Appendix 1

Climate Change Plan 2021-2025:

Towards a Net Zero and Climate Resilient Council

The purpose of this plan is to set out the Council's approach, pathway and actions towards net zero and climate resilient Council assets and operations, by 2045.

Contents

1.0 Executive summary

1.1 Introduction and targets

Following Committee on Climate Change recommendations the UK has pursued ambitious net zero greenhouse gas targets.

Aberdeen City Council recognises the challenge of climate change and the need to reduce emissions to play our part in limiting global emissions, as well as preparing for the impacts of a changing climate. We have been making progress, leading city low carbon technology with 2 hydrogen refuelling stations, a growing hydrogen bus fleet and an innovative energy centre at Aberdeen's event complex.

We have also taken action to reduce the Council's own carbon footprint. Rolling out LED street lighting, expanding the range of electric and hydrogen vehicles in our own fleet; increasing connections to district heating for some of our public buildings and Council housing; and installing several green roofs.

But a transition towards a net zero and climate resilience will require an increased scale of ambition, a faster pace of change and a different way of doing things. Strengthening our climate commitments in May 2020, we approved:

- A **Net Zero Vision for Aberdeen** and supporting **Strategic Infrastructure Plan (SIP),** which includes a goal for a Net Carbon Zero – Public Sector.
- A **Council Energy and Climate Plan Routemap** setting out phased approaches to developing a plan to reduce emissions from Council assets and activity and to adapt to climate to climate change.

Expanding on the Routemap, this Climate Change Plan 2021 – 2025 aims to demonstrate leadership, state our ambitions and support our progress with public sector climate duties. It sets a net zero target for Aberdeen City Council's own assets and operations and drives a significant increase in actions to reduce carbon emissions and to build resilience. Delivery of the plan will make an active contribution to the Council's wider net zero city commitments.

Our targets

We will achieve net zero corporate carbon emissions* by **2045** at the latest
with interim targets of:

- a reduction of at least 48% by 2025
- a reduction of at least 75% by 2030
  (against Council 2015/16 reporting baseline)

This plan will be reviewed in 2025 and thereafter every 5 years, or earlier, taking into account changes to legislation, strategy and guidelines.

* For the purpose of this plan, "carbon emissions" refers to tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO2e).

In order to deliver the plan we will:
- Be an exemplar for net zero and climate resilience, through actions to reduce direct and indirect emissions and measures to manage the climate risks to our estate and operations.
- Re-shape our operational activity but also, where possible, go beyond this for reductions to our whole carbon footprint and to examine our wider influence.
- Establish partnerships for the delivery of projects.
- Contribute our part to the delivery of:
  - The Scottish Government emission reduction target of Net Zero by 2045 (the "net-zero emission target") - Climate Change (Emission Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019.
  - Scotland's Climate Change Adaptation Programme.
  - Aberdeen Local Outcome Improvement Plan's, stretch outcome on addressing climate change.

1.2　Key milestones to 2025

Figure 1: key milestones diagram
Note: Indicative diagram – information to be plotted on design version

Climate embedded in Council strategy/ policy guidance (2021)

Hydrogen for heat feasibility study (2021)

Retrofit pilot,100 Council homes (2021)

Marischal College LED lighting upgrade (2021)

Conversion to dual fuel refuse collection vehicles (2021)

Fleet optimisation (2022)

Council carbon budget in place (2022)

2,000 new Council homes Gold Standard (2023)

Fleet cars/ small vans decarbonised (2025)

100% street lighting LED (2025)

Transition to low carbon small machinery (2025)

Expand district heating connections – (ongoing)

2019/20 Emissions 30,563.2 tCO2e

2015/16 Baseline 46,370.9 tCO2e

Council Energy & Climate Routemap approved

2021 Launch plan

48% reduction tCO2e

2025 Review and publish revised plan

34% emission reduction

Expand scalable solutions

75% reduction tCO2e

2030 Review & publish revised plan

Indicative 83% reduction tCO2e

2035 Review & publish revised plan

Indicative 91% reduction tCO2e

2040 Review & publish revised plan

Net Zero by 2045 at the latest

1.3 Council Climate Change Plan summary

The plan has **5 themes** covering Council assets and operations:

Buildings	Mobility	Other Operations	Leadership & Governance	Awareness & Behaviour Change
Council buildings & Council housing	Fleet & staff travel	Street lighting, internal waste, nature based action	Processes, procurement and decision making	Communications, participation and training

Operational themes | Enabling themes

Each theme has a range of projects up to 2025 – aim to meet **outcomes** of:

Reduced energy demand	Zero emission fleet	Upgraded street lighting	Improved data management	Greater awareness (staff and elected members)
Low carbon/ renewable energy	Low carbon fleet infrastructure	Increase in nature based solutions	Climate risk management	Capability building
Increased resilience (buildings)	Reduced emissions from staff travel	Water management	Climate considerations embedded in Strategy & Policy development	Increased participation
Improved standards (buildings)	Resilient design and management - infrastructure	Internal waste minimisation/ sustainable catering	Strategic resource allocation	Wider engagement

Our Projects
Our ambition is to achieve a 48% reduction in emissions by 2025. National net zero targets and adaptation outcomes are driving further changes to legislation, regulation and proposing new statutory and voluntary standards which will emerge during the course of this plan. Our Project Register will be kept under continuous review and updated as new opportunities and risks are identified. Where our monitoring indicates we are not on track our governance process allows us to be agile and we will identify additional actions to take us further. Partnership working is driving many of our actions and we welcome collaborative work to deliver our projects.

1.4 The journey so far

Over and above our city wide net zero actions, key actions have already contributed to a reduction in the Council's own carbon emissions and to increased resilience:

3,603 Council flats and houses; and 26 public buildings and sheltered housing complexes connected to Combined Heat and Power (CHP) Energy Centres in the city.

LED lighting upgrade Bridge of Don Academy.

Building Management System and heating control upgrades for various schools.

Biomass is operating at Aberdeen's Duthie Park.

Our Council Condition and Suitability programme covers energy efficiency improvements.

Energy Performance Certificates EPC's show energy efficiency ratings for Council buildings (over 1,000m^2).

Green roofs have been installed at Pets Corner and the Crematorium extension.

The Council was a winner in the 2020 Green Fleet Awards.

A growing electric and hydrogen Council fleet of 20 electric vans, 1 electric compact sweeper, 1 electric mini digger, 3 hydrogen cars, 5 diesel/ hydrogen vehicles, 40 hybrid vehicles, in addition to city hydrogen buses.

Electric and hydrogen vehicles can be booked for Council staff use through the Co-Wheels Car Club.

Electric vehicle charge points installed: 22 - Council fleet, 16 - Car Club, form part of over 100 in the city.

Cycle travel is included in staff mileage. Pool bikes and cycle storage are available in several premises.

Our rolling LED street lighting programme has reduced emissions from street lighting by around 58%.

An award winning wetland area established in Seaton Park, in a space prone to flooding.

Silver Food for Life Award, achieved from the Soil Association for sustainable school meals.

Use of compostable consumables across the board in all Facilities Management Catering sites.

Case study: 179 new Council houses have already been built to Gold Level Technical Standard at Smithfield and Manor Walk. In total the Council's new house building programme will build 2,000 new homes to the gold standard, with the further phases included in this plan.
The programme includes connections and expansions to the Combined Heat and Power network, where practical. It aims to integrate measures, including cycle storage, space for homeworking, green roofs on bin stores and dedicated green space.
At the Manor Walk site the burn was de-culverted, bringing it to the surface to allow for biodiversity with planted marshlands, meadow grass and trees.

1.5 How will we achieve our 2025 target?

Project summary on a page

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Deliver project DORIC, a whole house retrofit pilot for 100 houses	✓				
Run a pilot for the Net Zero Carbon Standard Public Buildings		✓			
Build 4 new schools to EPC A rating, with natural outdoor areas	✓	✓			
Develop on site energy schemes - identified new Council houses, schools					
Expand connections to existing heat networks & plan wider connections	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Build 2,000 in total, new Council houses to Gold Standard 2020-2022	✓	✓			
Energy efficiency measures and building upgrades for Council buildings	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Install heat pumps, solar PV and battery storage for Kaimhill new homes		✓			
Develop the Torry Heat Network connecting to Energy from Waste	✓	✓	✓		
Ongoing energy efficiency upgrades for Council housing stock	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Feasibility study to inform hydrogen for heat demand	✓				
Lighting upgrade to LED, Marischal College		✓			
A Fleet Review, identify numbers/ cost for hydrogen and electric vehicles	✓				
Replacement of petrol and diesel fleet to hydrogen and electric vehicles	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Identify locations, electric vehicle charge points, for fleet and staff vehicles	✓	✓			
Convert 42 refuse collection fleet vehicles to dual fuel (hydrogen/ diesel)	✓				
Fleet optimisation analysing required fleet vehicle size and numbers	✓	✓			
Update the staff travel policy, including a grey fleet review	✓	✓			
Increase the number of Co-Wheels Car Club vehicles accessible for staff	✓	✓	✓		
Expand secure cycle storage in Council buildings & car parks	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Increase use of sensor technology to monitor areas at risk of flooding	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Complete LED street lighting replacement programme	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Phased Intelligent Street Lighting Programme	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Support, promote and integrate circular economy principles	✓	✓	✓		
Test the installation and retrofit of blue green infrastructure (BGI)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mapping blue/ green infrastructure opportunity sites	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pilot low carbon small machinery	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Expand a programme of tree planting on Council owned land	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Use of local, sustainable, seasonable, products in Council catering	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Review, replace old catering equipment with energy efficient models	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Develop and implement a carbon budget for the Plan	✓	✓			
Establish a platform for collating, monitoring, and reporting climate data	✓				
Integrate climate change in our policy, strategy and business cases	✓				
Strengthen delivery of climate priorities, through procurement processes	✓				
Integrate sustainability in the Council Capability Framework	✓				
Develop, launch and maintain a staff green champions network	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Develop and implement a staff training plan on climate change	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Plan and deliver a staff awareness raising programme	✓	✓			
Inform city schools and teachers about Council commitments and actions	✓				

2. Plan context

2.1 Background

Climate Change (Scotland) Acts set the legal framework for climate action; with duties for the public sector on reducing emissions, adapting to climate change and reporting annually on progress. The introduction of a net zero target by 2045 by Scottish Government, has required a strengthening of ambition to address climate change across the public sector.

