Aberdeen City Council Climate Change Report 2023/24 – required section

Public Bodies are required to complete an annual climate change report. Information is submitted on a set template. This report sets out the Council's climate change return for the period 1stApril 2023-31st March 2024.

Boundary Information

Category		dropdown list
Owned estate	Are any buildings owned by the public body?	Yes
Managed services	Are building services managed on behalf of another public body that shares or leases space?	NA
Leased premises -public	Are building services managed and provided by another public body?	Yes
Leased premises - private	Are building services managed and provided by a private landlord?	NA
Streetlighting	Are streetlights owned or operated?	Yes
Fleet and equipment	Are any vehicles or fossil-fuelled machinery or equipment owned or leased, excludes short-term or infrequent hires?	Yes
Refrigerants/F-gases	Are there any air conditioning or refrigeration systems that require refrigerant gas top-ups?	NA
Medical gases	Are medical gases used?	No
Business travel - private	Do staff undertake business travel by private car?	No
Business travel - flights	Do staff undertake any business travel by plane?	Yes
Homeworking	Do staff work from home - including hybrid?	Yes
Supply chain	Are any goods or services purchased?	NA
Land use	Are more than 10 hectares of land owned or managed for public services provision, including for research or recreation?	NA
Waste services	Is the public body responsible for collecting household or municipal waste?	Yes

Yes – data is available and reported
NA – data is relevant but no data is available
No – category is not relevant

SECTION 1 – PROFILE OF REPORTING BODY

1a. Name of Reporting Body: Aberdeen City Council
1b. Type of body: Local Government
1c. Highest number of full-time equivalent staff in the body during the report year: 7195.23 (as of 31st March 2024)
1d. Metrics used by the body: *Drop down options are not relevant, so nothing noted.*
1e. Overall budget of the body (£): 576,205000 These are net figures.
1f. Specify the report year type: Financial (1st of April 2023 to 31st of March 2024)
1g. Provide a summary of the body's nature and functions that are relevant to climate change reporting.
   Aberdeen City Council has a strong role to play as follows:
- Leading and acting as an example to others through its services, planning and decision making.
- Reducing emissions from its own estate and services and building resilience through the Council Climate Change Plan 2021-25.
- Managing wider city risks and building resilience through the Aberdeen Adapts: Climate Adaptation Framework.
- Promoting city wide emission reduction through The Net Zero Aberdeen Routemap and associated six strategies, the Net Zero Vision for Aberdeen and the Strategic Infrastructure Plan (Energy Transition)
- Helping to shape and inform legislation through consultation responses.
- Alleviating fuel poverty through ACC owned properties and working with the private/third sectors to improve standards in those areas.
- Ensuring compliance with building standards and influencing the planning process to take into consideration climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.

- Through the school systems and lifelong learning educate the citizen about the implications of climate change and principles of sustainability.
- Deliver projects that help mitigate/adapt to a changing climate, flood risk management and water efficiency and fulfil multiple plans, policies, and strategies, e.g., wetland development, sustainable urban drainage, expansion of the EV (Electric Vehicle) network, energy efficiency retrofitting, renewables etc.
- Mapping and developing of blue/green infrastructure.
- Procuring sustainably.
- Partnership working.

SECTION 2 – GOVERNANCE, MANAGEMENT AND STRATEGY

2a - How is climate change governed in the body?

Aberdeen City Council organisational structure includes 3 Functions - Corporate Services; City Regeneration and Environment; Families and Communities. Within each Function sit a number of Clusters. The Climate and Environment Policy Service sits within the City Regeneration and Environment Function and Strategic Place Planning Cluster, alongside services covering planning and transport strategy and programmes.

However, a wide range of additional Clusters will have responsibilities relevant to climate change and these cross Council responsibilities are reflected in climate governance including:
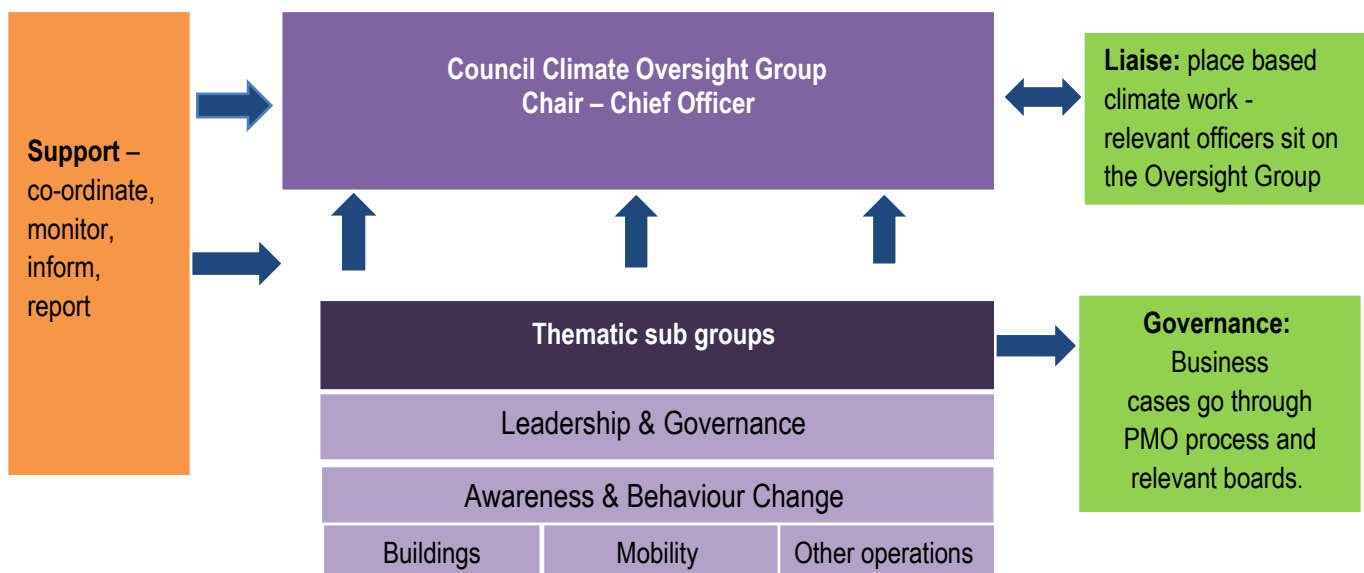
Committee
During the reporting period, the progress of various plans, policies, and strategies was communicated to committee, primarily to the Council and the Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee. The statutory Climate Change Report was also presented to the Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee for review. Aberdeen City Council declared a climate and nature emergency on March 27, 2023, emphasising its commitment to tackling climate change and biodiversity loss. At its annual budget setting meeting on 1 March the Council Carbon Budget was approved alongside the annual financial budget. Key decisions made during the annual budget meeting include:

- Approval of a Council Carbon Budget alongside the financial budget.
- £35 million allocated to expand the city's district heating network.
- £20 million for upgrading the fleet to more sustainable options.
- £2 million investment in a new waste and recycling centre.
- £18 million for the Aberdeen Hydrogen Hub.
- £800,000 for initiatives supporting the Council's Climate Change Plan in 2023-24.

These investments are part of a long-term effort towards achieving net zero and climate resilience.

Council
The Council's Climate Change Plan 2021-2025 outlines specific actions aimed at reducing carbon emissions and enhancing resilience to climate change. This plan sets emissions reduction targets for Council assets and operations and details the necessary steps to achieve these goals. Oversight, monitoring and reporting mechanisms for the Council Climate Change Plan (CCCP) 2021-2025 have been established. An Oversight Group led by the Chief Officer for Strategic Place Planning has a remit for implementation and delivery of the plan and the project programme, taking a project assurance role to review performance and progress and keep the plan on track. The Oversight Group includes Senior Officers from, Finance, Communications, Corporate Landlord. In addition, it includes the theme leads for thematic sub-groups delivering actions under the plan and creating a broad network of relevant officers working on mitigation and adaptation. It includes work streams incorporating Commodities and Education.

City

Governance, encompassing a range of public, private and community organisations was established for the development of the Net Zero Aberdeen Routemap and 6 net zero enabling strategies (Mobility, Buildings and Heat, Energy Supply, Circular Economy, Natural Environment, and Empowerment) which were approved in February 2022. Development of the Routemap was driven by a Net Zero Leadership Board, chaired by the Council with membership of various external organisations and a Delivery Unit which co-created the 6 enabling strategies, with a different organisation leading the development of each one.

Since then, to support implementation of the Net Zero Aberdeen Routemap and Aberdeen Adapts Framework, this governance was refreshed. Proposals and Terms of Reference for place-based climate governance were approved at Council in 2023 and work progressed during the reporting period to establish a multi-organisation [Aberdeen Net Zero and Adaptation Board](#), which is now in place.

City – Community Planning Partners

The Aberdeen Community Planning Partners have oversight and delivery of the Aberdeen Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP). The Sustainable City Group sits under the governance for the plan. The Group leads and is responsible for actions and for ensuring progress against the primary and secondary drivers and improvement aims set for the Place outcomes in the LOIP. These include the stretch outcomes for climate change:

- 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
- 14. Increase sustainable travel: 38% of people walking and 5% of people cycling as main mode of travel by 2026
- 15. Addressing the nature crisis by protecting/ managing 26% of Aberdeen's area for nature by 2026

2b - How is climate change action managed and embedded by the body?

Corporate Management Team Boards

Several of the Council's Corporate Management Team Boards have oversight of various aspects of the Council's climate change activity.

- **Risk Board** – during this reporting period the Corporate Risk Register included a "Climate change - Place risk of not contributing to a reduction in city-wide emissions and address strategic climate risks for the city where the Council has scope to influence. Including: heavy or reduced rainfall, flooding, higher temperatures and sea levels". A deep dive on Corporate Risks (including the climate risk) takes place and relevant information in relation to horizon scanning is also reported.
  In addition, there are a number of climate risks identified at Cluster and Operational level including the Cluster level risk, Climate Duties – Council compliance.

- **Strategy Board** - as part of its remit it facilitates the delivery of the Council's strategic priorities, including those relevant to net zero and adaptation. In addition, the board looks at internal and external factors which affect the Council's current and future this includes climate and environment and the impact this could have on the Council and Aberdeen City.

Embedding climate change

Some examples of how sustainability has been incorporated into Council processes, procedures and decision making are illustrated below:
- Many corporate plans, policies and strategies undergo Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to assess their environmental impact which includes addressing climate change.
- Climate change considerations are featured within relevant risk registers, service plans, business cases and development management consultations.
- The Council Capital Business Case process is linked to the Council Building Performance Policy for corporate assets sets standards for sustainable construction, digital connectivity and future proofing for district heating connectivity.
- Environmental implications are incorporated into the committee reporting template and the accompanying Report Authors guidance document.
- Environmental implications are included in the Council Policy template and guidance.
- Environmental considerations are incorporated within planning consultation responses, with regular cross service meetings with Development Management and are embedded into development policy.

- A working group has been established to incorporate environmental considerations into the Council Integrated Impact Assessment template. To enable identification of positive and negative impacts from Council processes including reports and policy.
- The Council Capability Framework sets out guiding principles and core capabilities for staff. Indicators for climate change and nature loss were incorporated during the reporting period, following consultation and feedback from various focus groups This has embedded climate and nature in the annual staff appraisal process.
- Emissions management (Council) and wider sustainability work across the council is reported annually through the Statutory Performance Indicators (SPI).
- Launched in September 2022, an internal Climate Change eLearning module: 'Meeting Our Climate Change duties' was created and rolled out for staff to access and work through at their own pace.153 employees have now completed the module.
- A new staff training course, "Taking Action on Climate Change," was successfully piloted in December 2023, with additional cohorts planned throughout 2024. The half-day course is designed to equip participants with a deeper understanding of climate change science, policy, and practical actions for a sustainable future. Participants learn from experts on climate impacts, global agreements, mitigation strategies, and communication skills essential for driving climate action across various sectors.

In addition, a range of Council teams have responsibility for strategy, activities and monitoring on climate change or sector specific areas:
- The Climate and Environment Policy Service, has a specific remit for climate reporting; gives advice on mitigation and adaptation; and encourages embedding of these measures into both corporate and city-wide plans, policies and strategies, supporting and co-ordinating the development of these plans and ensuring direct links to the LOIP strategic outcomes.
- Corporate Landlord, oversee building conditions and undertake surveys, working closely with the Energy Management Team and Building Services/Maintenance to bring buildings up to standard and perform better in relation to energy efficiency. The Energy Management Team is responsible for overseeing collation of energy consumption data.
- Internal waste is managed by many officers with responsibilities spread among various functions as set out in the Internal Waste Minimisation Policy. The Waste and Recycling Team, are responsible for the collection of waste and recycling containers from most corporate buildings, as part of trade waste collections. Facilities are responsible for the implementation and provision of the waste and recycling services from main office buildings. Digital and Technology Cluster, are responsible for the collection/liaison with external companies for the reuse and recycling of Waste Electronic and Electric Equipment (WEEE). A range of additional waste data is provided by relevant contractors.
- The Local Development Plan Team is responsible for providing the strategic direction for city development, including incorporation of sustainability principles into strategic plans and supplementary guidance. The Aberdeen Local Development Plan (LDP) was approved by Full Council in December 2022 and adopted in 2023.
- Structures, Flooding & Coastal Engineering have responsibilities in assessing flood risk and flood risk management schemes. The team work in partnership to develop cycles of the North East Flood Risk Management Plan, to meet the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009.
- The Transport Strategy and Programmes Team develop the Local Transport Strategy and a wide range of sustainable and active travel measures.

