

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Urgent Business Committee
DATE	6 May 2020
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Council Energy and Climate Plan Routemap
REPORT NUMBER	PLA/20/082
DIRECTOR	Rob Polkinghorne
CHIEF OFFICER	Gale Beattie
REPORT AUTHOR	Alison Leslie, Senior Sustainability Officer
TERMS OF REFERENCE	UBC 1

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report seeks approval for the Aberdeen City Council ('Council') Energy and Climate Plan "Routemap". The Routemap sets out the work phases proposed to develop and deliver a net zero emissions and climate resilience plan for Council owned assets and operations.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee:

- 2.1 Approve the proposed Council Energy and Climate Plan 'Routemap', as outlined in Appendix 1;
- 2.2 Note the indicative remit and activities of the Council's Energy and Climate Thematic Groups, as outlined in Appendix A of the Routemap;
- 2.3 Instruct the Chief Operating Officer to ensure consistency between the Council's Energy and Climate Routemap and Plan and the closely related Place focused work packages led by the Chief Officer – City Growth;
- 2.4 Instruct the Director of Customer Services, in conjunction with Co-Leaders, to produce an external Communications Plan to deliver consistent communications and key messages on the Council's Energy and Climate Routemap and Plan, using a range of communication methods and channels while ensuring consistency with the Council's place-based approach;
- 2.5 Instruct the Director of Resources to produce an internal Communications and Engagement Plan to deliver consistent communications, key messages and inspire action to assist with the realisation of the Council's Energy and Climate Routemap and Plan, ensuring consistency with the external Communications Plan (subject of 2.4, above); and

- 2.6 Instruct the Chief Operating Officer to report back to the Full Council Committee with a Council Energy and Climate Plan for the Council's operations and assets by March 2021, ensuring alignment with the Council's annual budget setting process.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Part 4 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 places climate duties on major Scottish public bodies, including:
- i. Contributing to emission reduction targets. This is called climate mitigation and aims to limit the most harmful levels of climate change.
 - ii. Helping to deliver an adaptation programme. Adaptation is the process of preparing for and adjusting to the changing climate now and in the future. Climate Ready Scotland: the 2nd National Adaptation programme was published in September 2019.
 - iii. Acting sustainably.
- 3.2 A 2018 report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change highlighted the need for rapid, far reaching change if the planetary consensus to limit global warming to 1.5°C, set under the Paris Agreement, is to be achieved. In September, the Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019 set new targets for emission reduction in Scotland of net zero by 2045. With interim targets for 2030 of at least 75% lower; and for 2040 of at least 90% lower, than the baseline year. In addition, the act makes provision about advice, plans and reports in relation to those targets.
- 3.3 The Council is required by legislation to produce an annual Climate Change Report outlining progress with climate duties. The Council's report for 2018/19 was submitted to Scottish Government in November 2019 and this stated corporate emissions for that period of 31,090 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e), a reduction of around 15,281 tCO₂e when compared to 2015/16. It should be noted that greening of the grid is an important factor in emission reduction figures.
- 3.4 The Council's organisational and operational emissions are calculated using the Greenhouse Gas Protocol principles for direct and indirect emissions, these include: scope 1 – direct Greenhouse Gas emissions from sources owned or controlled by the Council; scope 2 – emissions from the generation of purchased energy; and scope 3 – indirect emissions that organisations produce through activities but occur from sources not owned or controlled by the organisation.
- 3.5 Work has taken place to assess climate risks affecting the Council and climate change is identified as a key risk in the Council's Corporate Risk Register. Current guidance on climate duties indicates public bodies should be resilient to the future climate and plan for business continuity in relation to the delivery of their functions and the services they deliver to the wider community.
- 3.6 This report proposes a Routemap to address climate risks and opportunities affecting Council assets and operations, in doing so providing assurance to

existing and future investors and supporting the Council's annual credit rating assessment by Moody's Investor Services.