2.2 Key drivers

Global

- The 2015 Paris Agreement sets a global commitment to limit global warming to 1.5°C.

- An Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) special report 2018, highlighted the need for rapid and far reaching change to reach this target.

- The UN Climate Conference COP26 is planned to take place in Glasgow in 2021 and aims to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement.

- Climate Action is one of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, encouraging urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. Alignment with the SDGs is included in section 7.

National

- The Climate Change Act 2008 sets a framework for a UK reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and provision for adaptation to climate change.

- The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 set climate change duties for public bodies which include:
  - contributing to the delivery of national emission targets;
  - adapting to help deliver the national adaptation programme;
  - acting sustainably.

- The Committee on Climate Change report 2019, Net Zero: the UKs contribution to stopping global warming, was produced in response to a request to reassess the UK's long-term emissions targets. It stated net-zero is necessary, to meet UK commitments as a signatory of the Paris Agreement.

- The Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) Act 2019 has amended greenhouse gas emissions targets under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, with a Scottish Government target to reduce Scotland's greenhouse gases emissions to net-zero* by 2045 at the latest. With interim reduction targets:
  - 56% below the baseline by 2020
  - 75% below the baseline by 2030
  - 90% below the baseline by 2040

- The Climate Change (Duties of Public Bodies: Reporting Requirements) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2020, amends the information public bodies must include in annual Climate Change Reports. Future reports will ask organisations for their target date for zero direct emissions; for reducing indirect emissions; and how they will align spending plans and use of resources to delivering reduction targets. Scottish Government guidance on this is anticipated.

- Climate Ready Scotland, the Scottish adaptation programme, was updated in 2019, addressing the risks for Scotland identified in the UK Climate Risk Assessment and through UK Climate Projections (UKCP18).

- Scotland's Climate Change Plan Update (CCPu) was published in 2020. This sets out the Scottish Government approach to reaching Net Zero targets. It states Scotland's public sector bodies have a strong leadership role in delivering the transition to net zero.

Local
• Action under this Plan supports the delivery of outcomes under Aberdeen's Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP), specifically the stretch outcome on addressing climate change.
• The Council's Delivery Plan sets out our purpose, which is aligned to the vision of the LOIP - Aberdeen; 'a place where all people can prosper'.
• The Council Budget 2020/21 included a spending commitment of £100 million on green initiatives at Council and City scale.
• A Net Zero Vision for Aberdeen was approved in 2020, along with a supporting Strategic Infrastructure Plan for Energy Transition, supporting the region's transition towards net zero. The plan includes projects under a Net Zero Carbon Public Sector category.
• Aberdeen Adapts, a Climate Adaptation Framework for the city was approved in December 2019 setting out goals and priority actions to build climate resilience over the long term.
• The Council has entered a partnership with BP. This is exploring support for zero-carbon technology innovation, with potential opportunities for the City and the Council plans.

*net zero - the Committee on Climate Change scenario for net-zero has all sectors at zero, or virtually zero, emissions except for agriculture, some parts of industry, and international aviation. Remaining emissions from these sectors will need to be balanced, or outweighed, by negative emissions solutions such as tree planting.

2.3   On the horizon – Scottish Government targets and timelines

The Scottish Government proposed New Build Heat Standard aims that all new builds given consent from 2024 must use heating systems which produce zero direct emissions at the point of use. Below are other targets that the Scottish Government has set itself and must comply with. Council understanding of these targets may assist with the development of plans and projects in support of progress with its public sector climate duty, of demonstrating how it is going to contribute to the emissions targets set by the Scottish Government.

End on landfilling of biodegradable municipal waste	2025
Phase out the need for new petrol and diesel light commercial vehicles from the public sector fleet	By 2025
Phase out the need for new petrol and diesel vehicles in Scotland's public sector fleet	By 2030
Phase out the need for new petrol and diesel cars and vans (Scotland)	By 2030
Reduce emissions from Scotland's rail passenger services to zero	By 2035
Decarbonise scheduled flights in Scotland	By 2040
Target for no more than 5% of Scottish households being in fuel poverty	By 2040
Net Zero Scotland	By 2045

3. Emissions

3.1 Scope of reporting

This plan covers the emissions from the Council's assets and activities currently measured for our annual climate reporting requirements for Scottish Government.
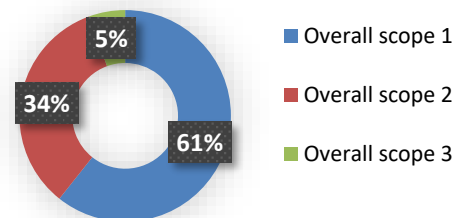
To allow for meaningful comparisons of emissions over time; the Council follows public bodies guidance on climate reporting, using data that is consistent. Figures 2 & 3 show the scope of our reported emissions:

Scope 1 – 61% of emissions are from petrol and diesel fuelled fleet; and the use of gas and oil in our buildings.
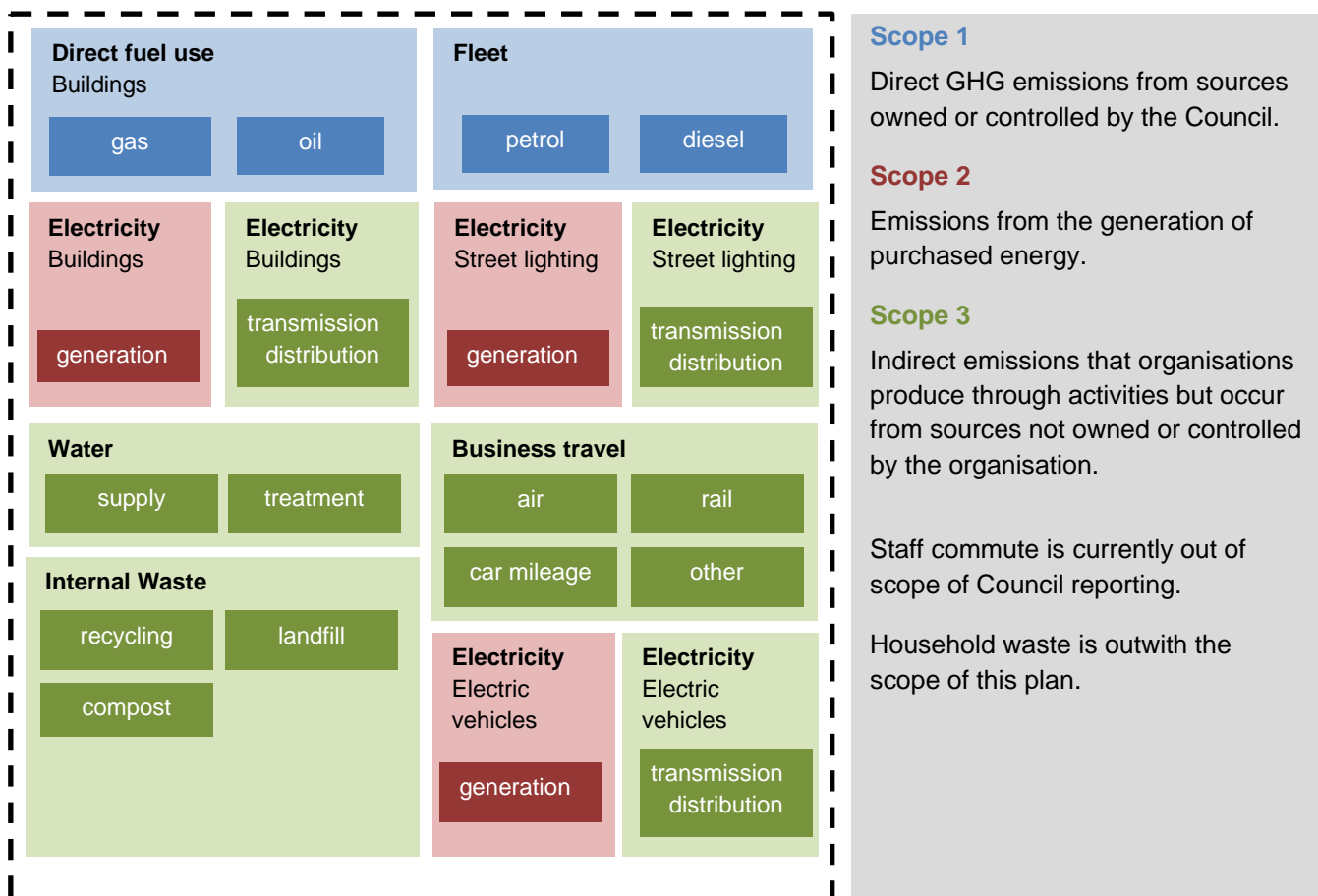
Scope 2 – 34% of emissions are from electricity use in buildings, streetlighting and for electric vehicles.