2c - Does the body have specific climate change mitigation and adaptation objectives in its corporate plan or similar document?

Document	Wording of objective(s)
Council_Delivery_Plan_23_24.pdf (aberdeencity.gov.uk)	The Council's Commissioning Intentions are strategically aligned with the stretch outcomes of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan and the broader Council strategy framework. For 2023/24 period, these intentions have been revised to more robustly support the Council's key priorities, including energy transition, net zero carbon emissions and adapting to climate change.
The Place Based Strategy Framework	Approved May 2023. Outlines place-based strategies within the Council and the interrelationship and interdependencies between them. Net Zero Aberdeen and Aberdeen Adapts are indicated as tier 1 (key overarching strategies) in the Framework
LOIP-16-26-April-2024.pdf (communityplanningaberdeen.org.uk)	One of the stretch outcomes for the plan is addressing climate change by reducing carbon emissions and adapting to the impacts of our changing climate. The LOIP indicates key drivers as Reducing emissions across the city through the delivery of Aberdeen's Net Zero Vision & Route-map; and Contributing to the delivery of Aberdeen Adapts by developing a bottom-up approach to community resilience to encourage greater ownership and independent action towards understanding communities' risks from climate change and adapting to them. Work took place to refresh the LOIP in 2023/24.

2d - Does the body have a climate change plan or strategy?

<u>City</u>
Energy Transition/ Net Zero

- **A Net Zero Vision and Prospectus for Aberdeen** was approved at Urgent Business Committee in May 2020. Includes strategic objectives on leading the global transition; accelerating transition demand; resilient, productive and dynamic place; climate positive exemplar; putting people first.
- **Strategic Infrastructure Plan (Energy Transition)**: was approved at Urgent Business Committee in May 2020. It includes Strategic Infrastructure Goals: clean energy supply for the city, UK and, particularly, globally; Aberdeen's infrastructure is adaptable to changes in climate; sustainable mobility; building energy efficiency; sustainable waste management. It also includes priority area of Net Carbon Zero - Public Sector.
- **Net Zero Aberdeen Routemap** was approved in February 2022 at Council and sets out a collaborative pathway towards Aberdeen becoming net zero by 2045. 6 high level net zero enabling strategies cover net zero priorities for the city.

  - Mobility Strategy
  - Buildings & Heat Strategy
  - Circular Economy Strategy
  - Energy Supply Strategy
  - Natural Environment Strategy
  - Empowerment Strategy

Adaptation

The refresh of **Aberdeen Adapts: Climate Adaptation Framework** was approved in February 2022 and covers city-wide working on adaptation. Incorporating the views of local organisations and communities, it sets the direction and goals to build long term city resilience. and covers city-wide working on adaptation. Incorporating the views of local organisations and communities, it sets the direction to build long term city resilience

Council

The **Climate Change Plan 2021-2025: Towards a Net Zero and Climate Resilient Council** was approved at Council in March 2021. 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. The plan sets emissions targets for Council assets and operations, outlines actions to reduce carbon emissions and to increase resilience to climate change. Current work programmes delivering the plan are progressing under various themes.

2e - Does the body have any plans or strategies covering the following areas that include climate change?

Topic area	Name of document	Time period covered	Comments
Business travel	Staff Travel Policy	Ongoing	Includes considerations of the Environmental Impact of travel. Asks staff to consider first if their trip is necessary, encourages travellers to use modes of transport that result in the least environmental impact and outlines that the Council keeps records of estimated environmental impact of travel and has a clear intent to reduce it.
Staff travel	Council Travel Plan (only) available via the intranet)		High-level objectives: To increase the choice of transport modes available to employees, Councillors and visitors to Council buildings. To seek to reduce the negative impact of travel choices locally and more widely, whilst maintaining efficient service provision.
Energy Efficiency	Local Housing Strategy (page 91)	2018-2023	Outlines housing strategy approach and includes the strategic outcome: Fuel poverty is reduced which contributes to meeting climate change targets. The Local Housing Strategy is currently under review.

Energy efficiency	Property Asset Management Policy		Key principles include reducing carbon emissions from our properties.
Other	Condition and Suitability Programme	22/23-24/25	3-year programme for the condition and suitability works on the Council's non-housing property portfolio. Around 25% of the proposed C&S programme is made up of projects that will contribute positively to improving the environmental performance of the Council's assets.
Fleet transport	Fleet Replacement Programme Annual Report.pdf (aberdeencity.gov.uk)	2021/22 - 2025/26	The programme has been updated to reflect the Council's Net Zero ambition to work towards decarbonising its in-house fleet and introducing new vehicles with reduced emissions.
Information and Communication Technology	ICT (Information and Communication Technology) Asset Management Plan) (UPDATE POSITION (aberdeencity.gov.uk)	2013	ICT Assets should be environmentally sustainable. This means considering local and global environmental factors, monitoring and reducing energy consumption and CO2 emissions through the whole ICT life cycle from manufacture, packaging, utilisation and disposal. ICT Assets must be safe, secure and comply with current legal and regulatory requirements and known future requirements. This means ensuring regular audits for DSE requirements and PAT testing of all ICT Assets, regular preventative maintenance and testing of critical ICT assets such as UPS and Air Conditioning within Data Centre and communications room facilities, compliance with WEEE regulations for electrical disposals, compliance with software licensing terms and conditions, compliance with Data Protection Act (DPA) and Disability Discriminations Act (DDA) when designing new ICT systems.
Waste Management	Internal Waste Minimisation Policy (only available via the intranet)		Sets policy for internal waste in relation to the waste hierarchy.
Waste Management	Aberdeen City Waste Strategy (Page 7-8)	2014-2025	Target 1: Waste growth will be eliminated by 2015. Target 2: We will work towards the targets set in the Scottish Government's Zero Waste Plan 2010. Target 3: Introduce an organic waste collection for all households by 2016. Target 4: Develop facilities within the Aberdeen area to recover our resources. Target 5: No more than 5% of household waste should be landfilled by 2025.
Water and sewerage	*Not applicable*		
Land Use	Aberdeen Local Development Plan	Aberdeen City Council	Adopted 19 June 2023	Includes policy on low and zero carbon buildings and on renewable and low carbon energy development. A wider range of policy information on the current and proposed LDP is included in the adaptation section. The Aberdeen Local Development Plan 2023 was formally adopted by the Council and constituted part of the statutory Development Plan. It will be used to guide decisions on planning applications alongside Aberdeen Planning Guidance and Supplementary Guidance . The Aberdeen Local Development Plan 2023 incorporates changes established by NPF4.
Land use	Generation Aberdeen	Masterplans		Includes the objective - Technologically advanced and environmentally responsible. Providing the capacity, quality and reliability of infrastructure required by businesses and residents and utilising resources responsibly.
Land Use	Open Space Strategy	2011-2016	The Aberdeen Open Space Strategy 2011 aims to mitigate and adapt to climate change and enhance biodiversity by promoting Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS), protecting open spaces for flood management, and planting native species. Open and blue-green spaces are vital for

			quality of life, providing health, wellbeing, economic, and environmental benefits, and fostering connections with nature. The draft Aberdeen Open Space Audit: 2024 is ready for approval. The findings from the audit and public survey will be presented. The main report and GIS mapping will be published on the Council's website in 2024. The Open Space Audit, an evidence-gathering exercise, supports blue-green infrastructure policies in the Aberdeen Local Development Plan and National Planning Framework 4. It plays a crucial role in protecting and enhancing open spaces for community use, recreation, and new developments. The audit also collected community views on the value of open spaces through a public survey. The audit will inform a future revision of the Natural Environment Strategy, guiding the planning and management of blue and green spaces for the benefit of people and nature in Aberdeen.
Other – nature conservation	Nature Conservation Strategy (page 4 and 15)		Touches upon aspects of climate change, within the objectives of the strategy and sections on sustainable development and climate change. There are many aspects to consider for truly sustainable development and climate change is one of them. A shift in species populations, ranges, migration patterns and reproductive behaviour are already evident both on land and at sea because of climate change.
Other – sustainable construction	Building Performance Policy	Renewed January 2018	The Buildings Performance Policy and accompanying guidance and checklist covers sustainable construction activity at a corporate level. It is an internal policy that sets building standards for refurbishments and new build projects. The policy states clearly an intention to deliver against energy performance, digital connectivity, future proofing for district heating and attaining certain BREEAM standards.
Other - various	Local Outcome Improvement Plan	2016-2026	Stretch outcomes for the plan include: Addressing climate change by reducing carbon emissions and adapting to the impacts of our changing climate. 38% of people walking and 5% of people cycling as main mode of travel by 2026. A refresh of the plan emission reduction target and strengthened the target by adding the Stretch Outcome: Addressing climate change by reducing Aberdeen's carbon emissions by at least 61% by 2026 and adapting to the impacts of our changing climate
Other – economy	Regional Economic Strategy 2023 (investaberdeen.co.uk)	Approved 2015	Includes the objective: to maximise the potential of hydrogen, energy from waste and other renewables technologies to develop a medium-long terms demand for the transferable skills in the oil and gas sector.
Other - hydrogen	Aberdeen City Region Hydrogen Strategy and Action Plan 2015-2025 (Part 2, page 16)	2015-2025	The aim of this strategy is to maintain and build on Aberdeen's expertise in hydrogen in order to achieve the long-term goals associated with hydrogen rollout and being the leading hub in Scotland. The strategy and action plan outlines how these aims can be achieved in the short, medium and long term. The action plan identifies a series of measures required to achieve this, across seven key objectives: vehicle deployments, renewable hydrogen, refuelling infrastructure, non-transport applications, supply chain/market development, communication and education, and policy & regulation.
Other - transport	Local Transport Strategy (Page 5)	2016-2021	Increased modal share for public transport and active travel. Reduced the need to travel. Reduced dependence on the private car. Improved journey time reliability for all modes. Improved road safety. Improved air quality and the environment; improved accessibility to transport. Public consultation on the draft Aberdeen Local Transport Strategy 2023-2030, took place during the reporting period.
Other – transport	Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (Page 1)		Sets out long term approach for active and low carbon travel in the city centre. Varying transport options. Reduces air and noise pollution, greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption; improves the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the transportation of people and goods.

Other – transport	Aberdeen Active Travel Action Plan	2021-2026	Aims to encourage and facilitate active travel.
Other – transport	Aberdeen Electric Vehicle Framework	2018-2032	Inform the future plans and supporting infrastructure for EVs in Aberdeen over the next 5-10 years
Other – air quality	Air Quality Action Plan (Executive summary (aberdeencity.gov.uk))	2011	Actions to improve air quality in Aberdeen 2023. Air Quality Annual Progress Report (APR) for Aberdeen City Council. Air quality reports | Aberdeen City Council
Procurement Strategy	Joint Procurement Strategy 2023 - 2026	2023 - 2026	Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Highland Council Joint Procurement Strategy for 2023-2026 approved and published (Joint Procurement Strategy 2023 - 2026)

2f - What are the body's top 5 priorities for climate change governance, management, and strategy for the year ahead?

In no specific order, the top 5 climate change priorities for the year ahead are:

1. Evidence gathering to support updates of the Net Zero Aberdeen Routemap; Net Zero enabling strategies; Aberdeen Adapts, Climate Adaptation Framework.
2. Facilitate collaborative working through a newly established Aberdeen Net Zero and Adaptation Board to further develop and deliver work programmes for city place based climate documents.
3. Implement a data system to support internal planning, monitoring and inform subsequent refresh of the Council Climate Change Plan; alongside use of a shared data system through Scottish Climate intelligence Serice.to support place based climate planning being rolled out to Local Authorities.
4. Analysis of the findings of a staff Climate and Nature Survey (April 2024) to understand staff views and opinions on climate change and nature restoration and the impact on the way they work.
5. Delivery of the new Council, Taking Action on Climate Change, staff training course, alongside continued promotion of the staff online learning module Meeting our Climate Duties.

2g - Has the body used the Climate Change Assessment Tool (a) or equivalent tool to self-assess its capability / performance?

The Council is part of the Public Sector Climate Adaptation Network and reviews adaptation progress annually against the Public Sector Adaptation Capability Framework using the Adaptation Scotland Benchmarking Tool.

2h - Supporting information and best practice.

