

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	City Growth and Resources
DATE	25 April 2019
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Aberdeen Adapts: Aberdeen's Climate Adaptation Framework
REPORT NUMBER	PLA/19/102
DIRECTOR	N/A
CHIEF OFFICER	Gale Beattie – Chief Officer
REPORT AUTHOR	Alison Leslie – Sustainable Development Officer
TERMS OF REFERENCE	2.2 The Committee will determine the Council's strategies for city growth and place planning except in relation to major infrastructural planning and the Local Development Plan.

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report brings before City Growth and Resources Committee the Aberdeen Adapts: Climate Adaptation Framework, which aims to improve city resilience to the impacts of climate change. The report seeks Committee approval for the draft Aberdeen Adapts document and associated Environmental Report, to go to public consultation.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee:

- 2.1 Approve the proposed Aberdeen Adapts: Climate Adaptation Framework (Appendix 1) and associated Environmental Report (Appendix 2), for 8 week public consultation;
- 2.2 Agree that Aberdeen City Council delegates authority to the Chief Officer, Strategic Place Planning to progress the development of a cross-sector partnership approach to climate adaptation for the city, aligning with existing relevant partnership arrangements, which will lead to the development of an Implementation Plan to deliver adaptation action;
- 2.3 Instruct the Chief Officer, Strategic Place Planning, to arrange for public consultation of the proposed Aberdeen Adapts: Climate Adaptation Framework and to report back to City Growth and Resources Committee on 26 November 2019 with:-

- An update on governance proposals for Aberdeen Adapts;
- The findings of the public consultation; and
- A final version of Aberdeen Adapts and associated Environmental Report for approval and publication.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Climate change is resulting in an increase in the severity and frequency of weather events affecting Aberdeen. Planning to reduce and manage the risks and opportunities of climate change is called adaptation.
- 3.2 Climate change affects organisations, businesses and communities across the city and working collaboratively to address climate adaptation will better protect and prepare people, the economy and places.
- 3.3 Public bodies in Scotland have a statutory requirement under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 to adapt to climate change. This is to protect critical services.
- 3.4 Aberdeen City Council (ACC) is already becoming proactive in its approach to climate change risk management. ACC is already undertaking a number of adaptation activities, and is embedding adaptation into some processes and infrastructure to build resilience to climate change. However, ACC cannot alone act to protect the city from harm from climate impacts.
- 3.5 A Weather Impact Report produced in 2014 examined the impact of weather events on ACC services over five years. This revealed that some incidents incurred costs of up to £200,000 and resulted in up to 9,000 staff hours. A recommendation of the report was to develop an Adaptation Plan and to raise awareness of the impacts of severe weather and the need for climate change adaptation throughout the city and sectors.
- 3.6 Aberdeen Adapts sets out a long-term city-wide framework for collaborative working to prepare for and adapt to climate change. It was developed through stakeholder input and builds on local adaptation actions that are already in place and delivering multiple benefits in the city. It reflects the challenges and opportunities that mattered most to stakeholders; information on actions already underway and planned to support an adapting Aberdeen; views on what a well adapting Aberdeen would look like; and adaptation priorities, goals, and areas for action.
- 3.7 Aberdeen Adapts covers adaptation priorities of:
- **Protecting buildings and infrastructure** - addressing the impacts of climate change in the planning, build, maintenance and protection of:
 - city buildings heritage and cultural assets; and
 - critical transport and utilities infrastructure.
 Reducing flood and pollution risks; helping to reduce water use; and providing shade and shelter.

- **Safeguarding our natural environment** - adapting through nature, developing a healthy, protected and productive natural environment. This is to safeguard species, habitats and watercourses; as well as maintain soil health.
- **Strong economy. Healthy society** - encouraging healthy and empowered communities and strong, robust businesses, with the capacity and knowledge to take adaptation action. This is to:
 - protect people, maintaining health, safety and wellbeing and improve community resilience.
 - improve business resilience to climate change, helping to maintain business continuity and highlighting opportunities for skills development and business growth.
- **Building understanding** - increasing awareness and understanding of the climate impacts for Aberdeen in a way that resonates with different sectors including community, businesses and organisations.
- **Collaborative working** - increasing capacity to adapt, by developing long term collaborative working between the public, private and community sectors.

