

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	City Growth and Resources
DATE	28 October 2020
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Climate Change Report 2019/20
REPORT NUMBER	COM/20/152
DIRECTOR	N/A
CHIEF OFFICER	Gale Beattie
REPORT AUTHOR	Oluwatoyin Fatokun
TERMS OF REFERENCE	2.1.3 scrutinise operational performance and service standards in line with the Performance Management Framework and consider recommendations for improvements where required 2.1.6 receive reports on inspections and peer reviews in order to ensure best practice and note any actions arising from those inspections and reviews.

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval of the statutory Climate Change Report (CCR) 2019/2020, for submission to the Scottish Government, to ensure compliance with the requirements of Part 4 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 and to indicate the options for Carbon Budgeting in Appendix 4. The CCR covers the financial year 2019/2020.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That Committee: -

- 2.1 Approve the statutory Climate Change Report 2019/2020 with a requirement for the Chief Executive Officer to sign off and instruct the Chief Officer – Strategic Place Planning to publish the CCR on Aberdeen City Council’s website and subsequently submit to the Scottish Government by the 30th November 2020.
- 2.2 Instruct officers to progress with the preferred option for carbon budgeting, (as detailed in Appendix 4) as part of the development of the Council Energy and Climate Plan, to be completed by March 2021.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Aberdeen City Council (the Council) along with all other public sector organisations have a statutory duty to report annually on progress against Public Bodies Duties under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009. These duties are:
- To reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions (mitigation)

- To adapt to the impacts of a changing climate (adaptation) and
 - To have sustainable development as a core value (acting sustainably)
- 3.2 Aberdeen City Council committed to emissions reduction targets of 50% by 2030 with an interim target of 31% by 2020 (from 2005 baseline) as set out in the [Aberdeen Sustainable Energy Action Plan – Powering Aberdeen](#), This commitment is further reiterated in the [Aberdeen Local Outcome Improvement Plan](#), especially stretch outcome 14 - “Addressing climate change by reducing Aberdeen's carbon emissions and adapting to the impacts of our changing climate.
- 3.3 In September 2019, the Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019 set new targets for emission reduction in Scotland of net zero by 2045. With interim targets for 2030 of at least 75% lower; and for 2040 of at least 90% lower than the baseline year. In addition, the act makes provision about advice, plans and reports in relation to those targets and indicates an expectation on Public Sector bodies to take far stronger action to support these targets. Proposals for changes to climate duties indicate a mandatory requirement for public sector bodies to set a target year for net-zero.
- 3.4 The General Fund Revenue Budget and Capital Programme 2020/21, approved by Council Committee, 3 March 2020, included the recommendation: “to instruct the Chief Operating Officer to provide the City Growth and Resources Committee, by July 2020, with options on how Carbon Budgeting for Aberdeen City Council could be introduced to support the organisation’s climate transition plans.” The date of this committee was delayed due to the Covid response.
- 3.5 In May 2020, Urgent Business Committee approved a Council Energy and Climate Plan Routemap which sets out Council commitment and the development phases for a detailed Council Energy and Climate Plan by March 2021, for the Council’s operations and assets. This included an indicative action to “Consider carbon budget and accounting options, in parallel to our financial systems, to facilitate robust data and measurements of change towards net zero.” Table 1 summarises options for carbon budget and accounting to take forward in the development of the Council Energy and Climate Plan, these are further examined in Appendix 4. Establishing an internal approach for measuring and managing carbon emissions will support the Council with delivering a reduction programme towards attaining net zero emissions, at a predetermined year.

Table 1 – summary of options

Option 1	Continue to collate annual data on carbon emissions but do not support forward planning/ or target setting on emissions.
Option 2	Commission an external consultancy to calculate a carbon budget for the Council. Costs associated with this approach and there may be further costs during subsequent annual reviews.
Option 3	Develop an in-house methodology for a calculating an overarching carbon budget for the Council Energy and Climate Plan - and progressing to break down allocation to Functions and/ or Clusters.
Option 4	Develop an in-house methodology for a calculating a carbon budget for the Council Energy and Climate Plan - allocated to operational themes i.e. buildings.

Option 5	Set a long-term Council target to reduce carbon emissions.
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3.6 CCR follows a standardised reporting methodology to allow for consistency and accuracy in data collection, in order to enable comparison. It requires that organisations demonstrate a commitment to tackling climate change, managing climate risks, improving performance reporting as well as reducing carbon emissions while setting an example. The primary function of the report is to monitor performance against legislative requirements and the Councils Plans, Policies and Strategies (PPS). It can help identify areas of best practice and areas for improvement in decision making. The CCR will be made publicly available and will provide information in a transparent and accountable manner, in line with the relevant guidance. The CCR consists of two sections namely “Required” and “Recommended” reporting. Required reporting provides evidence of corporate climate change governance relating to matters in which the Council has direct control in its estate boundary such as internal waste, business travel, street lighting, council building utilities, water and projects focusing upon efforts to reduce emissions at a corporate level as well as information on adaptation and sustainable procurement. The “Recommended” section reflects the influential functions that the Council has in supporting efforts on climate change mitigation and adaptation city-wide, beyond matters in which it has control such as details of wider influence, policies and actions to reduce emissions as well as partnership working , communication and capacity building the Council engages in.