Scope 3 – 5% of emissions are from staff travel, water supply and treatment; and certain internal waste streams (mixed recycling, WEEE, glass, paper and cardboard and food waste).

Figure 2 - reported emissions by scope

- Overall scope 1
- Overall scope 2
- Overall scope 3

5%
34%
61%

Figure 2: our measured carbon footprint

Direct fuel use
Buildings

gas | oil

Fleet

petrol | diesel

Electricity
Buildings

generation

Electricity
Buildings

transmission distribution

Electricity
Street lighting

generation

Electricity
Street lighting

transmission distribution

Water

supply | treatment

Business travel

air | rail

car mileage | other

Internal Waste

recycling | landfill

compost

Electricity
Electric vehicles

generation

Electricity
Electric vehicles

transmission distribution

Scope 1

Direct GHG emissions from sources owned or controlled by the Council.

Scope 2

Emissions from the generation of purchased energy.

Scope 3

Indirect emissions that organisations produce through activities but occur from sources not owned or controlled by the organisation.

Staff commute is currently out of scope of Council reporting.

Household waste is outwith the scope of this plan.

3.2   Our reported CO2 emissions

Corporate carbon emissions* reported over the last 5 years are summarised in Figure 3. These show a **34%** reduction in carbon emissions since our baseline year of 2015/16. Our baseline encompasses the scope of data required for the annual Council Climate Change Report, allowing for consistency in year on year monitoring since statutory reporting was introduced.

Figure 3: Council carbon emissions since baseline year

| Baseline year 2015/16 - 46,370.9 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO$_2$e)					
Since then emissions have reduced by **34%**					
Emissions (tCO2e)	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Buildings	33,545.4	27,443.4	26,407.5	23,118.7	23,020.7
Street lighting	8,149.7	6,403.8	5,358.7	3,980.9	3,424.8
Fleet	3,774.9	3,873.0	3,323.9	3,113.5	3,295.1
Staff travel	469.4	728.4	459.0	537.6	382.7
Internal waste	213.1	511.9	57.6	26.2	133.0
Water	218.4	277.7	285.7	313.5	306.9
	46,370.9	**39,238.2**	**35,892.4**	**31,090.4**	**30,563.2**

72% of our emissions come from energy for **buildings**.

Street lighting at 18% and **fleet** at 8% are also key areas to target.

*emissions calculated using UK emission factors, updated annually by Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy

Since 2015/16, emissions from:

i)   Buildings have decreased through changes in emission factors due to greening of the National Grid and actions including;
   - District heating connections.
   - Energy efficiency measures.

ii) Street lighting also decreased, again through greening of the National Grid and actions including:
   - LED street lighting replacement.
   - Intelligent Street Lighting Programme.

iii) Fleet has also decreased through:
   - The addition of electric, hydrogen, hydrogen/ diesel and hybrid vehicles to our fleet.
   - Nearly 97% of our fleet meeting Euro 6 standards.
   - Route optimisation for waste collection vehicles.

Figure 4: Annual emissions (tCO2e)

Legend: Travel, Street lighting, Waste, Water, Fleet, Buildings

iv) Staff travel has decreased, although emissions have fluctuated over the 5 years depending on mode and km travelled. Actions have included:
   - Staff access to electric and hydrogen vehicles, for work travel, through Co-Wheels Car Club.
   - Cycle to work scheme and workplace cycle storage.
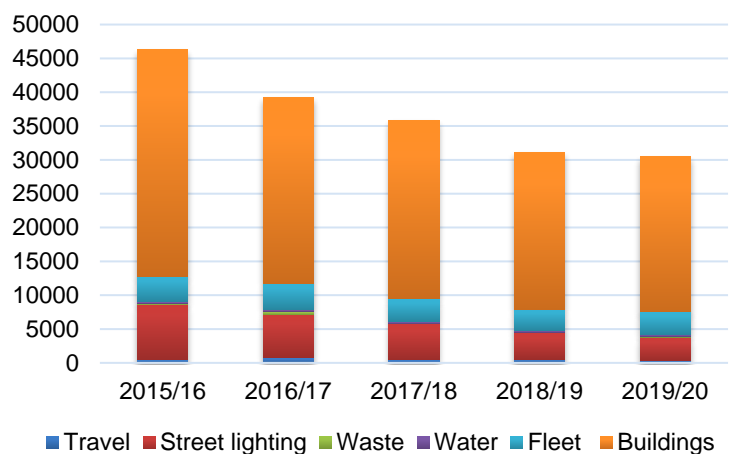
v) Internal waste has decreased, although there are fluctuations. This may be due to the way data was captured and reported; as well as a changes in emission factors. Actions included continued recycling and a reduction in single use plastic.

vi) Water has shown an increase.

3.3 Beyond our reporting boundary

Our whole footprint

The Council reports our corporate scope 1 and 2 emissions and certain scope 3 emissions where data aligns with greenhouse gas principles of relevance, completeness, consistency, transparency and accuracy. This is known as our reporting boundary.

This plan includes actions which aim to improve our monitoring and reporting over time. This may also help to identify and clarify sources of corporate emissions that may still be outwith this reporting boundary but are still of interest, such as our procurement and some of our internal waste streams.

Emissions from Council Housing

We have a role to play in putting in place the low carbon infrastructure and advice to improve the energy efficiency and resilience of our Council homes. The Council manages over 22,000 Council homes, with 52% of our housing stock over 50 years old. Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) for Council Housing are carried out by in-house Domestic EPC surveyors, 2019/20 figures for Council Housing showed a 5% improvement for the Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing (EESSH) from the previous year. As we cannot calculate operational emissions from our Council housing stock they are not included in our corporate reporting. However, by monitoring energy performance we can estimate emissions from our Council housing stock at point of use, with this indicating 52,885 tCO2e in 2019/20.

The Council has an ongoing programme to upgrade housing stock and improve energy efficiency. Our Housing Revenue Account Budget 2020/ 2021 includes spending priorities to reduce heat loss and improve energy efficiency including: cavity wall and loft insulation; solid wall insulation; and heating system replacement. However, over and above individual measures a more comprehensive approach will be crucial to meet changing legislative requirements for energy efficiency in social housing and a range of actions are included in this plan.

Arms Length Organisations (ALEOs)

Our ALEOs have their own climate commitments and are proactive with their own plans and as such, are not included in our corporate reporting boundary.

4. Climate risks

4.1 Climate impacts for the region

Adaptation is an adjustment to current climate and weather; as well as to future climate change. Climate change projections* for Aberdeen indicate an increase in the severity and frequency of severe weather.

☁	Winter rainfall will increase, with heavier rainfall, increasing the risk of flooding and water penetration.
☀	Summer temperatures will increase and there will be a reduction in summer rainfall.
❄	There will be an increase in winter temperatures, with less snow, ice and frost days.
▁▃▅	Sea level will rise. Risk of tidal surge and wave overtopping causing coastal flooding and erosion

*(UKCP18) – UK Climate Projections

4.2 Climate risks affecting the Council

An updated Local Climate Impact Profile was produced in 2020, reviewing the impact of weather on Council functions (for 2014-2019) and our response to severe weather events, including Storm Frank and the Beast from the East snowfall. A climate risk assessment has been completed and climate change is included in the Council Corporate Risk Register. The potential impact of climate change to the Council and associated control actions will be further articulated across cluster and operational risk registers.

Figure 5: Current weather impacts experienced by the Council and future climate risks

	Current weather impacts experienced by the Council	Future climate risks
Buildings	Some damage to building interior, mechanical, electrical and water services from flooding/ water penetration. Burst pipes – ice, frost.	Increase in damage to building structure and contents from flooding, water penetration and subsidence. Higher maintenance & repair costs. Increased need for water efficiency measures and cooling. Risk of power outages.
Roads/ transport	Damage to road surfaces. Costs & demands on staff time for flood response, snow clearance, gritting. Travel disruptions.	Higher maintenance & repair costs for road and path surfaces, pot holes and sink holes. Lifespan of roads, pavements, paths reduced. Increased demands on staff for flood response. Greater travel disruptions.
Waste/ parks and grounds	Waste and recycling collections disrupted – storms, flooding & snow. Fallen or damaged trees.	Damage to waste infrastructure. Waste and recycling collections disrupted – increase in flooding, heavy rainfall & storms. Demands on staff time for post flooding clean-up operations. Increase in tree damage. Longer growing season. Increase in pests, disease and risk of wildfire.
Leadership/ finance/ procurement	Costs for damage and repair. Emergency response & recovery (flood events).	Increased pressure on budgets. Increased insurance costs. Impact on delivery of services. Demands for emergency response & recovery. Impact on the cost and availability of goods.

4.3 Adaptation Benchmarking

The Council is a participant in the Adaptation Scotland, Adaptation Benchmarking Tool Working Group. Figure 6 indicates our adaptation progress against the Adaptation Benchmarking Capability Framework for a Climate Ready Public Sector. This will be reviewed annually to assess our progress over the long term.