- In November 2022, during the Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group (AREG) Net Zero Energy Conference, Net Zero Aberdeen and six enabling strategies were launched, alongside the new Net Zero Aberdeen website and the Aberdeen Climate and Nature Pledge. Work to refresh Governance progressed in 2023 including updated membership of the Aberdeen Net Zero and Adaptation Board to increase representation to reflect the themes of Net Zero Aberdeen and Aberdeen Adapts
- Making a commitment to Net Zero Aberdeen and Aberdeen Adapts, there are now 100 signatories of the Aberdeen Climate and Nature Pledge – including 30 organisations and 70 individuals/households.
- In August 2023 the 'Re-use Shop' project at Hazlehead Household Waste & Recycling Centre launched its Big Paint Give-Away to celebrate its first birthday. The "Re-use Shop" sells good quality pre-loved items for re-use. Launched a 'Lend and Mend Hub' at Central Library, June 2023, allowing residents to repair, reuse, and upcycle everyday items.
- In November 2023, the University of Aberdeen's Just Transition Lab presented the findings of its multi-disciplinary investigation 'Just Transition for Workers and Communities in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire: Indicators and Scenarios'.
- ABZ Skills Pipeline launched to create a programme of linked opportunities with multiple employers for young people across Aberdeen schools. The Council will work with employers, initially in the energy sector, to strengthen educational links and help pupils learn about the industry, careers, and the various routes into them.
- Following an initial series of three online Circular Economy stakeholder workshops in March 2023, a summary report was published covering the workshop outcomes. The workshops were carried out in partnership with Zero Waste Scotland and

an external facilitator, to review and work on the city-wide approach to a circular economy, as part of the Net Zero Aberdeen Routemap and Circular Economy Strategy. The purpose of the three workshops was to:

- o Understand the circular economy, its benefits, and the important role of cities in driving transition
- o Understand the strategic context within Aberdeen (linking to the Net Zero Aberdeen Routemap and Circular Economy Strategy)
- o Identify opportunities to integrate circular economy into existing projects and programmes of work
- o Identify opportunities for new circular economy projects and programmes
- o Prioritise actions and projects to take forward

- A Net Zero Aberdeen and Aberdeen Adapts annual progress report was approved at the Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee.
- This was the third year of implementation since approval of the Council Climate Change Plan in March 2021. An Oversight Group drives the tracking of this activity, with regular workstream deep dives to build understanding, highlight challenges and opportunities. Further projects to embed climate change in Council systems and processes are being progressed through the Plan. Case studies on a number of completed projects were produced.

Various awareness raising events and presentations relating to climate were provided to senior management and staff including:

- In March 2024, the Council contributed to the **Climate Week North East** programme with 12 internal and external events, hosted by 7 Council Teams, with almost 800 attendees, working in partnership with 20 organisations. A total of 13 social media posts were published with 54,312 views. Internal events included the launch of an all staff Climate and Nature Survey to better understand staff awareness, motivation to take action in the work place. Alongside promotion of the new in house, Taking Action on Climate Change staff training.

- A "**Green Workplace**" area of the staff intranet established (2021), continued to be expanded with new information and activities during this reporting period to provide easy access to information, practical tips, ideas and opportunities for staff to get involved in the climate change and wider sustainability agenda.

- In 2023/24, the **Green Champions** network grew from 75 to 80 Champions, taking part in 5 initiatives including, workplace food growing, food waste champions, repair what you wear workshops, active travel challenges, and activities to provide access to reusable period products in the workplace. Success stories of Champions are shared on the internal Green Champion Green Workplace page to promote, encourage and inspire further staff action. In addition, a city wide Champions Network meet quarterly to network, share and learn from each organisations own experiences of Green Champions. Organisations include the James Hutton Institute, University of Aberdeen, NHS Grampian, Aberdeen Health and Social Care Partnership and Police Scotland.

SECTION 3 – EMISSIONS, TARGETS AND PROJECTS

3a - Emissions from start of the year which the body uses as a baseline (for its carbon footprint) to the end of the report year.

Reference year	Year	Scope 1	Scope 2	Scope 3	Total	Units	Comments
Baseline carbon Footprint	15/16	22,020.00	21,664.00	2,687.00	46,371.00	tCO$_2$e	
Year 1 carbon footprint	16/17	17,704.90	18,347.31	3,173.58	39,255.00	tCO$_2$e	Changes in estate and provision and accuracy of data account for the significant changes in relation to the total footprint.
Year 2 Carbon Footprint	17/18	17,867.11	15,767.82	2,257.46	35,892.39	tCO$_2$e	Changes in emission factors and provision and accuracy of data account for changes in relation to the total footprint.
Year 3 Carbon Footprint	18/19	17,015.18	12,176.07	1,899.20	31,090.45	tCO$_2$e	Changes in emission factors; and provision and accuracy of data account for changes in relation to the total footprint.
Year 4 Carbon Footprint	19/20	18,544.97	10,315.87	1,700.40	30,563.24	tCO$_2$e	Changes in emission factors; and provision and accuracy of data account for changes in relation to the total footprint.

Year 5 Carbon Footprint	20/21	15,762.4	8,382.9	1,782.8	25,929.3	tCO_2e	Consumption figures are significantly lower than 2019-20 due to the reduced use of assets and reduced business travel during the COVID-19 restrictions
Year 6 Carbon Footprint	21/22	15,910.80	6,037.2	4149.80	26,159.1	tCO_2e	Consumption figures are slightly higher than 2020-21 due to the increased use of assets and operations following the gradual lifting of COVID-19 restrictions.
Year 7 Carbon Footprint	22/23	15,575.1	9,153.5	2,775.5	27,503.9	tCO_2e	Consumption figures are slightly higher than 2021-22 due to District Heating being added to scope, temporary changes to some corporate waste disposal methods and a change in home working calculation by the Scottish Government.
Year 8 Carbon Footprint	23/24	15,716.1	9,404.9	2,513.5	27,634.5	tCO2e	Consumption figures slightly higher than 2022-23 due to UK electricity emission factors increasing for 2023/24 after a trend of reductions. District heating was added to more assets. Weather impacts, 5% colder than the previous year.

3b – Breakdown of emission sources.

Emission Source	Scope	Consumption Data	Units	Emission Factors	Units	Emissions (tCO2e)	Comments
Buildings							
Grid electricity (Generation)	2	26,020,190	Kwh	0.20707	kg CO2e/kWh	5,388.00	3% reduction in comparison to 22/23 in electricity consumption
Grid electricity (transmission and distribution losses)	3	26,020,190	Kwh	0.01792	kg CO2e/kWh	466.28	Usage through corporate assets.
Natural Gas	1	62,950,926	Kwh	0.18293	kg CO2e/kWh	11,515.61	1% increase in gas partly due 23/24 being around 5% colder than the previous year, based on average degree days across the years.
Gas Oil	1	142,708	litres	2.75541	kg CO2e/kWh	393.22	Less oil was used at Duthie Park as the oil boilers were not working for a period of time.
Heat and Steam: District Heating	2	11,489,136	Kwh	0.17965	kg CO2e/kWh	2,064.02	45% increase in DH consumption in comparison to 22/23 due to added to more areas, e.g., schools
Heat and Steam: District Heating (transmission and distribution losses)	3	11,489,136	Kwh	0.00945	kg CO2e/kWh	108.57	5% transmission losses.
Biomass	1	1,220,200	Kwh	0.01074	kg CO2e/kWh	13.1	Increase unknown kg due to failure of oil boilers resulting in additional demand on biomass boiler at Duthie Park
Water Supply	3	226,361	m3	0.1	kg CO2e/m3	22.64	5% increase in water consumption due to leaks at Aberdeen Grammar, St Machar Academy, Duthie Park as well as pond filling at Duthie Park.
Water Treatment	3	226,361	m3	0.19	kg CO2e/m3	43.01	Usage through corporate assets. Figure is 95% of water supply.
Street Lighting							
Grid electricity (Generation)	2	9,387,902	Kwh	0.20707	kg CO2e/kWh	1,943.95	26% decrease in consumption from 22/23 (12,946,381 kWh) due to the LED streetlighting replacement programme
Grid electricity (transmission and distribution losses)	3	9,387,902	Kwh	0.01792	kg CO2e/kWh	168.23	From Streetlighting
Staff Travel							
Average car - unknown fuel	3	306,085	km	0.16664	kg CO2e/km	51.01	Staff travel car hire. Post covid activity increase

Average car - unknown fuel	3	456,538	km	0.16664	kg CO2e/km	76.08	Essential car users (grey fleet), 26% decrease
Average car - unknown fuel	3	667,719	km	0.16664	kg CO2e/km	111.27	Casual car users (grey fleet), 35% increase
Rail (national rail)	3	306,085	km	0.03546	kg CO2e/passenger km	10.85	Increase from previous reporting year. Post covid activity increase
Coach		31,341	km	0.02718	kg CO2e/passenger km	0.85	Information received from suppliers.
Car – petrol (average)	3	24,557	km	0.16391	kg CO2e/km	4.03	Car club information.
Car – hybrid (medium)	3	175,786	km	0.10904	kg CO2e/km	19.17	Car club information.
Grid electricity (Generation) Car – Battery electric Vehicle (Medium) Km	2	1,109	Kwh	0.20707	kg CO2e/km	0.23	Car Club information (onsite charging)
Grid electricity (transmission and distribution losses) Car – Battery electric Vehicle (Medium) Km	3	1,109	Kwh	0.01792	kg CO2e/kWh	0.02	Car Club information (onsite charging)
Grid electricity (Generation) Car – Battery electric Vehicle (Medium) Km	2	18,247	Kwh	0.20707	kg CO2e/kWh	3.78	Car Club information (offsite charging)
Grid electricity (transmission and distribution losses) Car – Battery electric Vehicle (Medium) Km	3	18,247	Kwh	0.01792	kg CO2e/kWh	0.33	Car Club information (offsite charging)
Long haul flight (economy class)	3	27,899	km	0.20011	kg CO2e/passenger km	5.58	More attendance at overseas conferences
Short haul flight (economy class)	3	29,907	km	0.18287	kg CO2e/passenger km	5.47	170% increase from previous reporting year. Post covid activity increase

Domestic flight (economy class)	3	72,004	km	0.27258	kg CO2e/passenger km	19.63	254% increase compared to 22/23, Post covid activity increase
Waste							
Paper and board (mixed recycling)	3	83	tonnes	21.281	kg CO2e/tonne	2	Confidential waste. From all ACC sites.
Organic food and drink composting	3	54	tonnes	8.91242	kg CO2e/tonne	0.5	11% increase from 22/23, from 3R Schools.
Organic food and drink composting	3	246	tonnes	8.91242	kg CO2e/tonne	2.2	From corporate premises. 3.5% increase in consumption, from corporate premises.
Garden Waste	3	31	tonnes	8.91242	kg CO2e/tonne	0.3	11.5% increase in comparison to 22/23 from corporate premises.
General waste to landfill	3	341.326	tonnes	497.045	kg CO2e/tonne	169.7	Since March 2023, 80% of corporate premises' waste was diverted to Energy from Waste (EfW), following a temporary shift to landfilling after a fire.
General waste - combustion	3	2,411.306	tonnes	21.2801	kg CO2e/tonne	51.3	Energy from Waste (EfW), became fully operational in reporting period
Mixed recycling	3	317	tonnes	21.2801	kg CO2e/tonne	6.7	From corporate premises (including glass), with data based on scheduled regular collections but does not include bulky uplifts
WEEE (Mixed) Recycling	3	6	tonnes	21.281	kg CO2e/tonne	0.1	IT provided information from contractor
General waste to landfill	3	159	tonnes	497.045	kg CO2e/tonne	78.9	3.6% increase from 22/23 in 3R schools. General waste to landfill provided by a report from the waste contractor.
Mixed recycling	3	54	tonnes	21.2801	kg CO2e/tonne	1.2	3R schools. Mixed recycling provided by a report from the waste contractor.
Fleet							
Diesel (average biofuel blend)	1	1,481,604	litres	2.51206	kg CO2e/litre	3,721.88	7.5% increase in consumption. Post covid activity increase
Petrol (average biofuel blend)	1	28,163	litres	2.09747	kg CO2e/litre	59.07	Financial data used to calculate estimate consumption within Fleet services.
Gas Oil	1	4,813	litres	2.75541	kg CO2e/litre	13.26	28% decrease in red diesel usage reported for the second year due to improvements in reporting.
Grid electricity (Generation)	2	3,454	kWh	0.20707	kg CO2e/kWh	0.72	Fleet EVs charged from onsite source (split from Buildings electricity) Duthie Park Depot only
Grid electricity (transmission and distribution losses)	3	3,454	kWh	0.01792	kg CO2e/kWh	0.06	Fleet EVs charged from onsite source (split from Buildings electricity) Duthie Park Depot only

Grid electricity (Generation)	2	20,460	kWh	0.20707	kg CO2e/kWh	4.24	Fleet vehicles used 372 kg of hydrogen. Second year of reporting hydrogen.
Grid electricity (transmission and distribution losses)	3	20,460	kWh	0.01792	kg CO2e/kWh	0.37	Hydrogen used by Fleet vehicles. Second year of reporting hydrogen.
Other							
Homeworking emissions	3	3,257,821	FTE Working Hour	0.33378	kg CO2e/FTE/annual working hours	1,087.4	Estimate based regular VPN usage.
Overall Total Emissions						**27,636.10**	

3c - Generation, consumption and export of renewable energy

Technology	Renewable electricity		Renewable heat		Comments
	Total consumed by the organisation (kWh)	Total exported (kWh)	Total consumed by the organisation (kWh)	Total exported (kWh)	
Biomass			1,220,200		Woodchips consumed for the biomass plant.
Solar Power - photovoltaic (PV)			tbc		A photovoltaic (PV) installation has been installed to generate solar power.

3d – Organisational Targets

Name of target	Type of target	Target	Units	Boundary / scope of target	Progress against target	Year used as baseline	Baseline figure tCO2e	Units of baseline	Target completion year	Comments
Corporate emissions	Absolute	Net zero	tCO2e	Council assets/ operations	45% without addition DH	15/16	46,371	tCO2e	2045	At the latest
	%	75	tCO2e					tCO2e	2030	At least
	%	48	tCO2e					tCO2e	2025	At least
Energy	Annual % reduction	2%	Annual %	Energy use in buildings		14/15		kWh/m^3		.

3da - How will the body align its spending plans and use of resources to contribute to reducing emissions and delivering its emission reduction targets? Provide any relevant supporting information?

A Carbon Budget is being implemented to support the delivery of the Council's Climate Change Plan. The Council approved this carbon budgeting approach in February 2022, along with an overarching carbon budget for the period from April 2021 to March 2025, outlining a phased rollout timeline.