3.8 Adaptation Scotland provided support for the development of Aberdeen Adapts to ACC, working with the University of Aberdeen. This followed a successful application process. Their expertise has supported the development of other adaptation partnership projects including, Climate Ready Clyde and Edinburgh Adapts.

3.9 To develop Aberdeen Adapts, the views and priorities of 41 local organisations, businesses, organisations and community groups were gathered during 5 stakeholder workshops. The opinions of young people were taken on board, through Climate Ready Place workshops. Questions on climate change were included in a City Voice survey and a public engagement was piloted in Middlefield, to explore new ways to engage people in climate change.

3.10 Public consultation on Aberdeen Adapts will take place through the ACC Consultation Hub and results will be published through Consultation Hub. The consultation will be issued to stakeholders involved in the development of Aberdeen Adapts, as well as being available to the wider public.

3.11 The ACC communications team is assisting with work to summarise and cascade information on adaptation work to key city sectors.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from adopting the draft framework and report.

4.2 Aberdeen Adapts aims to take timely action and work collaboratively to share resources and access funding opportunities. Responses which aim to avoid future costs and prevent a loss in asset value include: zero and low-cost adaptation responses, such as changes to policy, procedure, and decision

making; and projects such as nature-based adaptation actions, that have a range of co-benefits and can support wider outcomes.

- 4.3 A review of funding sources has indicated a number of potential funding routes for adaptation, including: grants and external funding, collaborative working, private investment, national subsidies and support packages, capital investment programmes and crowd funding. Examples of funding accessed by ACC that support adaptation: £427,000 received from the SNH Green Infrastructure Fund for the Middlefield project and funding for the EU BEGIN project.
- 4.4 A phase 1 Implementation Plan will be developed. Where relevant, bids for funding may be sought as part of the adaptation process. If any specific costs or economic opportunities for ACC are identified, this will be reported separately to committee.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Public Bodies Duties under Part 4 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 require the major public bodies in Scotland, including the Council, to act in the best way calculated to deliver any statutory adaptation programme. This is to make sure critical services and infrastructure are ready to meet future challenges.
- 5.2 The Climate Change (Duties of Public Bodies: Reporting Requirements) (Scotland) Order 2015, requires the Council to report annually to the Scottish Ministers on progress with meeting these duties; including work to assess and manage climate risks and actions to adapt.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

	Risk	Low, Medium, High	Mitigation for ACC - measures apply across all risks
Financial	Implementing Aberdeen Adapts Costs for over adaptation, where climate scenarios change.	L	Funding sought, where financial matters arise this will be reported to committee. Climate projections will be monitored.
	Not implementing Aberdeen Adapts A loss of land and property value. Damage to assets/ infrastructure. Increase in costs for - staff time, repairs, materials, service demand, response and recovery arrangements and for insurance.	H	Climate risks integrated into risk processes; service planning; corporate policy and procedures.

Legal	Not implementing Aberdeen Adapts ACC has a duty to adapt under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 and report on progress.	M	Approval and implementation of Aberdeen Adapts.
Employee	Not implementing Aberdeen Adapts Health, safety and well-being risks for staff working in response to/ or during severe weather events. Increased demands on staff time. Loss of work time due to weather impacts.	H	Training in climate risks and measures to adapt.
Customer	Not implementing Aberdeen Adapts Increase demands for services. Service disruptions and delays. Impact on health, safety and wellbeing. For vulnerable people climate impacts could be greater, widening inequalities. Lack of awareness.	H	Aberdeen Adapts Communication Plan will be updated to cover implementation of Aberdeen Adapts.
Environment	Not implementing Aberdeen Adapts Degradation and fragmentation of habitats. Health, numbers and distribution of wildlife affected. Pests and disease is not managed. Impacts for water quality and availability, air and soil quality.	H	Climate risks will be reviewed in line with updates to the UK Climate Risk Assessment.
Technology	Not implementing Aberdeen Adapts Risk of power disruptions, digital and communication outages. Damage to digital infrastructure. Climate risks to 3 rd party providers are not addressed.	M	Climate risks will be reviewed in line with updates to the UK Climate Risk Assessment.
Reputational	Not implementing Aberdeen Adapts Risks to public safety. Decisions are not resilient and cost-effective in the long term. Failure to deliver services and meet performance/ legal targets.	H	Governance measures established to implement Aberdeen Adapts. Aligning with existing partnership arrangements relevant or relating to adaptation.