Figure 6: Adaptation Benchmarking Toolkit – assessment summary Aberdeen City Council

|	Starting	Intermediate	Advanced	Mature
Organisational Culture & Resources	OC1A Examine the structure & priorities of the organisation OC1B Identify resources available for adaptation	OC2A Secure resources to plan and deliver adaptation OC2B Engage colleagues to identify adaptation opportunities and potential 'champions' OC2C Establish governance arrangements for adaptation	OC3A Identify opportunities to include adaptation in plans, policies and procedures OC3B Motivate 'champions' and actively promote adaptation across the Council OC3C Put governance arrangements for adaptation into operation	OC4A Mainstream adaptation into Council plans, policies and procedures OC4B Develop a network of recognised adaptation 'champions' OC4C Review and update governance arrangements for adaptation
Understanding the challenge	UC1A Learn about climate trends and projections UC1B Learn about climate impacts affecting Scotland	UC2A Develop understanding of climate risk and vulnerability UC2B Consider how the Council might be affected by climate change UC2C Explore the impact of recent weather events on your organisation	UC3A Develop (scenarios, storylines, narratives) for future climate change impacts/ vulnerabilities UC3B Undertake strategic climate change risk assessment UC3C Undertake project-level risk assessment UC3D Identify knowledge gaps, seek expertise and foster links with research and innovation	UC4A Mainstreaming of climate change risk assessment UC4B Accessible climate adaptation knowledge that is integrated into internal systems and procedures UC4C Actively engaged in sharing, learning, research and innovation
Planning & implementation	PI1A Identify existing adaptation work within ACC. PI1B Demonstrate how the Council contributes to Scotland's work to adapt PI1C Identify key internal stakeholders for adaptation	PI2A Define strategic adaptation goals, outcomes and/or vision PI2A Define strategic adaptation goals, outcomes and/or vision PI2C Develop an initial adaptation (strategy and) action plan PI2D Take action to deliver initial adaptation (measures, options, actions	PI3A Explore adaptation pathways / theory of change PI3B Appraisal of adaptation options PI3C Develop a comprehensive adaptation strategy and action plan PI3D Implement a programme of adaptation (measures, actions)	PI4A Adopt an ongoing adaptive management cycle for adaptation planning PI4B Taking action on adaptation is mainstreamed into Council (functions / services) PI4C Implement pathways for adaptation / transformational change
Working together	WT1A Join/ participate in relevant professional and/or networks WT1B Identify and research relevant external organisations and partnerships	WT2A Make connections with external partners WT2B Coordinate with partners to deliver initial actions WT2C Develop communication and engagement activities	WT3A Begin to formalise partnership working WT3B Engage a wide range of stakeholders WT3C Implement further joint actions WT3D Join networks and link with peer organisations.	WT4A Further develop and maintain partnership working WT4B Sustain engagement with partners and stakeholders WT4C Expand a programme of joint actions

Legend:
- Complete
- Ongoing
- To start

5. Approach

5.1 Towards a net zero and climate resilient Council

Our approach, Outlined in Figure 7, has gathered data on emissions and climate risks and built understanding of the current situation, barriers and opportunities for change. It had examined existing policy, projects and programmes and planned and prioritised new actions to target the most significant sources of emissions and areas of climate risk. Ongoing monitoring will help show progress, from this we can learn from our successes, identify where more action is needed and plan the subsequent activity needed to deliver our target.

**Figure 7**: Council Climate Change Plan approach
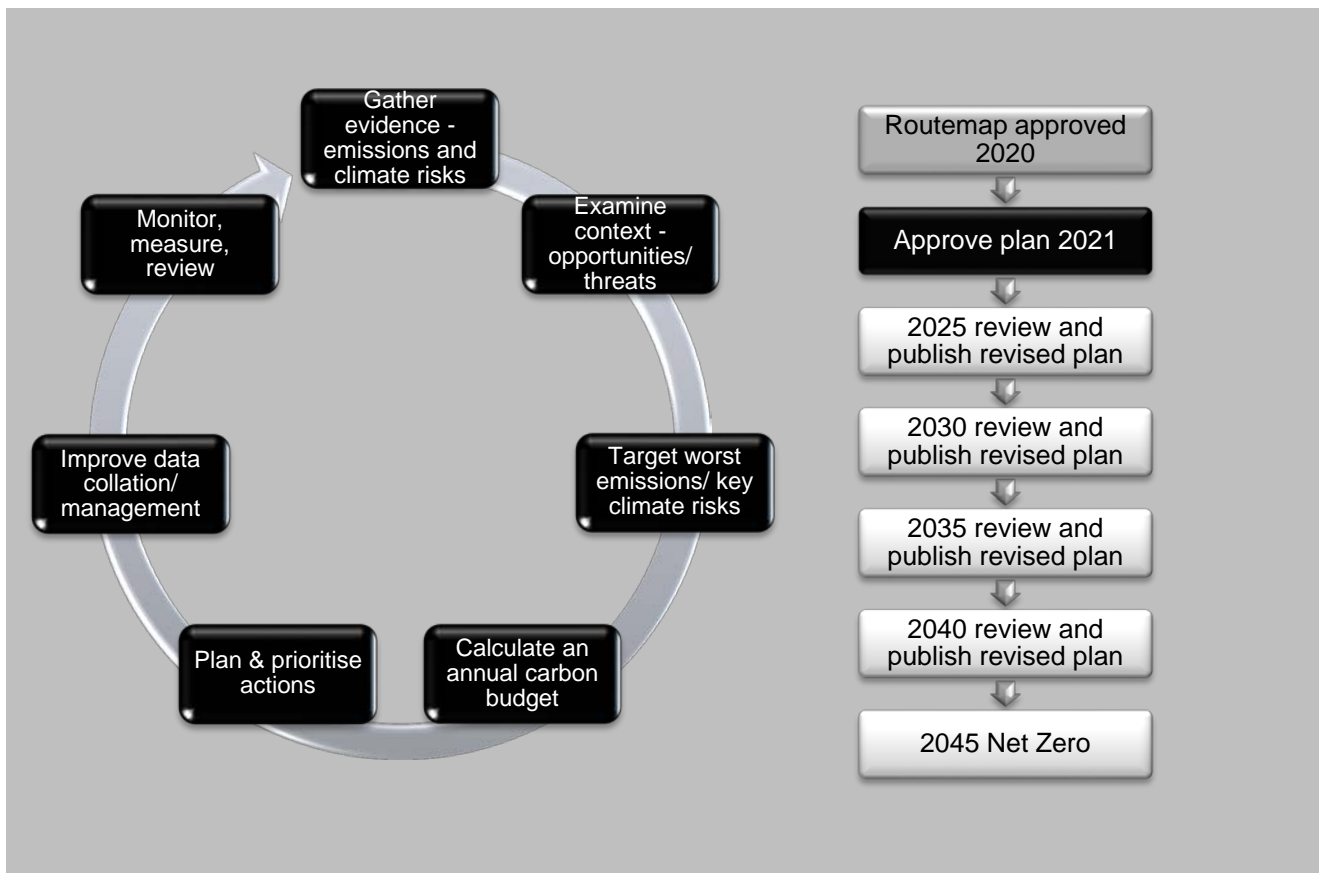
5.2 Governance

A Council Climate Oversight Group (Figure 8) supports the development and implementation of the plan. Led by the Council's Chief Operating Officer, the group has input from senior managers and from the leads for 5 themed sub groups.

With 3 operational themes responsible for the development and implementation of low carbon and climate adaptation actions for Council assets and operations. These cover Buildings looking at our Council buildings and Council housing; Mobility covering our fleet and staff travel; and Other Operations including street lighting, internal waste and water management. A further 2 theme groups in leadership and Management; and Awareness and Behaviour Change are developing and implementing enabling actions.

Officers from the Net Zero City Delivery Unit also sit on the Oversight Group to ensure Council activity aligns with our wider city actions.

Figure 8: governance approach
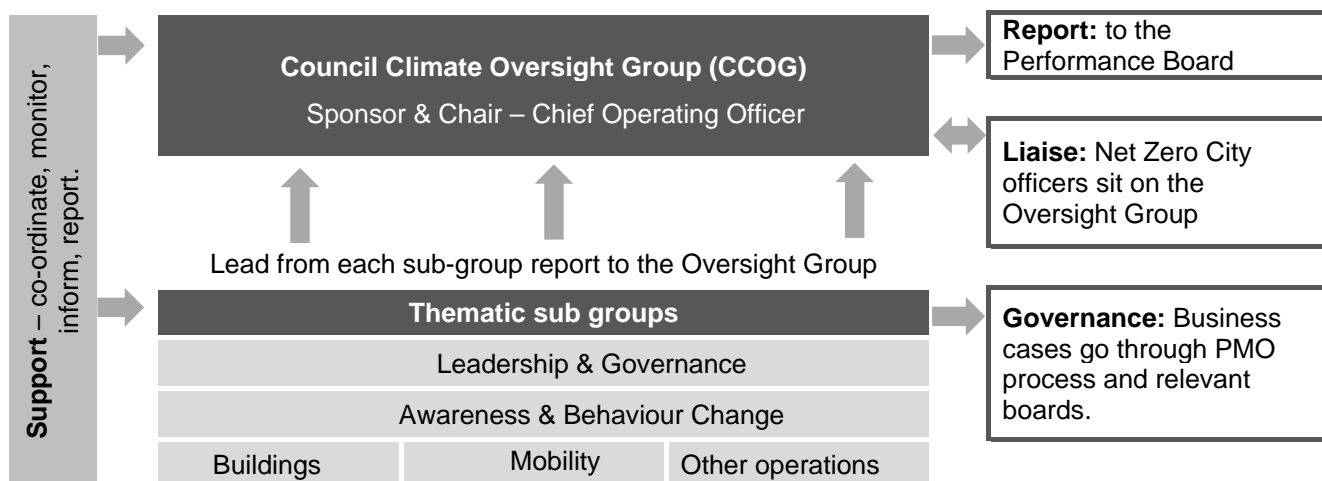
5.2.1 Programme management of the plan

A Project Register is established and will sit on the Council website. This is intended to be a "live" document, prioritising actions needed, alongside available resources. Additional opportunities may emerge through new technology and external funding routes.

