

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Net Zero, Environment and Transport
DATE	09 May 2023
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Net Zero Aberdeen Work Plan
REPORT NUMBER	COM/23/129
DIRECTOR	Gale Beattie
CHIEF OFFICER	David Dunne
REPORT AUTHOR	Emma Young
TERMS OF REFERENCE	5

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report seeks approval of a work plan for city collaborative place-based climate change work; in line with the objectives of the Net Zero Aberdeen Routemap and Aberdeen Adapts: Climate Adaptation Framework.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee: -

- 2.1 Note the summary of key collaborative actions progressed in 2022/23; and
- 2.2 Approve the indicative work plan 2023/24 (Figure 1) for partnership activity to support delivery of Net Zero Aberdeen and Aberdeen Adapts.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

Background

- 3.1 The Net Zero Aberdeen Routemap, 6 enabling strategies and a refresh of Aberdeen Adapts were approved at Council on 28 February 2022.
- 3.2 These are collaborative documents:
- Work to inform Aberdeen Adapts was developed in partnership and had input from 41 organisations.
 - Net Zero Aberdeen Routemap and 6 enabling strategies were co-created by the Net Zero Leadership Board and Delivery Unit, composed of 24 public, private and community sector partners.
- 3.3 In moving to the delivery phase, the approach will be iterative and collaborative involving identification and execution of city-wide projects which may be owned or led by external organisations, and revision of work plans as further projects are identified.

Net Zero Aberdeen and Aberdeen Adapts Progress Summary 2022/23

- 3.4 The Net Zero Aberdeen Routemap indicates the key high-level areas of activity to be progressed in the first 12 months. This report summarises the range of actions that have taken place to move from strategy to implementation.
- 3.5 A governance review was completed working with the Net Zero Leadership Board, Delivery Unit and in dialogue with other organisations and updated governance structure was approved at Council in February 2023 including:
- Transition of the Net Zero Leadership Board to a Net Zero and Adaptation Board; providing expertise, advice, and scrutiny to support the city transition to net zero and to increase climate resilience.
 - Evolution of the Singular Delivery Unit to multi stakeholder Strategy Delivery Hubs for the collaboration, co-ordination, development, and delivery of net zero and adaptation work programmes.
 - Continued Council Officer support through a Core Co-ordination Group.
- 3.6 Zero Waste Scotland provided funding and support for the design and facilitation of circular economy theme workshops for relevant Net Zero Aberdeen partners and wider stakeholders. This pilot approach with stakeholders was to inform the development of the Circular Economy Strategy Project Programme. 13 organisations attended 3 facilitated online workshops, in March 2023, to identify circular economy projects in the area and opportunities for new circular economy projects. The workshops are summarised below:
- **Workshop 1 – Valuing our Resources for a Circular Future**
This session covered material recovery, avoiding waste, recycling at end of life and maximising value from waste. 29 participants registered.
 - **Workshop 2 – Business and Jobs for a Circular Future**
This session explored circular business and behaviour models, job creation and enhanced business resilience. 24 participants registered.
 - **Workshop 3 – Maximising Product Life for a Circular Future**
This session covered product/service design for a circular economy, reducing emissions from the whole life cycle of products, making things last and maximising use of assets. 21 participants registered.
- The pilot has tested an approach to developing the Project Programmes. Learning from this will be applied to the other net zero and adaptation theme areas.
- 3.7 Progress on data, monitoring and reporting included:
- The Council Climate Change Report was approved at the Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee on 17 November 2022. As well as the statutory section which includes emissions data and updates on progress relevant to Council assets and operations; the report included a section on Council and Council partnership contributions to area-based emissions.
 - A review of voluntary reporting mechanisms to evaluate data and report on city climate change adaptation and mitigation in support of city Race to Zero commitments was completed.

- In addition, work is taking place nationally to examine tools and mechanisms to support and develop Local Authority skills and knowledge around area-based emissions.

3.8 Following Council’s decision (28 February 2022) for the Chief Officer - Strategic Place Planning to engage with communities, business and third sector partners to develop and implement an engagement plan to support delivery of the objectives of the Routemap and Adaptation Framework, a number of actions have been completed. These include:

- Production of a Communication Plan and branding for Net Zero Aberdeen and Aberdeen Adapts established.
- Launch of a microsite, covering Net Zero Aberdeen, Aberdeen Adapts and H2 Aberdeen.
- Launch of an Aberdeen Climate and Nature Pledge Scheme in November 2022, which at the time of writing this report has had 50 individual and 23 organisation sign ups.
- 14 presentations and webinars delivered to a range of local, national, and international stakeholders and delegations.

