

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Full Council
DATE	6 th October
DIRECTOR	Pete Leonard
TITLE OF REPORT	Powering Aberdeen Approval of Final Document
REPORT NUMBER	CHI/16/214
CHECKLIST COMPLETED	Yes

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to put before the Council the final version of Powering Aberdeen following public consultation and to approve the post adoption statement of the associated Strategic Environmental Assessment.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Council

- (a) approve the final version of Powering Aberdeen;
- (b) approve the Adoption Statement associated with the Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment undertaken on Powering Aberdeen; and
- (c) instruct the Director of Communities, Housing and Infrastructure to submit an annual report on progress in implementing Powering Aberdeen to the Communities, Housing and Infrastructure Committee.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with the specific recommendations made in this paper.

- A Powering Aberdeen Programme Manager is in place to support the implementation of Powering Aberdeen. Any funding necessary for specific projects will be sought separately as part of those projects.
- The Strategic Environmental Assessment is complete.
- The Powering Aberdeen Steering Committee has been established and will meet a minimum of twice per year and report annually.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no other implications associated with the specific recommendations made in this paper. Legal, personnel, property, equipment and health and safety issues will be considered in relation to specific projects developed under Powering Aberdeen on a case by case basis.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

A draft version of Powering Aberdeen and the associated impact assessments was set before the Council in May 2016. Following this the Powering Aberdeen report and the associated Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment (SEA) were issued for public consultation for a period of 6 weeks from the 17th May to the 28th June 2016. The report was also circulated to all stakeholders involved in the development of the report which included representatives from organisations in the public sector, private sector and third sector organisations.

There was very limited response to the Powering Aberdeen report, the only significant comment was that Powering Aberdeen needs to better reflect the wider Economic Development Strategy for the city. Further context has been incorporated into the Powering Aberdeen document to reflect this. The final Powering Aberdeen document is attached as Annex 1.

The following organisations responded to the SEA:

- Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)
- Historic Environment Scotland
- Scottish Natural Heritage

A Post Adoption Statement in line with the requirements of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 has been prepared which includes the specific comments made by the consultees and our responses to them. The Post Adoption Statement is attached as Annex 2.

A Steering Committee for Powering Aberdeen has been established and includes representatives from the following organisations:

- Aberdeen Youth Council
- ACVO
- Aberdeen City Council
- Aberdeen Inspired
- NHS Grampian
- Police Scotland
- Robert Gordon University
- Scottish Enterprise
- The University of Aberdeen

The first meeting of the Steering Committee was held on the 9th June 2016. The role of the Steering Committee is to oversee progress in delivering Powering Aberdeen and to help engage stakeholders across the city. To strengthen the Governance role of the Steering Group it is proposed that they input to the annual progress report to the Council on their perception of progress made and how things can be strengthened and improved.

6. IMPACT

Improving Customer Experience

Powering Aberdeen aims to improve the quality of life for the citizens of Aberdeen through amongst other things, alleviating fuel poverty, increasing energy security, improving air emissions, improving access to transport and the quality of local housing.

Improving Staff Experience

Through Powering Aberdeen staff can be proud that Aberdeen is seeking to reduce emissions and promote and encourage development of new business and technology to support this which will deliver improvements to the overall quality of life as set out above.

Improving our use of Resources

Central themes of Powering Aberdeen are to improve energy efficiency in buildings and to reduce resources which in turn will reduce emissions.

Corporate

- Powering Aberdeen is directly aligned to the goals and priorities set out in Aberdeen – the Smarter City. Smarter Environment, a core theme within this sets high level priorities to increase energy efficiency and introduce carbon reduction measures.
- The Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement - sets the ambition for Aberdeen to be a socially, economically and environmentally sustainable city.
- The five year business plan 2013-2018-sets sustainable economic growth for the benefit of national outcomes as a key priority.

Public

Powering Aberdeen will provide opportunities for the public to become engaged in activity to reduce emissions. Anticipated outputs from the successful implementation of Powering Aberdeen include alleviating fuel poverty, improving air emissions and access to public transport all of which will benefit the public of Aberdeen.

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

There are not considered to be any risks associated with the recommendations set out in this paper. Risks associated with specific

projects and actions implemented as part of Powering Aberdeen will be managed through individual project / risk management processes by the lead organisation.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Annex 1 - Powering Aberdeen: Aberdeen's Sustainable Energy Action Plan

Annex 2 - Post-adoption Statement for Powering Aberdeen: Aberdeen's Sustainable Energy Action Plan

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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