5.2.2 Carbon budgeting

Carbon accounting to measure and monitor the Council's direct and indirect emissions will be necessary to deliver any net zero target. The development of a Council Carbon Budget aims to improve understanding of our energy consumption, in doing so, the costs associated with carbon expenditure. To stay within this budget requires cutting carbon emissions from the Council's own assets and operations, by an agreed amount each year.

A Council Carbon Budget will be prepared annually, aligning with the budget setting process and carbon allocations apportioned, agreed and assigned to a Function or Cluster based on their influence on action. This aims to build greater accountability for the delivery of actions and improve understanding of corporate carbon emissions.

The carbon budget will be piloted for the first year of this plan, in dialogue with relevant officers. It has been calculated using a linear trajectory, from our baseline year 2015/16, to align with Scottish Government's interim target to reduce Scotland's greenhouse gases emissions by 75% by 2030. The Carbon Budget will be reviewed annually against the delivery of any existing and new projects and adjusted, where required, to keep on track with a reduction in Council emissions of at least 48% by 2025.

5.2.3 Offsetting

The Council does not currently include any use of offsetting in emission calculations. This plan will focus on reducing operational emissions in the first instance to reduce and limit the need for offset in future years. Scottish Government guidance on the public sector use of offsetting for residual emissions is anticipated and the Council will wait for this to be published before developing any plans.

Making a contribution to carbon sinks, actions within this plan include developing a strategic approach to our trees, forests and woodlands, identifying areas of Council land suitable for tree planting and extending our tree planting. In addition, we will explore areas to expand wildflower meadows recognising through all of these we can make use of our land to contribute to wider carbon stocks.

5.2.4 Measuring, monitoring & reviewing the Plan

The Council Climate Oversight Group will monitor the progress of this Plan. Reports on progress with actions in this plan will be collated, with qualitive and quantitative information reported on a quarterly basis to the Council's Performance Board.

Our actions include improvements to data capture and performance reporting on climate change. Indicators include:

	Relevant measures/ indicators	Currently captured	Often	Where
1	Electricity – emissions tCO2e (Council buildings)	Yes	Annual	Climate Change Report
2	Gas - emissions tCO2e (Council buildings)	Yes	Annual	Climate Change Report
3	Oil - emissions tCO2e (Council buildings)	Yes	Annual	Climate Change Report
4	Energy renewables (Council buildings) - kWh	Yes	Annual	Climate Change Report
5	Use of renewables – No. Council housing stock			
6	Water emissions tCO2e (Council buildings)	Yes	Annual	Climate Change Report
7	EPC ratings – relevant Council buildings	Yes	Ongoing	on ACC website
8	EPC ratings – Council Housing	Yes	Ongoing	Housing
9	Accreditation (Gold Standard, BREEAM etc)	Yes	Ad hoc	Relevant to projects
10	Reduction of Carbon Emissions			Property Asset Management
11	Reduction in Energy Consumption per year	Yes		Property Asset Management
12	No. Operational Buildings Connected to District Heating	Yes		Property Asset Management
13	No. Council houses connected to District Heating			
14	Petrol - emissions tCO2e (fleet)	Yes	Annual	Climate Change Report
15	Diesel - emissions tCO2e (fleet)	Yes	Annual	Climate Change Report
16	% of fleet transitioned from fossil fuels			
17	Air travel – emissions tCO2e (short and long haul)	Yes	Annual	Climate Change Report
18	Rail travel emissions tCO2e	Yes	Annual	Climate Change Report
19	Km travelled (business travel – petrol, diesel, hybrid, electric)	Yes	Annual	Climate Change Report
20	% of staff utilising home working to reduce travel			LOIP
21	Electricity – emissions tCO2e (street lighting)	Yes		Climate Change Report
22	Mixed recycling – tonnes (Council)	Yes	Annual	Climate Change Report
23	Organic food and drink composting tonnes (Council)	Yes	Annual	Climate Change Report
24	Waste electronic and electrical equipment tonnes	Yes	Annual	Climate Change Report
25	No. of public sector workforce ambassadors of low carbon living and working	Yes	Ongoing	LOIP
26	No. of people taking part in environment/ sustainability educational activities	Yes	Ongoing	LOIP
27	% of workforce completing Climate Awareness Training within the Council	Yes	Ongoing	

Further indicators may be included as projects develop.

A Climate Change Report on progress with meeting climate duties under Part 4 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 is reported through City Growth and Resources Committee, in October/ November annually before submission to Scottish Government. To meet statutory requirements, the report documents carbon emissions from Council assets and operations, alongside information on actions to reduce the Council's carbon footprint and to adapt to climate change. The report will indicate progress with this plan.

Existing performance and reporting requirements already in place include:
o Our annual reporting includes a Statutory Performance Indicator (SPI) on corporate emissions.
o Updates are provided on the current climate change risk entries in the Corporate Risk Register and reported to the Council's Risk Board.

5.2.5 Review

The Plan will be reviewed in 2025 and updated where required and taking into account any changes to legislation and guidance relating to climate change. Following this the plan will be reviewed every 5 years.

5.2.6 Communicating the plan

Information on the Council's climate change progress and our commitments is included on the Council website. However, the difference between providing information and making it accessible is recognised. Internal and external communications are represented on the Council Climate Oversight Group and communication activities will be ongoing for staff and the wider public to highlight Council performance on climate change, to provide information on project progress, successes and any new initiatives.

5.2.7 Resources

The Council General Fund Revenue Budget and Capital Programme contains a funding commitment towards achieving net zero emission targets, with funding for initiatives that will support the development of net zero and climate adaptation priorities with initiatives including fleet replacement, active travel, electric vehicle charging, energy efficiency, heating replacement, property refurbishment and improvements, district heating and hydrogen projects.

A number of funding streams have already been accessed for the development and delivery of projects under this plan, including funding from:

- European Regional Development Fund for various projects relevant to the Buildings, Mobility and Other operations themes.
- Energy Savings Trust, on behalf of Transport Scotland to support the fleet transition.
- Low Carbon Infrastructure Programme Grant to support district heating expansion.
- Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund Demonstrator to support housing retrofit.

It is anticipated that further funding streams will become available in coming years and new grant opportunities will be pursued during the course of this plan. In some cases, action may result in reduced costs and/ or income generation, presenting further opportunities to re-align budgets.

In future, Climate Change Reports for Scottish Government will ask for narrative on; "How will the body align its spending plans and use of resources to contribute to reducing emissions and delivering it's emission reduction targets." Guidance on the reporting requirements is anticipated.

Where any additional actions are identified for the Project Register, financial options for delivery, will be developed. The delivery of this plan will link to the budget setting process and the development of our carbon budget.

Our operational projects include a number of feasibility studies, assessments and pilots which aim to establish the most cost-effective solutions for any subsequent roll out of further action.
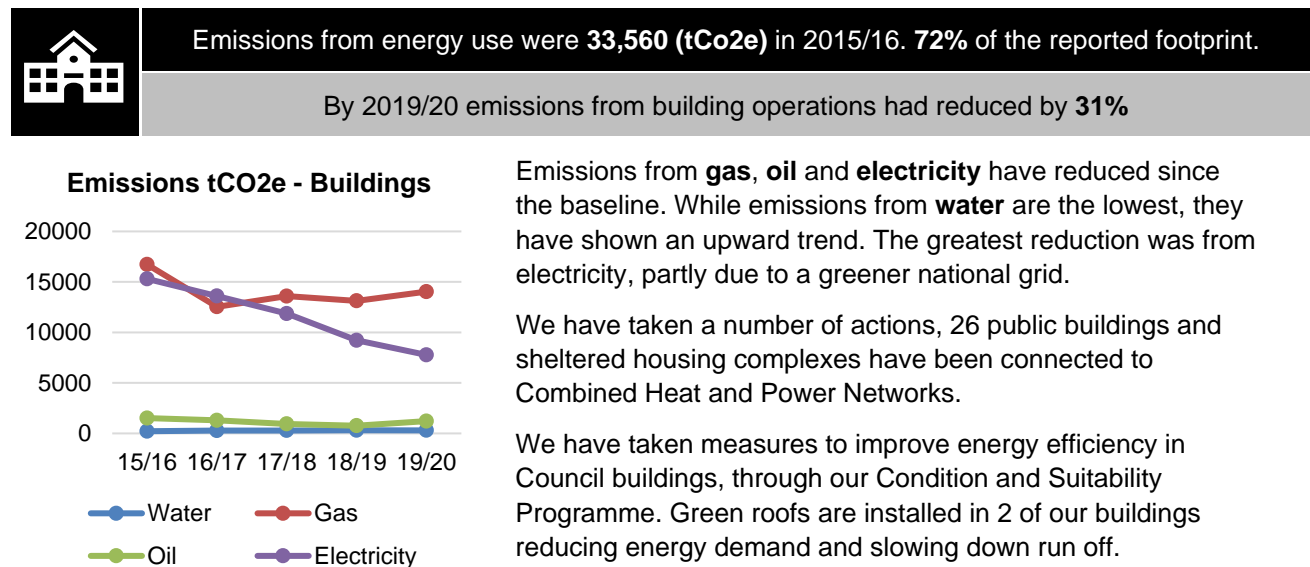
In addition, actions including our Zero Emission Fleet Programme are progressing with a number of north and north east partners, to unlock the potential for economies of scale in procurement.