3.9 The Core Co-ordination Group has continued to support the delivery of Net Zero Aberdeen and Aberdeen Adapts including; Net Zero Aberdeen microsite maintenance; development and administration for the Aberdeen Climate and Nature Pledge; progressing actions through regular project meetings; providing stakeholder updates; completing funding applications. In addition, officers have responded to 8 national consultations in relation to net zero and adaptation context; and a number of national enquiries around the public sector and climate change. These include Scottish Government, Role of Local Government and its cross-sectoral partners in financing and delivering a net-zero Scotland; Audit Commission on Scotland’s Approach to Addressing Climate Change; and an Environmental Standards Scotland investigation on support for the public sector on climate change.

Next steps - Indicative work programme 2023-24

3.10 The below table summarises key milestones in the work plan for 2023/24. Dates included in the work plan are indicative, this is due to the collaborative nature of the work which involves external organisations and stakeholders.

Figure 1: Indicative work plan 2023-24

Timeline	Milestone/Key Work	
Q1 2023-2024	Circular Economy Workshops - Report/Output	In progress
	Develop Project Programme 1 - Circular Economy	
	Youth climate change event	In progress
	Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee	
	- <i>Report – Strategies Framework</i>	✓
	- <i>Report – Net Zero workplan 12-18 months</i>	✓
	Scope/initiate carbon data and scenario tool	In progress
Q2 2023-2024	1st "Net Zero and Adaptation Board" meeting	
	Commence Development Project Programme 2 - Theme tbc	

	MSc Sustainability Transitions - Student Project (pledge)	In progress
	Child Friendly Documents Project – Expected Output	In progress
	Populate carbon data and scenario tool	
Q3 2023-2024	Communications block - Scotland's Climate Week 2023	
	Pledge Signatories Mailing List - Initial Communication	
	Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee	
	- <i>Report – Climate Change Report</i>	
	- <i>Report – Net Zero Aberdeen 1st year summary</i>	
	Nature Awareness Campaign	
	Communications block – COP 28	
Q4 2023-2024	Pledge Signatories Event	
	2nd "Net Zero and Adaptation Board" meeting	
	Commence Development Project Programme 3 – Theme tbc	
	Communications block – Climate Week North East	

3.11 Developing the collaborative project programmes 2023/24

- A Circular Economy Project Programme will be produced following the collation of the findings from the Circular Economy workshops. Further work is scheduled to take place with Zero Waste Scotland; to review outputs from the workshop sessions, prioritise project ideas, identify stakeholders and review funding options for these.
- There has been further dialogue with Zero Waste Scotland regarding potential additional support for the Circular Economy Project Programme, the scope of this support is to be determined.
- Officers from the Core Co-ordination Group are taking part in a regional “Circular Economy Business Project Group” alongside officers from City Growth and Resources, Aberdeenshire Council, Business Gateway, and Zero Waste Scotland.
- Learning from the Circular Economy pilot will feed into the development of the Project Programmes for the additional net zero and adaptation themes (Adaptation, Buildings & Heat, Energy Supply, Mobility, Natural Environment, Empowerment). The indicative timeline (Figure 1) includes the development of Project Programmes for 3 themes in this 12-month period, with the details for this and theme selection to be confirmed by the Net Zero and Adaptation Board.
- The Project Programmes will be developed by bringing together stakeholders relevant to those themes through facilitated means to collate information on what is already happening, identify areas to prioritise activity, address gaps and develop collaborative actions.
- Within an 18-month period, develop and cost a pipeline of projects for Net Zero Aberdeen and Aberdeen Adapts workstreams in collaboration with partners and stakeholders.

3.12 Data, monitoring, and reporting 2023/24

- Progress implementation of a software tool for collaborative place-based climate planning for the city to track progress against the Project Programmes. This will produce scenarios and emission reduction pathways, and support public and stakeholder engagement and decision making around emission and targets.

- Information on Council and Council partnership actions contributing to place-based climate activity will be included as part of the annual Council Climate Change Report, on the planner for the Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee, 31 October 2023.
- A Net Zero Aberdeen and Aberdeen Adapts 1st year summary document will be produced, with the format of this to be agreed by stakeholders.