- 3.7 In a 2019 consultation on climate duties, the Scottish Government indicated that Public Sector Bodies will be required to report the date by which they intend to achieve zero direct emissions and for local authorities to set targets on how they can use their influence to reduce indirect emissions. Scotland's Climate Change Plan was due to be published in April this year and has been postponed for an unknown duration due to Covid-19. Updates to Statutory Guidance on public bodies climate duties have still to be published and officers will report to Corporate Management Team (CMT) with details on the implications of the legislative changes when these are available. However, given the scale and pace of change to meet this challenge and to ensure Council policy, plans, procedures and financial decisions support these requirements, it is essential to put a planned approach in place.
- 3.8 The proposed Routemap (Appendix 1) sets out the phased approach to producing a detailed Council Energy and Climate Plan which will drive actions to reduce emissions from Council operations and assets; as well as identify measures to adapt to climate change. The Plan will seek to align with Scotland's net zero emissions target of 2045, examining opportunities to deliver this at an earlier date where practical or required.
- 3.9 Part of the proposed work includes presenting options for 'carbon budgeting' and a Tree and Woodland Plan which will be reported separately in line with the Full Council decision of 3rd March 2020.
- 3.10 The Routemap and arising Council Energy and Climate Plan can support the delivery of several actions under Powering Aberdeen: Aberdeen's Sustainable Energy Action Plan and Aberdeen Adapts: Aberdeen's Climate Adaptation Framework. Most specifically to "*Review and update the Carbon Management Plan which will drive carbon emissions across ACC operations.*"
- 3.11 The Routemap and subsequent Plan will be consistent with, while remaining distinct from, the Council's associated place-based energy, climate and other relevant strategies and plans being led by the Council's City Growth cluster. The Economic Policy Panel Report 2019, includes a response under net zero recommendations; "*Operationally, the Council will continue to look at its carbon footprint from an organisation perspective and report its progress through the statutory duties to report placed on council.*"
- 3.12 Development of the Routemap was informed by a workshop session held with the Extended Corporate Management Team (ECMT) in March 2020.
- 3.13 This work requires dialogue and clear internal and external communications to ensure consistent and accessible information for staff, public and key stakeholders around all relevant documentation on this agenda.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report. Development and oversight of the Routemap and subsequent Plan will be achieved through existing budgets, realigning human and financial resources where required; and accessing additional free external support and funding mechanisms, where available. There will be financial implications associated with implementation of the arising Plan; these will be outlined in the documentation brought back before Committee with the Plan for approval.
- 4.2 It is anticipated there could be financial implications if there is not sufficient planning and action to address the risks and opportunities of climate change. This could include costs for damage to assets and infrastructure, disruptions to operations and implications for financial decisions if they do not align to climate targets and emerging legislative requirements.
- 4.3 Full Council, on 3rd March 2020, approved the General Fund Revenue Budget and Capital Programme 2020/2021 which contained a funding commitment towards achieving net zero emission targets. This included funding for initiatives that will support work under the Routemap and subsequent Plan such as: fleet vehicle replacement, electric vehicle charging, energy efficiency, heating replacement and property refurbishment and improvements.
- 4.4 Arising financial and procurement implications in the implementation of the Routemap and development of the associated Plan will be managed in line with the Council's Scheme of Governance, including related protocols and regulations.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The recommendations, if approved, contribute to the Council's duties under Part 4 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 and the Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019.
- 5.2 Further, 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 climate duties.
- 5.3 The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, requiring Strategic Environmental Assessment for relevant plans, programmes and strategies, will be taken into account, as well as any requirements either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, for Habitats Regulation Appraisal (HRA), in the development of the Council's Energy and Climate Plan.
- 5.4 It should be noted that the duty to report to particular timescales has been relaxed to a certain extent by the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