6.1 Buildings theme

Current context

Our buildings including offices, libraries, schools and depots vary in range of age, build, size and condition. The majority of Council buildings and our Council housing are currently fuelled by gas and electricity, although the Council has installed biomass; solar PVs and heat pumps on various Council buildings there is much to learn on cost effective application for different buildings types, age, size and location. However, existing connections to district heating are providing low cost, lower carbon heat.

Figure 9: Emissions from Council buildings

	Emissions from energy use were **33,560 (tCo2e)** in 2015/16. **72%** of the reported footprint.
	By 2019/20 emissions from building operations had reduced by **31%**

Emissions tCO2e - Buildings

Water, Gas, Oil, Electricity

Emissions from **gas**, **oil** and **electricity** have reduced since the baseline. While emissions from **water** are the lowest, they have shown an upward trend. The greatest reduction was from electricity, partly due to a greener national grid.

We have taken a number of actions, 26 public buildings and sheltered housing complexes have been connected to Combined Heat and Power Networks.

We have taken measures to improve energy efficiency in Council buildings, through our Condition and Suitability Programme. Green roofs are installed in 2 of our buildings reducing energy demand and slowing down run off.

Council Housing is not included in our reporting footprint but we do monitor EPC ratings. Our actions have included connections for 3,603 Council flats and houses to CHP, as well as Council spending priorities to reduce heat loss and improve energy efficiency for our Council housing.

Drivers

National	Local
Energy Performance Certificates (EPC), to meet requirements, EPC's are produced to show energy efficiency ratings, for Council buildings (over 1,000m^2).	The Council Property Asset Management Policy includes key principles of sustainability and reducing carbon emissions.
Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing (EESSH2) milestone is for social housing to meet an EPC Band B by December 2032, within limits of cost, technology, consent.	The Council Building Performance Policy and Checklist set sustainability standards for Council new build and refurbishment projects.
Fuel Poverty (Targets, Definitions and Strategy) (Scotland) Act 2019	The Local Housing Strategy (2018 -2023) has targets and an objective for fuel poverty.
The Future of Energy in Scotland: Energy Strategy	
Emerging changes to legislation and regulation will require a transition to renewable and low carbon heating; set requirements for district heating; and increase energy efficiency standards. Proposed requirements for all local authorities to produce an area-based Local Heat and Energy Strategy (LHEES).	

Project priorities to 2025

The Buildings theme sets out information under 4 outcomes, alongside these are range of activities that will be delivered through this theme. A full list of activities for the theme is in our Project Register.
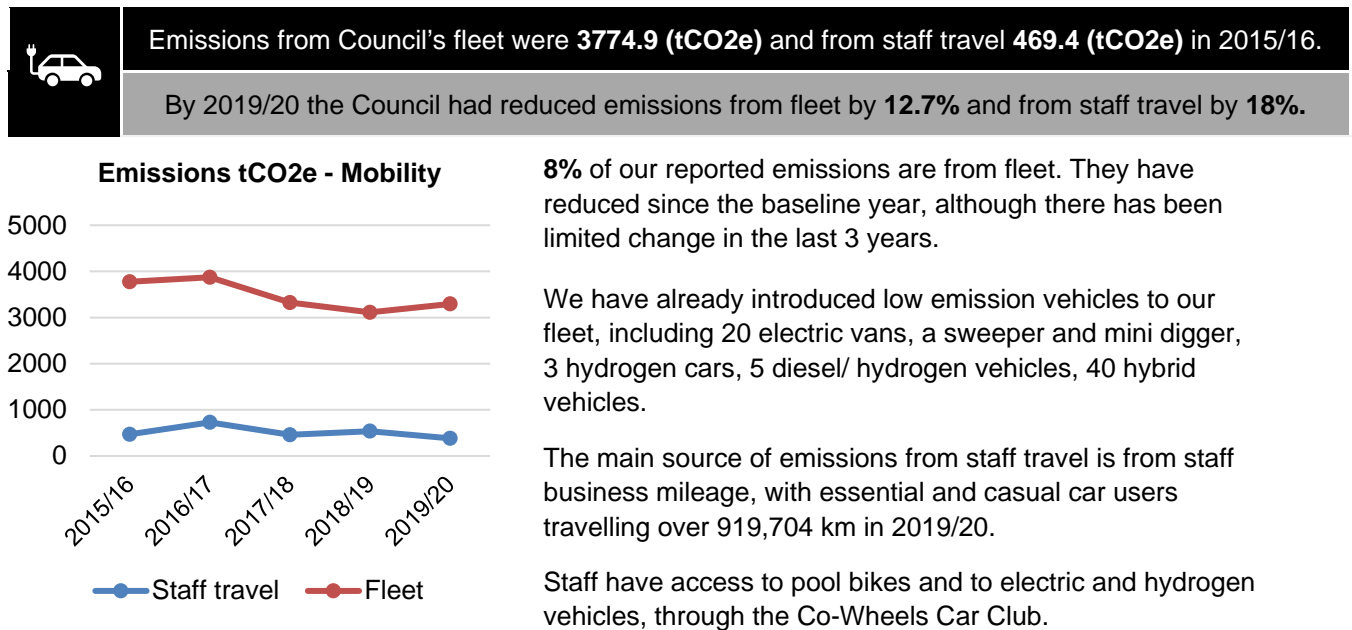
Outcomes	Activities will include:
Reduced energy demand An increase in energy efficiency and reducing energy demand, to avoid a waste of energy in the first instance.	• Project DORIC, a "whole house" **retrofit** demonstrator project, in 100 existing council properties to improve fabric and energy efficiency. • Learning about the standards, timescales, cost of retrofit to inform the development of a future **retrofit programme**. • Using **smart modelling** software and **infrared survey** techniques to better target resources, decisions, monitoring and analysis of energy use. • Installing **energy efficiency** measures, (window, door and heating replacements, property insulation). • Replacement of lighting to **LED** in Marischal College. • Developing plans to **optimise** Council assets, as ways of working change. • Establishing plans to meet **EESSH2** standards for energy efficiency in Council Housing.
Low carbon/ renewable energy A transition to locally produced renewable energy sources, hydrogen or low carbon technology to supply remaining energy needs.	• Installing further **renewables** including; heat pumps and solar PV. • A trial of **battery storage**. • Connecting identified schools, public buildings and new Council housing to **onsite CHP** energy centres and expanding **existing CHP** networks. • A **Torry Heat Network** for some of our existing homes. • Links to heat from the **Energy from Waste** plant for a number of our heat networks. • Feasibility study on use of **hydrogen for heat**. • Establishing cost effective solutions for a range of building types; and **planning scalable solutions** to phase out fossil fuels.
Increased resilience Resilience of Council buildings and homes is improved, through design, management and maintenance.	• Installing **approved upgrades** to roofs, external rendering, gutters and downpipes. • Specifying **water efficiency** measures and appliances. • Establishing **wildflower** and **food growing areas**; and installing **green roofs** on external storage in new Council housing developments. • Making use of the grounds around our buildings for **nature-based solutions**, to reduce flood risk and benefit nature. • Ensuring that main services and plant rooms servicing buildings are not exposed to flooding risks and locations of **new energy centres** are selected based on future expansion and demand for the wider area.
Improved standards Meet new and revised legislation, regulation and standards, going beyond minimum requirements, where practical.	• Achieving **Gold Standard** for our Council House Building programme, of around 2,000 homes. • Designing 4 new schools to achieve **EPC** A rating, be fibre ready and with outside space for **biodiversity, food growing** and natural play, learning. • Trial of new **Net Zero New Build Standards** and integrating the requirements into our policy. • Keeping pace with emerging energy policy, legislation, building regulations and **new and revised standards**.

6.2 Mobility theme

Current context

Our fleet of over 520 vehicles includes cars, small, medium and large vans, mini buses, lorries, tipper trucks, refuse collection and street cleaning vehicles, to support the breadth and type of Council activity.

Figure 10: Emissions from fleet and staff travel

	Emissions from Council's fleet were **3774.9 (tCO2e)** and from staff travel **469.4 (tCO2e)** in 2015/16.
	By 2019/20 the Council had reduced emissions from fleet by **12.7%** and from staff travel by **18%.**

Emissions tCO2e - Mobility

Staff travel ● Fleet

8% of our reported emissions are from fleet. They have reduced since the baseline year, although there has been limited change in the last 3 years.

We have already introduced low emission vehicles to our fleet, including 20 electric vans, a sweeper and mini digger, 3 hydrogen cars, 5 diesel/ hydrogen vehicles, 40 hybrid vehicles.

The main source of emissions from staff travel is from staff business mileage, with essential and casual car users travelling over 919,704 km in 2019/20.

Staff have access to pool bikes and to electric and hydrogen vehicles, through the Co-Wheels Car Club.

A Staff Travel Plan Survey is completed around every 2 years. We do not currently calculate emissions from our staff commute. Pre pandemic around 19% of staff walked or cycled to work and another 19% used public transport. Online systems now provide the means for many staff to work from home.