3.13 Engagement 2023/24

- Communications activities will be carried out in alignment with relevant local, national, and international events including; Climate Week North East (March/April), Scotland's Climate Week (September), United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP 28 (November/December).
- Growth in sign up to the Aberdeen Climate and Nature Pledge will be encouraged, building on initiatives such as the Climate and Nature Pledge Community Information Webinar held for Climate Week North East, on 30 March 2023 and work through a student project placement.
- Regular dissemination of relevant information to pledge signatories is due to commence during Quarter 3, issuing updates to existing Net Zero Aberdeen and Aberdeen Adapts stakeholders and the Pledge signatories, that have consented to receiving newsletter updates.
- Build on the activities of the existing Green Champions network, supporting and increasing awareness of sustainability and climate agendas through information sharing, green activities and learning opportunities.
- An event for pledge signatories is proposed to take place during Quarter 4 to be agreed by the Net Zero and Adaptation Board, allowing time for the number of pledge signatories to increase prior to the event.
- Core Co-ordination Group officers are part of a joint working group with Local Development Planning and Master Planning, providing input to incorporate Net Zero Aberdeen and Aberdeen Adapts key messaging in child friendly versions of key city documents. Output from this project is expected during Quarter 2.
- Completion of the non-technical summaries of Net Zero Aberdeen and Aberdeen Adapts information will be progressed separately to the child friendly documents. Non-technical summaries of information relevant to the city on climate projections will also be developed.
- Sharing information on Net Zero Aberdeen to support the planned Youth Climate Change Event.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report.
- 5.2 Work towards emission reduction targets under Net Zero Aberdeen and adaptation goals under Aberdeen Adapts contributes to the Council's and other

public bodies duties under Part 4 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 and the Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The recommendations in this report will have a positive impact on the development and delivery of place-based climate actions to support emission reduction and the delivery of city net zero targets and on climate resilience supporting adaptation goals.

7. RISK

The assessment of risk contained within the table below is considered to be consistent with the Council's Risk Appetite Statement.

Category	Risks	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level	*Target Risk Level (L, M or H) <small>*taking into account controls/control actions</small>	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
Strategic Risk	Failure where the Council has scope of influence to contribute to place based targets for Net Zero and adaptation goals.	Work plan established for 2023-24.	L	Yes
Compliance	Failure to align with and contribute to the delivery of national targets/ programmes.	Monitoring and review of emerging legislation	M	Yes
Operational	Failure to monitor progress.	Use of climate project and scenario tools.	L	Yes
Financial	No direct financial risk.			Yes
Reputational	Failure to support place-based climate plans and targets.	Communication Plan and Council Core Co-ordination Group in place for place-based climate work.	M	Yes
Environment / Climate	Risk to the delivery of Net Zero Aberdeen & Aberdeen Adapts.	Ongoing support for the delivery of collaborative place-based climate work programmes.	M	Yes

8. OUTCOMES

<u>COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN 2022-2023</u>	
Impact of Report	
<p>Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement</p> <p><u>Working in Partnership for Aberdeen</u></p>	<p>The proposals within this report support the delivery of the following aspects of the policy statement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with partners to deliver a just transition to net zero and plan to make Aberdeen a net-zero city • Support efforts to move towards a circular economy • Improving cycle and active transport infrastructure
<u>Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26</u>	
<p>Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes</p>	<p>The proposals within this report support the delivery of LOIP Stretch Outcome 13. Addressing climate change by reducing Aberdeen's carbon emissions by at least 61% by 2026 and adapting to the impacts of our changing climate.</p> <p>The paper seeks approval for an indicative net zero workplan which supports the LOIP key driver 13.1 Reducing emissions across the city through delivery of Aberdeen's Net Zero Vision & Routemap.</p>
<p>Regional and City Strategies</p>	<p>The proposals within this report support the Net Zero Aberdeen Routemap; Net Zero Buildings and Heat Strategy; Net Zero Energy Supply Strategy; Net Zero Mobility Strategy; Net Zero Circular Economy Strategy; Net Zero Natural Environment Strategy; Net Zero Empowerment Strategy; Aberdeen Adapts: Climate Adaptation Framework.</p>

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	Full impact assessment not required.
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required
Other	Not required

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 [COM/22/504](#) Climate Change – Citywide Strategy and Council Carbon Budget

10.2 [COM/23/054](#) Climate Change (Place) Governance Proposals

10.3 [CFS/23/084](#) 2022 Education Climate Change Report

11. APPENDICES

None.

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Emma Young
Title	Senior Climate Change Officer
Email Address	Emma.young@aberdeencity.gov.uk
Tel	07584 275936