The timeframes and processes for data collation are being expedited to ensure that carbon data is accessible for informing the Commissioning Cycle and budget-setting process.

During the reporting period:

- Roll out of actions under the 2023/24 Carbon Budget progressed. The 2023/24 carbon budget was approved alongside the Council financial budget in March 2023.
- Monthly updates on progress with the carbon budget were provided to the Climate Oversight Group.
- Quarterly provisional updates on the carbon budget were reported to the Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee, as part of the Performance Report.
- The 2024/25 carbon budget and budget forecast were approved by Council as part of the Council financial budget report in March 2024. This outlined the carbon budget cycle and provided additional information on schools.
- Information on both budgets was shared through the staff intranet.
- Continuous improvement of data collation and work to centralise carbon data has been ongoing.

Climate change is embedded in core business systems:

- Climate change is integrated across Corporate, Cluster and Operational Risk Registers requiring regular progress updates on control actions by risk owners and regular review by the Risk Board.

- Committee report templates ask for information on climate/ environmental risks. The template includes an Environmental Implications section, asking report authors to identify and state any positive or negative impacts on the environment arising from the report. This sits alongside sections on financial and legal implications.
- The priority scoring matrix for assessing projects under the Council Condition and Suitability Programme (for Council assets, property and estates) continues to include scoring on Emissions Reduction and Climate Resilience/Adaptation.
- An update on the Statutory Performance Indicator on emissions management is produced annually.

3db How will the body publish, or otherwise make available it's progress towards achieving its emissions reduction targets?

The CCR must be made publicly available and provide information in a transparent and accountable manner, in line with the relevant guidance.
- The 2023/24 CCR report will be published on Sustainable Scotland Network website (alongside previous years). In addition a link to the report will be provided on the Aberdeen City Council website Climate Change pages.
- A word document of the CCR was submitted to the Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee (12 November 2024).
- An infographic highlighting a breakdown of progress towards emission reduction targets will be published on the Aberdeen City Council website and internally on the Staff Intranet 'Green Workplace' site and key messages posted on our corporate social media page. The infographic for 22/23 was published during this reporting period.
- The Council Climate Change Plan and project register are available on the Council Climate Change webpage.

3e - Estimated total annual carbon savings from all projects implemented by the body in the report year

Emissions source	Total estimated annual carbon savings (tCO$_2$e)	Comments
Electricity		Data and monitoring actions are being progressed to support future reporting.
Electricity		
Natural Gas		
Other heating fuels		
Waste		
Water and sewerage		
Business travel		
Fleet transport		
Other		

3f - Detail the top 10 carbon reduction projects to be carried out by the body in the report year

Please note, only projects implemented, completed with one full year of CO2 savings data available during the 2023/24 reporting year are required in this section. As some projects span multiple years, a phased approach based on 'year' has been adopted for reporting purposes.

Project Name	Funding Source	First full year of CO2e savings	Estimated or actual?	Capital cost (£)	Operational cost (£/ annum)	Project lifetime (years)	Primary fuel / emission source saved	Estimated carbon savings per year (tCO2e/ annum)	Estimated cost savings (£/ annum)	Behaviour change aspects including use of ISM	Comments
Streetlighting LED Replacement Programme	Aberdeen City Council	22/23	Estimated	£9 m	-	8	Electricity	400	£5 million (electricity costs dependent)	No	26% decrease in consumption due to the LED streetlighting replacement programme compared to last year(22/23 was 12 351,647 kWh).
Marischal College lighting upgrade	Aberdeen City Council	23/24	Estimated				Electricity	100		No	Replacement of current lamps and lighting system at ACC council HQ, Marischal College, with energy efficient lighting and more efficient control system.
New primary school - Countesswells School	Aberdeen City Council	22/23		£20.49m			Electricity			No	High quality and energy efficient building with almost 90% of the works being completed by directly employed Morrison tradesmen or via our local supply chain with EPC A.

New primary - Greyhope School and Community Hub	Aberdeen City Council	22/23		£2m Regional Capital Grant Funding from SG Cost:23m			Electricity				Greyhope School & Community Hub completed 23 October with EPC A. Direct heating connected to district heating network
ACC Fleet dedicated Electric vehicle charge point rollout	Transport Scotland, Energy Saving Trust (Scotland), Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV), Civitas PORTIS EU funded project	22/23	-	£92,000 for 21/22	£75,000	1	Petrol Diesel	-	-	No	Installation of 8 EV chargers for up to 16 fleet vehicles in the reporting period.
Heating Controls (BEMS)	Aberdeen City Council	22/23	-	-	-	1	Gas electricity	-	-	unknown	Various upgrades to controls and other minor works.
Car club.	Council budgets, Developer Contributions, Transport Scotland, Paths for All, Co-wheels car club (for this reporting period)	2024		£600,000 est.	£200,000 est.		Petrol Diesel				Council Non-Housing Capital budget in 2023/24 funded the purchase of 2 new zero-emission Nissan Leaf EVs, exclusively for Council staff use

							Electricity Mains gas, oil, water					
Condition & Suitability Programme	Aberdeen City Council	22/23	Estimate		-	-	Electricity Mains gas, oil, water	-	-	no	Ongoing implementation of building energy efficiency measures through maintenance and upgrade programme.
District heating connections	Aberdeen City Council	23/24					Gas				District heating connections for Tullos School.

3g - Estimated decrease or increase in the body's emissions attributed to factors (not reported elsewhere in this form) in the report year blank

Emission source	Total estimated annual emissions (tCO$_2$e)	Increase or decrease in emissions	Comments
This section has not been populated due to lack of information.			

3h Anticipated annual carbon savings from all projects implemented by the body in the year ahead

Emission source	Total estimated annual carbon savings (tCO$_2$e)	Comments
Electricity	tbc	Lighting replacement
Natural gas	tbc	District Heating connections – linked to energy from waste
Other heating fuels	tbc (in implementation due to complete 2024)	Project Doric- retrofit project social housing. Fabric first and installation of zero carbon technologies
Waste	0	Revision of Internal Waste Minimisation Policy
Water/ sewerage	0	
Business Travel	tbc	Revision of Staff Travel Policy
Business Travel	tbc	Car Club
Fleet transport	tbc	Continued Fleet Replacement Programme
Fleet transport	33.31 (Estimated)	Conversion to dual fuel (hydrogen/diesel) refuse collection vehicles
Fleet transport	tbc	EV infrastructure
Other	tbc	Gold standard house building programme
Other	tbc	Transition to low carbon small machinery - landscaping
Other	tbc	Condition & Suitability Programme.
Other	tbc	Staff Green Champions scheme
Other	tbc	Various Control and Heating upgrades in Schools

3i - Estimated decrease or increase in the body's emissions attributed to factors

Emissions source	Total estimated annual emissions (tCO$_2$e)	Increase or decrease in emissions	Comments
Estate changes	Unknown		
Service provision			
Staff numbers	Unknown	Increase	Highest number of full-time equivalent staff in the organisation during the reporting year was 7195.23 as of March 31, 2024, compared to 7152 in the previous year.
Other			

3j - Total carbon reduction project savings since the start of the year which the body uses as a baseline for its carbon footprint

Total savings	Total estimated emissions savings (tCO2e)	Comments
Data and monitoring actions are being progressed to support future reporting.		

3k - Supporting information and best practice

Marischal College LED lighting upgrade

A LED lighting replacement project in the Council mani office building, Marischal College began in April 2023, with most of the work completed in the reporting period to be completed May 2024. This project is replacing lighting by installing LED lighting to reduce energy consumption, reduce building carbon emissions.. This work is estimated to save carbon around 100 tCO2e per year.

Streetlighting Programme
Since 2016, the Council has carried out a rolling programme to convert in the region of 37,000 street lights in the city to LED. This work was completed in March 2024.
In addition, a phased approach was adopted to install an intelligent street lighting system enabling controls, dimming, and remote monitoring of faults. All lighting is now on a central management system (CMS), which enables monitoring of onsite equipment, reducing the number of site visits required by engineers and adaptively controlling the city lighting.
The LED streetlights consume 60% less energy than the previous ones, saving about 400 tCO2e per year. The work was estimated to save £1 million per year; however, with an increase in electricity prices, savings are now estimated at £5 million (Case study: LED streetlighting replacement programme | Aberdeen City Council).

Fleet transition
Phase 2 of the Fleet Replacement Programme 2023/24 reflects the Council's Net Zero ambition to work towards de-carbonising its in-house fleet. In 2023/24, additional vehicles were added to the Council fleet, which included net zero and low emission vehicles. Fleet continue to seek net zero vehicles rather than low emission vehicles but are restricted by insufficient EV infrastructure, however work is progressing to overcome this.
The total of low emissions vehicles during the reporting period was 89%, this includes electric, hydrogen, dual fuel and euro 6 vehicles. On 23/24, the total number of council EV charges was 18, which was higher than last year's reporting and 16% of Council Fleet alternative powered/hybrid vehicles were used on 23/24.

Dual Fuel Conversion (Hydrogen/diesel)
There is a limited variety of fuel cell electric vehicles (FCEVs) i.e., 100% H2 on the market at present. Those that are available are currently heavily subsidised by grants as they range from double to triple the price of their diesel equivalent. As such, the Council has continued to pursue an interim solution for its large vehicle fleet: of hydrogen/ diesel dual fuel conversions. This technology injects hydrogen into the diesel engine, and burns with the diesel, to save about 30% in carbon emissions, and conversion costs around £40,000 per vehicle. In the reporting year, the total number of dual-fuel vehicle conversions were 17. Plans are in place to continue to adapt a further ten suitable heavy vehicles (RCV's) over the next two years which will add to existing dual fuel capability. Planned works include continued adaptation of additional concept vehicles which to date has seen two dropside vehicles, a Luton-style van, a tractor and two heavy lorries adapted. These however cannot be signed off at present.

District heating
In the reporting year, 2 further public buildings were connected to the District Heating network: Tullos School and Greyhope School and Community Hub. Improved data flow for District Heating allows better tracking of the energy mix and transition to low carbon energy.

Council Housing Programme - Cloverhill, Bridge of Don
Cloverhill is among the multiple locations in Aberdeen where new Council houses are being constructed. An initial 36 homes in the area were transferred to the Council by the primary contractor, Bancon, in August 2023. Upon completion, the total number of homes is projected to reach 536.
The goal of the Council is to create sustainable, integrated communities by delivering affordable homes designed to meet the evolving needs of residents. These homes cater to single individuals, families, and those with specific needs such as wheelchair accessibility and dementia-friendly designs. They are characterised by low carbon footprints, low maintenance requirements, and adherence to the Gold Standard which requires the use of energy-efficient technologies to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by at least 27%. This is achieved through renewable energy sources meeting 50% of hot water demand, enhanced insulation, improved air circulation, and increased natural light. These features aim to create eco-friendly, cost-effective homes, addressing fuel poverty.
Cloverhill homes are connected to a district heating system, which uses a central plant to heat multiple homes. This system circulates hot water through radiators, reducing maintenance costs by centralising plant maintenance rather than maintaining numerous individual boilers. The district heating scheme generates power close to where it is needed and utilises the heat produced for heating and hot water, minimising waste. In addition, the Cloverhill site has introduced the first homes equipped with Air Source Heat Pumps, which absorb heat from the outside air and release it inside the building (Our 'Gold Standard' New Build Housing Programme).

Greyhope School and Community Hub
In October 2023, Hub North Scotland successfully completed and handed over the £23 million Greyhope School & Community Hub to the Council. This development includes a primary school for up to 434 pupils, early learning and nursery provision for 100 children.

The vision for the project is to establish a vibrant, sustainable hub featuring a state-of-the-art primary school, community spaces, shared indoor and external sports facilities, library resources and a one stop shop for a range of supporting council and partner agency services. The goals include enhancing educational outcomes, providing a stimulating environment for children, fostering community engagement, promoting health and well-being, celebrating Greyhope's heritage, supporting the local economy and employment, and enhancing environmental sustainability. The expected benefits are an inspiring school environment, a cohesive community, improved health, stimulated cultural expression, increased prosperity, and environmental responsibility.

The building to deliver efficient energy conservation and management by the careful consideration of:

1. Natural daylight – Daylight offers numerous benefits compared to artificial light. Reducing the need for artificial lighting can significantly lower energy consumption and associated CO_2 emissions. The building is designed to maximise natural light with curtain walling and windows. The external fenestration, dictated by internal uses, includes large expanses of glass for the entrance area, library, dining area, stairwells, and classrooms.

2. Natural Ventilation (natural where appropriate) – Natural ventilation regulates the indoor climate by using openings in the façade, such as windows and doors, to exchange air. This lowers CO_2 levels, maintains a fresh indoor climate, and keeps the building cool during summer through temperature and pressure differences. The Primary School and Community Hub aims to maximise natural ventilation, especially in teaching spaces with perimeter walls. High occupancy areas like assembly halls and dining areas use a mixed-mode approach, combining natural ventilation with mechanical ventilation for heat recovery in winter. Ventilation is controlled by CO_2 and temperature sensors to ensure comfort and minimise energy use. Perimeter rooms use openable windows, and where this isn't possible, internal acoustic transfer paths connect classrooms to corridors. High-level stack ventilation is achieved with motorised louvres or clear storey windows.