Category	Risk	Low (L) Medium (M) High (H)	Mitigation
Strategic Risk	Failure to address climate risks in the delivery of Council strategic objectives and outcomes.	H	Development and delivery of the Routemap and arising Plan.
Compliance	Failure to meet public bodies climate duties, contributing to the delivery of national targets/ programmes. Failure to keep abreast of legislative changes.	M	Ensure legal ramifications of regulatory changes are understood. Respond to relevant strategic and legislative consultations.
Operational	Lack of understanding on/ planned approach to climate risks affecting Council estate and operations. Insufficient resources to progress action. Competing priorities.	H	Develop the Council's Energy and Climate Plan. Align reporting to Corporate Management Team (CMT) Stewardship. Development of supporting Communication Plan.
Financial	Budget pressures - costs to develop/ implement climate change actions. Lack of funding to implement actions. Increased costs from failure to address climate risks.	H	Identify and cost Council projects included in the proposed Council's Energy and Climate Plan. Unlock external funding opportunities.
Reputational	Failure to address climate risks/ set a year for net zero corporate emissions. Risk if commitment conflicts with other Council decisions. Risk of delays to progress.	H	Development and delivery of this Routemap and the arising Plan. Keep project risk register up to date. Officer Group oversight of project risks.
Environment / Climate	Failure to meet emission target year. Approach is not sufficiently robust to support the financing, delivery and monitoring of internal carbon reduction and adaptation projects.	H	Establish clear monitoring and reporting procedures. Identify sufficient projects to deliver carbon savings. Undertake relevant environmental assessment.

7. OUTCOMES

COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN	
Impact of Report	
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement	The paper seeks approval for a Routemap and approach to reducing emissions and building climate resilience in the development/ operation of Council buildings, wider estate and operations. This is relevant to delivery of: People: 1. School estate review and development of estate strategy and 2. Development of four new primary schools. Place: 7. Build of 2,000 new Council homes. In addition, it aims to explore options that relate to the delivery of Place: 1. Build up our strength in hydrogen technology and 3. Refresh of the Local Transport Strategy.
Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan	
Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes	The proposals in this report relate to the Council's own assets and operations. However, the development and delivery of Council net zero and resilience actions can indirectly support the delivery of LOIP Stretch Outcome 1 – <i>10% increase in employment across priority and volume growth sectors by 2026</i> . This seeks an increase in the number of people employed in growth sectors, including the energy sector.
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	The proposals in this report support the delivery of stretch outcome 11 - <i>Healthy life expectancy (time lived in good health) is five years longer by 2026</i> . Actions to reduce carbon emissions; and protect and improve the environment can have a positive impact on health and wellbeing.
Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes	The proposals in this report support the delivery of stretch outcome 14 - <i>carbon emissions reduction by 42.5% by 2026 and adapting to the impacts of our changing climate</i> . It can contribute to stretch outcome 15 – <i>38% of people walking and 5% of people cycling as main mode of travel by 2026</i> .
Regional and City Strategies	The proposals within this report support Council contribution to a wide number of regional and city strategies. Specifically, reducing Council emissions contributing to the delivery of Powering Aberdeen the city Sustainable Energy Action Plan; and Council climate resilience contributing to Aberdeen Adapts; the city Climate Adaptation Framework. Actions supporting the Economic Policy Panel Annual Report are set out in 3.11 of this report.
UK and Scottish Legislative and Policy Programmes	The report sets out a planned approach to meeting climate duties under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 and Scottish emission targets set out in the Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019.

8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Impact Assessment	<i>Assessment completed.</i>
Data Protection Impact Assessment	<i>Not required</i>

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Full Council 6 October 2016 - [Powering Aberdeen](#) – Sustainable Energy Action Plan - CHI/6/214
- City Growth & Resources Committee 5 December 2019 – Aberdeen Adapts: Climate Adaptation Framework – PLA/19/407
- City Growth & Resources Committee 5 December 2019 - Economic Policy Panel Annual Report 2019 - PLA/19/457
- Full Council 3 March 2020 - General Fund Revenue Budget and Capital Programme 2020/2021 – RES/20/065
- Full Council 3 March 2020 – Housing Programme - RES/20/049
- [Role of Public Bodies in Tackling Climate Change](#) – Scottish Government Consultation.

10. APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Aberdeen City Council Energy and Climate Plan Routemap

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