Drivers

National	Local
The Road to Zero Industrial Strategy (UK) Transport (Scotland) Act 2019 National Transport Strategy (NTS2) 2020 includes the priority to take climate action: reduce emissions from the transport sector; adapt to the effects of climate change; and promote greener, cleaner choices.	Regional Transport Strategy – 2013. A new strategy Nestrans 2040 is in development. Local Transport Strategy (2016-2021) includes the objective; to contribute to Aberdeen's carbon emissions targets and develop climate resilient infrastructure. The Strategic Infrastructure Plan: Energy Transition includes a goal for Sustainable Mobility. Aberdeen Hydrogen Strategy and Action Plan 2015-2025. Electric Vehicle Framework for Aberdeen. Aberdeen Active Travel Action Plan. Aberdeen Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP).

Project priorities to 2025

The Mobility theme sets out information under 4 outcomes, alongside these are range of activities that will be delivered through this theme. A full list of activities for the theme is in our Project Register.

| Outcomes	Activities will include:
Zero emission fleet Phase out the need for new fossil fuelled small vehicles by 2025 and for larger vehicles by 2029, switching to electric and hydrogen powered fleet vehicles.	• Conducting a **Fleet Review** to establish the timeline, key barriers and opportunities to switch from a fossil fuelled fleet to alternative fuels. • Planning a conversion of larger fleet to **hydrogen**, where practical. • Testing and deploying a **hydrogen fuel cell refuse truck**. • Converting 42 of our refuse collection vehicles to **dual fuel, hydrogen/ diesel**, and assess vehicles, where it is practical to convert to hydrogen. • **Fleet optimisation,** analysing fleet vehicle size and numbers for operational needs. • A phased procurement of **electric vehicles (EV)** for smaller fleet (cars & small vans) by 2025. • Budget is allocated to **fleet replacement**, we will also pursue external funding and work collaboratively for cost effective procurement.
Low carbon fleet infrastructure Plan, test and implement an expanded EV charging and hydrogen refuelling infrastructure for Council fleet.	• Assessing suitable locations, access requirements and maximum charging capacity for EV charging. • Planning and implementing a phased installation of **electric vehicle charge points** at Council offices and identified locations. • Identifying opportunities for the use of **renewables** (eg solar canopies) for fleet electric vehicle charging. • Partnership working on a Hydrogen Fleet Development and **Infrastructure Study** to determine the overall infrastructure requirements for further public sector hydrogen fleet. • Examining opportunities for on-site **renewable energy generation** or the use of energy storage to support charging for Council fleet.
Reduced emissions from staff travel Increased staff uptake of active, sustainable and alternative travel choices, reducing the need for travel through use of technology.	• Review of procedure and incentives that can facilitate and reduce the need for staff travel. • Updating the **staff travel policy**. • Completing a grey fleet review (use of employee owned vehicles). • Expanding the number of **Car Club** vehicles available to staff, including access for heavy users of grey miles. • Expanding **secure cycle storage** in Council buildings & car parks. • Promoting **active travel options** (staff & schools) – cycling and walking.
Resilient design and management - infrastructure Ensure climate adaptation is considered at all stages of project development, management and maintenance of the transport infrastructure we maintain and manage.	• Increasing use of **permeable surfaces**, **Sustainable Urban Drainage systems** and **swales** in our car parks and around our buildings. • Bringing culverted watercourses to the surface and reducing hard engineering in existing open channels.

6.3 Other operations theme

Current context

Figure 11 – Emissions from street lighting and internal waste

Emissions from street lighting were **8,150 tCO2e** and from internal waste **213 tCO2e** in 2015/16.	
In 2019/20 emissions from street lighting had reduced by around **58%**	

Emissions tCO2e - Other operations

— Street lighting — Internal waste
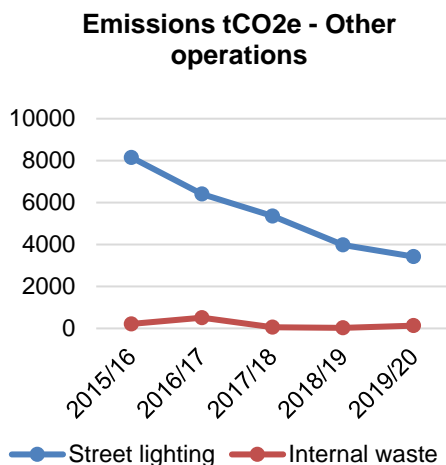
Emissions from street lighting form just under 18% of our reported footprint. They have reduced substantially through a greener national grid and progress with our LED street lighting programme which is about 60% complete.

Internal waste is a smaller proportion of our emissions. 637 tonnes of mixed recycling, food waste, glass, waste electronic and electrical equipment were recycled from Council premises in 2019/20. Although recycling of waste streams including special waste, oil, construction waste, green waste takes place, data is not currently reported as part of our organisation footprint.

Helping to increase resilience, our actions have also included the development of a wetland area at a part of Seaton Park prone to drainage issues and flooding. As well as the planting of 210,000 trees in the city, through the Tree for every Citizen initiative. Both initiatives, as well as helping to adapt, have also made a contribution to biodiversity.

Drivers

National	Local
The Council must meet a Biodiversity Duty under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act.	Aberdeen Open Space Strategy includes an objective to, "Maximise opportunities to mitigate and adapt to climate change and further biodiversity.
Requirements under the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 for a Forestry and Woodland Strategy.	Aberdeen Nature Conservation Strategy recognises that biodiversity loss and climate change are interlinked.
National Infrastructure Investment Plan.	
Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012 set a mandatory requirement for recycling from Council premises (for paper, plastic, metal, glass; and where relevant, food waste).	North East Flood Risk Management Plan.
	The Strategic Infrastructure Plan includes priorities for tree planting.
Targets for a reduction in total waste arising in Scotland by 15% against 2011 levels; and a reduction in food waste by 33% against 2013 levels.	Council Internal Waste Implementation Plan and Policy.
Emerging drivers include proposed legislation restricting supply of single use plastics; and on the circular economy.	

Project priorities to 2025

The Other Operations theme sets out information under 4 outcomes, alongside these are range of activities that will be delivered through this theme. A full list of activities for the theme is in our Project Register.

Outcomes	*Activities will include:*
Upgraded street lighting Reduced energy consumption from street lighting.	• Completing the **LED street lighting replacement** to replace old inefficient and expensive street lighting with lower energy LED units. • Developing further phases of an **Intelligent Lighting Systems Programme** to control, dim and remotely monitor faults and support the control of street lighting. • Extending the LED replacement programme to include **lit signs and bollards.**
Increase in nature based solutions (Council land) Development of blue, green infrastructure on Council owned land for water management and biodiversity.	• **Mapping blue/ green infrastructure** areas suitable for installation and retrofit of blue green infrastructure, through partnership work on a Sustainable Growth Agreement. • Testing the **installation** and **retrofit** of blue green infrastructure (BGI) on the land we manage, including work as a partner in the EU project BEGIN (Blue Green Infrastructure through Social Innovation) project. • Identifying sites on Council land to create **naturalised grasslands** and **wildflower meadows**. Increasing biodiversity, contributing to carbon stores and carbon savings from intensive grass cutting. • Establishing strategic priorities and actions to protect and enhance our **trees, forests** and **woodlands**. • Expanding a programme of **tree planting** on Council owned land. Identifying a diversity of species, that are resilient to climate change.
Water management Prepared for the impacts to the Council from changes in rainfall.	• Installing **CCTV and/or gauges** as proactive measures to enable faster Council response and reduce the risk and impact from flooding. • Developing the **Denburn re-naturalisation project** to identify natural ways of providing flood storage areas in the Denburn Valley. • Developing **flood risk management** and surface water management plans. • Increasing **rainwater capture** for Council growing spaces, to reduce mains water use.
Internal waste minimisation and sustainable catering A reduction in waste generated from Council buildings and operations. A reduced carbon footprint from our catering.	• Improving **monitoring** and **measuring** of internal waste streams. • Supporting, promoting and integrating **circular economy principles** of reduce, reuse, repair, recycle and designing out waste tying in with our procurement process. • Reviewing the Council **events guidance** to reflect net zero targets, with a focus on waste generated from events. • Transition to online systems to **reduce paper consumption** and **waste**. • Use of **local** sustainable, **seasonable**, fresh and **Marine Stewardship Council products** in Council catering. • Reviewing and replacing old catering equipment with **energy efficient models**, making reductions in water, electric, gas consumption.

6.4 Leadership and Governance theme

Current context

One of our enabling themes, being delivered through the Leadership and Governance sub-group to ensure climate change is mainstreamed into our Corporate Governance. We will strengthen the integration of climate change into our strategies, policies, and decision making, so the Council is making a strategic and operational contribution to addressing climate change.

This work is building on existing actions already in place to embed climate change. Our Committee Report template requires information on environmental and climate risks, to help inform member decision making. Our capital project strategic documentation (outline business case and full business case), includes an environmental management section, which requires carbon emissions and climate adaptation to be considered in proposed capital projects. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is applied to the development of relevant plans, programmes and strategies where required.

Addressing climate risk, climate change is included in the Council's Corporate Risk Register, with regular updates provided to the Risk Board. Annual updates of the risk management system, including the corporate risk register, is provided to the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Committee.

In addition, we report annually on our performance in reducing emissions and adapting to climate change, through a statutory Climate Change Report and our Statutory Performance Indicator on Emissions Management.

Our consultation and legislation trackers help to ensure that the Council is aware of, prepared for and ready to respond to new law and national policy and to the scale and pace of legislative change.