3. Solar Power - A photovoltaic (PV) installation has been installed to generate solar power and help reduce the amount of energy required from the grid. The PV panel array is installed on the building's roof in accordance with the indicative arrangement detailed in the photovoltaic panel layout drawing and the electrical LV schematic and earthing schematic drawings.
   The electrical output from the photovoltaic system is Direct Current. This is converted to AC by a solar inverter before its AC output is measured on a meter and connected to the main switchboard via a dedicated and suitably rated moulded case circuit breaker (MCCB). Surplus energy produced by the PV system is exported to the electricity grid.

4. Floor, wall and roof insulation – The thermal envelope of the building was designed to better the insulation values required by the Scottish Technical Standards. The design of the envelope was robust and was developed in collaboration with our construction and subcontractor teams. This ensured that air tightness detailing was considered from an early point, all weathertightness lines were understood and were simple to construct, and all subcontractors understood the extent of their responsibility for interfacing materials and junctions.

5. Design stage target of EPC A – The design team undertook a Section 6 compliance report in the pre-construction period which provided assurance of the design stage EPC A rating. The building is powered via a District Heating and has Photovoltaic panels. (https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/news/council-takes-ownership-new-greyhope-school-and-community-hub)

Climate Change - Schools
A report to the Education and Children's Services Committee highlighted key initiatives in Aberdeen schools for the 2023-24 session focusing on climate change, biodiversity, and the net zero goal.

Youth Climate Change Group
In May 2023, applications were invited from all council secondary school students to become Aberdeen's second Youth Climate Change President. After a review process led by the previous president and vice presidents, the new president, and vice presidents were elected. The group have been holding monthly meetings to discuss climate change, biodiversity, and net zero goals. The group's plans for the year include collaborating with primary schools on climate-related curricula, organising visits from energy companies, and creating a Google Classroom for citywide communication. The group is also involved in addressing issues such as disposable vapes within schools and communities.

SECTION 4 – ADAPTATION

4a - Has the body assessed current and future climate-related risks? If yes, provide a reference or link to any such risk assessment(s).

- A full strategic climate risk assessment has been completed for risks affecting the Council. The **Council's Corporate Risk Register (CRR)** captures the risks which pose the most significant threat to the achievement of organisational outcomes and have the potential to cause failure of service delivery. The Council Corporate Risk Register included:

  'Climate Change (Place)' – the risk of not contributing (where the Council has scope to influence) to a reduction in city-wide emissions and to addressing strategic climate risks for the city. Including: heavy or reduced rainfall, flooding, higher temperatures and sea levels.

  In addition, a range of climate risks remain integrated in relevant Cluster and Operational level Risk Registers. This includes the risk; 'Climate Duties – Council Compliance' – the risk of not complying with statutory duties as a Council to reduce emissions, contribute to national targets, adapt to climate change in contribution to the national adaptation programme, and report annually on this work.

  Actions support Capability Framework – UC2A (Develop understanding of risk and vulnerability), and UC2B (Consider how you organisations functions might be affected by climate change).

- An **Evidence Base** document to inform the development of **Aberdeen Adapts** was refreshed in February 2022, this aims to build understanding of how climate change will affect the city and includes key information for the city from UK Climate Projections (UKCP18) and strategic climate risks for the city.

  Action supports Capability Framework – UC3B (Undertake strategic climate change risk assessment).

- An assessment of flood risk was carried out for Aberdeen under work in the **North-East Local Flood Risk Management Plan 2016- 2022** and this mapped areas potentially vulnerable to flood risk under cycle 1 of the plan. The 2022-2028 plan replaces the flood risk management plan for Cycle 1, which was published in 2016. The plan forms part of the statutory obligations placed on Aberdeen City Council and partners SEPA, Moray Council, Aberdeenshire Council and Scottish Water, under the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009.

  Mapping and Assessment, to identified Potentially Vulnerable Areas (PVAs) was concluded in July 2018 to inform cycle 2 of the plan. Flooding hotspots in each PVA have been identified and these are called Objective Target Areas (OTAs). The **Flood Risk Management Plans 2022-2028** for Cycle 2 were published in December 2021 and the **North-East Local Flood Risk Management Plans 2022-2028** were published in December 2022.

  Under the Local Plan, Aberdeen City Council will be continuing to develop the Surface Water Management Plans in consultation with SEPA and Scottish Water and will be continuing with the next stages of current flood studies including:
  o Merchant Quarter
  o Jesmond Drive
  o Preliminary study to undertake a strategic overview of the coastal protection.
- The **Integrated Catchment Study 2015 (ICS)** is helping to inform understanding of surface water and small watercourses flood risk. The ICS is a joint project with Scottish Water.
- The **Footdee Coastal Flood Study (2018)** and **Aberdeen Strategic Overview of Coast Protection (2019)** are helping to inform understanding of coastal flood risk.
- A **Strategic Flood Risk Assessment** was undertaken for the development of the Aberdeen Local Development Plan 2023. This is to satisfy the requirements placed on local authorities under the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009, requiring local authorities to exercise their flood risk related functions with a view to avoiding or reducing overall flood risk and promoting sustainable flood risk management. The Assessment was to inform the development planning process and to avoid or reduce flood risk by avoiding areas at significant risk of flooding.

4b - What arrangements does the body have in place to manage climate-related risks? Provide details of any climate change adaptation strategies, action plans and risk management procedures, and any climate change adaptation policies which apply across the body.

- An update of **Aberdeen Adapts; a Climate Adaptation Framework** for the city, was approved by Council committee in February 2022. The Framework sets out key priorities, goals and key action areas for place based adaptation. The update identified synergies and interdependencies with the Net Zero Aberdeen Route map which was approved at the same time.

  Action supports Capability Framework – UC3A (Explore future change by developing scenarios and/or storylines for climate impacts and PI2C (Develop an initial adaptation strategy or action plan).

- The Council approved an **Energy Transition Strategic Infrastructure Plan** in May 2020, which references Aberdeen Adapts, include the goal of "Aberdeen's infrastructure is adaptable to changes in climate" and some high-level actions relevant to adaptation.
- The **Council Climate Change Plan 2021-2025** approved by Council in March 2021, has over 100 mitigation and adaptation actions for Council assets and operations. The plan covers 5 broad themes; Buildings, Mobility, Other Operations (ranging from blue green management, flood risk management, to a number of mitigation aspects), Leadership & Governance, Awareness and Behaviour Change.

  A **Council Climate Oversight Group** is established and meets on a regular basis to support progress with the plan. Thematic

work programmes involve a broad network of relevant officers working on mitigation and adaptation, leads for each of these work programmes are in place.
Actions supports Capability Framework PI2B (Identify a range of potential adaptation actions), PI2D (Take action to deliver adaptation, PI3D (Implement a programme of adaptation actions).

- Updates on progress with the control measures for climate risks in the Council's Risk Register are provided to the **Risk Board**. Deep dives on corporate risks, including those for climate, take place. Relevant information in relation to horizon scanning is also reported.
  The Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Committee is responsible for overseeing risk management and receive an annual review of the system of risk management and an annual report on the corporate risk register and related action plans. In February 2024 the **Corporate Risk Register and Assurance Map** were reported to Committee to provide assurance on the Council's system of risk management.
  Action supports Capability Framework – UC3B (Undertake strategic climate change risk assessment)
- **A City Resilience Group** works to manage city risks which could cause an emergency affecting people and place. Climate is included on the agenda for this group.
- Enabling **prompt response to flood alerts**, the Council continues to operate a Duty Flood Officer rota, checking SEPA water Levels for the Rivers Dee and Don, ACC water levels for Den Burn and Culter Burn and monitoring coastal tide levels. Where there is surface water flood risk, the status of priority hakes and gullies are checked so these can be cleared. Signs have been installed at all priority trash screens with contact details for reporting blockages or damages. Monthly visual inspections take place for any defect or issues with the rock armour, seawall structures, including ramps and steps and condition of timber groynes. Beach levels are also monitored on a bi-weekly basis, these can vary naturally along the Aberdeen coastal front, low sand levels present a risk to the stability of the seawall and a risk to the public access and safety.
- The Council is part of the **Grampian Local Resilience Partnership** providing multi agency co-ordination for response and recovery in emergency situations, including severe weather. As part of the Council's duties as a Category 1 responder under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, the emergency planning team has developed resilience plans and arrangements with a focus on bolstering resilience within communities, businesses, and among individuals.
- The Council is a participant in the **Public Sector Climate Adaptation Network**, using the **Benchmarking Tool** to assess progress against the Capability Framework. A report in 2023 shows a visual of Council progress against the Capability Framework using the Benchmarking Tool. A visual of Council progress against the Capability Framework using the Benchmarking Tool is included in the **Council Climate Change Plan 2021 – 2025**.
- **National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) was adopted** on 13 February 2023. NPF4 and the Aberdeen Local Development Plan (ALDP) 2023 comprise the statutory development plan for Aberdeen. NPF4 contains policies relating to:
  - Tackling the climate and nature emergency – Policy 1
  - Climate mitigation and adaptation – Policy 2
  - Biodiversity – Policy 3
  - Natural places – Policy 4
  - Soils – Policy 5
  - Forestry, Woodland and Trees – Policy 6
  - Energy – Policy 11
  - Zero Waste – Policy 12
  - Heating and Cooling – Policy 19
  - Blue and Green Infrastructure – Policy 20

Adaptation is embedded in many Council and partnership policies and strategies including:
The **Aberdeen Local Development Plan (2023):** on 19 June 2023, the Aberdeen Local Development Plan 2023 was formally adopted by the Council and constituted as part of the statutory Development Plan. It will be used to guide decisions on planning applications alongside Aberdeen Planning Guidance and Supplementary Guidance . The Aberdeen Local Development Plan 2023 incorporates changes established by NPF4. It included policies on:
- Green and Blue Infrastructure – policy NE2
- Our Water Environment – policy NE4
- Trees and Woodland – policy NE5
- Low and zero carbon buildings, and water efficiency – policy R6
- Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Developments – policy R7
- Heat Networks – policy R8
- Energy Transition – policy B5

The policies were assessed against the **UN Sustainable Development Goals**.

There are a suite of statutory and non-statutory planning documents which support the policies within the Aberdeen Local Development Plan 2023. Supplementary Guidance on Planning Obligations was adopted on 06 December 2023 as part of the statutory development plan alongside the Aberdeen Local Development Plan 2023. The following Aberdeen Planning Guidance were adopted on 3 November 2023 as non – statutory Planning Advice:

- Open Space & Green Infrastructure
- Natural Heritage
- Flooding, Drainage & Water Quality
- Trees & Woodlands
- Food Growing
- Outdoor Access

- The **Aberdeen Nature Conservation Strategy,** considers the future impacts of climate change and highlights the links between biodiversity and climate change. Specifically, the strategy recognises that biodiversity loss and climate change are interlinked and that both threaten the availability of the natural resources. *(p15)*
- The **Aberdeen Open Space Strategy 2011**, contains a key objective and series of actions to, "Maximise opportunities to mitigate and adapt to climate change and further biodiversity." This is through encouraging (Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems) SuDS, protecting open spaces for the role they play in flood management and planting native and wildlife friendly species.
- Open and blue-green spaces are critical for our quality of life. Open spaces provide multiple health, wellbeing, economic, and environmental benefits. It gives the people of Aberdeen opportunities to connect with nature and each other, tackle the global climate-nature crisis, promote nature recovery and make positive environmental changes.
- The Council Open Space Audit process provides key information on the types, distribution, qualities and accessibility of open and blue-green spaces across Aberdeen. Audit findings inform various strategic outcomes for Aberdeen
  Analysis of the findings of an Aberdeen Open Space Audit Public Survey was completed during the reporting period. This examined the views of residents and visitors on how they use and perceive Aberdeen's green and open spaces. The Aberdeen Open Space Audit will inform a future revision of the city Natural Environment Strategy.
- The **Local Transport Strategy 2016 - 2021** states "we therefore need to build infrastructure, which is more sustainable, climate resilient and adapted to our environment, ecological conditions and landscape setting". It includes the objectives:
  - To ensure that the transport network is as resilient as possible in case of flooding from extreme weather conditions. *(P28)*
  - To contribute to Aberdeen's carbon emissions targets and develop climate resilient infrastructure. *(P43)*
  The Council has been developing the next Local Transport Strategy for Aberdeen. A draft Local Transport Strategy and supporting documents, informed by this and other background research, was presented to the Council Net Zero, Environment and Transport (NZET) Committee in August 2023 to gain permission to go out to public and stakeholder consultation. The consultation took place from November 2023 to January 2024 and following this it is anticipated that changes will be made to the draft strategy with a final strategy to be reported back to a future committee
- The **North East Local Flood Risk Management Plan (NELFRMP)** and **North East Local Flood Risk Management Strategies.** This is to meet statutory requirements under the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009.
  Plans and Strategies for Cycle 2: The Flood Risk Management Plans 2022-2028 for Cycle 2 were published in December 2021 and the **North East Local Flood Risk Management Plan 2022-2028** was published in December 2022.
  Aberdeen City Council is part of the partnership for the North East Local Plan District (NELPD) and comprises of the three local authorities: Aberdeenshire Council, Aberdeen City Council and The Moray Council together with SEPA and the following Responsible Authorities: Scottish Water; SEPA; Forestry Commission Scotland; and Cairngorms National Park Authority.
- Adaptation is embedded into the Environmental Management section of the **Aberdeen City Council Business Case** template – *"Building city resilience to projected changes in climate",* to ensure climate change is considered in new projects and proposals.
- The **ACC Building Performance Policy** covers new build and refurbishment projects for corporate assets. Accompanying guidance and a checklist are designed to support and help inform decision making when considering the construction of new, and refurbishment of, corporate assets. The checklist includes consideration for site selection and assessment, including conducting a climate risk assessment, consideration for drainage, flooding and water efficiency.
- The Community Planning Aberdeen, **Local Outcome Improvement Plan** (LOIP) includes the 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. Key drivers for community resilience, and the development of community resilience plans, are shown under this outcome. ACC Committee Report templates require reports to demonstrate links to the LOIP. Stakeholder consultation took place during this period to inform a refresh of the LOIP.
- The **Aberdeen City Council Delivery Plan 23/24** set out key deliverables and Commissioning Intentions to support delivery of the LOIP. These include the delivery of Aberdeen Adapts; by developing a bottom-up approach to community resilience to encourage greater ownership and independent action towards understanding communities' risks from climate change and adapting to them. The 24/25 Delivery Plan was approved in March 2024.

