting of climate actions. Further work needed to examine the areas where increases in the council’s own emissions were identified.

### 3.0 Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Required Reporting
- Appendix 2 – Recommended reporting