3.7 The Council’s overall emissions data collated for the Required Reporting section of the CCR, is set out in Table 2 below. This shows a reduction of 527 tCO₂e in 2019/20 when compared to 2018/2019. The difference in emissions are attributed to annual changes in emissions factors (government conversion factors for greenhouse gas reporting), as well as notable decrease in business travel (car hire and grey fleet) and mixed recycling (confidential paper & 3R schools) while Table 3 below show percentage change in consumption between 2018/19 and 2019/20. Increases in consumption could be seen in gas oil, rail travel, car (petrol) and car (hybrid) from co –wheels car club as well as long – haul flights.

Table 2: Overall Carbon Emissions

Reporting Period	Overall emissions (tCO ₂ e)
2019/2020	30563
2018/2019	31090
2017/2018	35892
2016/2017	39225
2015/2016	46371
2014/2015	44993

Table 3: Percentage Change in Consumption 2018/19 to 2019/20

Emission Source	Scope	Unit	% change in consumption from 2018/19 to 2019/20	Data Source
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Gas Oil	1	kWh	 47.71%	Usage through corporate assets.
Rail	3	Passenger km	 92.62%	Some data from the external supplier
Car Petrol average	3	km	 37.07%	Co-Wheels car club
Car -hybrid	3	km	 73.98%	Co-Wheels car club
Long Haul Flights	3	Passenger km	 54.05%	Data from ATP

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report. The report simply illustrates a point in time as to how the Council is performing.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Failing to report would put the Council in breach of a legal duty.
- 5.2 Failure to demonstrate that the Council is contributing to the greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets; that the Council is employing means of adaptation to climate change which consistent with the Scottish Ministers programme for adaptation; and that the Council is acting in the most sustainable way would result in the Council being non-complaint with the duties summarised in section 3.1 of this report.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

Category	Risk	Low (L) Medium (M) High (H)	Mitigation
Strategic Risk	Climate risks and opportunities not being recorded and regularly monitored.	L	Climate risks are reported through the risk registers and updated monthly. Progress on the Council's Energy and Climate Plan and ensuring a system is in place for monitoring and tracking progress.
Compliance	Non-compliance of the Public Bodies Duties under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009	L	Climate Change Report is completed, published and submitted within the mandatory timeframe.

Operational	Due to the Covid 19, information and guidance on Climate Change Reporting has been delayed.	L	Use the Greenhouse gas reporting - conversion factors 2020 to calculate the overall carbon emissions.
Financial	There is no financial implication as a result of this report.	L	The annual CCR is achieved through existing budgets.
Legal	Being challenged for failing to report or by failing to demonstrate how the Council is performing to meet its duties	L	We will fulfil our duty by reporting and by reporting progress, the Council demonstrates how its meeting its duties as they relate to climate change.
Reputational	Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019 set new targets for emission reduction in Scotland of net zero by 2045 and the anticipated requirements on Public Sector bodies on setting Net Zero targets.	M	Establish governance framework for proposed Council Energy and Climate Plan.
Environment / Climate	Failure to meet emission reduction target year.	M	Establish a robust approach to support the monitoring and reporting of corporate emissions.

7. OUTCOMES

<u>COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN</u>	
Impact of Report	
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement	The proposals in the report have no direct impact on the Policy Statement.
Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan	
Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes	The report relates to emissions from the Council's own assets and operations. Actions to reduce carbon emissions, protect and improve the environment and will indirectly support stretch outcome 1 by having a positive impact on food, life sciences, health and wellbeing.

Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	The proposals in this report support the delivery of stretch outcome 11 - Healthy life expectancy (time lived in good health) is five years longer by 2026. Actions to reduce carbon emissions; protect and improve the environment can have a positive impact on health and wellbeing.
Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes	The proposals in this report support the delivery of stretch outcome 14 - carbon emissions reduction by 42.5% by 2026 and adapting to the impacts of our changing climate. It can also contribute to stretch outcome 15 – 38% of people walking and 5% of people cycling as main mode of travel by 2026.
Regional and City Strategies	The CCR highlights the climate targets and objectives in a range of regional and city strategies including: Regional and Local Transport Strategies, Strategic and Local Development Plans, Regional Economic Strategy, Local Outcome Improvement Plan, Powering Aberdeen, Aberdeen Adapts, Local Housing Strategy.
UK and Scottish Legislative and Policy Programmes	The proposal within this report supports the Council's compliance with Part 4 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 and Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019.

8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Impact Assessment	Assessment completed.
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- PLA/18/274 - 27 November 2018¹
- [Service Update –Climate Change Report 2018/19](#)

10. APPENDICES

- Appendix 1 – Required Reporting
- Appendix 2 – Recommended Reporting

¹ <http://councilcommittees.acc.gov.uk/documents/s90786/PLA.18.274%20-%20ClimateChangeReport2017-2018FinalDraft.pdf>

- Appendix 3 - Percentage change in consumption 2018/19 to 2019/20
- Appendix 4 – Carbon Budget Options

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