- **Granite City Growing: Aberdeen Growing Food Together** a city community food growing strategy was approved by Council committee in February 2020. This includes the strategic outcome "Embed the requirement to increase biodiversity and climate change adaptation and mitigation within growing spaces through the choice of plants, heritage varieties, site design and management."
- The **Tree & Woodland Strategic Implementation Plan** was approved in June 2022. The plan sets out the vision, priorities and an action plan stewardship and expansion of Aberdeen City's urban, street trees, rural trees, and woodlands.

4c - What action has the body taken to adapt to climate change? Include details of work to increase awareness of the need to adapt to climate change and build the capacity of staff and stakeholders to assess risk and implement action.

Increase awareness

- A **Taking Action on Climate Change** half day training course for staff was developed and piloted during the reported period. This is in addition to an internal **Climate Change eLearning module**: *Meeting Our Climate Change duties* created and rolled out in September 2022. Both support learning on ways colleagues can play their part in reducing carbon emissions and adapting to climate change.
- **Promotion of the Aberdeen Climate and Nature Pledge** (launched in November 2022), continued during the reporting period. Commitments made by pledge signatories include to supporting Aberdeen Adapts and joining collaborative efforts to build climate resilience. A webinar promoting the pledge was delivered during Climate Week North East 2023, as well as through various internal and external communications.

Building Adaptive Capacity

Where there is surface water flood risk, the status of priority hakes and gullies continue to be checked so these can be cleared if necessary. Signs have been installed at all priority trash screens with contact details enabling the public to report blockages or damages.
- A CCTV camera has been fitted to monitor water levels at Maryculter Bridge on the River Dee and more are planned for other critical locations where remote visualisation, to assist prioritisation of resources during a flood event.
- Aberdeen City Council's Event Guidance platform offers valuable insights for both business and voluntary event organisers, covering event planning, risk assessments, adverse weather, budgeting, and contingency planning (www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/eventguide).
- The **Council Climate Change Oversight Group** continues to meet regularly, which has oversight of the actions being delivered by the thematic sub-groups for the Council Climate Change Plan. This includes emission reduction and adaptation actions for the Council's assets and operations. A **Teams channel** continues to be used for the Group files and communication.
- The Business Planner for the Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee indicate where reports are contributing to Aberdeen Adapts and Net Zero themes.
- A "**Green Workplace**" area of the staff intranet established at the start of 2021, has continued to be updated with new information and activities during this reporting period to provide easy access to information, practical tips, ideas and opportunities for staff to get involved in the climate change and wider sustainability agenda.

Deliver Adaptation Action

- A **property level flood protection grant** remains in place. The Council runs a 50% funded grant scheme to assist protecting property from flooding. The grant is for private residences that have either been previously flooded and have sustained damage; are located on a vulnerable area shown on the SEPA Flooding Maps; or are shown on the Integrated Catchment Study Model. The grant has recently expanded to include commercial properties.
- Progress with a community resilience programme has included:
  Distribution of **Emergency Grab Boxes** across the city.
  In addition to **Community Resilience Volunteer Groups (CRVG):** (Cults, Milltimber and Bieldside; Culter, Bridge of Don and Danestone).
  - Positive developments in 2023 with groups in Rosehill & Stockethill, Seaton and Linksfield, Fittie, and Ferryhill.
  - Initial meetings held to assist in creating Terms of Reference and area Resilience Plans.
- **A Media Campaign** launched in December 2022, continued through 2023. Community resilience brand gaining recognition via social media, printed materials, and the ACC website. A £125,000 Grant was secured from Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) for community resilience. Funds were allocated for portable power packs to support vulnerable individuals reliant on medical equipment within their own property during a power outage, small grants, emergency grab boxes, winter preparedness leaflets, and an annual community resilience conference. A multi agency Community Resilience Conference for the Grampian area took place in the city in October 2023.

- **Sustainable Growth Agreement** City Scale Trial Project being delivered through the SEPA and Scottish Water's agreement. ACC hosted the agreement trial to strategically review improvements to Aberdeen's drainage systems.
- **Den Burn Restoration Project.** Plans are being drawn up to restore approximately a 1.5-mile stretch from Maidencraig to King's Gate in the west of the city to enhance the wetland habitat and increase biodiversity. The restoration is hoped to improve the burn's ability to become more climate resilient whilst connecting people with nature. The plans include designing the restoration in a sustainable way and where possible reusing materials as well as creating active travel paths to link adjacent communities to the area. Concept design was developed in the reporting period.
- **Storm Damage Response and Restoration** - Over the past three years, severe storms have severely impacted the Council's tree population and Aberdeen's open spaces. Trees in various locations, including schools, parks, play areas, streets, and woodlands, have been affected. Many trees were blown down, uprooted, or left in hazardous conditions. The Arboricultural team responded during the worst storms to ensure public safety by making trees secure and clearing roads for access. Ongoing efforts have included clearing damaged areas, removing high-risk trees, and replanting lost trees. Significant restoration has taken place in areas like Carnie Woods and Hazlehead, which were clear-felled and restocked. Additionally, funding facilitated repairs to paths and fences.

4d Where applicable, what contribution has the body made to helping deliver the Programme (Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme – SCCAP2)?

Sub-Outcome 1.1: People in Scotland's diverse communities are informed, empowered and adapting to climate change	1.1.2 Empowered Communities	- Installation of signs at all priority trash screens for communities to report blockages or damages. - The Aberdeen Local Outcome Improvement Plan includes an Improvement Project Aim for "Community led resilience plans" and 3 Community Led Resilience Plans have so far been developed.40 'It's Your Neighbourhood' groups representing the city are now established more groups than any other local authority in Scotland.
Sub-Outcome 1.2: Scotland's buildings and places are adaptable to Climate Change	Flood Risk Management Strategies	**The North East Local Flood Risk Management Plans for Cycle 2 (2022-2028)** were published in December 2022. This is to meet statutory requirements under the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009. The Plan was produced in partnership with SEPA, Moray Council, Aberdeenshire Council and Scottish Water.
	1.2.1.1 Community Planning	The **Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan** approved in December 2019 and **Aberdeen Active Travel Action Plan 2021-2026**, remain in place.
	1.2.3 Resilient Buildings	- Information on home energy savings in Aberdeen can be found **here** and on the Energy Efficiency Aberdeen website found **here**. - Projects under the Council Condition & Suitability Programme (for Council property) are scored on emissions reduction and climate resilience/adaptation. The Property Level **Flood Protection Scheme** for eligible residential properties continued in this reporting period following approval from the Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee in March 2023 to extend the scheme to include eligible businesses.
Sub-Outcome 2.2: Scotland's health and social care is ready and responding to changing demands as a result of the changing climate	2.2.2.1 Temperature	Some of the policies in this section relate to making the most of the potential for increased outdoor activity due to a projected rise in mean annual temperature, which would have positive outcomes on both physical and mental health. The Council network is developing sustainable travel networks; have produced a **Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan** approved in December 2019 and **Aberdeen Active Travel Action Plan 2021-2026**, was approved in March 2021

	2.2.2.5 Air Quality	The Council proposed to introduce a **Low Emission Zone (LEZ)** in Aberdeen from 30th May 2022. Enforcement of the LEZ is due to start on 1 June 2024. The aim of the LEZ is to improve air quality within the City Centre Air Quality Management Area to ensure compliance with the Scottish Government's air quality objectives, particularly for the pollutant nitrogen dioxide (NO2) Work is taking place to increase the electric vehicle network in Aberdeen and an **Aberdeen Electric Vehicle Framework 2020-2030** was approved in March 2021. Further Public charging sites have also been installed. Ongoing work is taking place to transition the Council's own fleet through the Fleet Replacement Programme. **Aberdeen Local Transport Strategy** (LTS) - Consultation closed in January 2024 and results are being analysed
Sub-Outcome 3.1: Scotland's businesses based on natural resources are informed and adaptable to climate change.	Land Use Strategy	The Council is a member of a (North East) **Regional Land Use Partnership** being piloted . RLUP pilots are expected to enable natural capital led consideration of how to maximise the contribution that our land can make to addressing the twin climate and biodiversity crises. Work to establish a Regional Land Use Partnership (RLUP) Pilot Board took place in 2023.
	3.1.2 Forestry	In partnership with local communities and sponsors, around 1,439 street trees were planted between March 2023 and March 2024. A commitment to planting new and replacement street trees continues. Street tree planting has been allocated £12,000 from the Nature Restoration Funding, and this will be used to plant new and replace street trees across Aberdeen in the 2024/2025 planting season.
Sub-Outcome 3.2: Scotland's manufacturing, services and wider economy are informed and adaptable to climate change	3.2.4 Building Premises	The Local Flood Risk Management Plan 2022-2028, was published in December 2022. The Plan translates the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 into actions over the second planning cycle for the **North East Local Plan District Flood Risk Management Plans**
Sub-Outcome 4.2: Scotland's devolved supporting systems are resilient to climate change	4.2.2 Water	ACC is working in in partnership under a **Sustainable Growth Agreement (SGA)** between Scottish Water and SEPA. to trial a new approach to managing storm water in Aberdeen. This work is still ongoing.

4e - What arrangements does the body have in place to review current and future climate risks? Provide details of arrangements to review current and future climate risks, for example, what timescales are in place to review the climate change risk assessments referred to in Question 4(a) and adaptation strategies, action plans, procedures and policies in Question 4(b).

- The **Council's Corporate Risk Register**, this includes place based climate risk; and further relevant risks are included at Cluster and Operational level. The Risk Board meet every 6 weeks and updates on progress with control actions are provided on a PowerBi dashboard; and annual updates are provided for the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Committee.
- Monitoring processes for the delivery of actions in the **Council Climate Change Plan** are indicated in 4b.
- Progress with the **Nature Conservation Strategy** is reviewed, as part of **Biodiversity Reporting Duties**. This is required every three years under the Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011. An updated **Biodiversity Duty Report went to NZET committee 31 October 2023**.
- The **North East Local Flood Risk Management Plans for Cycle 2 (2022-2028)** were developed and published in December 2022.

4f - What arrangements does the body have in place to monitor and evaluate the impact of the adaptation actions? Please provide details of monitoring and evaluation criteria and adaptation indicators used to assess the effectiveness of actions detailed under Question 4(c) and Question 4(d).

- Key indicators are set out under each of the priority areas in the approved **Aberdeen Adapts: Climate Adaptation Framework**. It is anticipated further indicators will be developed to support the implementation phases of the work.
- This was the third year of implementation since approval of the **Council Climate Change Plan** approved in March 2021. An Oversight Group drives the tracking of this activity, meeting monthly, with regular project deep dives to build understanding, highlight challenges and opportunities.
- The **Risk Board** is provided with updates on progress with climate change controls in the Corporate Risk Register and annual updates are provided for the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Committee.
- The Council is part of the Public Sector Climate Adaptation Network and reviews adaptation progress annually against the **Public Sector Adaptation Capability Framework using the benchmarking tool. A summary of progress is produced.**
- Biodiversity actions are monitored through implementation of the **Aberdeen Nature Conservation Strategy**.
- Open space actions are monitored through the implementation of the Aberdeen Open Space Strategy.
- Ongoing flood monitoring helps to assess the delivery and effectiveness of flood alleviation studies and schemes.
  The Council is a partner in the Aberdeen Community Planning Partnership, monitoring takes place against key improvement measures for addressing climate change set out in the Aberdeen Local Outcome Improvement Plan. Improvement Charters are established for community resilience and Green Champions.

4g - What are the body's top 5 priorities for the year ahead in relation to climate change adaptation? Provide a summary of the areas and activities of focus for the year ahead.

1. Implementation of adaptation actions in the approved Council Climate Change Plan 2021-2025 for mitigation and climate resilience for the Council's own assets and operations.
2. Further development of Community Resilience Groups in Aberdeen.
3. Progress with the development of cycle 2 of the North-East Flood Risk Management Plan. The Council budget in March 2024 allocated funding for flood protection including grants, flood scheme and sensors.
4. Mapping, expansion and development of blue, green infrastructure including through the Den Burn Restoration Project.
5. Continuing work to embed climate adaptation in Council processes and procedures.

4h - Supporting information and best practice. Provide any other relevant supporting information and any examples of best practice by the body in relation to adaptation.