7. OUTCOMES

Local Outcome Improvement Plan Themes	
	Impact of Report
Prosperous Economy	Without Aberdeen Adapts there may be climate impacts that affect LOIP outcomes for infrastructure and economic growth.
Prosperous People	Aberdeen Adapts supports outcomes in the LOIP to ensure people are safe, resilient and safe from harm.
Prosperous Place	Aberdeen Adapts supports stretch outcome 14. <i>Addressing climate change by reducing Aberdeen's carbon emissions by 42.5% by 2026 by 2026 and adapting to the impacts of our changing climate.</i>

Enabling Technology	Without Aberdeen Adapts there may be climate impacts that affect LOIP outcomes for digital connectivity.
----------------------------	--

Design Principles of Target Operating Model	
	Impact of Report
Customer Service Design	Aberdeen Adapts seeks to plan ahead, to protect the delivery of customer services from climate impacts. Building understanding of increasing pressures on functions
Organisational Design	Aberdeen's organisations and businesses will all be facing climate challenges and a joined-up approach can make best use of local resources, improve co-operation, avoid duplication and enhance business continuity.
Governance	Establishing governance to plan ahead in addressing climate risks and gaps; and embed climate change in decision making, helping to ensure planned investment is secure.
Workforce	Aberdeen Adapts seeks to engage with relevant staff and city partners and increase knowledge and understanding of ways to address climate change. Climate change will affect health, safety and wellbeing and for vulnerable people the impacts could be even greater.
Process Design	There are many interdependencies in climate change. Building consistent understanding, skills development and bringing teams and partners together to deliver actions seeks to improve efficiency and reduce the potential for duplication in activity.
Technology	Aberdeen Adapts seeks to encourage protection of digital infrastructure from climate change. The approach will also explore opportunities to use technology to improve city resilience.
Partnerships and Alliances	Strong partnership working will increase co-operation and improve use of resources.

8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Equality & Human Rights Impact Assessment	Full EHRIA has been undertaken and lodged with the nominated Equalities officer.
Data Protection Impact Assessment	A Data Protection Impact Assessment is not required.
Duty of Due Regard / Fairer Scotland Duty	Applicable. Climate change may result in widening and increasing inequalities caused by social - economic disadvantage. Work will take place to consider climate justice, developing actions to reduce climate inequalities.
Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)	Full SEA required and Environmental Report is included in Appendix 2. This report seeks consultation with public and statutory consultees on the Environment Report for Aberdeen Adapts completed as part of the SEA process.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

[Local Climate Impacts Profile \(LCLIP\) EPI/14/173 – 4 September 2014](#)
[Climate Change report 2016/17 CHI/17/144 – 20th September 2017](#)
 Climate Change Risk & Adaptation CHI bulletin January 2017
[Climate Change Report 2017/18 PLA/18/274 - 27 November 2018](#)

[Aberdeen Adapts – Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening and Scoping reports](#)
[UK Climate Risk Assessment](#)
[Climate Ready Scotland: Scottish Adaptation Programme](#)
[UK Climate Projections 2018](#)
[Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\) – Climate change impacts, adaptation and vulnerability](#)

10. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Aberdeen Adapts –for public consultation.
Appendix 2 – Strategic Environmental Assessment – Environmental Report
Appendix 3 – Consultation questions

11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

Alison Leslie
Sustainable Development Officer
Email: alleslie@aberdeencity.gov.uk