Drivers

National	Local
The Climate Change (Duties of Public Bodies: Reporting Requirements) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2020 means future Climate Change Reports will ask for narrative on how the Council align its spending plans and use of resources to contribute to reducing emissions and delivering it's emission reduction targets.	Joint Procurement Strategy, Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council and The Highland Council 2017 – 2022 Aberdeen City Council, Sustainable Procurement and Community Benefits Policy

Project priorities to 2025

The Leadership and Governance theme sets out information under 4 outcomes, alongside these are range of activities that will be delivered through this theme. A full list of activities for the theme is in our Project Register.

Outcomes	Activities will include:
Improved data management Arrangements in place to capture and analyse data to help facilitate the delivery of our net zero target.	• Developing a **platform for collating, monitoring,** and **reporting** emissions and adaptation data. We require reliable and accurate data to inform the Council's Planning Cycle and continuous improvement in environmental performance. • Developing and implementing a **carbon budget** for the Council; allocating an agreed fair portion to Council Functions and Clusters; and building links to our Commissioning Intentions. • Completing an annual review of adaptation progress against the **Adaptation Capability Framework.**
Climate risk management Climate risks affecting the Council are assessed and integrated in the Risk Management Framework	• **Mainstreaming climate risk assessment** at operational level and put in place appropriate levels of controls to protect Council assets and services. • Monitoring for change in **vulnerability** and **exposure** to climate change. • Building **staff understanding** of the consequences of climate impacts on the Council.
Climate considerations embedded Climate change is incorporated into Council practices and decision-making processes.	• Ensuring climate change priorities are embedded in templates for future **strategies and policies**. • Strengthening inclusion of climate considerations in the Committee **Report Author Guidance** and in the **Project Management process** and templates. • Ongoing review of the **Scheme of Governance** to reflect the targets and commitments of this plan. • Monitoring any **new or revised legislation** which may impact the outcomes of this plan.
Strategic Resource Allocation Through strategic resource allocation, use our resources to contribute our net zero target.	• **Strategic allocation of resources** against those activities that will help us secure a net zero Council and climate resilient Council by 2045. • Integration of the Climate Plan into the **Planning Cycle,** to inform spending plans and use of resources. • Identify, examine and strengthen delivery of the Council's climate priorities, within our **procurement processes** and identify how we can **support our suppliers** in contributing to the Council's net zero target.

6.5 Awareness and behaviour change theme

Current context

The Awareness and Behaviour Change sub-group has been actively involved in wider theme discussions to understand the staff, knowledge, skills and competencies that will be required to deliver this plan. The Council has taken a number of awareness actions already including:

Participation in Earth Hour and Climate Week North East, with various awareness raising activities open to staff.

Supporting uptake of sustainable travel, the Council operates an employee benefit scheme which includes incentives such as a Cycle to Work scheme and a Bus to Work scheme.

Run staff short "Pitstop" training sessions on sustainability; and energy and climate. Although these have a limited reach and are currently designed for face to face delivery.

To help inform the development of our Green Champions scheme, a placement project with an MSc student from the University of Aberdeen took place. Carrying out background research on similar staff schemes in the UK and a staff survey was completed.

Workshops delivering Climate Ready Lesson Plans were held in 3 city schools and flooding workshops and creative learning have taken place with a further school to support flood management work.

Many of our pupils are actively involved in learning on climate change and the environment, 20 city schools have achieved EcoSchool Green Flag Awards.

Drivers

National	Local
Changes to Climate Change Reporting will require public bodies in Scotland to provide information on how they publish or otherwise make available progress towards achieving emission reduction targets.	LOIP Improvement Measures include: No. of public sector workforce ambassadors of low carbon living and working; and No. of people taking part in environment/ sustainability educational activities.
	The Council Delivery Plan 2020/21 includes "% of workforce completing Climate Adaption Awareness Training within the Council".
	This theme is also relevant to the Council Statutory Performance Indicator, work done to encourage and support sustainable development.

Project priorities to 2025

The Awareness and Behaviour Change theme sets out information under 4 outcomes, alongside these are range of activities that will be delivered through this theme. A full list of activities for the theme is in our Project Register.

Outcomes	*Activities will include:*
Greater awareness (staff and elected members) Staff are aware of the Council's climate action and commitments and how they relate to their work.	• Producing an **Internal Communication Plan**, to raise staff awareness, build knowledge and understanding of actions and progress on the delivery of the plan. • Using a range of communication channels to make information accessible, consistent and relevant, including a **Green Workplace** area on the staff intranet; **Leadership Forum events** for senior managers; and staff webinars. • Linking with other themes under the plan to gather and **promote success stories**. • Promoting and participating in **wider climate awareness initiatives** including local and national Climate Weeks and the global Earth Hour initiative. • Raising awareness of ambitious **corporate programmes** taking place towards net zero and climate resilience.
Capability building Staff have knowledge and understanding on climate change; and where necessary, are upskilled to support actions.	• Establishing an internal **Climate Change Training Plan**, covering staff workplace skills and professional development. • Working with other themes to identify any **relevant specialised training** requirements, as projects develop. • Developing an **online generic staff training module** on climate change on our training platform ACC Learn. • Upgrading the **Council Capability Framework** to include climate leadership measures at all levels.
Increased participation Participation of staff in the design of relevant policy and process; and increased uptake of sustainable choices.	• Grouping and promoting existing **employee benefits** relevant to sustainability and explore any further opportunities for the scheme. • Signposting to **any sustainability initiatives, schemes and grants** available nationally relevant to the outcomes of this plan. • Taking the **corporate approach** to holistic behaviour change and apply it to energy and climate change. • Connecting with our **Leadership & Governance theme** to ensure staff understand any Council's changes to policy and procedure as a result of this plan and how it may affect them. • Developing and launching a **Green Champions scheme** to empower staff involvement.
Wider engagement Our climate data is accessible. Schools are informed on our actions and are engaged in climate activity.	• Publishing and making the Council's climate change data accessible. Including production of **visual icons** and **infographics** on progress towards targets. • **Informing** city schools and teachers about Council commitments, actions to address climate change and any actions relevant to individual schools. • Supporting **learning on climate change**, encouraging participation in initiatives such as Climate Ready Classrooms and the EcoSchools programme. • Examining opportunities for the **views and ideas** of pupils to be heard and integrated into the development of relevant theme actions.

7.0 Aligning with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

7.1　　Our actions align with the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals, including:

SDG 1 No Poverty	Generating clean energy and improving energy efficiency of Council housing, help to alleviate fuel poverty and to improve climate resilience for housing.
SDG 2 Zero Hunger	Expanding use of blue green infrastructure on Council land. Developing spaces for food growing spaces through our new build. Increased tree cover could include the planting of crop trees and orchards. Capability building of staff to grow food in the workplace.
SDG 3 Good Health and Wellbeing	Expanded use of blue green infrastructure can contribute to health and well-being of staff and service users. Increased tree cover and clean energy generation can contribute to improved air quality and help to improve health.
SDG 4 Quality Education	Actions to support wider engagement with schools will support global citizenship education and education for sustainable development. Improved building standards and resilience of school assets could enhance the school environment for learning and reduce the risks of education being disrupted by temperature or weather impacts.
SDG 5 Gender Equality	Covered by the Integrated Impact Assessment.
SDG 6 Clean Water and Sanitation	Improving water use efficiency through the effective use of resources and the expanded use of blue green infrastructure will contribute to protecting and restoring water related ecosystems, rivers and aquifers. Increased tree cover on Council land will also support the water environment.
SDG 7 Affordable and Clean Energy	Generating clean energy, extend the heat network, upgrade street lighting, increase the share of renewable energy in the energy mix and improve energy efficiency of Council housing and other buildings will contribute to universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services.
SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth	Encouraging effective use of resources and low-carbon enhancements to infrastructure will support and encourage local business to endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation.
SDG 9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	Encouraging the effective use of resources, low-carbon enhancements to infrastructure and expanding the use of blue-green infrastructure will 'lead by example' and support and encourage local stakeholders and researchers to further innovate.
SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities	Increasing energy efficiency of Council housing and effective use of resources will help to alleviate fuel poverty and contribute to progressively achieving and sustaining income growth of those facing most socio-economic challenges.
SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities	Improving housing quality, protecting and enhancing Council owned open spaces, resilient design of roads and paths, reducing losses from weather impacts and improving air quality all contribute to a sustainable city.
SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production	Minimising waste, encouraging the effective use of resources in support of a circular economy, improving data capture, encouraging sustainable public procurement and the wider engagement with schools and staff training will all increase greater awareness of the links with climate action.
SDG 13 Climate Action	Reducing emissions, increasing the resilience and build standards of Council assets, climate risk management and embedding climate considerations into Council activities are all contributing to city-wide climate action.
SDG 14 Life below Water	Improving water use efficiency, through effective use of resources and the expanded use of blue green infrastructure will contribute to protecting and restoring water related ecosystems, rivers and aquifers. Increased tree cover on Council land will also support the water environment. These actions will in turn contribute to water quality at the coast.
SDG 15 Life on Land	Increasing tree cover will contribute to overall biodiversity gain and potentially support and protect habitats for wildlife.
SDG 16 Peace Justice and Strong Institutions	Developing effective, accountable and transparent governance of the Council's climate actions, benchmarking and regular public reporting of progress contribute to strong institutions and a process in which people feel able to participate.
SDG 17 Partnerships for the Goals	Aiming to embed climate considerations into other programmes, plans and strategies will lead to improved policy coherence and present opportunities to engage further with multi-stakeholder partnerships.