Community Resilience Volunteer Groups (CRVG)
- During some of the storms of 2023 (i.e. storm Babet) the council emergency response team engaged in discussions with existing groups in Culter, Cults and Bridge of Don in preparation for incoming storms. This was to ensure availability of their groups and facilities; such as rest centre in case they were required to be called upon. This preparation allowed the Culter CRVG to quickly open up their community rest centre when it was required due to local flooding.
- In late 2023, City engaged with and made presentations to Community Council groups from Seaton and Rosehill & Stockethill; as well as the Fittie Community Development Trust, all of whom have expressed interest in setting up resilience groups and plans in their area to which we will support them over the coming months. As a result during the winter 2023 Rosehill & Stockethill took part in a joint venture with NHS Grampian and ACC where salt and pavement gritters were supplied with the aim to reduce slips trips falls and hospital admissions. Seaton and Footdee where provided with community resilience leaflets and delivered these to residents to help them in preparation for winter.

Community Resilience Conference
A Community Resilience Conference for the Grampian Area was held in October 2023 with approximately 100 attendees. The conference was aimed at community groups wishing to start or improve their resilience activities /arrangements. The event was jointly hosted by Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils, and included:
- Promotion of the individual, household, family and community resilience
- Increased understanding of roles and responsibilities of the Category 1 responders
- Increased understanding of how community groups fit into emergency response
- Demonstration of the types of resilience activities community groups
- Encouraging networking between groups. All the established and some of the new interested groups attended the conference.

Aberdeen Flagship Parks for Pollinators
Aberdeen City is extending naturalised greenspace management by improving and creating blue/green habitats in Duthie Park beside the River Dee and Seaton Park on the River Don. This approach has been taken in these parks to show that it can benefit both people and wildlife.

A Nature Restoration in Parks grant of £37,000 from the Scottish Government was used to survey, plan, and design work to further improve the parks for nature. This included improving the wetlands and ponds to provide a valuable habitat for a range of species. In addition, the project created new and improved existing wildflower meadow areas for pollinators. Tree planting was also included. Aberdeen Flagship Parks for Pollinators also supports longer term 'B-lines' pollinator work between Aberdeen City Council and the charity Buglife.

Child Friendly Placemaking Project
The output of this project (approved by Council on 8 February 2024) is a series of four animations to engage children and young people on the key themes and elements of city-wide strategies, including the Net Zero Aberdeen Routemap and Enabling Strategies and Aberdeen Adapts: Climate Adaptation Framework. The key themes of the climate strategies have been integrated into the animations which were developed in collaboration with young people. Animations featuring Sam and Dave, the "streetwise seagulls", were created to help engage with children and young people on placemaking projects.

Tree Planting
Environmental Services has been restocking areas affected by storm damage and planting trees in new areas of land identified as suitable for tree planting. The team has worked in partnership with communities, including schools and businesses, to plant trees across Aberdeen. 38,399 trees have been planted since the Winter of 2022. In collaboration with local communities and sponsors, around 1,439 street trees were planted between March 2023 and March 2024.
Around 600 native trees have been planted by "Wee Foresters" in an area the size of a tennis court. Volunteer keeper teams look after the forest over the long term and school will use the forest for outdoor learning.
The 600 plants, a diverse mix including alder, cherry, Scots pine, crab apple, holly, juniper, elder, willow, oak, rowan, and hazel trees, along with dog roses, broom, gorse, blaeberry, heather, hawthorn, and blackthorn, have been carefully planted by staff and pupils in a grassy area across Clifton Road from the school, with assistance from the City Council's Countryside Rangers.

Beachfront Shoreline Regeneration (Phase C)
Council meeting on 14 December 2022 instructed to progress work on an Outline Business Case for the Beachfront Shoreline Regeneration, which forms part of the next stage of the City Centre and Beach Masterplan. This vision of the Masterplan brings together aspirations from a number of publications, including the Local Outcome Improvement Plan, which aims towards the ambition that "all people can prosper."
The development of this Shoreline Regeneration is necessary to complete the vision of providing a world class destination to revitalise the Beachfront and reconnect it to the City Centre - and again be known as the 'Silver City by the Sea'.
This integral part of the City Centre and Beach Masterplan brings the beachfront plan together and provides the benefit of preservation of the coastline frontage, therefore delivering long-term protection for this most important community asset. Achieving integration between wider beachfront investments and future coastal management and defence measures crucial to ensure a coherent solution to the City Coastline.
The Beachfront Shoreline Regeneration Strategic Outline Case (SOC) approved by Council on 26th April 2023 identified key elements which should be taken forward in the preparation of an Outline Business Case. The elements included:
1. Esplanade
2. Boardwalk (Pier)
3. Beachfront Interface,
4. Satellite Facilities,
5. Beach Village, Pavilion & Slipway
6. Footdee Club House

Bus Shelters - Green roofs/ Sedum roofs
Over the past few years, the city has undertaken a bus shelter replacement program for shelters that have reached the end of their lifespan. To maintain the quality and availability of bus shelters, the program will continue into 2024/2025, targeting shelters which are old and in poor condition. In this project, 13 outdated shelters were replaced with modern, durable, and lower maintenance shelters. For the 2024/25 period, the installation of shelters with green roofs and solar lighting will be prioritised where feasible. There are upgrades planned until 2027 -2028.
Providing high-quality shelters and infrastructure ensures a safe, accessible, and secure public transport network. This initiative improves the streetscape, offering clean and inclusive waiting areas, particularly benefiting users such as the elderly.
Shelter suppliers are actively reducing their carbon footprint, aiming for Net Zero by 2030. Components from old shelters are being recycled, and new shelters are typically 100% recyclable, minimising waste.

SECTION 5 - PROCUREMENT

5 a) How do procurement policies contribute to compliance with climate change duties?
Provide information relating to how the procurement policies of the organisation have contributed to its compliance with climate change duties.

The Council's **Sustainable Procurement and Community Benefits Policy** guides sustainable procurement activity at a strategic and operational level, contributing positively and progressively to duties and commitments under **Scottish Climate commitments**. Policy is sufficiently agile to contribute to broader climate positive aspirations which support global energy transition, application of meaningful circular economy measures and a net zero future. Strategic and practical guidance is provided at key stages: identification of need, specification development, selection/award and contract management. Policy/guidance assists procurers to proactively address key aspects of the duties: **mitigation** (ensuring reduction in greenhouse gases/enhancing carbon storage), **adaptation (**e.g. flood prevention) and **maximising added social, economic and environmental value**.

The Commercial and Procurement Shared Service (CPSS)
Embraces the procurement function in: Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council and The Highland Council. Refreshed in 2023, the **2023-2026 Joint Procurement Strategy** remains aligned to: **i)** Scottish Model of Procurement (balance of quality, cost and sustainability) **ii)** National Performance Framework **iii)** Public Service Reform Agenda and **iv)** Scottish Government aspirations to: **"support Scotland's economic growth by delivering social and environmental benefits, supporting innovation and promoting public procurement processes and systems which are transparent, streamlined, standard, proportionate, fair and business-friendly"**

The Council's **Procurement Mission Statement** commits to **"deliver procurement outcomes that support the wider strategic aims of the Councils and the communities they serve, furthering local and national priorities to the fullest extent possible."** These aims converge with the National Performance Framework outcome "**valuing, enjoying, protecting and enhancing our environment"** and wider vision for the environment.. Policy/strategy/guidance emphasises a commitment (beyond mandatory thresholds) to **identify: "leverage opportunities (including social, economic and environmental value) aligned to the needs and priorities of our communities"**

Policy
"The partner councils aim to act as a role model within the public sector by carrying out activities in a responsible and sustainable manner, considering how the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the area can be improved by working with all sectors of the business community to achieve increased prosperity. As responsible and ethical buyers, the partner councils aim to embed the key principles of sustainability into procurement activity for the benefit of society, the economy and the environment." The policy statement appears prominently in sourcing strategies and tender documents guiding procurers and bidders. Embedded and reinforced communication leads to climate positive measures receiving early, considered focus resulting in higher quality, more innovative bids aligned to local/national priorities and climate change duties.

Policy/guidance reinforces messaging that not all sustainability measures solely achieved through community benefits. Outcomes can be specified as contractual conditions e.g. particular eco standards (or equivalent), product composition and opportunities to introduce circular economy measures. Methods of production, lifecycle costing, environmental performance, reduction of packaging (particularly single use plastic) wastewater standards/accreditation and production methods at any stage of the lifecycle of supply or service promoted.

Zero Waste Scotland Circular Procurement Guidance and Best Practice is promoted in policy/guidance. Procurers are encouraged to consider utilising community benefits and the specification to maximise environmental wellbeing. In addition, the Edinburgh Science Net Zero Toolkit (https://thenetzerotoolkit.org/about/) strongly promoted (locally and nationally) to prospective bidders and the wider business community as a free resource to support their own journeys to a net zero future. Other sustainability tools include: i) Sustainability Test, ii) Prioritisation Tool and iii) Lifecycle Impact Mapping**.** Policy/guidance recognises that councils have influence and responsibilities beyond the geographic areas they serve. Sustainable procurement measures/community benefits can be captured at the following levels: **Local** (Council/area specific); **Nationa**l (Scotland/UK) and **Global** (e.g. fairly traded/ethically sourced goods/carbon emission reduction.) Guidance prompts that many national strategic objectives are addressable locally (employment & skills, Real Living Wage, health and wellbeing, poverty, biodiversity, reduced road miles/reduced carbon emissions etc.) As an overarching theme, sustainable procurement strongly recognised as a means of increasing **prosperity**. Prosperity of the (local) economy; Prosperity of (local) people; Prosperity of (local) places and Prosperity of the (local) environment.

In support of the Council's journey to Net Zero, a strategic commitment has been made that procurement activity will be undertaken in a way that will secure net zero emissions through a Just Transition and promote a circular economy. The journey to reduce emissions and support climate change and resilience is primarily centred on people and wellbeing and will enable the Council to action opportunities to improve the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the area including benefit to nature.

The procurement function aspires to act as an enabler and will: 1. support the creation of enabling conditions to reduce emissions; 2. support climate change adaptation to reduce risk and vulnerability to climate change; 3. strengthen climate resilience, enhancing well-being and the capacity to anticipate and respond successfully to change; 4. enhance biodiversity through conservation, protection and promotion; and 5. support transition to a circular economy

The Council employs a demand management approach and look for ways to improve how we buy, what we buy, how much we buy and explore opportunities to reduce volumes where possible, as this can have a positive impact on emissions and waste involved throughout the supply chain. In terms of governance and accountability, The Council report ongoing progress against these commitments in quarterly reports to the Strategic Procurement Board and within each Council Annual Procurement Report. Methods of measuring and monitoring outcomes achieved are being explored to further support tracking of progress and enablement of identification of further opportunities for Climate Change, Net Zero & Circular Economy outcomes.

5b) How has procurement activity contributed to compliance with climate change duties? Provide information relating to how procurement activity by the organisation has contributed to its compliance with climate changes duties. (10,000 characters)

The following is illustrative of procurement activity **i)** mitigating CO2 conscious of adaptation **ii)** improving energy efficiency and in many cases **iii)** incorporating meaningful social/economic and environmental criteria:

Construction – follows industry terms/best practice (NEC3, SBCC ICE etc), Building Standards/Building Performance polices in addition to "Gold Standard" Housing commitments whilst noting ambitions within the Scottish Government to move to ensure all new housing in Scotland is built to Passivhaus standard. "Gold standard" homes aim for a minimum 27% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions which is achieved partly through using renewable energy to provide 50% of hot water demand. The Gold Standard incorporates other carbon saving measures including more effective insulation and air circulation techniques. Combining renewable technologies with state-of-the-art energy efficiency has the potential to significantly reduce household running costs.

In general, specifications incorporate sustainability, energy and environmental considerations to a challenging but proportionate extent per project. Strong ethos that value for money demonstrated by whole of life costing/best price-quality ratio. Current and future climate/adaptation risks factored into procurement processes where relevant to safeguarding assets/infrastructure/communities. In the reporting period, procurer and supplier knowledge/awareness of circular economy principles and sustainable opportunities increased.

Manage Print Contract (Aberdeen City/Aberdeenshire) On 31st March 2024, a new Managed Print contract commenced. The previous service provider continues to provide transitional assistance services. The new generation contract will continue to improve relevant sustainability credentials, providing best-in-class energy rated devices with an aim to move towards carbon neutral status in this commodity area. The service provider holds EcoVadis Gold Rating for their sustainability operations (for the seventh consecutive year) placing the organisation within the top 3% of companies globally. The provider was the recipient of the 2023 Energy Star Partner of the Year Award for sustained excellence. The service provider's supply chain offers thorough consideration to end-of-life arrangements for devices and puts significant emphasis on the importance of driving environmental efficiencies until the very end of the product lifecycle. These objectives are fully aligned with Council priorities and assist with the circular economy imperative.

History: From an original estate of over 5,000 unmanaged print devices in 2016, the most recent and final generation of the contract systematically eliminated the use of small, inefficient desktop printers requiring regular consumable replacement. Printing requirements were rationalised to a smaller number of ENERGY STAR® power saving models in key strategic locations. Print Policy and system functionality introduced duplex and mono print as default settings and allowed for increasing utilisation of scanning functionality. Digitised workflows significantly reduced resource consumption (including paper and consumables) eliminated significant amounts of waste and reduced energy consumption. The managed print service consistently reduced print volumes by circa 10% year on year. Analysis carried out in 2022/23 evidenced an estimated 270M fewer sheets of paper used since 2016 (the equivalent to 32,393 trees). In the same period, the service provider's Sustainability Calculator reported a 30% reduction in: Energy, Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Solid Waste. Annual electricity consumption and paper reduced approximately 46% in the same period. The cumulative reduction over 5 years was estimated to be 124.8M fewer sheets of paper resulting in saving the equivalent of 14,976 trees. Cumulative greenhouse gas emissions avoidance was estimated at 654,000 kg CO2e as a result of reducing electricity, toner, and paper use each year. Contract ensured all removed devices governed via WEEE compliant processes. Used consumables managed through a Green World Alliance programme to recycle – minimising environmental impacts/maximising opportunities to positively contribute to the global circular economy agenda.

Energy rom Waste (Aberdeen City/Aberdeenshire /Moray Councils) Construction of an Energy from Waste plant working towards fulfilling Zero Waste Plan requirements with the facility commissioned and fully operational in 2023. Facility will provide a long-term

solution for non-recyclable waste produced in the NE of Scotland and will generate significant, wider benefits e.g. low carbon electricity generation and heat for local residents as a sustainable means of reducing fuel poverty. The plant will process circa 150,000 tonnes of non-recyclable waste pa. Modern combustion technology utilises flexible, future-proof, cutting-edge process control. High temperature combustion provides electricity and heat from production of steam. Project has potential to heat 10,000 homes otherwise reliant on fossil fuels. The facility will export around 12MW of electricity, and/or 20MW of heat as steam or hot water.

Torry Heat Network - Works commenced in July 2022 to construct the first phase of a new District Heating System for the community of Torry, this was followed by the Phase 2 works, which commenced in June 2023. The NESS energy from waste facility, located in East Tullos, processes non-recyclable waste from Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray councils, produces electricity for the national grid, and provides heat to this new heat network. The Heat Network comprises a heat distribution facility and installation of 11.6km of underground pipes. The Council has an initial target of connecting 800 homes + 6 Public Buildings to this network. District Heating provides higher efficiencies and superior pollution control than localised boilers and aids reduction of carbon footprint. Heat networks significantly reduce demand for heat generated from fossil fuel sources. The current Phase 1 and Phase 2 projects are expected to deliver carbon savings of an estimated **75,000 tonnes CO2 over 40 years**, thus making a significant contribution towards Aberdeen's climate positive aspirations. This project will provide warmer homes, lower heating bills and hence assist significantly with local and national priorities in terms of socio-economic deprivation and fuel poverty.

Aberdeen Hydrogen Bus Projects – Hydrogen buses only emit water vapour so reducing carbon emissions/air pollution compared to diesel equivalents. Hydrogen fuel cell electric double decker buses as part of the JIVE Project were a world first when launched in January 2021. The current fleet of 15 buses have saved over 2,100 tonnes CO2e since becoming operational. This is considered to mark a significant step forward in improving the city's air quality for residents.

ChargePoint/ Electric Vehicles/ Fuel Cell/Hydrogen/– in the reporting period, ChargePoint infrastructure installed by the Council expanded by 7 units/14 sockets in 5 locations: Duthie Park, Mastrick Road, Greyhope School, Summer Street car park and Virginia Street car park. Locations of total ChargePoint infrastructure organised by the Council (locations). The total number of sockets is 173 (fleet: 55, car club: 16, and public: 102).

EV Infrastructure Framework: Partnership working – EV infrastructure framework scoped in the reporting year. Initial stages of the competitive dialogue process commenced with the publication of a Prior Information Notice in December 2022, a Contract Notice on PCS in May 2024 with a contract award expected in April 2025. The framework embraces the business needs of Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council, Moray Council and The Highland Council. The initiative will optimise delivery of future electric vehicle infrastructure at pace and scale under an innovative commercial partnership business model harnessing expertise and funding where possible.

Car Club, retendered in 2021/22 with Enterprise car club chosen as the winning bidder. The contract commenced in June 2022. 32 vehicles in operation as at March 2024 with 302 Aberdeen City Council employees signed up by March 2024 .

Electric vehicles: Fleet continue to consider EV where appropriate and have procured 6 EV vans and 1 EV refuse collection vehicle in the reporting period.

Aberdeen City Hydrogen Energy Storage (**ACHES**) –a hydrogen production and refuelling station to the South of the City on Landykes Road, Cove, originally built as a demonstration to showcase the technology and allow demand to build in the region. The facility is owned by Aberdeen City Council and has been operational since 2017. The station uses electricity on a green tariff to produce hydrogen via electrolysis onsite.

 Hydrogen Hub – In March 2022, Aberdeen City Council and bp formed a joint venture called bp Aberdeen Hydrogen Energy Limited (bpAHEL). The partnership intends to enhance the hydrogen economy in Aberdeen city and the North East of Scotland by building the Aberdeen Hydrogen Hub, a scalable and sustainable green hydrogen production, storage, and distribution facility, powered by a new solar plant and additional renewable energy sources.
For more than ten years, Aberdeen has been at the forefront of hydrogen innovation, with the H2 Aberdeen initiative driving growth of a hydrogen economy and the adoption of hydrogen technologies within the region. The Aberdeen Hydrogen Hub project is now central to helping deliver the city's net-zero vision. By harnessing natural resources, a skilled workforce, and the industrial capacity of the North East of Scotland, the project seeks to help create a thriving new energy sector that builds upon the region's oil and gas heritage.
A final investment decision on Phase 1 of the Aberdeen Hydrogen Hub was taken in July 2024 and following this decision, the joint venture intends to proceed towards commencement of construction activities, which are expected to begin before the end of 2024. Targeting production from 2026, once operational the hub will have the potential to deliver up to around 300 tonnes of green hydrogen a year through the initial phase of the project, enough to fuel 25 buses and a similar number of other fleet vehicles per day.

Future phases see production increase to meet the demands of road and other transport sectors, including rail, and marine. bp's floating offshore wind demonstrator project, part of INTOG, could increase power supply to enable expansion along with potential connection to other local renewable power sources. A final phase anticipates hydrogen for heat and net export – helping to deliver Aberdeen's vision to be a climate positive city at the heart of the global energy transition.

National Frameworks - via participation in User Intelligence Groups, the Council works in close collaboration with Scotland Excel (SXL) to improve sustainability credentials in the development of new national frameworks. Comprehensive sustainability test carried out by SXL for each new framework e.g policies on managing waste, minimising carbon footprint, fair work, innovation and commitments to delivering community benefits explored and subject to robust contract/supplier management. Extensive use made of national frameworks. SXL Contracts Register lists each operative framework and contains a summary of sustainability considerations representing a **minimum** standard which can be enhanced through purchasing decisions made in "call offs"   In any framework involving delivery of supplies, increasingly superior emissions class of vehicles/ willingness to work towards a particular standard during engagement promoted. Food related frameworks incorporate reduced packaging/waste and circular economy principles. **Scottish Government Frameworks and Contracts** cover a wide range of goods and services. Sustainability standards represent a **minimum** which can be enhanced through purchasing decisions made in "call offs." **Utilities Electricity** - Promoting greener power, Renewable Energy Guarantee of Origin (REGO) certificates at fixed rates; range of Energy Efficiency Services as additional services and opportunities to sell energy back to the grid.   **Natural Gas** – sustainable measures and energy performance guarantee option to ensure a range of energy conservation measures. <u>**Water**</u> – intelligent water management programme for reducing usage with associated reduction in CO2.

5 c) Supporting information and best practice.
Provide any other relevant supporting information and any examples of best practice by the organisation in relation to procurement. (6000 characters/1000 words)

In the reporting period, the Commercial and Procurement Shared Service (CPSS) continued to engage actively and positively in the net zero/sustainable procurement agenda at a local, regional and national level e.g. via working groups, User Intelligence Groups and statutory consultations. Options continue to be developed and challenged in cross-functional teams e.g. "Climate Friendly" criteria options and assessment of how impacts can be reliably monitored and reported upon.
Internally, CPSS continue to contribute to themed corporate climate groups. Activity feeds into the Climate Change Plan supporting enabling actions to integrate actions into systems and processes, build internal and supplier awareness, knowledge and capacity building of climate positive/circular economy principles.
In the reporting period, **four** specific commodity areas continue to be targeted for specific action to minimise the Council's carbon footprint in: i) Food ii) Building Maintenance Materials iii) Road Maintenance and iv) Office Materials. A pilot of two complementary systems is ongoing looking for reliable and consistent measurement of change/effectiveness in these specific commodity areas and across other procurement activity
- CO2A – Scope 3 Emissions Calculations
- SustainIQ – Community Benefits, Environmental Outcome reporting

It is hoped this activity will enable baselines to be established and thereafter an auditable, transparent route to monitor the Council's journey, recording impacts using common language/metrics and support the creation of real time reporting via dashboards.
The Council's **Sustainable Procurement and Community Benefits Policy** guides sustainable procurement at a strategic and operational level, contributing positively and progressively to duties and commitments under Scottish Climate commitments. A template Climate Clause evolved to encourage suppliers to explore the Edinburgh Science Net Zero Toolkit (https://thenetzerotoolkit.org/about/) as a free resource to support their own journeys to a net zero future. The reach of the toolkit amplified via the Supplier Development Programme (https://www.sdpscotland.co.uk/) Relationships with Edinburgh Science and the Supplier Development Programme deepened in the reporting period. In the reporting period, a collaborative pilot project was instigated by CPSS involving The Council, Edinburgh Science and Scotland Excel (a centre of procurement expertise in Scotland.) The project aims to capture baseline Scope 1 & 2 supplier data and relevant highlights at scale across the Scotland Excel portfolio of frameworks which are utilised by all Scottish local authorities and many public sector partners.

Significant community benefit outcomes were secured in the reporting period guided by the Council's **Sustainable Procurement and Community Benefits Policy**, **1062** community benefit outcomes imposed or delivered during 2023/24 (including significant high quality job & apprenticeship opportunities underpinned by Fair Work considerations, **1082** hours of local community/3rd sector support imposed or volunteered by preferred bidders and encouragement of donations anticipated to benefit a significant number of local initiatives resulted in **£30,866** donated to local good causes. In regulated contracts, the community benefit and fair work criteria inclusion rate was **95%** across **19** contracts.

Strategic and practical guidance covers key stages: identification of need, specification development, selection/award and contract management. Policy/guidance assists procurers to proactively address key aspects of the duties: mitigation (ensuring reduction in

greenhouse gases/enhancing carbon storage), adaptation (e.g. flood prevention) and maximising added social, economic and environmental value in our procurements. A significant and increasing number of outcomes relate to "environmental measures" promoting the Council's leadership role in net zero transition. Community benefits continue to evolve and improve in close alignment to the Aberdeen City Council Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-2026 (LOIP) and National Performance Framework. Great care is taken to ensure that requirements do not inadvertently create bidder discrimination and bids evaluated fairly on a "like for like" basis.

Forward pipeline of procurements for FY2024-2025 reviewed opportunities to include climate friendly criteria identified. Projects reviewed on a continuous basis.

Go Awards Scotland- CPSS were finalists in the Social Value category in a ceremony held in October 2023.

Effective Collaboration/Partnership Working - CPSS has strengthened relationships with Edinburgh Science, the Supplier Development Programme, community planning partners, the local business community, local third sector interface organisations, Aberdeen Social Enterprise Network and Social Enterprise Scotland to raise awareness of and capability within the 3rd sector re sustainable procurement/community benefits/net zero. Approach ensures as far as possible, social value is aligned to community priorities. If social/economic value can be supported by the local 3rd sector, this allows increased scope for procurers and suppliers to address "environmental measures" and the net zero agenda.

Sustainable Food Places Partnership (Granite City Good Food) – Building on Aberdeen City securing recognition as a Silver, Sustainable Food Place in June 2022, CPSS continues to be involved in this local group and an application for "Gold" status was submitted in the reporting period. In partnership with other internal/external stakeholders, CPSS supported the procurement strand of requirements. Granite City Good Food's work to promote healthy, sustainable and local food to tackle some of today's greatest social challenges, from food poverty and diet-related ill-health to using food as part of responses to the climate and nature emergency is very consistent with organizational and procurement strategic objectives. The partnership has been a key voice in creating systems change to ensure food can be good for people, planet, and economy. Amongst the key projects within the city, the partnership supported the council in confirming its commitment to the Glasgow Declaration for Food. Partners include representatives from: Aberdeen City Council, NHS, University of Aberdeen, Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership and CFINE. The group advocates for change at national level, shares best practice and aspires to localise the Scottish Government's aspirations to make Scotland a Good Food Nation; a Land of Food and Drink, not only in what we produce but in what we buy, serve and eat.

SECTION 6 – VALIDATION AND DECLARATION

6a – Internal validation process.

Representatives from the Council's Climate and Sustainability Policy Team collated the information used to populate the Climate Change Report template. The information was gathered from multiple service areas. It is expected that those service areas have provided accurate data and have gained verification of this by their senior management. The Climate Change Report is checked by the Climate and Sustainability Policy team that all areas have been completed, where reasonably practicable to do so.
Senior management have been asked to validate information provided by relevant Officers. The following information has been validated in this way.
-   Adaptation
-   Car club
-   Trade waste
-   Domestic waste
-   Street Lighting
-   Procurement
-   Travel
-   Fleet
-   Energy
Work is ongoing to identify areas for improvement in data collation for the Climate Change Report.
The Climate Change Report 2023/24 is submitted to the Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee for approval. During the committee reporting process consultation is undertaken.

6b – Peer validation process

The Climate Change Report 2023/24 has not undergone peer validation due to time and resource constraints.

6c – External validation process

The Climate Change Report 2023/24 has not undertaken any external validation due to time and resource constraints.

6d – No validation process

Not applicable.

6e – Declaration

Dated and signed prior to submission.